

## Project Factsheet



# Tailored Attraction, Integration and Retention Strategies for Northern Ecosystem (TAIGA RISE)

Northern Alberta (NAB) and the Northwest Territories (NWT) are facing population and economic decline due to out-migration, low birth rates, and an aging population. These shifts are putting pressure on local economies and community vitality. Immigration presents a key opportunity to address labour shortages and revitalize these regions. However, smaller communities often struggle to attract and retain newcomers because of limited settlement services, supports, and resources. This project will apply a **citizen science** and **community-driven approach** to develop evidence-based strategies and tools that help attract, integrate, and retain newcomers and Canadians in Northern Alberta and the NWT.

### What We're Doing



### Target Areas

#### Geographic Area

Northwest Territories (NWT): 1,127,711 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Northern Alberta (NAB): 399,764 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Total (combined): 1,527,475 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Total area of Canada: ~9,984,670 km<sup>2</sup>  
 The combined area of the NWT and the NAB are approximately 15.3% of the total area of Canada.

#### Population

Northwest Territories (NWT): 41,070  
 Northern Alberta (NAB): 374,572  
 Total (combined): 415,642  
 Total population of Canada: 36,991,981  
 The combined population of the NWT and the NAB are about 1.12% of the total population of Canada (2021 Census).

#### Same Facts about population:

**NWT:** In 2021, the Northwest Territories had 20,035 Indigenous residents, representing 49.6% of the population. The immigrant population was 4,150, accounting for 10.3% of residents.

**NAB:** In contrast, northern Alberta recorded an Indigenous population of 68,400 in 2021, making up 18.3% of the region's total—well above the provincial average of 6.4%. Immigrants numbered 61,271, accounting for approximately 15% of the population.

# Demography of Indigenous Peoples

As noted, Indigenous peoples make up nearly 50% of the population in the **NWT** and about 20% in the **NAB**. This highlights the importance of understanding the demographics of Indigenous communities in both regions. A key aim of TAIGA RISE is to build knowledge about Indigenous peoples in order to create toolkits that highlight the cultural and historical aspects of the regions for newcomers and immigrants.

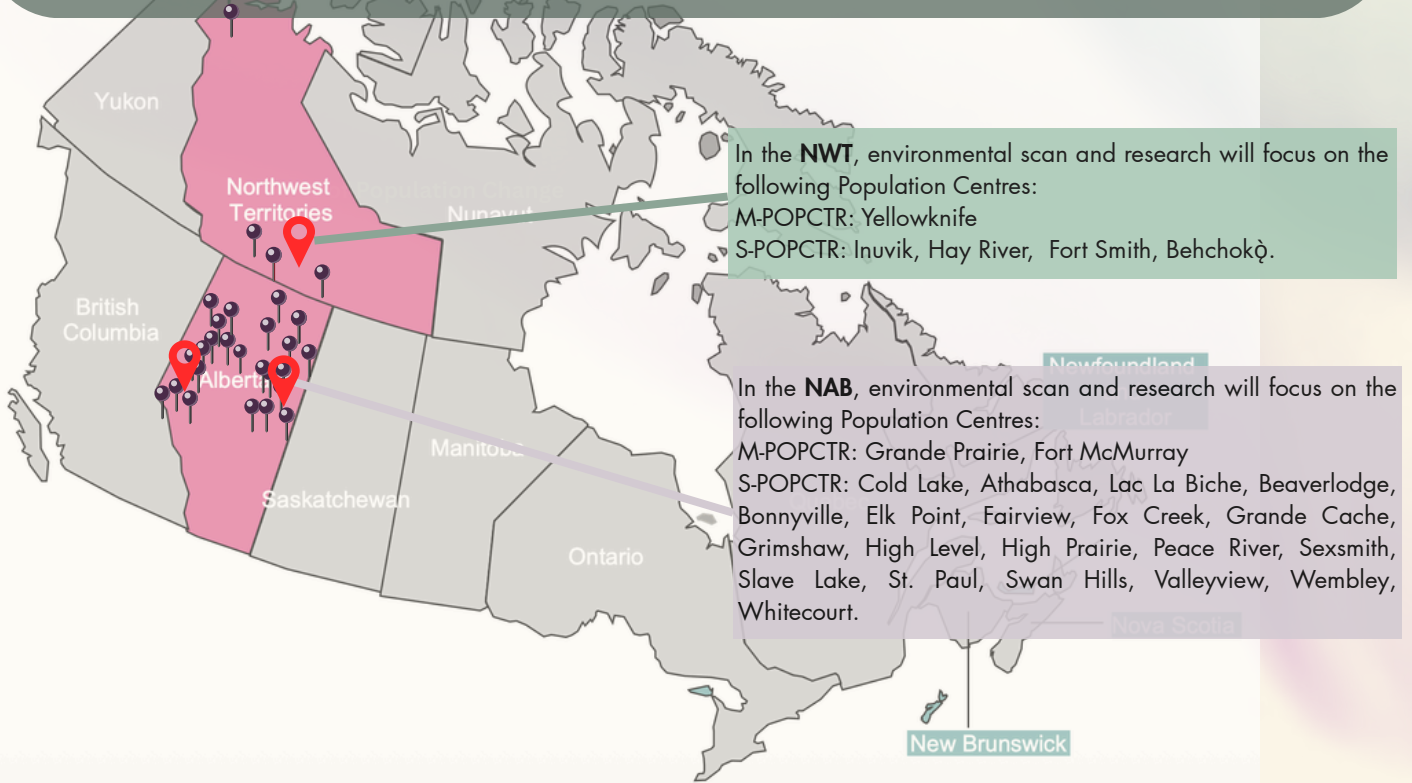
The **NWT** is home to three main groups of Indigenous peoples: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. Within these groups, there are several distinct communities and nations. Among the First Nations, most are Dene, divided into subgroups such as Chipewyan, Dogrib, Slavey, and Gwich'in. The Inuit population primarily resides in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Reflecting this diversity, and alongside English and French, the Official Languages Act of the NWT recognizes nine Indigenous languages: Chipewyan, Cree, Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey, and Tłı̄chǫ.

The **NAB** is home to several distinct Indigenous groups, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. The First Nations are located within two treaty areas: Treaties 6 and 8. The Métis also have a significant presence, with eight formal settlements. In addition, there are communities that speak Dunne-za (Beaver), Dene Suliné (Chipewyan), and Dené Tha (Slavey).

## Population Centres

At the early stage of TAIGA RISE, the focus was on environmental web-scanning small- and medium-sized population centres (POPCTR) in the NWT and the NAB to identify available services for newcomers and immigrants. Upon completion of the research process, the developed materials—such as toolkits and workshops—will be implemented on a pilot basis within these communities. According to the Dictionary of the Census of Population (2021):

- Small population centres (S-POPCTR): with a population between 1,000 and 29,999
- Medium population centres (M-POPCTR): with a population between 30,000 and 99,999



### Partners



Scan to learn more  
or contact us:

[research@immigrant-education.ca](mailto:research@immigrant-education.ca)

