



# Focus on Cemeteries

---

Miki Ehrlich, NWTAC

NWT  
**RIVERBANK EROSION**  
WORKSHOP 2025

DEC 2-4 | CHATEAU NOVA HOTEL | YELLOWKNIFE

# Has anyone ever moved a cemetery?

---



# YES

Cemeteries have been relocated before – in the north and around the world, for lots of reasons, such as:

- To make way for infrastructure
- When the land ownership changes hands
- When environmental threats render the location unsound or unsustainable as a cemetery



# Cemeteries in the NWT

- NWT does not have a cemeteries act
- NWT Public Health Act - requires permission from the Chief Public Health Officer to remove human remains
- Community governments are responsible for the establishment and operation of cemeteries within their jurisdictions



Cemeteries are special places



# Considerations

---

- Community engagement
- Ongoing communication
- Understanding the threat
- Defining timelines and levels of acceptable risk
- Community acceptance

