

NWT Association of Communities 2019 RE-AFFIRMED Resolutions

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NWTAC Resolutions are divided into the following categories:

CATEGORY A Territorial Wide Municipal Issues

This category will contain resolutions on issues that are of a direct or indirect concern to all territorial Communities.

CATEGORY B Issues which Pertain to Regional Concerns Only or Are Not Within Municipal Jurisdiction

This category will contain resolutions, which are of a regional concern only or are not within municipal jurisdiction. No action is taken on Category B resolutions.

CATEGORY C Matters Dealt with by the NWTAC in the Previous Three Years

This category will contain resolutions relating to specific matters, which have already been considered by the NWT Association of Communities within the previous three years.

NWT Association of Communities Resolution Breakdown

Standing

(ST) Refers to a resolution that reflects a standing policy of the NWTAC. The objective may have been achieved once, but may have to be restated because of a change in government ministers or department personnel. It also refers to a resolution not requiring active pursuit for one reason or another.

Re-affirm

(RA) Refers to a resolution whose objective has not been achieved and which should be actively pursued by the NWTAC Board of Directors.

Delete

(DL) These resolutions have been deleted from the NWTAC policy manual.

Internal

(INT) Internal policies are administrative matters.

NB. All active policies are reviewed on an annual basis for discussion / presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

RA-19-18-01 Energy

WHEREAS The world, out of necessity is moving away from petroleum/carbon based fuels for the generation of electricity and to heat homes;

WHEREAS Petroleum/carbon based fuels are expensive to ship to our isolated NWT communities and very costly to operate over time;

WHEREAS The GNWT is required to spend carbon tax credits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the GNWT produce for public scrutiny, a concentrated, harmonious and sensible plan to incorporate unused yet readily available forms of energy in every NWT community, including biomass, wind and solar power to be implemented in such a way as to make our NWT communities energy-independent and in the process create quality long term jobs at the local level

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: **Reaffirmed**

June 2018 GNWT Response

The goal of the 2030 Energy Strategy is to guide the development of affordable, secure and sustainable energy for transportation, heat, and electricity, support energy efficiency and conservation, and promote renewable and alternative energy solutions for the NWT.

The GNWT released the draft 2030 Energy Strategy for public comment in September 2017 and the deadline for public comments was January 3, 2018. The GNWT will publicly release the final 2030 Energy Strategy in May 2018.

The GNWT is currently developing a multi-year energy action plan to support implementation of the Strategy and will include actions and initiatives to meet the six strategic objectives identified therein. The GNWT will continue to engage directly with communities and Indigenous organizations to ensure participation, partnership and empowerment when proposing and undertaking energy solutions as it implements the Action Plan.

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WHEREAS The GNWT continues to be dedicated to the expansion and creation of hydro dams on NWT rivers as a cornerstone of its economic development policy;

WHEREAS The Government of the NWT is lobbying to open the Arctic Ocean to offshore drilling for oil and gas;

WHEREAS The likelihood of those initiatives coming to fruition is slim, and meanwhile, the NWT current economy is largely based on mining development only, which has an intrinsic boom and bust character;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the GNWT be asked to facilitate sometime in 2018, an economic development symposium which allows extensive public input to facilitate and foster new ideas on economic growth in the Territory that will result in the stimulation of local economies in our towns and hamlets, and result in high quality, stable new jobs in the communities.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: **Reaffirmed**

June 2018 GNWT Responses

The GNWT is planning to host a 2018 Premier's Economic Summit with the Intergovernmental Council of the Northwest Territories (IGC). Members of the IGC include the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, Northwest Territory Metis

Nation, TI1chQ Government, Acho Dene Koe First Nation and the Fort Liard Metis Local #67, Salt River First Nation, Deninu Kq First Nation, and Katl'odeeche First Nation.

The Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference is also scheduled to be held August 8 to 10, 2018, in Yellowknife, jointly hosted by the Denendeh Development Corporation and Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce. This event will highlight and promote First Nation Aboriginal Development Corporations and Aboriginal businesses in all sectors of our northern economy, alongside the North's business community in strategic industries and sectors, including technology, innovation, finance, investment and natural resources. The goal is to continue to support economic growth and prosperity by forging new relationships, advancing partnerships, and creating new contacts across the arctic.

Additionally, the North's annual business conference, Opportunities North, is happening in November 2018 in Whitehorse, and will then be hosted in Yellowknife in the fall of 2019. Collectively, these economic development symposiums should allow community governments and the northern business sector to help foster and share new ideas on economic development and the benefits that come with economic growth.

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RA-19-18-03

Wildfires

WHEREAS Localized drought conditions seem to cause more and more severe fire seasons;

WHEREAS Many NWT communities are surrounded by old-growth coniferous forests that are ready to burn;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the GNWT's department of Municipal and Community Affairs bring more resources and focus more on ways to safeguard our communities from wildfires and at the same time put a higher priority on bolstering emergency measures organizations in the community so they can better deal with the imminent threat from a fire threatening their community.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

Environment and Natural Resources works with community governments to develop and implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans which provide practical and operational wildland/urban interface risk mitigation strategies to reduce the threat of wildfire to developments within a community. Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) helps community governments improve community emergency management capacity, through emergency planning workshops and table top exercises, which consider hazards relating to wildfires. Community governments may also use federal gas tax funds for initiatives involving fuel breaks and wildland fire mitigation strategies.

MACA also continues to encourage the federal government to broaden the eligibility criteria for funding under the National Disaster Mitigation Program to include wildfire hazards.

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RA-19-18-04

10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

WHEREAS The unprecedented increase in homelessness for all Member communities is recognized as a multifaceted problem exasperated by a shortage of affordable housing and an increase in need for social housing that is the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories; and

WHEREAS Environmental conditions living in the NWT can be harsh and deadly; and

WHEREAS Homelessness in the NWT is not always obvious as the 'hidden homeless' are bouncing from friends and family couches and are not easily known; and

WHEREAS The NWT Association of Communities has previously re-affirmed its resolutions RS-17-14-02 on homelessness resolving that the GNWT fully fund Homeless Shelters within the boundaries of its communities and direct funds to its department to end homelessness; and

WHEREAS The City of Yellowknife Community Advertising Board on Homelessness and Yellowknife City Council have adopted Everyone is Home- Yellowknife's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness to find a way forward in ending homelessness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWT Association of Communities urge the GNWT to consider adopting the City of Yellowknife's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the NWT Associations of Communities reaffirm RA-17-14-02.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

Under the priority of Cost of Living of the 18th Legislative Assembly, the GNWT is committed to reviewing the GNWT's homelessness supports and implementing recommendations that improve policy and program consistency between departments.

The NWT HC will be conducting a broad review of homelessness, services and programming within the NWT. The NWT HC has committed to share the findings from this assessment with the City of Yellowknife.

The NWT HC is incorporating some of the findings of the 10 year plan to end homelessness developed by the City of Yellowknife into its operations including supporting semi-independent units in shelters, and the Housing First model.

The NWT HC is also working with communities directly to support their goals in addressing homelessness. These include the Northern Pathways to Housing projects in Fort Simpson and Behchoko, the Homelessness shelter in Fort Good Hope, and working with Aklavik on homelessness supports.

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RA-19-18-05

Waste Management

WHEREAS Waste Management can impact the quality of our environment through preservation of land, air, and water in our Northern regions:

WHEREAS Waste management can impact the health of wildlife, plants, ecosystems, and people living in the NWT;

WHEREAS The NWT has unique challenges such as northern climate, small isolated populations, and lack of all-season roads;

WHEREAS Studies show that provincial and territorial wide waste management strategies are integral to achieve quantifiable successes;

WHEREAS Recycling and composting programs would:

1. Prevent recyclable goods and compost from ending up in landfills;
2. Significantly increase the lifetime of many municipal landfills;
3. Provide economic benefits to local and territorial economies by creating green jobs’
4. Convert up to 35% of household waste back into healthy soil through composting;

WHEREAS The GNWT should be seen to be supporting the environmental, human and financial health of our natural resources and environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWTAC and Territorial Agencies work in cooperation to develop and implement a Waste Management Strategy that meets the needs of the diverse and unique needs of the communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the NWTAC take a vital role in the development of this document as they are the voice of the communities in the NWT.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

The Government of the Northwest Territories is developing a Waste Resource Management Strategy (Strategy) that will serve as a 10-year road map for improving waste resource management throughout the NWT. How we manage our waste can have a significant impact the quality of our land, air and water, as well as the health of wildlife, plants, ecosystems and people living in the NWT. Establishing new waste prevention and reduction programs to increase the life of our landfills, such as recycling and composting programs are proposed actions for the Strategy and it is expected that these activities will help foster a green economy and minimize landfill costs.

Waste management is a shared responsibility and improving waste management in the

NWT will require a collaborative approach. The diverse interests of all groups producing and managing waste, especially municipalities and Indigenous governments must be considered. It will be essential that the Strategy reflects the unique needs of communities and challenges of the north.

The GNWT has completed its first phase of engagement. Input on a Discussion Paper for the Strategy was collected from December 2017 to March 2018 at regional meetings with communities and other stakeholders and through an online survey. Feedback gathered will be summarized in a What We Heard document that will be distributed in May 2018 and will be used to draft the Strategy and a supporting Implementation Plan. The GNWT has struck an interdepartmental committee to work on waste management and we will engage with NWTAC in May 2018 to talk about the best way to involve NWTAC in this work so that communities have ongoing input into both ENR's development of the Waste Resource Management Strategy and Implementation Plan, but also to engage in MACA's work plan to support community governments in managing their waste sites, removing hazardous or bulky waste where possible from community sites and find ways to both maximize the life span of existing sites and ensure the design of new sites is done with current standards and best practices.

ENR's draft Strategy and Implementation Plan is targeted to be released for comment in December 2018.

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RA-19-18-06 MACA Funding Formula

WHEREAS Communities and Municipalities should aim to be proactive in achieving financial stability by setting aside money in reserves, instead of seeking reactionary emergency funds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That MACA review the funding formula for communities to provide incentives for municipalities that set aside funds for planned and unplanned capital projects.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

**Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith
Policy Committee Recommends: **Reaffirmed****

June 2018 GNWT Responses

MACA provides capital public infrastructure (CPI) funding to communities along with advisory services in the area of budgeting for operations as well as planning and implementation of capital projects. There are no barriers for communities to set aside monies for planned and unplanned capital projects and we encourage communities to do so.

The 2014 Community Government funding formula review identified a gap in funding which in some cases would make it difficult to ensure these funds were set aside.

Discussions on how the next round of Federal Infrastructure Funding will be administered are underway. The gap identified during the 2014 formula review will be a consideration as well as a community's ability to contribute their portion of the funds to projects.

In addition, MACA is working with communities, the NWTAC and other organizations to implement asset management. Asset management supports a long-term look at the cost of infrastructure throughout its lifecycle. Implementation of asset management will shift thinking from a shorter-term capital plan to a longer term whole life asset investment plan. This will provide the decision makers the information necessary to make the best decisions related to infrastructure investment, including setting aside monies for planned investment.

Please be assured that MACA will continue within the GNWT Capital Planning process and in federal infrastructure funding programs and negotiations to provide for increases to fund capital for community governments, particularly for core infrastructure critical to your operations.

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RA-19-18-07 Urban Indigenous Definition

WHEREAS The communities in the NWT range in Indigenous populations from 24% to 100% with Territorial average of 50%; and

WHEREAS Many federal programs offered serve a predominantly Indigenous clientele regardless of the nature of the community: excluding many NWT communities; and

WHEREAS Communities are the best places of all levels of government to have significant impact on the health and wellness of their residents;

WHEREAS By these definitions many federal funding initiatives end up excluding the NWT as a whole; and

WHEREAS The development of this definition will:

1. Provide consistency as to what defines a Indigenous Community between Government departments and programs;
2. Allow programming to serve the predominantly indigenous population regardless of the community;
3. Larger communities have capacity to deliver programming that will serve larger regions and centres;
4. These larger communities have a more diverse nature and have a smaller Indigenous population;

5. Allow the NWT, as a unique physical, social and economic environment, to participate in infrastructure programs that have been previously designed for the South;
6. Allow communities in the NWT to gain funding that will stimulate their economy as well as develop and maintain critical infrastructure integral to the quality of life in the North by securing dollars, support, and continuity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWTAC and GNWT work in partnership with the Federal Government to develop and implement a definition of Urban Indigenous People;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the NWTAC and GNWT work in partnership with the Federal Government to resolve their programming to include the NWT and its subsequent communities.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

**Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed
June 2018 GNWT Responses**

The GNWT recognizes that the definition of Urban Indigenous People can be complicated when working with the current federal government, particularly given the 'distinction-based' approach. This issue has been raised with a number of federal departments by the GNWT for the very reasons set out by the NWTAC. We will work with our federal partners to try to seek both an acceptable definition, but also one that applies across federal programs and departments - noting that this is a challenge due to shifting priorities within the federal programs as new relationships with indigenous people are a priority. MACA will continue to engage with NWTAC to ensure that MACA is using messaging consistent with that which NWTAC is using through FCM on this issue.

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RA-19-18-08 Secondary Access Road to Communities

WHEREAS The on-going impacts of climate change being experienced in the NWT will continue to increase the vulnerability of seasonal transportation connections to NWT communities by wildfire; and

WHEREAS Localized drought conditions seem to cause more and more severe fire seasons; and the majority of our NWT communities are surrounded by old-growth coniferous forests that are ready to burn;

WHEREAS It is critical to provide year-round transportation links to improve resiliency of communities as well as connecting communities to the rest of the NWT and the rest of Canada; and

WHEREAS There is a desire to see the majority of the benefits of the road construction and maintenance remain within the NWT; and

WHEREAS The development of secondary community access roads will:

1. Decrease the cost of living by access to goods and services;
2. Increase economic activity from the building and maintenance of the highway itself;
3. Will create meaningful opportunity to diversify the economy, increase business development and increase competitiveness; and
4. Develop hospitality and tourism markets and other businesses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWT Association of Communities supports the Government of the Northwest Territories continuing to make the development of strategic transportation corridors a priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the development of the secondary access roads for communities should be complete in such a way as to encourage as much local participation as possible both during construction and maintenance phases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That projects should explore innovative partnerships, with Aboriginals, Federal and Community Governments and their development corporations.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

At this time, the focus of the GNWT is on advancing strategic transportation corridors in response to the current infrastructure deficit experienced in the NWT. The ultimate goal is to connect communities that do not have all-year access, rather than focusing on constructing secondary access roads for those communities that already experience year-round road access.

The recent completion and opening of the Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway represents a significant milestone for the NWT. The highway is considered the northernmost section of an envisioned Mackenzie Valley Highway providing all-weather access from Wrigley to the Arctic Coast and is an important step towards making this vision a reality.

Residents of Tuktoyaktuk are now connected to the all-weather highway system year round, providing new social and employment opportunities, stabilizing the cost of living in the territory, increasing our resiliency to the impacts of climate change, and providing better access to natural resources. The Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway is also a great

example of how partnerships can help to maximize the benefits of large construction projects for local residents and businesses.

As per the mandate of the 18th Legislative Assembly and in accordance with the strategic objectives of the 25-year Transportation Strategy, the GNWT is pursuing plans to expand all-weather road access across the territory by working to secure funding to advance planning and construction of critical transportation corridors in the NWT, including the Tlicho All-Season Road, the extension of the Mackenzie Valley Highway, and the Slave Geological Province Access Corridor.

The GNWT continues to work closely with the Tlicho Government and the Community of Whati as the Tlicho All-Season Road proceeds through the environmental assessment process and procurement stage. The project will connect Whati to the all-weather highway system, while increasing the window of access via winter road to the communities of Gameti and Wekweeti.

The GNWT has applied for funding for all phases of the Slave Geological Province Access Corridor and Mackenzie Valley Highway projects under the National Trade Corridors Fund. Decisions around the first round of proposals are expected in April 2018. As the GNWT moves towards securing funding for the Mackenzie Valley Highway and the Slave Geological Province Access Corridor, it will continue to engage Indigenous groups and work with them to take advantage of the benefits that the projects will bring.

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RA-19-18-09

Funding for Sport and Recreation Travel

WHEREAS There are limited sports and recreational opportunities within the smaller communities; and

WHEREAS To ensure participation in competitive events, community members must travel outside of their home community often by air at substantial costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWTAC urge the GNWT to ensure that adequate funding be provided for sport and recreation travel to enable appropriate participation by all communities in the NWT.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Community of Paulatuk

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

Municipal and Community Affairs provides each community government with recreation funding annually through the Recreation Contributions program. Community governments may also use Operations and Maintenance Funding to support community government recreation programming. Additionally, community governments, and community based organizations, can apply to a number of organizations for travel support, including the MacKenzie Recreation Association and the Beaufort Delta Sahtu Recreation Association.

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WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife operates a full-time fire and ambulance service through the City of Yellowknife Fire Division;

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife Fire Division also responds to calls for service outside of the municipal boundary;

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has initiated a review of highway rescue and ground ambulance services within the territory;

WHEREAS community governments across the territory must prioritize their services with the funding available to them;

WHEREAS the cost recovery for emergency services provided outside of municipal boundaries may be difficult for a number of NWT community governments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that until such time as the GNWT has reviewed the strategy for Highway Rescue Services (RA-17-13-05) and conducted a feasibility study towards a Territorial Ground Ambulance Service (RA-17-15-03), that the GNWT should adequately fund those communities conducting ground ambulance or highway rescue services outside of their respective community boundaries.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

The GNWT remains committed to working with key stakeholders to develop an effective ground ambulance and highway rescue response capacity for the NWT. Work is currently underway to establish an action plan to guide system development and maintenance.

A proposed action plan was expected in February 2018, but will be delayed due to information gaps in key areas. A thorough analysis of relevant standards is necessary to enable partners to measure system performance; and cost data is required to help

determine a reasonable budget necessary to operate services outside municipal boundaries. The Action Plan is now expected in fall 2018.

It is important to remain mindful that an integrated system of ground ambulance and highway rescue services will take time to develop and the GNWT's current fiscal environment will play a large part in deciding priority actions.

Ground ambulance and highway rescue *services* funding of \$185,000 remains in the GNWT's 2018- 2019 Main Estimates and will be available to community governments.

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RA-19-18-11 Fire Prevention Act

WHEREAS the City has recently approved a Planning & Development Operational Review;

WHEREAS the Operational Review recommends that the City should work towards delegated authority from the GNWT for fire safety reviews as a means of improving coordination and overall customer services;

WHEREAS the GNWT is currently reviewing the *Fire Prevention Act* to update the legislation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT consult with communities when reviewing the *Fire Prevention Act* to ensure that support to community government permitting and review processes be prioritized to ensure that this function does not block development or cause undue delays and that the GNWT either 1. Transfer the authority and resources to community governments to undertake the responsibilities as outlined in the Act or, 2. That additional dedicated resources be provided to the Office of Fire Marshal to ensure community governments are provided with effective and consistent service.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

Municipal and Community Affairs will continue work on the *Fire Prevention Act (FPA)* and *Regulations* in 2018-2019. Information received from the 2017 public and stakeholder engagement effort is intended serve as the foundation for a second engagement process that will ask stakeholders and the public to consider and comment on potential legislative solutions to address identified issues in the FPA and Regulations.

A specific area of interest is the Office of the Fire Marshal's plan review function, which serves to verify that construction plans and specifications comply with adopted codes and standards. The NWT Association of Communities and other stakeholder groups have made it clear this regulatory function requires a focused dialogue to help determine future changes to the FPA and Regulations.

In 2018-2019, MACA will re-engage residents, elected officials and stakeholders on how other jurisdictions in Canada manage code compliance, with a view to determining which approach is most suitable for the NWT; and how to effectively harmonize code review activities with other related territorial and municipal regulatory functions.

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RA-19-18-12 Transfer of Lands to Community Governments

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife is seeking ownership and regulatory control of lands within the municipal boundary;

WHEREAS there are outstanding land applications on Commissioner's lands within the municipal boundary;

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife is beginning a statutory review of the General Plan pursuant to *the Community Planning & Development Act*,

WHEREAS the City is required to accommodate for land, growth and facilities over the next 10 years during this review;

WHEREAS the uncertainty around land prevents the City from taking a comprehensive approach to land use, infrastructure, utilities and zoning;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT expedite and prioritize land transfers to community governments for the purpose of comprehensive and sustainable community planning and development.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

The Department of Lands has been actively working with the City of Yellowknife and is committed to continuing this work to resolve any current issues associated with current land applications.

The Director of Land Administration meets regularly with the City's Director of Planning to facilitate these discussions and determining the best approach to address the individual files. The next scheduled meeting is April 18, 2018 and will include all members from each respective unit to facilitate a stronger working relationship. The GNWT is supportive of the City of Yellowknife's desire to manage lands within their boundaries utilizing bylaw enforcement as a tool to achieve these responsibilities.

The GNWT (Executive and Indigenous Affairs) is currently engaged with Indigenous organizations in and around Yellowknife with the intent of negotiating finalized land claim agreements.

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WHEREAS the unprecedented increase in homelessness for all Member Communities is recognized as a multifaceted problem exasperated by a shortage of affordable housing and an increase in need for social housing that is the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories;

WHEREAS the NWT Association of Communities has previously reaffirmed its resolution RS-17-14-02 on homelessness resolving that the GNWT fully fund Homeless Shelters within the boundaries of its communities and direct funds to its department to end homelessness;

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife Community Advisory Board on Homelessness and Yellowknife City Council have adopted Everyone Is Home – Yellowknife's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness to find a way forward in ending homelessness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwest Territories Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider adopting the City of Yellowknife's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and further, that the NWTAC reaffirm resolution RA-17-14-02.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

Under the priority of Cost of Living of the 18th Legislative Assembly, the GNWT is committed to reviewing the GNWT's homelessness supports and implementing recommendations that improve policy and program consistency between departments. The NWT HC will be conducting a broad review of homelessness, services and programming within the NWT. The NWT HC has committed to share the findings from this assessment with the City of Yellowknife. The NWT HC is incorporating some of the findings from the 10 year plan to end homelessness developed by the City of Yellowknife into its operations including supporting semi-independent units in shelters, and the Housing First model. The NWT HC is also working with communities directly to support their goals in addressing homelessness. These include the Northern Pathways to Housing projects in Fort Simpson and Behchoko, the Homelessness shelter in Fort Good Hope, and working with Aklavik on homelessness supports

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RA-19-18-14 Health Act

WHEREAS disinfecting pool water continues to be of prime importance for the safety and comfort of pool patrons,

WHEREAS the current Act relies on manual pool chemistry readings that requires approximately 2 hours of staff time to carry out testing procedures once per hour during operating day for hot tub and every 4 hours for main pool,

WHEREAS pool automation has been developed such that the pool chemistry readings are carried out continuously and those readings are verified daily through a manual test to verify calibration and therefore should be acceptable to ensure bather safety and comfort,

WHEREAS safeguarding the pool patrons is of utmost importance,

WHEREAS there are several nationally recognized regulatory bodies that provide certification of lifeguards and further that facilities are required to train lifeguard staff to their specific facility standards,

WHEREAS relying on only one nationally recognized regulatory body for lifeguard certification restricts the number of individuals to be considered for employment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwest Territories Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider amending the *Health Act* to reflect the benefits of swimming pool automation in the maintaining pool water disinfection as well as bather comfort, and further, to recognize all national lifeguard certification programs.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

The Department of Health and Social Services is working with the Department of justice to amend the Public Pool Regulations to better reflect current practices and standards for public pools across Canada, as well as the practical use and operation of pools in all NWT communities. The updated regulations are under development and expected to be in place in 2018. Disinfecting pool water is of prime importance for the safety and comfort of residents, and is one of the main areas of concern for the Department.

The Department is evaluating ways to modernize and update the testing schedule for public pools, including what is done in other jurisdictions. For some public pools, it may be preferable for staff to use automatic pool chemical monitoring equipment, and the Department will consider this option during the development of the new regulations.

However, to ensure pool safety and comfort, automatic monitoring would need to be supplemented with daily manual verification of automated readings. The Department will continue to ensure proper use of chemicals in all public pools, whether readings are done manually or automatically.

Under the new regulations, the Department is also looking at permitting valid lifeguard certification from either the Canadian Red Cross or the Lifesaving Society of Canada. This would provide for a greater availability of qualified lifeguards in communities, while still ensuring that the certification and training of life guards satisfies national standards and continues to provide for the safety of pool patrons.

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RA-19-18-15 Property Assessment and Taxation Act

WHEREAS the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* requires the Senior Administrative Officer of a municipal taxation area to cause a notice of assessment to be mailed to each assessed owner of each property each year;

WHEREAS the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* requires the Senior Administrative Officer of a municipal taxation area to cause a notice of tax payable to be mailed to each assessed owner of each property each year;

WHEREAS the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* requires the Senior Administrative Officer of a municipal taxation area to cause other written documents relevant to the assessment and taxation processes to be mailed to assessed owners;

WHEREAS the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* currently requires the notice of assessment, notice of tax payable and other documents to be paper documents;

WHEREAS the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* currently requires the notice of assessment, notice of tax payable and other documents to be mailed to the address shown on the certified assessment roll;

WHEREAS municipal governments have successfully adopted computerized methods to streamline the management of their assessment and taxation processes;

WHEREAS these computerized methods are capable of producing electronic versions of a notice of assessment, a notice of tax payable, and other related documents in accordance with the regulations stipulated in the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*;

WHEREAS a growing number of property owners are increasingly managing their financial affairs using electronic means;

WHEREAS many financial institutions and service providers successfully communicate with customers using solely electronic means;

WHEREAS municipalities communicate extensively with citizens using electronic means;

WHEREAS electronic distribution of information is more timely and more cost effective than paper distribution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWTAC lobby the Government of the Northwest Territories to amend the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* to allow municipalities the option of providing notices of assessment, notices of tax payable, and other documents relevant to the assessment and taxation processes electronically, using electronic delivery methods.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

A legislative review of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act has not been identified as a priority during the 18th Legislative Assembly and has not been put on MACA's list of

legislative priorities.

Due in part to capacity, but also due to the number of Acts that MACA administers, it has become necessary for MACA to prioritize its legislative initiatives. During this year's NWT Association of Communities AGM, MACA did facilitate an interactive session with delegates to begin to gather input on legislation issues impacting community governments. This is the beginning of an engagement process that will contribute to establishing legislative priorities for the 19th Legislative Assembly.

MACA is aware that the NWT Association of Communities has passed as many as eight (8) resolutions that may impact the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. This is important feedback that will be considered, not only as we set priorities, but also once we begin the legislative review process.

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RA-19-18-16

**Review and Amendment of Cities, Towns and Villages Act,
S.N.W.T.2003,c.22 Article 122
Hamlets Act S.N.W.T. 2003,c.22 Article 124
Charter Communities Act S.N.W.T. 2003,c.22 Article 126
Tlicho Community Government Act S.N.W.T.2004,c.7 Article 118**

WHEREAS Under the various acts should a municipality wish to forgive a debt to it there is a long and involved process which must be followed to forgive that debt.

WHEREAS This can, in some cases, be more expensive to execute than the actual amount of debt being forgiven.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Cities, Towns and Villages, Hamlets, Charter Communities and the Tlicho Community Government Acts be amended to allow for municipalities to give forgiveness of a debt of less than \$500.00 by a simple resolution of Council instead of via by-law and other regulations outlined in the Acts.

Background Information:

Many times there are instances where a debt owed to a municipality is of a very small amount and it is determined to be uncollectable. Currently for a Municipality to forgive this debt they must go through a by-law process including advertising for 30 days prior to a 3rd reading providing information regarding the debt. The Municipality may have to expend more money than the debt itself to have it "written off the books". By making an amount by which Council may forgive the debt via a simple resolution it will provide for a more efficient and timely process. With this limitation Council still retains the final say regarding the forgiveness but in a more efficient manner for smaller amounts.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Inuvik

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

Forgiveness of debt is a reduction in revenue to the community government and also signals that some individuals or organizations are being treated differently than others. It is important for Councils to deal with these matters in a transparent manner and to give residents a reasonable time to voice their concerns.

Fees and payments due to the community are normally set through the adoption of a budget, or through a formal bylaw approval process for example a Water Services By-Law. The intention is that this is a public process that allows the opportunity for transparency to residents. It follows that any reversal of this process, for example a forgiveness of debt related to an approved revenue source, should also be done by by-law.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will keep note of this issue on file for consideration when these pieces of legislation are discussed further as legislative priorities are prepared for consideration for the 191h Assembly. That way, we do not lose the concern for further discussion when these Acts are next opened. At this time, the Department does not see the case for amending the acts for this purpose alone.

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RA-19-18-17 Communication from GNWT regarding significant activities and visits to a community

WHEREAS Community governments are recognized essential partners and a distinct order of government;

WHEREAS Community governments are the lead public governing organizations within Northwest Territories communities;

WHEREAS Whereas the Mandate of the 18th Legislative Assembly commits the GNWT to "changing how it does business by... Increasing transparency and accountability and strengthening consensus through improved communications;
Building stronger relationships with community governments and stakeholders..."

WHEREAS Community governments do not consistently receive notice about GNWT visits and events that are taking place in their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Government of the Northwest Territories commit to developing a protocol, collaboratively with the NWTAC, to provide community governments with advance notice of significant visits (by elected leaders and senior management) and events (meetings, workshops, engagements , etc.) to ensure clear communications and strengthened relationships.

Background Information:

Some communities have experienced occasions where senior GNWT officials including Cabinet ministers were visiting their community yet there was no formal communication to those communities regarding these visits. This is also true of events and consultations being held in the Community. These communities are asking that the GNWT follow its commitment for this assembly to be more accountable through improved communications.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Inuvik

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will work with the NWTAC to develop a process to provide community governments with advance notice of public visit by elected leaders and senior management, as well as advance notice of significant public events the GNWT intends to host in their respective communities.

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RA-19-18-18 Review and Amendment of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, R.S.N.W.T. 1988 c.P-10, as amended with regards to Unsold Property Article 97.85

WHEREAS Under article 97.85 when a property is unsold at a property tax auction the owner retains ownership of the property

WHEREAS This can allow a property owner to potentially circumvent paying outstanding taxes and reducing municipal revenues

WHEREAS Currently Municipalities must purchase the property through the auction process should they wish to possession of the property

THEREFORE BEIT RESOLVED That the Property Assessment and Taxation Act be amended to allow for municipalities to have the option to take possession of a property for unpaid taxes after a defined period of time and it not having been sold at a public tax auction.

Background Information:

There are circumstances where a property owner will not pay property taxes and make the property not conducive for sale at an auction. As a result that owner may go a number of years without paying taxes knowing that the property will not be sold at an auction. Under the current articles of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act the only way a municipality can acquire that property is to participate in the auction process itself and thereby in a sense purchase the property from the owner. In other jurisdictions municipalities are given the option under specific circumstances have the property transferred (forfeited) to the municipality who then may make the necessary adjustments to the property and sell it in various ways. It should be noted that in some circumstances the municipality may not want to title to the property when there maybe additional liabilities associated with the property.

An example of legislation to this effect in in Alberta under Division 8, 8.1 and 9 of the Municipal Government Act.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Inuvik

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

A legislative review of *the Property Assessment and Taxation Act* has not been identified as a priority during the 18th Legislative Assembly and has not been put on MACA's list of legislative priorities.

Due in part to capacity, but also due to the number of Acts that MACA administers, it has become necessary for MACA to prioritize its legislative initiatives. During this year's NWT Association of Communities AG M, MACA did facilitate an interactive session with delegates to begin to gather input on legislation issues impacting community governments. This is the beginning of an engagement process that will contribute to establishing legislative priorities for the 19th Legislative Assembly.

MACA is aware that the NWT Association of Communities has passed as many as eight (8) resolutions that may impact the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*. This is important feedback that will be considered, not only as we set priorities, but also once we begin the legislative review process.

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RA-19-18-19 Review and Amendment of the MOTOR VEHICLES ACT
R.S.N.W.T. 1988,c.M- 16, and amendments

WHEREAS Under the Motor Vehicles Act Municipal By-law Enforcement officers may issue violation tickets for items such as lack of insurance, driver's license and insurance.

WHEREAS These must be done on Territorial Summons and not Municipal ones.

WHEREAS All revenues from these violations go to the Territorial Government yet all expenses incurred when issued by a Municipal by-law officer are borne by the Municipality including any time as a result of court appearance related to the offense.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Motor Vehicles Act Articles 337 & 338 be amended to provide for a revenue sharing structure option be included with a Municipality for all offense summons issued by Municipal By-law Officer.

Background Information:

Currently many Municipalities have By-law Enforcement Officers that are by way of their appointment allowed to issue summons (tickets) for certain violations of the Motor Vehicle Act. While the Act allows for some violations to be written on Municipal summons and the revenues for those violations going the Municipality certain ones (which have the highest fines) must be written on Territorial summons and therefore the revenues go to the Territorial Government. While it is recognized that there are costs incurred by the Territorial Government in maintaining the Act and its regulations many of the direct costs of enforcement are borne by the Municipality including prosecution should the offence go to court. In other jurisdictions such as Alberta their legislation allows for a revenue sharing system to be implemented with a Municipality for these circumstances

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Inuvik
Policy Committee Recommends: **Reaffirmed**

June 2018 GNWT Responses

The Department of Infrastructure (INF) will need to undertake a further review of this resolution to determine the implications of implementing such a revenue sharing system between the GNWT and the municipalities, including the enforcement capabilities of municipalities and the requirements for implementing such a system in the NWT. This review will need to occur prior to INF considering this resolution any further. INF will provide an update to the NWTAC on this initiative at the 2019 AGM.

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RA-19-17-01

Aurora College Funding

WHEREAS The purpose of the Aurora College is to deliver adult and post-secondary education, including the delivery of university level programs and the granting of prescribed university degrees and applied bachelor degrees;

WHEREAS Aurora College continues to evolve as the needs of the NWT labour market change;

WHEREAS The population of the NWT is over 50% aboriginal and that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action highlighted the need for funding for aboriginal education;

WHEREAS The vision for Skills4Success is that NWT residents have the skills, knowledge and attitudes for employment success and the Skills4Success Actions Plan Skill Goal #1 is that development and post-secondary education programs are aligned with labour market demands;

WHEREAS The NWT Jobs in Demand 15-Year Forecast lists the need for various levels of employment and education backgrounds for the next 15 years;

WHEREAS The 2017 Federal Budget has targeted \$90 million in over two years for post-secondary program support for indigenous students to be shared across the territories.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the GNWT sufficiently fund Aurora College to target education needs based on labour market analysis, with increases to the budget to account for inflation and new technology;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any proposed significant budget changes to the college be made with the input of the Board of Governors who are representatives of regions throughout the north, and with municipal leaders, and indigenous government stakeholders.

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Resolution Committee recommends: REAFFIRMED

January 2018 Update

On September 28, 2017 NWTAC received resolution responses from GNWT.

GNWT is committed to continue to work collaboratively with Aurora College to ensure that the appropriate support mechanisms are in place for northern students to continue to learn and grow. The Aurora College Foundational Review (Review) will make recommendations regarding the governance structure and operations of the College. The Terms of Reference include an examination of 1. Operations 2. Governance structures 3. Accountability measures 4. Academic program and course selection and 5. Student recruitment and retention.

The department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) anticipates having clear recommendations from the Review which will inform and help to develop a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is to be implemented in the 2018-19 academic year. The Strategic Planning process that started last year will be put on hold until the Foundational Review is complete.

Together the Foundational Review and Strategic Plan will inform programming to provide necessary skills and knowledge to ensure northern residents are first in line for jobs in the NWT. Additionally, it will help inform and create an appropriate model for the funding of Aurora College.

The RFP review is being completed.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

Aurora College delivers postsecondary and adult education and training in the Northwest Territories. Aurora College is focused on student success and is committed to supporting the development of our northern society through excellence in education, training and research that are culturally sensitive and responsive to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Aurora College has addressed the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' Calls to Action by providing access to postsecondary education for Indigenous students and ensuring staff and instructors have an understanding and awareness of the history of the people we serve.

The Aurora College Foundational Review and its Report are near completion. The Report will outline recommendations on each of the five areas studied:

- Operations
- Governance structures
- Accountability measures
- Academic program and course selection
- Student recruitment and retention

The Aurora College Foundational Review will assist Aurora College in finalizing their long-term Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan, along with the Skills 4 Success labour market information will help to inform Aurora College's programming decisions.

The Government of Canada has allocated \$90 million over two years, 2017-18 to 2018-19 for their Postsecondary Student Support Program, which will support the postsecondary education financial needs of over 4,600 eligible students across Canada over the two-year period. The detail of the \$90 million dollars is available

at this website: <https://www.aadnc-aandc.ec.c/ene/1100100033682/1100100033683>.

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RA-19-17-02 TRC Recommendations

WHEREAS: In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada put forth 94 recommendations;

WHEREAS Many of the recommendations we to be addressed by various levels of government; including Federal, Territorial, Provincial, and Municipal.

WHEREAS The population of the NWT is over 50% aboriginal and that many are survivors of residential school or related to residential school survivors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWTAC recognize the importance of the recommendations and the work done by the TRC Commission and encourages the Territorial Government to bring forth what it sees as responsibilities from the 94 recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GNWT put forth a timeline to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation by the end of 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the recommendations be implemented or started no later than 2019.

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Resolution Committee recommends: REAFFIRMED

January 2018 Update

On September 28, 2017 NWTAC received resolution responses from GNWT.

The GNWT is working to identify appropriate implementation initiatives that correspond to the 94 recommendations put forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada in 2015. Once those proposed implementation initiatives are finalized and budget resources are identified the GNWT will begin implementations of those projects, including any new or modified programs and devices. The GNWT remains cognizant of the need to complete its response to the recommendations of the TRC in a timely manner.

The GNWT continues work across departments related to the recommendations put forth by the TRC. An update on work was tabled in the legislature in March 2017 and can be found at <https://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/sites/eia/files/>

Further updates will be provided in the future. The GNWT would also be pleased to have conversations with NWT Communities about actions they may be taking to move forward the recommendations of the TRC.

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RA-19-17-03 Fiscal Year Resolution

WHEREAS The NWT Cities Towns and Villages Act requires the fiscal year to be the calendar year; and

WHEREAS the NWT Charter Communities Act and the Hamlets Act require a fiscal year ending March 31, except in the case of a Municipal Taxing Authority; and

WHEREAS all Communities rely on funding from other orders of government whose fiscal year ends on March 31; and

WHEREAS it may be in the better interest of each community in the NWT to select a fiscal year end which meets its need;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWTAC urges the GNWT to enact legislative changes that would give all municipalities the option of choosing a fiscal year that matches the calendar year or a fiscal year that ends on March 31; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That this legislative change be identified as a priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly.

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Resolution Committee recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update

On September 28, 2017 NWTAC received resolution responses from GNWT.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) recognizes that there are a number of good reasons why the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) may want to consider the legislative changes required to

allow all municipalities the option of choosing the same fiscal year (matching the calendar year or a fiscal year that ends on March 31, or some other option). Such a change would require amendments to six pieces of territorial legislation including the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Charter Communities Act, the Hamlets Act, the Tlicho Community Government Act, the Property Assessment and Taxation Act and the local Authorities Election Act. These amendments would represent a significant undertaking and given the current legislative priorities of the department, their completion could not be expected in the time frame identified in the NWT Association of Communities resolution.

Additional Note: This has been in our Resolutions for roughly 8 years. Further we believe that no amendments would be required with respect to the Charter Communities Act, the Hamlets Act, the Tlicho Community Government Act.

June 19, 2018 GNWT Update

MACA will consult with the six Cities, Towns and Villages to discuss the option of legislative changes to amend the fiscal year as it appears the primary objective is to bring those six communities within the same fiscal year as the GNWT and the balance of the other 27 community governments. In the past, MACA has asked the six tax-based communities whether they all support this amendment, and to date there has not been agreement among the six on this matter.

WHEREAS: Some communities in the NWT, including Fort Smith, are facing riverbank and soil erosion issues;

WHEREAS: Communities are facing huge costs associated with addressing these issues posing significant risks to essential infrastructure, caused by erosion in various forms;

WHEREAS Fort Smith has faced significant costs, including loss of life, due to riverbank issues and that there continues to be ongoing riverbank issues that affect Town of Fort Smith infrastructure, including sewage lagoon lines;

WHEREAS The water intake for Fort Smith is directly downstream from active slide zones;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the GNWT make it their priority to find funding, in particular, with other stakeholders to remediate or mitigate these concerns in all communities facing riverbank and soil erosion issues;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That Fort Smith and any other community which faces issues beyond that of flooding, also be included in the list of affected communities.

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Resolution Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update

On September 28, 2017 NWTAC received resolution responses from GNWT.

Riverbank and soil erosion are ongoing natural processes that can be accelerated by human activities. Depending on where infrastructure is located, it may be vulnerable to increased erosion in the future by sea level rise, melting permafrost or flooding of river systems due to climate change. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) can work with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), and community governments to help identify vulnerable areas.

MACA has re-established its Community Planning Unit, within the Community Governance Division. Shoreline Erosion issues can and should be taken into consideration when community governments update their community plans. The updating of community plans is gas tax eligible within the terms of the 2014-2023 Agreement MACA also encourages the community to look at their annual Capital Planning Process allocations to help deal with projects that will support the

mitigation of shoreline erosion. MACA will ensure that community governments are aware of these funding opportunities, as well as new federal funding opportunities, and encourage communities to discuss these matters with the MACA Regional Offices.

Additional Note: NWTAC has been working with MACA to help communities to access the Federal Disaster Mitigation Funding. To date they are working on filings for Tuk and Aklavik. We will continue to push for more communities.

The climate change aspects will be included in analysis of climate change costs being completed with ENR. Having this number will assist greatly with the lobby going forward.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

For communities susceptible to flooding/erosion, MACA has annually shared information on a funding opportunity related to planning and implementation of mitigation under the federal Disaster mitigation program. Two communities (Tuktoyaktuk and Aklavik) have been successful in accessing funding to work on specific issues in their communities.

In addition, in a broader planning context, the updating of community plans is gas tax fund eligible within the terms of the 2014-2023 Agreement. MACA also encourages the community to use their annual Capital Planning Process and funding allocations to identify projects that will support the mitigation of shoreline erosion especially where it relates to protecting core community public infrastructure. MACA will continue to ensure that community governments are aware of these funding opportunities, as well as new federal funding that may apply, and encourage communities to discuss these matters with the MACA Regional Offices.

WHEREAS The GNWT hold untenured lands within municipal boundaries throughout the NWT;

WHEREAS All landholders are encouraged to fire smart their properties;

WHEREAS Communities throughout the NWT face threat of loss due to the spread of forest fires within municipal boundaries;

WHEREAS The cost of preventative measures, specifically to fire smart properties, is significantly less than the cost of loss of infrastructure within a community, as seen in the communities Fort MacMurray and Slave lake;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the GNWT fire smart untenured Commissioner's lands within municipal boundaries for communities throughout the NWT.

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Resolution Committee Recommends: REAFFIRM

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January 2018 Update

On September 28, 2017 NWTAC received resolution responses from GNWT.

The Department of Lands does not as a general practice fire smart on untenured Commissioner's Land due to the significant area this would involve and the lack of resources to undertake this activity. Recognizing that the spread of forest fires are a concern for everyone, a way forward would be for the Department of Lands to engage with individual communities and FireSmart Committees (if operational) to consider options consistent with fire response plans. An example could be the establishment of fire breaks on Commissioner's Land at strategic locations around the community.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is committed to ensuring that fire response plans are in place to assist all communities. ENR will commit to working with other GNWT departments and communities on mitigating risk on Commissioner's Lands.

RA-19-17-07 CRTC Ruling

WHEREAS The December 2016 CRTC decision on basic telecommunications services will result in improved services throughout the territory; and

WHEREAS Residents of the Northwest Territories have significant restrictions on internet usage and speeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWTAC lobby the FCM to advance the decision of the CRTC and the timeline for implementation in the territories.

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Resolution Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update

The NWTAC has made a number of submissions regarding basic telecoms in the Territory over the past year as well as supporting both the Territorial and FCM lobby on this issue as well.

RA-19-17-09 Solid Waste & Government Contracts

WHEREAS Municipal Governments are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Solid Waste Disposal Facilities within their communities;

WHEREAS Construction and demolition projects within the community result in a significant volume and variety of waste being placed in these facilities by contractors;

WHEREAS disposal of waste in community Solid Waste Disposal Facilities in a manner that does not comply with community solid waste procedures and standards;

WHEREAS indiscriminate dumping of waste (including hazardous waste) in a manner that does not respect the waste disposal and segregation requirements of the facility;

WHEREAS dumping of waste outside of the regular operating hours of the facility adds to the problem;

WHEREAS These practices result in significant work and cost to the municipality in segregating and relocating the waste to the appropriate areas of the facility.

WHEREAS it is imperative that measures be established to ensure all parties utilizing these facilities do so in a manner that conforms to the procedures and standards established by the municipal government.

WHEREAS NWT municipal governments have a significant level of control over such practices when they enter into contracts with local businesses, they have little practical control over contractors from outside the community who are undertaking work under contract with government departments or external organizations.

WHEREAS there are no financial repercussions on contractors from outside the community who fail to conform to municipal solid waste management practices and standards.

WHEREAS A large percentage of construction and/or demobilization contracts awarded to outside contractors for work within municipalities are controlled by GNWT -Public Works and Services and the NWT Housing Corporation.

WHEREAS GNWT as steward should be seen to be supporting the environmental, human and financial health of municipalities and the ongoing operational procedures must be undertaken in a manner that contributes to this requirement.

WHEREAS current GNWT contracting procedures relating to municipal construction and/or demolition activities are not fully supportive in this regard and should be revised in a manner that will address this concern. The following resolution is proposed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT GNWT and Territorial Agencies should include the requirement for the successful contractor to enter into a written agreement with the community government regarding the disposal of waste resulting from their contracting activities including waste disposal fees, volumes of waste to be deposited, waste segregation and placement requirements, listing of hazardous wastes that will be accepted, and hours of waste disposal facility operation. Contracts should identify a percentage of the contract value that would be held back pending receipt of confirmation by the municipality that the contractor had abided by the waste disposal agreement entered into with the municipality. Costs incurred by the municipality in rectifying any failures of the contractor to fully abide by the terms of their agreement with the community would be paid to the community out of the contract hold back amount.

Submitted by Hamlet of Aklavik

Resolution Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update

On September 28, 2017 NWTAC received resolution responses from GNWT.

The management of municipal waste is the responsibility each community. The Department of Infrastructure participates on the Interdepartmental Water and Waste Committee and works collaboratively with the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs, Environment and Natural Resources, and Health and Social Services on joint concerns related to waste management issues in the NWT.

The Department of Infrastructure is open to exploring ways to increase municipal oversight of waste disposal practices on GNWT projects, and will work collaboratively with MACA, ENR, and HSS to determine appropriate solutions that will mitigate risk for all parties.

GNWT Construction Contracts currently include provisions that address activities in municipalities. The Department of Infrastructure is currently revising the construction contract to strengthen the wording for the disposal of construction waste. The changes will apply only to GNWT construction contracts, but will not include a holdback for the Municipalities. The Municipalities may want to consider other options that would apply to all construction waste materials, such as bylaws with appropriate restrictions or tipping fees.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is leading the development of a Waste Resource Management Strategy and the Department of Infrastructure is providing input into this process. The Strategy would address ways of improving waste management in the NWT to achieve economic and environmental benefits. The Department of Infrastructure will continue to work closely with ENR as well as other GNWT Departments as the Strategy is being developed.

The NWTAC has long been engaged with ENR on the Clean-Up / Clean-Start program for Hazardous Waste and the Ministers Advisory Committee on Waste Reduction. We have recently started in discussions with ENR to assist with engagement on the Waste Strategy and to form an advisory committee.

June 19, 2018 Update- no new information

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RA-19-17-12 (UNDRIP) as a guide

WHEREAS the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples (UNDRIP) was passed by the United Nations general assembly on September 13,2017, and

WHEREAS the Canadian government and the legislative assembly of the NWT also passed and endorsed the declaration that supports all indigenous Peoples, and

WHEREAS lands, resources and community governments in the NWT are directly affected by self-government negotiations and agreements, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NWT Association of Communities hereby fully endorses and supports the UNDRIP as a guide in the negotiations with the indigenous peoples of the NWT

SUBMITTED BY Hay River Reserve

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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RA-19-17-13 Banning of Sugary Drinks

WHEREAS health habits are heavily influenced by the supply of food in different settings and municipalities have a predominant role to play in the development of healthy food environment;

WHEREAS the rate of obesity and type 2 diabetes is of serious concern and this condition affects the health, quality of life, and well-being of the populations, in addition to generating significant social costs;

WHEREAS the GNWT alone cannot stop the obesity and diabetes epidemic and must count on the contribution of communities;

WHEREAS the communities wish to take an active role in promoting health and well-being by helping citizens adopt a healthy lifestyle;

WHEREAS numerous community buildings, including sports and recreation facilities, are heavily frequented by children and adolescents;

WHEREAS the consumption of sugar drinks can carry health risks for some groups in the populations, including children and adolescents;

WHEREAS like many public health organizations, the communities are concerned with the growing consumption of sugar drinks by both young people and adults;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the banning of sugar drinks be encouraged in the community buildings in the NWT.

Submitted by NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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RA-19-17-14 Support of Proposed Sugary Drink Tax

WHEREAS a tax on sugary drinks could cut soft drink consumption;

WHEREAS Statistics conclude that Canada is fifth in the world when it comes to the number of obese adults and notes that obesity has doubled in adults and tripled in children since 1980.

WHEREAS the consumption of sugar drinks can carry health risks for some groups in the populations, including children and adolescents;

WHEREAS like many public health organizations, the communities are concerned with the growing consumption of sugar by both young people and adults;

WHEREAS a tax imposed on sugar products could produce revenue that could go toward lowering the costs of healthy foods or healthy eating educational resources, healthy food subsidies in schools etc.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the NWTAC supports the taxing of sugary drinks as proposed by the GNWT;

AND FURTHER THAT all revenues generated by the sugary drinks tax be spent of Healthy Living and Healthy Communities Initiatives

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update

September 28, 2017 letter from the GNWT.

Taxation has been a key element of the tobacco reduction strategies of the NWT and many other jurisdictions. The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) is committed to reducing the burden of chronic disease by promoting healthy lifestyles. We are concerned about the high obesity rate in the NWT and the implications for diabetes, heart disease and stroke. In the NWT, high rates of diabetes and obesity place a significant burden on the health care system and on the well-being of our residents.

The Department is also concerned with the oral health issues that we see in our communities, especially with children. In the NWT, sugar plays a large role in oral health concern. Sugar sweetened beverages are the single largest dietary contributor of sugar, and data suggests that the daily consumption of soft drinks by NWT school age children is above the national average.

Studies have linked the consumption of sugary drinks to obesity, diabetes and oral health. Added sugar is a common feature of many processed and convenience foods.

The Department welcomes the NWTAC's support for the sugary drinks tax and looks forward to further discussions as we work towards supporting the implementation of a sugary drinks tax in collaboration with the Department of Finance.

June 19, 2018 *Taxation has been a key element of the tobacco reduction strategies of the NWT and many other jurisdictions. The Department of Health and Social Services is committed to reducing the burden of chronic disease by promoting healthy lifestyles. We are concerned about the high obesity rate in the NWT and the implications for diabetes, heart disease and stroke. In the NWT, high rates of diabetes and obesity place a significant burden on the health care system and on the well-being of our residents.*

The Department is also concerned with the oral health issues that we see in our communities, especially with children. In the NWT, sugar plays a large role in oral health concern. Sugar sweetened beverages are the single largest dietary contributor of sugar, and data suggests that the daily consumption of soft drinks by NWT school age children is above the national average.

Studies have linked the consumption of sugary drinks to obesity, diabetes and oral health. Added sugar is a common feature of many processed and convenience foods. The Department welcomes the NWTAC's support for the sugary drinks tax and looks forward to further discussions as we work towards supporting the implementation of a sugary drinks tax in collaboration with the Department of Finance.

January 22, 2019 *Sugary Tax for public Engagement has been implemented including three community visits by GNWT. Post survey GNWT will produce a report of results.*

RA-19-17-15 Smoking outdoors regulations

WHEREAS health is often influenced by the environment that people are in;

WHEREAS the communities wish to take an active role in promoting health and well-being by helping citizens adopt a healthy lifestyle;

WHEREAS numerous municipal buildings and parks, including sports and recreation facilities, are heavily frequented by children and adolescents;

WHEREAS smoking in parks and other recreation areas causes potential exposure to secondhand smoke;

WHEREAS it has been established by research that even brief exposure can trigger asthma attacks in children, and exposure can have immediate negative health impacts in adults including general respiratory and eye irritation, asthma symptoms, and cardiac effects (e.g., heart attack and vascular injury), particularly for vulnerable individuals;

WHEREAS like many public health organizations, the communities are concerned with the growing smoke related cancers and disease;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the NWTAC encourages the GNWT to ban smoking in all outdoor public spaces such as parks and other recreations facilities in the NWT.

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update

September 28, 2017 letter from the GNWT.

The Department is developing and implementing tobacco prevention and cessation programming, including for NWT youth, and is working to reduce the burden of chronic disease by promoting healthy lifestyles, with a specific focus on increasing awareness and availability of smoking cessation aids, and developing and proposing updated tobacco control legislation.

The Department will work closely with Community Health Representatives to deliver education and awareness sessions about tobacco prevention and

cessation in all NWT communities. The Department will continue to provide smoking cessation information at Community Healthy Living Fairs. In the past year, the Department began to hold focus group discussions with youth to better understand what motivates NWT youth to lead healthy lifestyles, including avoidance of tobacco products. A focus in 2017/18 is to integrate smoking cessation services into clinical settings. Work is underway to propose amendments to the Tobacco Control Act to reflect the restrictions and prohibitions that have been proposed under the federal Tobacco Act, to regulate the increasing variety of tobacco products available, and to better protect public health. Public consultation took place between December 20, 2016 and March 1, 2017. Feedback received will help to inform the key elements of proposed amendments to the Act A legislative proposal is currently being drafted.

June 19, 2018 No new information

RA-19-17-16 Posting FASD information in alcohol sales points

WHEREAS it is known that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) can occur in an individual who was prenatally exposed to alcohol.

WHEREAS these effects can include lifelong physical, mental, behavioral difficulties, and learning disabilities;

WHEREAS individuals with FASD are at increased risk for early school failure, involvement with the law, family disruption and homelessness;

WHEREAS the highest rates of unintended pregnancy occur in women aged 15 – 19 years of age, which is also a population at increased risk for binge drinking.

WHEREAS the life-long damage to the brain is the most common and serious result from prenatal exposure to alcohol and can occur at any time during a pregnancy.

WHEREAS the safest choice for a woman who is pregnant or planning to become pregnant is not to drink alcohol.

WHEREAS education and information is essential to changing and influencing behavior

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the posting of effective and descriptive information at point of sales for alcohol be implemented across the NWT by the GNWT.

Submitted by NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

June 4, 2018 *The GNWT has a range of approaches to prevent negative impacts of alcohol use and misuse. Addictions are a crucial issue for the NWT and we need to ensure that the limited resources available are efficiently allocated to create a broad and flexible range of addictions treatment services for residents.*

There are many factors that influence alcohol consumption, and we must understand these in order to be effective in our prevention and awareness activities. The Department provides funding to Indigenous community governments and works with communities to develop and implement wellness plans that meet local needs and priorities through Community Wellness funding.

\$180,000 in Federal Wellness funding is allocated annually to Stanton Territorial Hospital through a contribution agreement to provide outreach through the FASO Family and Community Support Program.

The NWT Disability Review and Renewal Project identified that, across the territory, access to assessment and diagnostic services for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities is difficult or unavailable.

This is why we are making efforts to improve the diagnosis and case management services for children and adults with these complex conditions.

The Department will continue to support at-risk children and families, by ensuring that effective supports and programs are in place for persons with disabilities, including FASO

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RA-19-17-17 Posting of warnings at Liquor Sales Locations

WHEREAS it is known that alcohol consumption in excess can cause social problems including family violence and abuse; job loss and family breakdown;

WHEREAS the effects of alcohol abuse can include lifelong physical, mental, behavioral problems, and contribute to such conditions as FSAD;

WHEREAS crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs are the leading criminal cause of death in Canada. On average, approximately 4 people are killed each day in crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs.

WHEREAS education and information is essential to changing and influencing behavior in individuals and visual displays are more effective than word;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT should implement the posting of effective visual and descriptive information at point of sales for alcohol be implemented across the NWT to deter such behaviors as drinking and driving, excessive drinking etc.

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update

September 28, 2017 Resolution Response letter from GNWT

Universal prevention interventions, such as warning labels and public messaging campaigns are an important part of any multi-faceted strategy related to prevention of FASO, but must be carefully designed to be most effective. Multiple measures across all three types of prevention (universal, selective, and indicated) are required to shift cultural norms, understandings and behaviours related to maternal alcohol consumption.

The NWT Liquor Commission (NWTLC) is a member of the Canadian Association of Liquor Jurisdictions (CALJ) and participates on the CALJ Social Responsibility Committee. The committee works to promote products that are socially responsible and to incorporate social responsibility messaging into product sales.

In 2016-17, the NWTLC promoted social responsibility programs such as alcohol warning labels, messaging targeted to pregnant mothers and operators of motorized vehicles (hand applied to products at NWT Liquor Stores), an FASO poster and brochure campaign, "moderation is always in good taste"; a poster campaign promoting moderation, and an ad campaign promoting safety and sobriety when boating or RVing.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT Submitted same information as above in 2017.

RA-19-17-18 Traditional Foods in NWT Institutions

WHEREAS Traditional foods were consumed throughout history before the modernization and industrialization of the food supply and these foods were free from additives, chemicals and are exceptionally nourishing;

WHEREAS Statistics conclude that Canada is fifth in the world when it comes to the number of obese adults and notes that obesity has doubled in adults and tripled in children since 1980.

WHEREAS like many public health organizations, the communities are concerned with the growing consumption of sugar by both young people and adults;

WHEREAS healthy diets and physical inactivity have been identified as two of the three most important modifiable risk factors for the development of chronic disease

WHEREAS Aboriginal peoples in Canada have undergone a significant nutritional transition whereby traditional diets and associated physical activities have been

replaced with patterns of consumption that increase the risk of developing chronic disease.

WHEREAS benefits associated with traditional diets and a return to traditional dietary practices is advisable;

WHEREAS NWT institutions such as schools, nursing homes, prisons, etc are places where people are regulated as to what they consume as determined by the institution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NWTAC supports the transition and incorporation of traditional and other healthy foods in all NWT institutions.

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update

September 28, 2017 Resolution response letter from the GNWT

NWT correctional facilities recognize the importance of traditional food and incorporate hunting, trapping, fishing, snaring and the preparation of the food into Aboriginal programs within the facilities. Efforts are made to ensure traditional foods are shared between facilities, and that all inmates have access to traditional food when it is available. Operational procedures are in place that support the use and sharing of traditional foods within and across facilities. Traditional foods in correctional facilities are usually provided in one of two ways as follows:

- Opportunities are provided for inmates to participate in snaring, trapping and hunting of traditional foods, as an element of the Aboriginal components of facility programs. Traditional foods are used by and may be shared between facilities and/or Elders in the community.*

Youth at the Young Offenders facility participate in an annual trapper training program where they set nets and traps. The food harvested is prepared and eaten while out on the land. Traditional food is also provided through the correctional centre kitchen.

- Traditional foods are served at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre (SMCC) and the North Slave Correctional Centre (NSCC), particularly whitefish and or other fish. Due to the high cost, muskox and bison are served only at special events.*

In addition, visitors are allowed to drop off traditional dried foods (meat or fish) for inmates at all facilities.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment supports on the land programming, which includes skills in harvesting, preparing and consuming

traditional foods; provides funding to schools for school meal programs, and schools are encouraged to use traditional foods within this programming.

These supports come in the form of:

- *Healthy Food Guidelines developed by First Nations Health Council*
- *Recipe books that feature northern foods (Great Food for Northern Cooks, Collective Kitchen Recipe Book for Northern Cooks)*

Additionally Changing Diets: The Benefits of Traditional Northern Food resource supports the teaching of Grade 5 Health Curriculum outcomes with an emphasis on traditional foods while also supporting the distribution of Traditional foods recipe cards at Community Healthy Living Fairs

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

The Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) has heard clearly that community residents, families, patients, clients and elders would like to have more traditional foods served. Increasing the availability of traditional foods requires collaboration with other organizations, local traditional food suppliers and the health system. Traditional and country foods have various nutritional, health and other benefits. Wellness and nutrition can be improved by ready access to traditional foods for communities, elders, patients, clients and residents who require treatment or long-term care in our facilities.

RA-19-17-19 Subsidy for Traditional Foods

WHEREAS Traditional foods were consumed throughout history before the modernization and industrialization of the food supply and these foods are free from additives, chemicals and are exceptionally nourishing;

WHEREAS obesity has doubled in adults and tripled in children since 1980.

WHEREAS like many public health organizations, the communities are concerned with the growing consumption of sugar by both young people and adults;

WHEREAS unhealthy diets can result in the development of chronic disease

WHEREAS Aboriginal peoples in Canada have undergone a significant nutritional transition whereby traditional diets have been replaced with patterns of consumption that increase the risk of developing chronic disease.

WHEREAS benefits associated with traditional diets and a return to traditional dietary practices is advisable;

WHEREAS healthy and traditional food can be expensive and unobtainable by some people;

WHEREAS there is currently a subsidy for the import of healthy food to the communities but not locally caught or harvested foods;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED NWTAC supports the subsidy of traditional harvested and healthy foods for people in the NWT communities.

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update September 28, 2017 Resolution Response letter from GNWT

Traditional and country foods have various nutritional, health and other benefits. Wellness and nutrition can be improved by ready access to traditional foods for communities, elders, patients and residents who require treatment or long-term care in our facilities. The Department has heard clearly that community residents, families, patients and elders would like to have more traditional foods served. Increasing the availability of traditional foods requires collaboration with other organizations, local traditional food suppliers and the health system. It is a long-standing concern from residents of health and social services residential facilities that traditional foods are insufficiently available. A traditional food policy is under development and will support increased availability of traditional foods in HSS facilities. The Department will continue to work with the On the Land Collaborative to support local and regional programs that will enable harvesting and access to traditional foods.

June 19, 2018 No new information

Feb 2019 Update

Nutrition North has indicated that they will be implementing this sort of program. Awaiting details.

RA-19-17-20 Mackenzie Valley Highway

WHEREAS the on-going impacts of climate change being experienced in the NWT will continue to increase the vulnerability of seasonal transportation connections to Mackenzie Valley communities; and

WHEREAS it is critical to provide a year-round transportation link to improve resiliency of communities as well as connecting communities to the rest of the NWT and the rest of Canada; and

WHEREAS there is a desire to see the majority of the benefits of the highway construction and maintenance remain within the NWT; and

WHEREAS the development of the Mackenzie Valley Highway will

- I. Decrease the cost of living by increasing access to good and services; and
- II. Increase access to health care, education, training resources and employment opportunities; and
- III. Enable communities and families to share social, cultural, recreational and sports activities; and
- IV. Increase economic activity from the building and maintenance of the highway itself; and
- V. Will create meaningful opportunities to diversify the economy, increase business development and increase competitiveness; and
- VI. Support resource exploration, development and production to stimulate the local, regional and national economies; and
- VII. Develop hospitality and tourism markets and other businesses; and
- VIII. Reduce the cost of delivering government services

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWT Association of Communities supports the Government of the Northwest Territories continuing to make the development of strategic transportation corridors like the Mackenzie Valley Highway a priority;

AND FURTHER that the NWT Association of Communities strongly urges the Government of Canada to fiscally support the development of the Mackenzie Valley Highway as its potential impact on our Territory cannot be understated;

AND FURTHER THAT the development of the Mackenzie Valley Highway should be completed in such a way as to encourage as much local participation as possible both during the construction and maintenance phases;

AND FURTHER THAT the project should explore innovative partnerships, with Aboriginal and community governments and their development corporations.

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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February 8, 2017 – Letter from NWTAC sent to the Prime Minister’s Office INAC minister Carolyn Bennett as well as Minister of Transport Marc Garneau regarding the importance Mackenzie Valley Highway to the NWT.

July 18, 2017-a reply letter was received from the Minister Marc Garneau regarding the February 8th letter to the PM Office. TC stated that on July 4th, 2017 the Government of Canada announced \$2.1 billion for the Trade and Transportation Corridors Initiatives (TTCI) to build stronger, more efficient transportation to international markets. TTCI investments will support the creation of good jobs now and by trading and transporting goods, Canadian businesses will be better to compete and grow. The core element of the TTCI is the merit based National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF) which will provide \$2 billion over 11 years to strengthen Canada’s trade infrastructure. A dedicated allotment of \$400 million has been set aside within the \$2 billion NTCF to support the three Territories. Minister Garneau also reiterated the 2017 Budget announcement of an investment of \$5 billion in the Canada Infrastructure Bank for trade and transportation projects.

July 25, 2017 NWTAC received a letter from INAC Minister Carolyn Bennett acknowledging the February 8th letter and to inform the Board that Canada has invested \$200 million for the construction of the Inuvik to Tuk highway.

January 2018 Update

A letter dated October 3, 2017 from Minister of Infrastructure and Communities MP Sohi, indicating that the Mackenzie Highway project would be the GNWT –Department of Infrastructure’s responsibility and that discussions of the development should happen with the GNWT. It was stated that \$2 billion will be invested by Federal Government to rural and Northern communities because of the unique infrastructure needs. More funds through Arctic Energy Fund will be sourced from Green Infrastructure Provision- \$400 million to help address energy security in the Territories including Indigenous communities. Noted as well that Infrastructure Canada has started discussions with NWT Partners to sign a long term agreement that would see \$570,776,826 invested in infrastructure over next 11 years.

September 28, 2017 Resolution Response letter from GNWT

The Department of Infrastructure (INF) is committed to securing funding to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway under the mandate of the 18th Legislative Assembly.

INF continues to pursue opportunities to secure federal funding for the project A detailed business case was submitted to Canada in June 2015 proposing a \$700 million investment in an all-weather highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells under the New Building Canada Plan. The federal government advised that remaining funds under this plan will be rolled into new funds announced as part of the federal budget 2017. INF is working to identify new opportunities to fund the Mackenzie Valley Highway within the funding programs announced, such as the National Trade Corridors Fund.

In January 2017, the GNWT received \$20 million under the New Building Canada Plan to advance construction of the Canyon Creek All-season Access Road, a 14 kilometre road outside of Norman Wells that represents a first step in converting

the existing Mackenzie Valley Winter Road to an all- weather highway. On April 25, 2017, INF awarded a negotiated contract for construction of the Canyon Creek All-season Access Road to TDIC/HRN Contracting Joint Venture, a key stakeholder in the Tulita District Investment Corporation, and construction is underway. Right-of-way clearing work began on March 15, 2017. The project is expected to be complete by fall 2018.

INF continues to ensure the involvement of Aboriginal governments, communities, and local workforces in the Mackenzie Valley Highway project. NF is working closely with Sahm organizations and residents through a Mackenzie Valley Highway Working Group and the Sahm Secretariat Inc. (SSI) has committed \$130,000 toward lobbying for the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

The NWTAC has submitted a letter of support to accompany the GNWT's application for both the Mackenzie Valley Highway and Slave Geologic Province Access Corridor.

June 19, 2018 No new information

RA-19-17-21 Funding Implementation

WHEREAS the Community Funding Review was completed in 2014;

WHEREAS the Funding Review identified significant underfunding of community governments in the order of 37%;

WHEREAS there had been little or no increases to the Territorial funding models since 2007;

WHEREAS to go 10 years with only minor increases to funding levels is unacceptable;

WHEREAS the Territorial Government has only provided some forced growth amounts to operating funds thus meaning that in fact the identified gaps are only increasing;

WHEREAS the provision of funds to community governments has the best opportunity to create jobs and stimulate local economies;

WHEREAS Community Governments, if properly funded, have been proven to positively affect outcomes in Health, Justice and Education;

WHEREAS a strategy to address the identified gaps has yet to be developed;

WHEREAS Community Governments have been patiently waiting for appropriate funding but this cannot be sustained;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Territorial Government needs to immediately work with community Governments and the NWTAC to develop a strategy to address the funding gaps;

AND FURTHER THAT the Territorial Government must make more of an effort to address the very significant underfunding of community governments;

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update

On October 23, 2017 question asked by Mr. Testart at question period to Hon. Cochrane “What is MACA’s plan to close funding gap that we have learned about to the municipal funding review?”

Response was MACA is working on a long term plan for municipalities and will only table the plan when it is read and complete. MACA has been working diligently with Federal Government to leverage infrastructure monies with plans. MACA will be focussing on communities with a deficit and not communities with a surplus.

September 28, 2017 Resolution response letter from GNWT

The results of the review have been presented to Cabinet and the Standing Committee on Government Operations as well as all community governments. The Department is working on a schedule for implementation to be phased in over a number of fiscal years.

MACA will continue to work with community governments and the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) on developing a strategy for the implementation of the funding review recommendations to address the specific concerns identified in the resolution. MACA intends to table the strategy in 2017-18. MACA is conducting analysis on both short term and longer term options for full implementation of the results of the review. Changes to the funding policies will be implemented within the next 5 years.

The NWTAC has sent a letter to all MLA’s to remind them of the funding gap as they enter into Budget Analysis.

MACA has requested a video/tele conference for the week of Dec 11th to discuss the proposed strategy to close the funding gap.

The NWTAC has provided comment on MACA’s Funding Gap strategy in indicating that what was proposed was insufficient.

November 1, 2018 Update from the Members Statement- Question 482-18(3) Funding Gap

When asked by Mr. Shane Thompson about if the Minister would commit to tabling MACAs strategy to fulfill the mandate commitment of 4.55 at the next sitting of this Assembly in February.

Response from Minister Moses: as all Members know it is, a tough way to make decisions in this House sometimes, but I will make a commitment that I will table the strategy in the winter session and make sure that we do share it with our stakeholders so that everyone is aware of the strategy that we are looking at moving forward to address the concern that the Member has brought up

February 2019 Update

Additional \$1.9 million added to Capital Funding along with Forced Growth for Operating and Environmental Funding

RA-19-17-22 Housing

WHEREAS it is critically important to protect federal investments in affordable housing solutions, including sustaining existing social housing units and a supplementary long-term Northern Affordable Housing Program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada should work with local and territorial governments and the private sector to fix the housing market in the North by providing:

- tax credits to developers building homes;
- low-rate financing to home buyers and developers building rental housing; and
- funding to service and supply land for housing.

AND FURTHER THAT the Government of Canada should provide funds that will support retrofits to existing housing to reduce energy costs;

AND FURTHER THAT the Government of Canada should increase the funding for new social housing as well as renew federal housing subsidies to sustain existing social housing;

AND FURTHER THAT the Government of Canada introduce trades training and apprenticeship programs to expand skilled construction trades and develop home-building capacity.

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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January 2018 Update

In November 2017, the NWTAC Board met with Adam Vaughan, Parliamentary Secretary responsible for housing to review housing concerns.

June 2018 no response

RA-19-17-23 Marijuana Legalization Implementation

WHEREAS on April 13, 2017, the federal government tabled legislation to end the prohibition on cannabis and regulate it for recreational use.

WHEREAS the legislation allows people to possess up to 30 grams of dried or fresh cannabis and sets the minimum consumption at 18 years of age, although provinces/territories can set a higher legal age. Users can grow up to four plants at home or buy from a licensed retailer.

WHEREAS Communities will be responsible for establishing and enforcing new zoning by-laws, by-laws dictating where people can smoke in public, limits on personal cultivation and possession and public nuisance complaints;

WHEREAS the importance of an integrated approach between federal, territorial and community governments so that they collectively ensure appropriate systems are in place to educate the public, restrict inappropriate usage, address health and safety issue and enable coordinated enforcement through RCMP and appropriate community law enforcement bodies is critical

WHEREAS the NWT has an additional complication of issues surrounding alcohol restricted communities

WHEREAS consultation with NWT communities and the NWTAC is a critical element of the design of the Territorial Marijuana Legislation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT adequate time and resources are provided for the process of communities participating effectively in the implementation of Marijuana Legalization;

AND FURTHER THAT a share of the tax revenues from Marijuana legalization should be transferred to Territorial and Community governments to deal with education of the public, regulatory and enforcement costs, and social and prevention programs;

AND FURTHER THAT like the authority of communities to make decisions about alcohol restrictions be extended to include Marijuana;

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

January 2018 Update

September 28, 2017 resolution response letter from GNWT

The Government of Canada introduced the proposed Cannabis Act, and has made a public commitment to legalize cannabis by July 2018. The GNWT is committed to having effective measures in place to protect the health and safety of Northerners. The legalization and regulation of cannabis is a complex issue that touches on many different areas, and that requires a coordinated response from a wide array of stakeholders. The GNWT wants to ensure it understands the views of individuals, impacted organizations, communities, and Aboriginal Governments and Organizations in the Northwest Territories.

Public engagement will include public meetings in regional centers and select small representative communities this coming September. An online survey has been posted to allow residents in all communities to make their views known through the survey and written submissions. The GNWT is also writing directly to key stakeholders such as NWT community governments, Aboriginal governments, and organizations, including NWTCA and LGANT, to seek their views. The engagement includes a question on whether communities should be able to instate restrictions and prohibitions in relation to cannabis. The public engagement process will conclude September 22, 2017, and a "What we Heard" report will be publicly released shortly after. The results of the engagement will inform the development of the GNWT's plans and proposals as they advance in the fall and winter.

The GNWT continues to participate in Federal/Provincial/Territorial discussions on developing and implementing an appropriate taxation scheme for cannabis through the Department of Finance.

Letter date October 2 2017 from City of Yellowknife to Minister of Justice Sebert regarding the engagement of legalization of Cannabis. Mayor Noted that there was no direct engagement with municipalities citing many issues including taxation and revenue, implementation timelines, risks related to personal cultivation, respect for local government jurisdiction and authority. Mayor states that it is imperative that the GNWT

engage local governments and that a framework must be created, implemented and monitors with input from Municipal, Territorial and federal orders of government.

NWTAC and the City of Yellowknife have subsequently met with the Deputy Minister of Justice and the team working on the Cannabis file and have received assurances that we would be more actively engaged.

NWTAC and the City of Yellowknife are actively participating in FCM's Technical Advisory Committee working on the development of a Cannabis Implementation Guide

Further meetings with the Territorial Government on implementation and cost sharing are anticipated. AN update in February on this matter will be provided at the AGM.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

Under Bill 6, NWT communities will have options available to them regarding cannabis:
Unrestricted communities

- Unrestricted communities will have no restrictions on cannabis beyond those described in the proposed Cannabis Act and regulations.

Prohibited or restricted communities

- Communities will have the ability to prohibit or restrict the possession, consumption and sale of cannabis. Communities can prohibit/restrict cannabis sales in their community using similar rules as for alcohol sale prohibitions. These rules feature a community government making a resolution and requesting that the Minister of Finance hold a plebiscite. To be successful, a plebiscite must achieve a majority vote in favour of the prohibition or restriction.

The GNWT continues to prepare for the legalization of cannabis. This work includes the development of public health and safety awareness campaign materials. As this work advances, the Department of Health and Social Services is identifying additional resources to support stakeholders in helping educate NWT residents on the health and safety risks associated with cannabis use.

October 17, 2018 Cannabis legalization is implemented in the NWT.

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RA-19-17-24 Medical Travel

WHEREAS: a strong tourism economy and successful business climate depend on reliable, cost-effective transportation links including air travel and;

WHEREAS the economics of a new carrier operating out of northern communities, or the existing carriers increasing routes and lowering costs, is very much linked to their ability to diversify services such as medical travel. to their diversity

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWT Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to eliminate the northern-owned airline restrictions for non-urgent medical travel in order to drive competitive pricing and lower the cost of air travel in the Northwest Territories.

Submitted by : The Town of Hay River

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

January 2018 Update

September 28, 2017 Resolution Response Letter from GNWT

The NTHSSA administers the Medical Travel program for all regions, including the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority and the TI1chQ Community Services Agency.

Standard practice is to first access the Standing Offer Agreement (SOA) with the lowest cost. However, patient circumstances are considered and other air carriers may be accessed.

The Department of Health and Social Services will work with the Department of Infrastructure to assess whether it makes sense for a combined RFT, to establish pricing agreements under one RFT for medical travel (both NTHSSA and GNWT) and employee duty travel.

GNWT employees are required to follow the Business Incentive Policy and it states:

- Whenever possible, goods, services and construction valued at less than \$25,000 should be purchased directly from BIP Businesses in the Local Community, but no bid adjustment will be applied.*

Procurement Shared Services tenders for the provision of airfares for routes within the NWT and some routes to the south on a non-exclusive standing offer agreement basis.

The tenders are publically advertised and available to any commercial airline company that chooses to bid.

June 19, 2018 No new information.

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RA-19-17-25 Decentralization of Jobs and Services

WHEREAS: as long as the GNWT has a policy to support decentralization of government Services and positions; and

WHEREAS Communities rely on economic decentralization to support their local economies,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GNWT put greater emphasis on ensuring that GNWT positions are equitably distributed throughout the NWT Communities.

Submitted by: The Town of Hay River

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

January 2018 Update

September 28, 2017 Resolution Response Letter from GNWT

The GNWT continues to reallocate positions to communities and looks to establish new positions in regional centers and other communities whenever it is appropriate to do so. Where it makes economic sense or the reallocation of a position can be justified in order

to meet new service delivery requirements the GNWT will follow through with this commitment. An example of this process in action has been the establishment of 20 Government Service Officer Positions at the community level in the NWT over the past several years.

In 2016 the GNWT also introduced the Regional Recruitment Program, a training and development initiative that creates employment opportunities for potential employees by linking vacant regional positions with relevant on-the-job work experience.

It should be noted that this is an important position to take as it relates to the funding gap. Community spending creates almost double the number of positions as federal and territorial spending = which is why closing the spending gap to communities should be a priority.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT The GNWT continues to reallocate positions to communities and looks to establish new positions in regional centers and other communities whenever it is appropriate to do so. Where it makes economic sense or the reallocation of a position can be justified in order to meet new service delivery requirements the GNWT will follow through with this commitment.

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RA-19-16-03 Childcare

WHEREAS there is a chronic shortage of childcare in the NWT;

WHEREAS a lack of available childcare is an impediment to many parents participating in the workforce;

WHEREAS even if spaces are available, the cost of childcare is often prohibitive;

WHEREAS effective early childhood education programs can greatly affect outcomes for youth later in their school careers;

WHEREAS the 18th Legislative Assembly currently lists implementing universal and affordable childcare as a priority within their mandate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWT Association of Communities strongly support the implementation of the universal and affordable childcare priority within the 18th Legislative Assembly's Mandate.

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolution Committee

Resolution Committee recommends: REAFFIRMED

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November 2016 Update:

On June 6, 2016, ECE Minister Alfred Moses delivered Minister's Statement 38-18(2)-Funding Changes for Licensed Day Care Centres and Family Day Home. The budget announced Early Childhood Education funding which includes Early Childhood Intervention and Supporting New Early Childhood Licensed Operators. These subsidies are designed to support family day homes and daycare centre facilities, based on the community in which they operate. Operators in government-owned buildings will receive an increase to 75% of the daily rate provided, up from 50%. Minister Moses went on to discuss the elimination of red tape and streamlining of the application process for early childhood subsidies, and announced a focus on children with identified special needs.

On June 7, 2016 MLA Daniel McNeely (Sahtu) spoke to the Legislative Assembly about daycare facilities and daycare homes in the Sahtu, specifically regarding removing red tape associated with subsidizing these services. He went on to question ECE Minister Alfred Moses about the process for subsidy program restructuring, who responded that the changes in funding for utilities, cost and maintenance, rent, and mortgage of daycares will come into effect in October.

The official GNWT response to this resolution, dated September 13, 2016, included a GNWT commitment to continue to support early childhood education and childcare programs for residents of the Northwest Territories. The strategic framework "Right from the Start" will continue to advance the investment in quality early childhood development in the NWT, and includes the development of an implementation plan for universal child care during the life of the 18th Assembly.

ECE is currently in the process of revising the funding support model for licenced early childhood programs, and strengthening licenced early childhood programs through the improvement of resource materials and increased training for workers in this field. Over the last two years, ECE has committed to increasing the number of early childhood development professionals in licenced programs through the awarding of 15 scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 to help full-time college and university students pursuing early childhood development studies in diploma or degree programs. An additional 15 scholarships of this nature will be awarded this year.

The GNWT is further working with stakeholders and communities to explore options for free play-based care for 4 year olds. ECE is engaging with stakeholders to support a transparent and inclusive approach to continue implementing junior kindergarten across the territory in 2017-2018, ensuring that the strengths and needs of communities are reflected in this implementation plan. ECE will continue to provide resources and support to early childhood programs and services while working to fulfil the mandate of the 18th Legislative Assembly.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

The GNWT continues to investment in quality early childhood development in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Right From the Start Framework and renewed 2017-2020 Action Plan outlines areas for action that continue to support all children and their families in the NWT.

To date, ECE has completed a number of actions that assist with improving the accessibility and sustainability of high quality early learning and child care opportunities throughout the NWT, including:

- Early Childhood Staff Grant to increase the financial income of early childhood staff in licensed centre-based early childhood programs and to offer an incentive to attract new professionals to the early childhood workforce.
- Early Childhood Scholarships to help offset the costs for NWT students attending full-time, on- site diploma or degree programs in the field of early childhood development.
- Changes to the Early Childhood Program (ECP) Funding model including attendance-based funding for all licensed early childhood programs. The changes to the ECP funding include a significant increase to funding for infant and special needs spaces to offset the higher staff costs for these groups.
- Territorial implementation of Junior Kindergarten for all four year olds.

On June 12, 2017, the Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) was signed between provinces and territories and the federal government. Information on the Framework and Bilateral Agreements is available on the federal website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories.html>

Actions within the Bilateral Agreement align with the GNWT's Mandate for early childhood development, as well as with the Right From the Start Framework and renewed 2017-2020 Action Plan.

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WHEREAS some communities in the NWT are facing riverbank and soil erosion issues;

AND WHEREAS communities are facing huge costs associated with addressing these issues posing significant risks to essential infrastructure, caused by erosion in various forms;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GNWT make it their priority to find funding, in particular with other stakeholders to remediate or mitigate these concerns.

Submitted by the Village of Fort Simpson

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

GNWT Response dated August 20, 2015:

Riverbank and soil erosion are ongoing natural processes that can be accelerated by human activities. Depending on where infrastructure is located, it may be vulnerable to increased erosion in the future by sea level rise, melting permafrost or flooding of river systems due to climate change. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) can work with Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and community governments to help identify vulnerable areas and prepare adaption plans to reduce risks. Should MACA undertake work associated with the protection or relocation of infrastructure affected by erosion, ENR could contribute technical input to this process.

MACA is currently re-establishing the Community Planning unit and these considerations can be taken into account when community governments update their community plans. The updating of community plans is gas tax eligible within the terms of the 2014-2023 Agreement. MACA will ensure that community governments are aware of this funding opportunity.

Other Updates:

NWTAC is continuing to explore funding opportunities with the Territorial Government and unique approaches to access the National Disaster Mitigation Funding to first map the current conditions.

November 2016 Update:

The GNWT's official response to this reaffirmed resolution in 2016 was a reiteration of the aforementioned, with the additional encouragement of communities to explore the eligibility of updating their community plans through gas tax funding. MACA further encouraged communities to look at their annual Capital Planning Process allocations to help deal with projects that will support the mitigation of shoreline erosion, and MACA

committed to ensuring that community governments are aware of these funding opportunities.

On an associated note, the Federal Government is funneling Disaster Mitigation Funding for flood control through the territorial government. We will be pushing the Territorial Government to make this funding available to flood impacted communities.

January 2018 Update

GNWT Response dated September 28, 2017

The GNWT's official response to this reaffirmed resolution in 2017 was a reiteration of the aforementioned, with the additional the following:

MACA has re-established its Community Planning Unit, within the new Community Governance Division.

Ground instability poses major risks to land use and development and reinforces the importance of integrating natural hazard management into land-use development and planning policies, particularly as there are few mitigation measures that can be implemented to address major ground movement events that can happen with little or no warning.

NWTAC has had initiation meetings with the new Community Planning Unit. Predict on-going working relationship.

NWTAC is working with ENR to complete an estimate of all costs associated with Climate Change including Erosion. This will allow for more effective lobbying.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

Riverbank and soil erosion are ongoing natural processes that can be accelerated by human activities. Depending on where infrastructure is located, it may be vulnerable to increased erosion in the future by sea level rise, melting permafrost or flooding of river systems due to climate change.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) can work with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), and community governments to help identify vulnerable areas and prepare adaptation plans to reduce risks. In the event MACA undertakes work associated with the protection or relocation of infrastructure affected by erosion, ENR could contribute technical input to this process.

MACA has re-established its Community Planning Unit, within the new Community Governance Division. Land use planning is one of the most effective processes to facilitate local adaptation to climate change. Land use planning refers to the processes and instruments to manage the use of land and the physical development of a community. Shoreline Erosion issues can and should be taken into consideration when community governments update their community land use planning tools, including: community plans, zoning bylaws, development permits, and other development policies that may be used to minimize risks to communities in these areas experiencing erosion, landslides and other natural hazards.

As the climate changes, so will the frequency and magnitude of climate-related hazards, posing a challenge for communities and residents on the NWT.

For communities susceptible to flooding/erosion, MACA has annually shared information on a funding opportunity related to planning and implementation of mitigation under the federal Disaster mitigation program. Two communities (Tuktoyaktuk and Aklavik) have been successful in accessing funding to work on specific issues in their communities.

In addition, in a broader planning context, the updating of community plans is gas tax fund eligible within the terms of the 2014-2023 Agreement. MACA also encourages the community to use their annual Capital Planning Process and funding allocations to identify projects that will support the mitigation of shoreline erosion especially where it relates to protecting core community public infrastructure. MACA will continue to ensure that community governments are aware of these funding opportunities, as well as new federal funding that may apply, and encourage communities to discuss these matters with the MACA Regional Offices.

Ground instability poses major risks to land use and development and reinforces the importance of integrating natural hazard management into land-use development and planning policies, particularly as there are few mitigation measures that can be implemented to address major ground movement events that can happen with little or no warning.

The GNWT has been working on a Climate Change Strategy and MACA will be working with ENR and community governments to implement specific actions under that strategy.

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RA-19-15-03 Territorial Ambulance Service

WHEREAS this body recognizes that there is a Territorial wide concern and disquiet about the provision of ambulance services;

AND WHEREAS this situation has been exacerbated by the GNWT's failure to recognize that Ambulance Services should be part of Health and Social Services;

AND WHEREAS this body would urge the GNWT to engage a feasibility study on implementation of a Territorial Ground Ambulance Service;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NWTAC lobby the GNWT to undertake a feasibility study and cost analysis of the implementation and operation of a Territorial Ground Ambulance Service; and

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT share this report with the Association at the next AGM.

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

GNWT Response dated August 20, 2015:

In 2007, the GNWT completed a report which estimated the cost to implement ambulance services at more than \$6 million. The GNWT anticipates that these costs are likely greater today. There is currently no ability to increase funding available for ground ambulance and remote rescue services.

MACA offers an annual program of \$400,000 to support the development and delivery of community-based ground ambulance and highway rescue services in the NWT. Additionally the GNWT is undertaking work to update the Highway Emergency Alerting Protocol; address gaps in remote medical rescue through updated protocols; invest in first responder training across the NWT; and set up the overarching legislative structure for 911 in the NWT.

May 2016 Update:

It is recommended that we attempt to convene a meeting of impacted communities, MACA, Health & Social Services & Department of Transportation.

November 2016 Update:

On June 7, 2016, MLA Simpson (Hay River North) delivered a member's statement to the Legislative Assembly, addressing the responsibilities of other jurisdictions in providing rescue services on highways. The Town of Hay River frequently takes on rescue services on 800 kms of highway in the South Slave and into Northern Alberta, beyond both the resources and the capacity of the local government. MLA Simpson indicated that the GNWT has absolved itself of providing these services because they know that the Town of Hay River would not refuse to help in an emergency situation, and brought questions to MACA Minister McLeod. Shortly thereafter, he asked the Minister for clarification of who has the legislative responsibility for highway rescue services in the Northwest Territories. Minister McLeod responded that there is no single department with legislative responsibility to provide ground ambulance services, and upon further questioning, said that the communities receive funding that they *could use* for providing emergency highway services, among other things. Minister McLeod went on to provide some detail about the interdepartmental committee and the strategy of strengthening community-based ambulance and highway rescue services.

Importantly: Minister McLeod said that he would like to hear from communities who are spending money and resources on highway rescue, how much they spend on each rescue, and the rationale for expenditures so that the Legislative Assembly can have a clear picture of the needs. He went on to state that *"This has been something that's been on the books for about ten years, and we hear about it every time we attend the NWT Association of Communities Annual General Meeting."*

The issue of rescue training and liability has also been brought forward a number of times in the Legislative Assembly, specifically related to firefighters and rescue services.

Minister McLeod noted that at one point, a community purchased an ambulance and, after realizing that it lacked the capacity to deliver appropriate highway rescue services, sold the ambulance to a larger community.

In the official response to this resolution dated September 13, 2016, the GNWT noted that ground ambulance and highway rescue services remain a point of interest for communities “choosing to deliver such services beyond municipal boundaries.” Some communities have realized success through effective administrative tools, while others continue to highlight challenges related to capacity and cost recovery. It is MACA’s intention to engage MLAs in the fall of 2016 concerning a suitable strategic direction. The department’s business plan will reflect any changes to MACA’s mandated priorities.

The NWTAC will investigate getting an update from MACA and make recommendations to the Board regarding convening a meeting to deal with this issue exclusively.

January 2018 Update

GNWT Response dated September 28, 2017

Since 2007, the GNWT has been working with Community Governments to support and strengthen ground ambulance and highway rescue service delivery on territorial highways. Progress over the past ten years includes \$1.8 million to support community based services; first responder training; a toolkit to help smaller communities recruit and retain volunteers; and a multi-agency rescue coordination system to promote and support coordination of emergency response efforts.

Despite the progress made, communities continue to raise concerns, which have prompted the necessity for a GNWT Action Plan that will help address identified gaps and deficiencies and establish a long-term vision involving rescue activities on territorial highways. In 2017-2018, the GNWT will work closely with key communities to examine:

- relevant GNWT funding arrangements to ensure they adequately meet operational needs;*
- municipal ground ambulance and highway rescue operations, including mobile equipment, budgets, expenditures, cost recovery, by-laws, and recent activity; and*
- comparative inter-jurisdictional practice in relevant areas.*

Ground ambulance and highway rescue services funding of \$185,000 remains in the GNWT’s 2017- 2018 Main Estimates and will be available to communities based on the findings of the review. The project will take approximately six months to complete and it will help identify actions necessary by the GNWT and community governments to maintain adequate and consistent emergency care on all territorial highways now and in the future.

Consultant has been hired and work on the Action Plan is currently underway

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

The GNWT is currently developing an Action Plan that will help address identified gaps and deficiencies and establish a long-term vision involving municipal operated ground ambulance highway rescue activities on territorial highways. In 2017-2018, the GNWT started work with key communities to examine:

- relevant GNWT funding arrangements to ensure they adequately meet operational needs;
- municipal ground ambulance and highway rescue operations, including mobile equipment, budgets, expenditures, cost recovery, by-laws, and recent activity; and
- comparative inter-jurisdictional practice in relevant areas.

A proposed action plan was expected in February 2018 but will be delayed due to information gaps in key areas. A thorough analysis of relevant standards is necessary to enable partners to measure system performance; and cost data is required to help determine an appropriate budget necessary to operate services outside municipal boundaries. The Action Plan is now expected in spring 2018.

It is important to remain mindful that an integrated system of ground ambulance and highway rescue services will take time to develop and our current fiscal environment will play a large part in deciding priority actions.

Ground ambulance and highway rescue services funding of \$185,000 remains in the GNWT's 2018- 2019 Main Estimates and will be available to communities.

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WHEREAS NWT Community Governments are essential service providers and ensure our communities are safe, healthy and vibrant;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is a key partner and ally in ensuring NWT communities continue to function well and are sustainable;

AND WHEREAS there has been no significant adjustment or increase in the rates of funding provided to the municipalities since the creation of the New Deal in 2007;

AND WHEREAS communities face continuing fiscal pressures on all types of funds including Operating and Maintenance Funds, Capital Funds, and Water and Sewer Services Funds;

AND WHEREAS resolutions of the NWTAC and individual communities have called for a review of funding rates for a number of years;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has completed a review of community funding policies with the participation of a Stakeholders Group of community leaders and administrators representing a cross-section of NWT communities;

AND WHEREAS the Funding review process has been completed in a transparent, inclusive and comprehensive manner;

AND WHEREAS a comprehensive review and analysis by Municipal and Community Affairs, based on financial analysis and quantifiable need, proves that NWT community governments are underfunded by almost \$40 million annually;

AND WHEREAS this chronic underfunding is having long term negative impacts on the safety, well-being and quality of life of community residents, on the useful lifespan of community infrastructure, as well as on the financial viability of community governments;

AND WHEREAS there are limited opportunities to raise own source revenues whether due to the economic challenges in a community or because taxation and user fees are already at capacity;

AND WHEREAS a commitment was made at the outset of the review process to “red-circle” or “grandfather” the Operations and Maintenance Funding of any communities found to be over-funded under the review process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GNWT needs to ensure that communities are adequately funded to deliver the programs that they are legislated, mandated and expected to deliver;

AND FURTHER THAT these changes need to be made urgently given the mounting pressures community governments are facing;

AND FURTHER THAT formulas should be adjusted in time for implementation in the 2016-17 fiscal year and interim, phased-in funding increases should be implemented in this fiscal year.

AND FURTHER THAT like the Gas Tax Fund, these funds need to be indexed so that their value is not eroded over time;

AND FURTHER THAT in addition to “red-circling” or “grandfathering” the Operations and Maintenance funding envelopes, this approach needs to be applied to the capital envelopes as well;

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT needs to continue to collaborate with NWT community governments to support and enhance community capacity and resiliency;

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolution Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

GNWT Response dated August 20, 2015:

MACA completed a review of their municipal funding policies in 2014. The results of the review have been presented to Cabinet and the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Investment as well as all community governments. MACA has identified the implementation of this new funding model as a transition item for the next Legislative Assembly to consider in light of the fiscal framework. MACA anticipates that implementation will need to be phased in over a number of fiscal years.

MACA will continue to work with community governments and the NWT Association of Communities on the implementation of the funding review recommendations to address the specific concerns specified in the resolution.

May 2016 Update:

Following the official launch of the “My Community Matters” campaign in May, 2015, the NWTAC has developed additional resources for community governments to speak out on their own behalf. This has included web-based digital postcards, providing sample letters and resolutions for community members and councils, and drafting sample questions for electoral candidates regarding the funding review.

In August, 2015, the NWTAC received a finalized report from the Conference Board of Canada regarding the multiplier effect of community spending. A media release was produced to introduce this report and its findings. The report concludes that dollars

invested in community governments add significant value to the economy through job creation, wage contributions, and GDP.

NWTAC staff have held meetings with representatives of the City of Yellowknife to support their advocacy towards the funding review, and one result of this has been the motion of a Yellowknife City Council Resolution on September 14, 2015 urging the GNWT to

- Increase the overall amount of funding provided to community governments, based on the documented and proven need
- Commit to indexing community government funding, as in other major funding commitments such as the Gas Tax
- Adjust the approach to funding formulas, based on the MACA funding review recommendations; and
- Continue to collaborate with NWT community governments to support and enhance community capacity/resiliency, especially with smaller communities.

Further, that these changes need to be made urgently, given the mounting pressures community governments are facing, formulas should be adjusted in time for implementation in the 2016-17 fiscal year and interim, phased-in funding increases should be implemented in this fiscal year.

The NWTAC board has met with the MLA's on this matter both before and after the election a number of times. This issue continues to be a high priority for the Association.

The new priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly includes the mandate to build relationships with community governments and stakeholders and to develop a strategy to implement the findings of the funding review. These speak directly to issues highlighted through the community funding review, and we will be taking this opportunity to align our priorities and identify areas where the NWTAC's resolutions will be met alongside the GNWT's declared priorities.

In April 2016, the Association was pleased to receive a copy of a letter to Minister McLeod from the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce supporting our resolution.

November 2016 Update:

The GNWT increased funding to MACA by 2% in the 2016/2017 Budget. MLA (Nahendeh) Shane Thompson acknowledged during the June 6, 2016 members' speech period that this is a good start, but "a little short of the \$40 million."

In September, MACA delivered its response to NWTAC resolutions and deferred the Community Funding Review as a transition item for the next Legislative Assembly, in light of the current fiscal framework. MACA anticipates that the implementation will require a phased-in approach over several years. MACA reiterated its commitment to working with the NWTAC and community governments towards the implementation of recommendations made under the funding review, and commits to working in partnership with the NWTAC to "Develop a strategy for full implementation and aims

to make the needs-based approach model to fund communities a focal point of the 2017-2018 Business Plan Process.”

Reviewing the MACA budget on June 24, 2016, MLA (Kam Lake) Kieran Testart questioned Minister R. C. McLeod on the \$40 million gap across community infrastructure funding and water and sewer, and asked how the department is meeting this gap. Minister R. C. McLeod responded that the department has contributed just over \$2.1 million towards that, and clarified that the gap is \$38 million. He said that they are working to help communities address the gap as the fiscal situation improves. MLA Testart pushed for MACA to readjust the funding formula earlier than projected in order to address the now-\$36 million shortfall. Minister McLeod reviewed the breakdown of where the gap exists in terms of O&M and capital, and reiterated that MACA is working with communities to address the funding shortfall and seeking opportunities for federal dollars.

MLA Testart brought forward the benefits of economic investment at the community level, and strongly encouraged the Minister and department to be proactive on the issue rather than wait for unpredictable and fluctuating Federal funding.

Later, after different questioning, Minister McLeod stated that the Premier has committed to no reductions in community funding. MLA (Yellowknife North) Cory Vanthuyne followed this with a commendation of the NWTAC's efforts to assess the funding gaps and help further the funding formula.

On October 20, 2016, the MACA budget was debated in the Legislative Assembly. Acting Deputy Minister Eleanor Young brought forward the funding gap and stated that MACA is currently recalculating their numbers and will be bringing forward a plan in 2017 to address the infrastructure gap.

Upon additional questioning from other MLAs, Minister Cochrane indicated that throughout her tenure as Minister of MACA, no communities will see a decrease in funding.

NWTAC will continue working with MACA to review the plan to address this gap.

January 2018 Update

GNWT Response dated September 28, 2017

The results of the review have been presented to Cabinet and the Standing Committee on Government Operations as well as all community governments. The Department is working on a schedule for implementation to be phased in over a number of fiscal years.

MACA will continue to work with community governments and the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) on developing a strategy for the implementation of the funding review recommendations to address the specific concerns identified in the resolution. MACA intends to table the strategy in 2017-18. MACA is conducting analysis on both short term and longer term options for

full implementation of the results of the review. Changes to the funding policies will be implemented within the next 5 years.

NWTAC provided letters reminding all MLA's of the lack of action on addressing the Funding Gap as they embarked on the last budget process

NWTAC provided comment on Strategy to close the funding gap that is being presented to Standing Committee. Categorizes that not enough is being done.

June 19, 2018 Update GNWT

The results of the funding review have been accepted by the GNWT and the needs-based funding formula has been approved as the method for applying any new community government funding.

MACA will continue to work with community governments and the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) on developing a strategy for the implementation of the funding review recommendations to address the specific concerns identified in the resolution but notes the challenge of developing an "implementable" strategy in the current fiscal environment. Regardless of concerns around specific commitments, the Department plans to continue to use processes available to it to identify resources to address the funding gap. The Department will also be working with NWTAC, particularly through the Northern Communities Insurance Program, to ensure that the analysis is updated on a regular basis so that any funds that we do secure are distributed equitably based on need. MACA is updating the analysis in 2018-2019.

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WHEREAS for a number of years the Privacy Commissioner for the Northwest Territories has recommended that the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be amended so as to capture municipalities;

AND WHEREAS communities are committed to the principle of transparency with respect to its operations and to protecting the privacy interests of its citizens but does not currently have a mechanism in place for doing so, other than existing practices; and

AND WHEREAS the grass-roots nature of community governments already ensures transparency and accountability;

AND WHEREAS other legislation governing the activities of community governments already requires a high level of disclosure and public posting;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs already tracks and monitors community operations and reports on their health through the Accountability Framework;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of the ATIPP Legislation has proven a challenge even at the GNWT scale;

AND WHEREAS most communities have neither the systems in place, nor the resources or the capacity to effectively implement a ATIPP program;

AND WHEREAS communities have already proven to be underfunded to the order of 37%;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the implementation of ATIPP legislation to communities needs to done a measured, realistic and highly planned way;

AND FURTHER THAT any implementation plan needs to include adequate resources and training to ensure its success.

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolution Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

GNWT Response dated August 20, 2015:

In September 2014, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs distributed a discussion paper to NWT community governments to obtain feedback from community governments on the potential application of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (ATIPP). The discussion paper "*Possible Application of A TIPP Act to*

Community Governments", was developed in consultation with a working group made up of representatives from the (MACA), the Department of Justice, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories. Three main topics were presented and discussed in the paper:

- Applying the ATIPP Act to Community Governments;
- Implementation Issues; and
- Financial Resources.

MACA received comments and feedback from six community governments. In order to make sure that as many communities as possible provided comments, MACA contacted each community government and gave them an opportunity to provide responses and feedback via telephone. Following this call-out MACA compiled feedback from a total of twenty-one community governments. The responses received reiterate previously expressed concerns relating to the capacity of community governments to be able to manage responsibilities under legislation of this nature.

The feedback and concerns received by community governments will help to shape a final report, including recommendations on the application of ATIPP to community governments. The report will be completed in the fall of 2015 as a transitional issue for the consideration of the 18th Assembly.

Update May 2016:

There is a "comprehensive review" going on by the Department of Justice in reviewing access laws of other jurisdictions, which has been ongoing for several years. It was slated as an issue for the 18th legislative assembly by the previous assembly, and there may be public consultations on this issue this year which we will keep an eye on.

The recently-released Priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly include "Increasing transparency, accountability, and strengthening consensus government." While the GNWT is taking steps to implement that at the territorial level, we may see some action on ATIPP.

As the Federal Government has recently interpreted that the Federal Privacy Act applies to NWT Communities, and requested one of our communities to develop a policy which applied, the loss prevention program had a template developed for the community and all other NWT communities.

November 2016 Update:

On June 27, 2016, after being questioned about open and transparent government initiatives undertaken to date, Minister Louis Sebert spoke to the comprehensive review of ATIPP that was currently underway, and noted that the consultation is an important aspect allowing the general public to contribute to important legislation.

During the summer of 2016, the NWTAC provided comments on the ATIPP legislation review that reflected and reiterated this resolution.

In the 2015/2016 Privacy Commissioner's Report, the GNWT was again urged to include municipalities in ATIPP legislation.

The official GNWT response to resolutions, received in September 2016 was a reiteration of the original response from 2015, with the additional note that the application of ATIPP to community governments will be considered by the 18th Legislative Assembly this fall as part of the GNWT's comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Previous feedback from community governments as well as the renewed resolution RA-16-15-06 will inform the deliberations. If a decision is made to proceed, further discussions will take place with municipalities to plan for implementation.

January 2018 Update

September 25th 2017 Question Period.

Mr. Testart questioned Minister Cochrane about a department plan for assisting communities with meeting the new ATIP requirements should they be implemented and when. Minister Cochrane stated that the Department is currently reviewing all the issues and potential solutions.

GNWT Response dated September 28, 2017

The GNWT has now completed the comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act). Building on the review, the government will be proposing a number of amendments to the Act and its associated regulations, including adding provisions that would designate community governments as public bodies. If this proposed change is advanced, there would likely be a staged implementation in recognition of the operational challenges that communities would experience, and communities would be further engaged as this process unfolds.

The Department of Justice is bringing forward amendments to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and anticipates introducing a bill by Fall 2018. The proposed amendments include adding community governments as public bodies under the Act.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

The timelines for the work regarding the application of Access and Privacy legislation to community governments recognizes the concerns raised by the NWT Association of Communities.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Department of Justice will work with community governments to assess capacity development, resource requirements and training related to both records practices and orientation to the ATIPP Act. Timing regarding the implementation for community government's inclusion under the Act will be determined following consultations with communities.

Feb 2019 Update

The Amendments to the ATIPP Act to include Municipalities has received 1st and 2nd reading. The NWTAC presented to the Standing Committee examining these amendments in both Inuvik and Yellowknife. The resolution was reaffirmed at that time.
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RA-19-15-07 CRTC Review of Telecoms

WHEREAS the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is embarking on a national consultation on Basic Telecommunication Services;

AND WHEREAS the nature of the geography of our territory and the size of our Communities makes the use of telecommunications and broadband even more critical than many other areas of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the current limitations of telecommunications and broadband services in the NWT has been flagged repeatedly as a significant obstacle in the growth of the NWT;

AND WHEREAS NWT residents should have access to affordable, competitive and reliable telecommunications and broadband services, similar to those available in Southern Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CRTC and the Government of Canada consider the interests of the GNWT, communities, residents and businesses when making any decisions regarding telecommunications or broadband that could affect the North;

AND FURTHER THAT the NWTAC register and participate as an Intervenor with the CRTC's national consultation on behalf of its member communities;

AND FURTHER THAT the NWTAC work with our partners such as the GNWT as well as Yukon and Nunavut Associations of Communities to ensure that the voice of the North is heard in the CRTC Consultations

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolution Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

GNWT Response dated August 20, 2015:

The GNWT is pleased to see this resolution come forward as a NWTAC priority. The GNWT Office of the CIO, which manages the GNWT's involvement in CRTC regulatory matters, meets with the NWTAC when there are Proceedings that have the potential to impact northern telecommunications and broadband environment and services. Most recently, the GNWT met with Sara Brown, Executive Director, regarding CRTC 2015-134 "Review of Basic Telecommunications Services"

Proceeding and its potential impact and relevance for the North. We continue to share information of interest to NWT communities with NWTAC.

The GNWT appreciates the NWTAC's interest in these matters, and is pleased to see the NWTAC registered as an Intervener in the Proceeding. The NWTAC has an influential voice with respect to NWT communities, and is a welcome ally in highlighting the needs and interests of Northerners in matters before the Commission.

GNWT's goals in CRTC Proceedings are to ensure that:

- o The CRTC and Government of Canada consider the interests of the GNWT, and NWT communities, residents and businesses, in decisions regarding market regulation of required telecommunications services;
- o Northerners have access to affordable, competitive and reliable telecommunications and broadband services, similar to those available in southern Canada;
- o An open, competitive environment for telecommunications and broadband companies in the North;

Update May 2016:

The resolution was also submitted to Peter Menzies and Linda Vennard of the CRTC, and correspondence is ongoing.

Last March, the CRTC instructed NorthwestTel to stop charging customers an extra \$20-\$30 each month for a standalone DSL connection. NorthwestTel complied but on February 1, 2016 reversed its decision, and effective April 1, 2016 the standalone DSL charge will be reinstated.

The NWTAC submitted an intervention in the CRTC Review of Basic Telecoms Consultation in 2015 and will be presented in April 2016 at the hearing in Ottawa. This work is being completed in consultation with the GNWT and FCM.

November 2016 Update:

A June 16, 2016 communique from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities detailed a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada clarifying the constitutional powers of local government in regards to the siting of radio-communications and telecommunications infrastructure (ie antenna towers, cables, poles, etc). In its decision, the Supreme Court has endorsed the principle that radio-communications and telecommunications, including the location of infrastructure, are matters of exclusive federal jurisdiction. The ruling is based on two older decisions of the Privy Council, from 1905 and 1932 respectively. The result is that the Court leaves very little constitutional room for direct municipal intervention outside existing federal processes.

Although FCM intervened in this case with the view that the Court would recognize a constitutional role for municipal governments in determining the location of telecom infrastructure, in practical terms the decision does not diminish existing consultation and approval processes.

For radio-communication antennas, the existing consultation process that was strengthened in 2014 at the request of FCM, requires extensive municipal input although final siting decisions rest with the federal government. With respect to telecommunications, the *Telecommunications Act* specifically requires municipal consent in order for telecom companies to have access to municipal rights-of-way. Disputes on terms of access for telecom infrastructure will continue to be adjudicated by the CRTC.

In April of 2016, the NWTAC presented at the CRTC hearing and consulted with the GNWT and FCM on the presentation content. Both parties' presentations also well-represented the concerns of NWT communities.

In the September 2016 response from the GNWT, it is noted that the resolution is directed to the attention of the CRTC and the Government of Canada. The Office of the Chief Information Officer is encouraged to see that the resolution also directs the NWTAC to take a more direct role as an intervenor in CRTC regulatory matters, and for the NWTAC to work with the GNWT and other partners to ensure that the voice of the North is heard in CRTC consultations. On behalf of the NWTAC, the Office of the Chief Information Officer would be pleased to direct this resolution to the attention of the CRTC, to the Federal Minister Responsible for the Department of Canadian Heritage, and to the Minister Responsible for Innovation, Science, and Economic Development; both of whom share responsibility for the oversight of the CRTC.

January 2018 Update

GNWT response dated September 28, 2017

The GNWT notes that this Resolution is directed to the attention of the CRTC and the Government of Canada. The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is encouraged to see that the Resolution also directs the NWTAC to take a more direct role as an intervenor in CRTC regulatory matters, and for the NWTAC to work with the GNWT and other partners to ensure that the voice of the North is heard in CRTC consultations. On behalf of the NWTAC the OCIO would be pleased to direct this Resolution to the attention of the CRTC, and also to the attention of the federal Minister responsible for the Department of Canadian Heritage as well as to the Minister responsible for Innovation, Science and Economic Development (both Ministers share responsibility for oversight of the CRTC).

The NWTAC has made a number of submissions to the CRTC this year as well as supporting and coordinating the positions of the GNWT and FCM.

On a related matter, the CRTC was considering the removal of the subsidy for land lines. The NWTAC filed an objection.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

The GNWT notes that this Resolution is directed to the attention of the CRTC and the Government of Canada. The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is

encouraged to see that the Resolution also directs the NWTAC to take a more direct role as an intervener in CRTC regulatory matters, and for the NWTAC to work with the GNWT and other partners to ensure that the voice of the North is heard in CRTC consultations.

The GNWT would like to acknowledge the NWTAC' s ongoing, active involvement in CRTC matters and looks forward to continuing our cooperative relationship through regular information sharing on telecommunications and broad band matters with the potential to impact Northerners.

February 2019 Update

The NWTAC is working with the National Research Council to explore alternate technology to deliver services.

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RA-19-15-08 Pan-Territorial Board Meeting

WHEREAS as NWTAC has an excellent working relationship with our sister organizations of the Association of Yukon Communities and Nunavut Association of Municipalities;

AND WHEREAS as through a recent strategic planning exercise the three Associations have developed a workplan for working together;

AND WHEREAS the three Associations and our member communities have many challenges and conditions in common;

AND WHEREAS the three territorial governments meet regularly to discuss matter of mutual interest under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the three Associations work together to host a pan Territorial Board Meeting.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that at this meeting a Memorandum of Understanding which integrates or echoes the Territorial MOU is established.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that given the importance and extreme value of this joint meeting the territorial governments participate in and fund the meeting.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: **REAFFIRMED**

GNWT Response dated August 20, 2015:

MACA is encouraged by the NWTAC Resolution to work more closely with the municipal associations from Yukon and Nunavut to explore ways in which they can work together to address areas of common concern. Through collaborative efforts such as a tri-territorial meeting, many best practices and solutions can be shared to enhance capacity and learning.

After careful consideration of the resolution, MACA would be able to participate in the meeting where appropriate but is unable to provide funding to support this meeting.

November 2016 Update:

MACA reiterated their earlier response and highlighted that they would like to participate in any such pan-territorial meeting but would not offer any financial assistance in support of it.

Some dialogue on this seems to be taking place between the territories, and the NWTAC will continue to push accordingly.

January 2018 Update:

The GNWT provided no new information related to this issue.

July 19, 2018 Update:

The GNWT provided no new information related to this issue.

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RA-19-14-01 Fees for Households in the General Taxation Area

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories is responsible for the services and associated fees for households in the General Taxation Area;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories is responsible for the assessment and determination of the mill rates for these households;

AND WHEREAS these households typically make use of municipal services such as landfill, water and sewer systems, emergency services, etc.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a policy whereby the mill rate levied to these households, in proximity to established communities, mirrors municipal mill rates; and the monies collected by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs be distributed to the nearest community that provides for municipal services.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

The presence of rural residences surrounding tax-based communities is significant and growing. Services provided by municipalities for their community residents are being accessed by residences which do not contribute taxes and fees to the cost of these communities' municipal services. Property taxes collected by MACA on rural properties are not directly transferred to the adjacent municipalities, and assessment rates are generally much lower than those levied in the neighboring municipalities. With the

transfer of land management responsibility under devolution, there is potential for the volume of rural residency to grow.

GNWT Response: Under the NWT property tax legislation, the Minister of Finance establishes mill rates in the General Taxation Area (GTA) to raise property tax for territorial purposes. These tax revenues go into general revenues and are allocated to GNWT programs and services based on government priorities, including funding to all community governments to support their programs and services under the Community Government Funding Policy. Tax-based community governments establish their own municipal mill rates and collect property taxes from their residents to fund their municipal services.

Household living in proximity to tax-based community governments do not receive the municipal services like municipal enforcement, water, sewer, and garbage pickup that the households within the municipal boundaries receive. Therefore, applying the same mill rates to households outside the municipal boundaries as applied to household with the established community governments is not equitable tax treatment.

Municipal councils are already able to raise revenue from households living outside municipal boundaries who use municipal services by charging user fees. Some NWT municipalities distinguish between residents and non-residents when charging user fees for emergency response services so that individuals living outside municipal boundaries are charged higher fees for fire and ambulance services than municipal residents. Municipal councils also have the ability to change the property tax/user fee mix to extract higher user fees so that more of the cost recovery is paid by the user of the service, regardless of whether the user is a resident or non-resident than through general property taxes.

November 2016 Response:

The GNWT's official response to this resolution, dated September 13, 2016, reiterated its previous response and concluded that, based on these findings, no changes to the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, or existing policies in this regard are envisioned for the foreseeable future.

January 2018 Update

The GNWT provided no new information related to this issue.

June 19, 2018 Update- GNWT provided no new information just reiterated the previous comment.

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RA-19-14-02 Homelessness

WHEREAS poverty is not a crime and whereas homelessness is neither a crime nor a lifestyle choice; and

AND WHEREAS homelessness is a violation of human dignity and of human rights; and housing is a basic human need and a precondition for a decent life and social inclusion;

AND WHEREAS homelessness represents the most extreme form of poverty and deprivation, and has increased in recent years in virtually all Member communities;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories is witnessing an unprecedented increase in homelessness;

AND WHEREAS the social and family profiles of people using social housing have changed, and there is increased demand for housing;

AND WHEREAS in some Member Communities there is a shortage of social housing facilities and an increasing need for affordable housing;

AND WHEREAS homelessness is by its very nature a multifaceted problem and requires a multifaceted response that include Health and Social Service agencies as well as Housing agencies;

AND WHEREAS there is increasing evidence that housing-led approaches to homelessness are the most effective;

AND WHEREAS the immediate responsibility for addressing homelessness lies with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT be it resolved that the GNWT fully fund Homeless Shelters within the boundaries of its communities; and,

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT direct and fund its departments to end homelessness in the Northwest Territories.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

GNWT Response: The Government of the NWT is committed to the goal of ending homelessness by assisting those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to achieve or maintain adequate and appropriate housing while having access to support services that help them address underlying conditions that may result in homelessness.

GNWT departments and agencies including Health and Social Services, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Education, Culture and Employment and Justice work

collaboratively under the auspices of overarching direction such as the NWT Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework: Building on the Strengths of Northerners to end poverty. Priorities for action under the Framework are key components of addressing homelessness: Safe and Affordable Housing; Sustainable Communities; and an Integrated Continuum of Services.

The GNWT provides support to community partners for the provision of short term, community driven homelessness support services such as day shelters, overnight shelters and soup kitchens.

Current GNWT social programming such as public housing, income assistance, community wellness, mental health support, addiction service, and reintegration programs comprise some of the main actions in combatting homelessness. To maximize limited resources, the GNWT is also looking at ways to enhance current coordination and collaboration between departments.

The City of Yellowknife's Community Advisory Board on Homelessness, established in April 2014, revealed plans in early 2015 to conduct a count of the city's homeless in March, 2015. The purpose of this survey, which is part of the Housing First strategy, is to gather data towards the development of a longer-term housing program.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWTHC) has a "Small Community Homelessness Fund", which allocates funding to small communities throughout the territory with an identified need for meal/food bank programs. All of this funding has been allocated in the 2014-2015 year, and has supported such services as soup kitchens, food banks, and food vouchers. The NWTHC also has a Homelessness Assistance program and a Shelter Enhancement Fund, providing single-year and emergency support funding for individuals in crisis. These funds can be accessed by local governments, Aboriginal governments, non-government organizations, and individuals, according to the funding type and situation.

Homelessness and the policy challenges that delay or inhibit the resolution of this issue are topics of ongoing discussion in the Legislative Assembly, and these activities and conversations are consistently monitored.

In February, 2015, the NWTAC received a letter from Minister R.C. McLeod in response to previous correspondence in October, 2014. In this letter, the Minister acknowledged that homelessness can result from a culmination of a number of social problems, and that the GNWT recognizes that the best chance of long-term well-being for individuals and families is to address each of the destabilizing factors. He agreed that the foundation of any wellness plan starts with affordable, adequate, suitable housing, and noted the differences between smaller communities and larger centres in the territory.

The Minister further outlined some of the initiatives undertaken through the NWTHC, but did highlight that some projects are in the planning stage and have not yet received finalized agreements to move forward.

Update May 2016:

NWTAC staff met with John Howard Society Executive Director Lydia Bardak regarding ways the organization could support homeless individuals in NWT communities in voting. As a result, NWTAC produced an information postcard and poster for distribution among members of the Yellowknife street community and to other communities through our SAO contacts. These resources are also available on the NWTAC website.

The Priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly include addressing the cost of living by “Increasing the availability of safe, affordable housing and creating solutions for addressing homelessness.”

The NWTAC worked with Health and Social Services to facilitate the Anti-Poverty Roundtable at the end of March.

November 2016 Update:

There has been a great deal of media coverage and government discussion about homelessness within the Legislative Assembly, the City of Yellowknife, and other communities.

Of note:

June 7, 2016: MLA (Kam Lake) Kieran Testart addressed Minister Responsible for Homelessness Caroline Cochrane in the oral question period and sought clarification on the Housing First program undertaken by the City of Yellowknife. She identified the danger of cutting funding to shelters in favour of the Housing First program, and identified the various shelters and housing currently in place, clarifying that the Housing First program and emergency shelters for the homeless are separate issues.

June 8, 2016: MLA (Yellowknife Centre) Julie Green delivered a Member’s Statement to the Legislative Assembly regarding the impact of migration on homelessness in Yellowknife. Specifically, she identified the reasons for people from smaller communities to migrate to Yellowknife, where they become homeless, and the impact this has on the City of Yellowknife.

June 16, 2016: MLA Herbert Nakimayak (Nunakput) raised a question about community access to homelessness funding, specifically regarding residents who have already accessed the one-time Homelessness Assistance Fund but are in additional need. Minister Responsible for Homelessness Caroline Cochrane responded that counselling services are provided now alongside the HAF support, which can address underlying causes, and are then referred to community social workers. MLA Nakimayak then asked about the women’s emergency centre in Tuktoyaktuk and the funding for 2016-2017. Minister Cochrane then detailed the funding received and how it was prioritized among the shelters. MLA Nakimayak then asked a final question about the planned work for Paulatuk, Sachs Harboru, and Ulukhaktok to access homelessness funding. Minister Cochrane responded that the Housing Corp is working with communities to enable them to prioritize their own homelessness needs and elaborated on the services that are currently funded in these communities.

The Official GNWT response from September 2016 identifies that addressing homelessness is a priority of the 18th Legislative Assembly, and that the NWT Housing Corporation works with other GNWT departments in a multi-faceted approach to addressing this issue in the NWT.

The majority of the response was repetitious of the original response from 2014; however, the GNWT did add an example of the northern adaptation of Housing First, a model that is being explored which demonstrates the importance of housing and integrated service delivery to end homelessness. It highlighted that services need to focus on housing retention, and that once stable housing is obtained, the focus can shift to such issues as addiction and mental health.

On October 21, the City of Yellowknife unveiled a new plan to tackle homelessness including a sobering centre, alcohol management program, and more space at emergency shelters. The Yellowknife Homelessness Road Map Action Plan breaks down 11 recommendations under three priority areas: improved coordination, new or enhanced services, and long-term planning and strategic framework development. The strategy calls for an investment of \$600,000 within six months for more beds in emergency shelters.

The NWT Housing Corporation is administering \$600,000 provided by the Federal Government, which will be used to create semi-independent living spaces. Minister Responsible for Homelessness Caroline Cochrane indicated the importance of the GNWT creating shelters and resources outside of Yellowknife, to deter those from outside of the city from flocking to Yellowknife to take advantage of the program. A number of other programs and services were identified as part of the road map, with an emphasis on relieving the pressure on emergency workers, the RCMP, and hospitals.

January 2018 Update

GNWT response September 28 2017

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), as part of the mandate of the 18th Assembly, has made it a priority to address homelessness and continues to commit to the goal of ending homelessness.

The GNWT continues collaborative work within departments such as Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, and Justice under the direction of frameworks such as the NWf Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework: Building on the Strengths of Northerners to end poverty. Priorities for action under the Framework are key components of addressing homelessness: Safe and Affordable Housing, Sustainable Communities, and an Integrated Continuum of Services. The GNWf provides support to community partners for the provision of short-term, community-driven homelessness support services such as day shelters, overnight shelters, and soup kitchens.

Social programming such as Homelessness Assistance Fund, Northern Pathways to Housing, Public Housing, Income Assistance, Community Wellness, mental health support, addiction services, and reintegration programs are continued GNWT initiatives towards combatting homelessness.

June 19, 2018 No new information The Department of Health and Social Services is prepared to do its part, within a whole government approach, to address homelessness.

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RA-19-14-03 Hazardous Waste in Municipal Landfills

WHEREAS the hazardous waste stockpiled in the Norman Wells and the Fort Good Hope municipal solid waste facilities are legacy waste deposited over several decades;

AND WHEREAS the stockpiled hazardous waste is evidently from a number of institutional, commercial and industrial sources including federal and territorial government departments and corporations in addition to municipal sources;

AND WHEREAS land ownership of landfills and jurisdictional authority over landfills has been shared or has changed hands over time;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Norman Wells and the K’asho Go’tine Charter Community are committed to improving municipal solid waste management and staff have already dedicated substantial resources in staff time and equipment to segregate, contain, label and inventory several hazardous waste streams;

AND WHEREAS the estimates received by the communities for handling, transportation and disposal of the hazardous waste far exceed the means of the community governments’ budget;

AND WHEREAS substantial efficiencies can be found by addressing waste on a regional scale;

AND WHEREAS the municipal landfills are not constructed nor licensed to store hazardous waste over time;

AND WHEREAS the existing hazardous waste represents a real threat to the environment and community source water

AND WHEREAS communities throughout NWT are challenged with similar situations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Environment Canada, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and the Government of Northwest Territories partner to reach an agreement for shared responsibility in the costs of disposing of existing stockpiles of hazardous waste in communities throughout NWT;

AND FURTHER THAT the Government of Northwest Territories collaborate with community and regional governments to develop a comprehensive strategy to manage, store, handle, transport and dispose of hazardous waste in the future at a regional scale.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

Funded by Environment Canada, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake and Normans Wells contracted the preparation of inventories of hazardous wastes in their landfills. Inventories document the volume of hazardous wastes including fuel drums, liquid wastes, batteries, propane tanks, paints and contaminated plastics. Wastes were segregated and estimates were provided on the cost of removing inventoried wastes to safe disposal sites. The total estimated cost of safe removal for the four communities is approximately \$1 million. Similar inventory projects have been carried out for the Inuvialuit settlement communities. Costs of safe removal are beyond communities' financial means under current budgets.

GNWT Response: Managing the stockpiles of hazardous waste in municipal disposal facilities is a shared responsibility of all three levels of government: federal, territorial and municipal. At this point, GNWT departments have not had discussions with the federal government departments regarding their future involvement in cleaning up the historic stockpiles of hazardous waste.

MACA and ENR are currently engaged with municipal governments throughout the NWT on cleaning up their disposal sites and preventing the stockpiles of hazardous waste from reoccurring. MACA and ENR believe that there are significant advantages to coordinating transportation and disposal of hazardous waste at a regional scale. The costs associated with the hazardous waste stockpiles are not currently accounted for in municipal or territorial operating budgets.

ENR and MACA are also currently engaged with the NWT Association of Communities to further define our shared responsibility and identify a path towards successful resolution. These tri-party meetings are ongoing, and an update will be provided at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May 2015.

November 2016 Update:

In its official response to resolutions dated September 13, 2016, the GNWT stated that ENR and MACA are collaborating on an action plan with the NWTAC called the "Clean-Up Clean Start" campaign to address the current state of hazardous waste stockpiles and hazardous waste management at municipal disposal facilities.

A report released by the Auditor General of Canada on October 25, 2016 indicated that only 6 communities have a hazardous waste management plan. The Auditor General indicated that MACA has not done enough to support community governments in addressing solid waste, and especially hazardous waste.

The NWTAC has continued to sit on a working group on Hazardous Waste and an advisory committee on waste reduction. It will be interesting to see if the Auditor General's Report will accelerate the work of these groups.

January 2018 Update

GNWT response September 28, 2017

The issues reaffirmed in RA-17-14-03 continue to be addressed by ENR and MACA as capacity allows. The communities of Aklavik, Behchoko, Colville Lake, Deline, Dettah, Fort Providence, Jean Marie River, Paulatuk, Whati, tutselk'e, Tuktoyaktuk have taken steps in recent years towards removing stockpiles of hazardous waste. ENR is distributing household hazardous waste collection bins and signs to regional centres and communities throughout the NWf. Some of the supplies have already been delivered to communities while the remaining will reach communities during the next winter road season.

MACA and ENR are currently engaging with municipal governments throughout the NWT on cleaning up disposal sites and preventing hazardous waste from stockpiling. The Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative (WRRRI) provides funding for hazardous and bulky waste removal in three communities in the NWf. The WRRRI has also assisted with similar projects in the previous three years.

MACA and ENR will continue to seek funding sources and opportunities for coordinated transportation and disposal of hazardous waste at a regional scale. The Departments will also continue to work with community governments to help identify and provide the necessary support and capacity building, so that they can comply with regulatory and other waste management requirements. This will include:

- Support needed by each community government to comply with the water license that regulates the management of solid waste sites and sewage lagoons; and*
- Support needed by community governments to ensure proper management of solid waste sites and proper handling and disposal of hazardous waste.*

The terms of reference for the Interdepartmental Committee for the Management of Drinking Water and Wastewater are being amended to include management of solid waste.

NWTAC is seeking opportunities to fund the project under Climate Change Funds

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

The Interdepartmental Committee for the Management of Drinking Water and Wastewater terms of reference **has been amended and is now called the Interdepartmental Drinking Water and Waste Management Committee**. This Committee now includes a

sub-committee called the Waste Management Technical Committee. MACA's work plan to support communities under this committee's mandate will be shared with NWTAC as soon as it is approved through the technical committee.

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RA-19-13-01 Regulation of Massage Therapy Providers

WHEREAS concerns regarding the regulation of persons and businesses that provide massage therapy have been expressed to both the City of Yellowknife and the Territorial Government over the past several years by professional associations, individual service providers and members of the public; and

WHEREAS there are now persons and/or businesses offering massage therapy in more than one community in the Northwest Territories; and

WHEREAS Provinces including British Columbia, Newfoundland and Ontario have chosen to regulate this activity in the interests of public safety and consumer protection; and

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories is well positioned to regulate the activity through its Department of Health and Social Services; and

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories is considering legislation that would regulate a number of health and social services professions in the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWTAC urge the Territorial Government to consider the regulation of massage therapy as part of the proposed Health and Social Services (Umbrella) Professions Legislation.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRM

GNWT Response: The Department of Health and Social Services is currently drafting the proposed Health and Social Services Professions Act (HSSPA) and we expect to have the bill ready for introduction in the Legislative Assembly this fall. The HSSPA will establish an application process for health and social services professions wishing to be regulated under the Act. In addition, the HSSPA will set out criteria to help prioritize which professions should be regulated under the Act and when. Once the HSSPA is finalized, the Department will begin drafting regulations for the first four professions to be addressed under the HSSPA. These professions have been identified as Emergency Medical Service Providers, Psychologists, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Naturopaths. Additional professions will be considered once these four profession-specific regulations are completed.

November 2016 Update:

The GNWT responded in September, 2016, with an update that the Department of Health and Social Services is currently drafting profession-specific regulations under the Health and Social Services Professionals Act. The first set of professions to be regulated under this have been established and do not include massage therapy providers. The Executive council is responsible for deciding which professions will be included under the Act, and once it comes into effect, professional associations can initiate the process of becoming regulated through an application process. A number of criteria have been developed to determine which professions should be designated under this Act, including regulatory status in other jurisdictions, and whether the means to regulate members exist outside of the Act. The potential risk to health and safety to the public if the profession is unregulated, as well as potential economic consequences of regulation, are also under consideration.

January 2018 Update**GNWT Response September 28, 2017**

The Health and Social Services Professions Act (HSSPA) is an umbrella act The Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) is currently drafting profession-specific regulations under the HSSPA. The EMS Provider Regulation and Psychologist Regulation will be finalized in by the end of 2017. Licensed Practical Nurses and Naturopathic Practitioners will follow in 2018.

The Executive Council is responsible for deciding which professions will be included under the Act. When the Act comes into force, professional associations can initiate the process to become regulated by bringing forward an application to HSS. There are a number of criteria that are used to determine which professions should be designated under the HSSPA, but also when a profession should be designated. These criteria include, but are not limited to, a profession's regulatory status in other jurisdictions, whether there are other means to regulate members of the profession other than under the Act, the nature and degree, if any, of the risk to the health and safety of the public if the profession is unregulated, and the potential economic impacts of regulation.

June 19, 2018 No new information from GNWT

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RA-19-13-02

Review and Amendment of the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, R.S.N.W.T. 1988 c.P-10, as amended and the *Grants-In-Lieu of Property Taxes Policy 21.09*

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Commissioner are not liable to taxation pursuant to Section 73(2) of the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*; and

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories makes grants in lieu of taxes pursuant to the *Grants-In-Lieu Of Property Taxes Policy 21.09* in recognition of the services it receives from municipal governments and to pay its share of the costs to municipalities where territorial property is located; and

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories does not pay Grants-In-Lieu of Property Taxes on property it leases to third parties; and

AND WHEREAS municipal governments cannot sell territorial property to recover unpaid taxes against defaulting tenants and are forced to take other measures, including making court applications, to recover unpaid taxes and such actions often never allow a municipality to recoup the loss; and

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada is exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 125 of the *Constitution Act, 1867* but makes payments in lieu of property taxes to local governments; and

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada recognized that the term "grant" for the payments made in lieu of property taxes did not reflect the value of the services provided by municipal levels of government to federal properties and proceeded to amend the name of the act to "Payments in Lieu of Taxes"; and

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada recognized the difficulty encountered by municipal governments in recovering unpaid taxes against tenants of federal property and beginning in the 2000 tax year included a provision in the *Property in Lieu of Taxes Act* for municipalities to request a payment in lieu of taxes on federal property occupied by a defaulting tenant, after demonstrating that every reasonable attempt has been made to collect the taxes from the tenant without success;

AND WHEREAS various provincial governments have recognized the difficulty encountered by municipal governments in recovering unpaid taxes against tenants of provincial property and have included provisions in the applicable legislation to allow municipal governments to request a payment in lieu of taxes if all reasonable attempts to collect the outstanding taxes have not been successful;

AND WHEREAS there have been instances where municipal governments have not been able to collect unpaid property taxes from tenants of territorial property and have not received any grant in lieu of taxes; and

AND WHEREAS the purpose of the grants made in lieu of taxes is to deal equitably and fairly with municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwest Territories Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider:

- (i) amending the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* and the Grants-In-Lieu of Properties Policy to allow municipal governments to request a payment in lieu of taxes if all reasonable attempts to collect the outstanding taxes have not been successful in accordance with what the federal and other provincial governments have already done; and
- (ii) changing the name of the 'Grants-In-Lieu of Properties Policy' to the 'Payments-In-Lieu of Properties Policy' to emphasize the territorial government's responsibility as a property owner to share in the cost of local government, rather than its generosity in making a payment which it is not legally obliged to make.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

GNWT Response: A legislative review of the Property Tax Assessment and Taxation Act will not take place during the sitting of the 17th Assembly, and is not on MACA's list of legislative priorities. Due to the limited capacity of the Department to perform the work that is required to develop new or amend legislation, it has become necessary for MACA to prioritize its legislative initiatives. It has been MACA's long-standing policy to engage stakeholders and communities on any legislative work done by the Department and MACA will notify the NWTAC of any future consultations with regards to the revision of the PATA.

November 2016 Update:

The GNWT responded in September 2016 to state that a legislative review of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act will not take place during the sitting of the 18th Legislative Assembly, and is not on MACA's list of legislative priorities.

January 2018 Update:

The GNWT provided no new information related to this issue.

June 19, 2018 Update GNWT

During this year's NWT Association of Communities AGM, MACA did facilitate an interactive session with delegates to begin to gather input on legislation issues impacting community governments. This is the beginning of an engagement process that will contribute to establishing legislative priorities for the 19th Legislative Assembly. MACA is aware that the NWT Association of Communities has passed as many as eight (8) resolutions that may impact the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. This is important feedback that will be considered, not only as we set priorities, but also once we begin the legislative review process.

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RA-19-13-05 Highway Rescue Services

WHEREAS: The Government of the Northwest Territories maintains a highway system and encourages tourism and economic development opportunities by promoting safe and affordable transportation by road to travellers on the highway systems; and

WHEREAS: The Government of the Northwest Territories has no strategy to provide emergency medical services to those travellers who may be injured through accident or weather while travelling on the NWT Highway System; and

WHEREAS: The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs has made a statement in the Legislative Assembly that there is a shortage of qualified First Responders and equipment in the communities to respond to this essential service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a strategic plan for highway rescue and ground ambulance with adequate funding.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

GNWT Response: MACA continues to lead an Interdepartmental Advisory Committee composed of the departments of Justice, Transportation and Health and Social Services to implement a strategy to support delivery of community-based ground ambulance, highway and medical remote rescue services in the Northwest Territories. Progress is underway in a number of areas:

- Community funding for equipment, training and vehicles has increased to \$400,000 annually from \$200,000
- New funding of \$150,000 has been allocated for the delivery of first responder training starting in 2014-15
- A community toolkit is near completion to help communities recruit and retain volunteer first responders
- Work has begun on updating the Highway Emergency Alerting Protocol (HEAP) to ensure good communication and coordination between key emergency response agencies involved in highway rescue. This work will also help develop a public communications strategy.

May 2016 Update:

It is recommended that we attempt to convene a meeting of impacted communities, MACA, Health & Social Services & Department of Transportation.

November 2016 Update:

On June 24, 2016, during the Legislative Assembly's examination of the budget for MACA, MLA (Hay River North) R.J. Simpson questioned the reduction in ground ambulance and highway rescue budget from \$400,000 to \$185,000. It came forward thereafter that this budget was under-subscribed in the previous year, as it is an application-based program with maximum allocations of \$40,000. MLAs asked more questions about the administration of this budget, and Minister R.C. McLeod detailed the long-term goal of building capacity and ensuring that communities have the resources, equipment, and training to provide highway rescue. Issues of liability for improperly trained staff were also discussed. MLA (Frame Lake) Kevin O'Reilly asked if the cap of \$40,000 per project could be raised, to which Minister McLeod responded that a conversation with committee could help with the development of a redesigned program, and made a commitment to this process.

The GNWT's official response from September, 2016 included an update from the interdepartmental committee formed in 2012 to implement a strategy strengthening community-based ground ambulance and highway rescue services. The strategy is now complete, and the GNWT parties remain committed to continued dialogue with stakeholders to identify future opportunities to increase highway safety. The strategy resulted in the following progress:

- *\$1.63 million provided to community governments to support community-based ambulance and highway rescue services, including:*
 - *Upgrades, major repairs or enhancements to existing mobile equipment or the purchase of new mobile equipment;*
 - *Training*
 - *Equipment*
 - *Studies, operating procedures, and/or manuals*
 - *Minor capital infrastructure upgrades or renovations*
- *Community-based first responder training to improve the capacity of staff and volunteers and increased the availability of qualified first responders;*
- *A comprehensive web-based toolkit to help communities recruit and retain volunteer first responders;*
- *A web-based Multi-Agency Rescue Coordination System (MARCS) to promote and support coordination of emergency response efforts on NWT highways;*
- *A plan for implementation of a territorial-wide 911 system for future consideration;*
- *A safe NWT Highway Travel Strategy to encourage and support safe travel on NWT highways; and*
- *Implementation of procedures for the safe transport of injured or sick individuals from remote locations not accessible by ground ambulance.*

January 2018 Update

GNWT Response dated September 28, 2017

In 2017-2018, the GNWT will work with key communities to develop an Action Plan that will help address identified gaps and deficiencies and establish a long-term vision involving ground ambulance and highway rescue services. The project will consider:

- *relevant GNWT funding arrangements to ensure they adequately meet operational needs;*
- *municipal ground ambulance and highway rescue operations, including mobile equipment, budgets, expenditures, cost recovery, by-laws, and*
- *recent activity; and comparative inter-jurisdictional practice in relevant areas.*

Ground ambulance and highway rescue services funding of \$185,000 remains in the GNWT's 2017- 2018 Main Estimates and will be available to communities based on the findings of the review. The project will take approximately six months to complete and it will help identify actions necessary by the GNWT and community governments to maintain adequate and consistent emergency care on all territorial highways now and in the future.

Delivered October 4, 2017 in the House Municipal and Community Affairs Legislative Agenda Stated that the department is in the process of developing a draft bill to replace the Civil Emergency Measures Act which will modernize the emergency framework in the NWT and will be complimented by and updated NWT Plan.

Consultant has been hired and work on the Action Plan is currently underway

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

A proposed action plan was expected in February 2018 but will be delayed due to information gaps in key areas. A thorough analysis of relevant standards is necessary to enable partners to measure system performance; and cost data is required to help determine an appropriate budget necessary to operate services outside municipal boundaries. The Action Plan is now expected in spring 2018.

It is important to remain mindful that an integrated system of ground ambulance and highway rescue services will take time to develop and our current fiscal environment will play a large part in deciding priority actions.

Ground ambulance and highway rescue services funding of \$185,000 remains in the GNWT's 2018- 2019 Main Estimates and will be available to communities.

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RA-19-12-03

Fiscal Year Legislation

WHEREAS the NWT Cities Towns and Villages Act requires the fiscal year to be the calendar year; and

WHEREAS the NWT Charter Communities Act and the Hamlets Act require a fiscal year ending March 31, except in the case of a Municipal Taxing Authority; and

WHEREAS all Communities rely on funding from other orders of government whose fiscal year ends on March 31; and

WHEREAS it may be in the better interest of each community in the NWT to select a fiscal year end which meets its need;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWTAC urges the GNWT to enact legislative changes that would give all municipalities the option of choosing a fiscal year that matches the calendar year or a fiscal year that ends on March 31; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this legislative change be made no later than 2013 and be effective for fiscal years beginning in 2014.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

Possible adjustment of fiscal year ends will be an element of a promised review of legislation. MACA Minister Robert C. McLeod has said this work is unlikely to be undertaken prior to the 18th Legislative Assembly. NWTAC will monitor this review through contacts with MACA and seek opportunities to further this objective.

May 2016 Update:

The priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly does not have wholesale review of this legislation in their schedule but the NWTAC will be pursuing legislative amendments to facilitate this priority.

January 2018 Update

GNWT Response dated September 28, 2017

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) recognizes that there are a number of good reasons why the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) may want to consider the legislative changes required to allow all municipalities the option of choosing the same fiscal year (matching the calendar year or a fiscal year that ends on March 31, or some other option). Such a change would require amendments to five pieces of territorial legislation including the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Charter Communities Act, the Hamlets Act, the T11chp Community Government Act the Property Assessment and Taxation Act and the Local Authorities Election Act. These amendments would represent a significant undertaking and given the current legislative

priorities of the department, their completion could not be expected in the time frame identified in the NWT Association of Communities resolution.

NWTAC has had discussions with MACA about seeing if there could be some consensus between CTV which might make this process simpler.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

MACA will consult with the six Cities, Towns and Villages to discuss the option of legislative changes to amend the fiscal year as it appears the primary objective is to bring those six communities within the same fiscal year as the GNWT and the balance of the other 27 community governments. In the past, MACA has asked the six tax-based communities whether they all support this amendment, and to date there has not been agreement among the six on this matter.

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RA-19-12-09 Ground Ambulance

WHEREAS the GNWT has provided small contributions in the past years to municipalities for the provision of ground ambulance services on the adjacent GNWT highways; and,

WHEREAS the access to this funding has been very prescriptive, by allowing only small equipment purchases rather than for larger capital items such as a ground ambulance;

WHEREAS when a municipality responds to an emergency call on a GNWT highway this often means that there is no ambulance service being provided in that community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWTAC urge the GNWT Department of Transportation (highway), the Department of Health (ambulatory care) and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to develop and implement a formal, multi-year, contribution program which will allow for municipalities to continue offering essential emergency services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the future contribution programs be flexible to allow municipalities to use the funding for equipment/supplies, O&M and Capital funding related to the servicing of GNWT highways with safe and secure ground ambulance services.

Policy Committee Recommends: **REAFFIRMED**

GNWT Response: MACA received approval in its 2014-15 Main Estimates for an additional \$200,000 to add to existing Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Funding. A total annual program offering of \$400,000 is now available to help ensure support for the communities seeking to develop and administer critical life-safety

services. In early summer 2014, MACA obtained approval for the following funding changes aimed at maximizing value from available resources:

- Increase the maximum annual allowable amount for communities to \$50,000 from \$30,000
- Include minor capital infrastructure projects as an eligible expense category
- Permit multi-year projects to a maximum of two years.

To date, MACA has provided communities \$1,160,000 since 2007 to help support and strengthen community-based ground ambulance and highway rescue services in the NWT. In addition, new funding of \$150,000 has been identified in 2014-2015 for first responder curriculum development and delivery. First Responder training is necessary to improve the capacity of community volunteers and staff involved in services such as ground ambulance, highway rescue and patient transportation.

May 2016 Update:

It is recommended that we attempt to convene a meeting of impacted communities, MACA, Health & Social Services & Department of Transportation.

November 2016 Update:

The GNWT responded in September, 2016 that since the introduction of ground ambulance and highway rescue services funding in 2007, more than \$1.63 million has been approved to communities to support the purchase of vehicles, equipment, training, supplies, and policy development. In 2014-2015, the program was expanded as indicated in a previous update. In an effort to help manage GNWT expenditures, MACA's 2016-2017 Main Estimates include a reduction of \$215,000 from the 2015-2016 funding level. Community governments may use annual community public infrastructure and operations and maintenance funding to continue supporting future service delivery.

It is unclear if the \$1.63 million indicated is the same as the amount listed in response to resolution RA-16-13-05: Highway Rescue Services, though this seems likely. It should be noted that this amount was explained as part of a strategy developed starting in 2012 that has now been completed.

It should be noted that the ground ambulance and highway rescue were not included in the funding review, so the statement that CPI or O&M money could be used is problematic. Please see RA-16-15-03 and RA-16-13-05.

January 2018 Update

GNWT Response dated September 28, 2017

In 2017-2018, the GNWT will work with key communities to develop an Action Plan that will help address identified gaps and deficiencies and establish a long-

term vision involving ground ambulance and highway rescue services. The project will consider:

- *relevant GNWT funding arrangements to ensure they adequately meet operational needs;*
- *municipal ground ambulance and highway rescue operations, including mobile equipment, budgets, expenditures, cost recovery, by-laws, and recent activity; and*
- *comparative inter-jurisdictional practice in relevant areas.*

The project will also examine potential funding models to help maintain adequate and consistent emergency care on territorial highways now and in the future.

Delivered on October 4, 2017 to House Municipal and Community Affairs Legislative Agenda

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWTA proposed action plan was expected in February 2018 but will be delayed due to information gaps in key areas. A thorough analysis of relevant standards is necessary to enable partners to measure system performance; and cost data is required to help determine an appropriate budget necessary to operate services outside municipal boundaries. The Action Plan is now **expected in spring 2018**. The project will also examine potential funding models to help maintain adequate and consistent emergency care on territorial highways now and in the future.

July 4, 2018

A letter from MACA to the distribution list regarding an update- Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Action Plan.

To date numerous community and Government stakeholders have been consulted.

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WHEREAS currently, persons may stake mineral claims within municipal boundaries;

AND WHEREAS this creates difficulties in allowing municipalities to deliver or offer services to their residents and businesses;

AND WHEREAS this creates financial burdens on municipalities resulting from disputes over ownership or use of municipal infrastructure (i.e. quarries);

AND WHEREAS previous claims and mines have proven to be costly to taxpayers in the reclamation and remediation of ongoing and expired leases;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWTAC request that the GNWT ensure the staking of claims not be allowed to take place without the approval of the municipality.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

Letter dated September 22, 2014, from ITI, Director Sonya Saunders. In her letter she stated that as of April 1, 2014 ITI became responsible for the *NWT Mining Regulation*, which govern the issuance of mineral claims. To ensure a seamless transfer of responsibilities, ITI monitored the federal Mining Regulations.

As with most jurisdictions in Canada and the United States, the Mining Regulations are based on a free entry system, which allows prospecting for minerals and staking of mineral claims on public land, including municipal lands. The GNWT does not have any plans to make changes to the Mining Regulations that would alter this approach.

The letter stated that there are several opportunities that exist for pursuing its interests in this matter. Firstly because mineral claims only apply to subsurface mineral interests, even if a claim is staked within municipal boundaries, access to and activities on municipal lands would remain subject to municipal zoning regulations and community land use plans.

Secondly, if a proponent wanted to conduct any significant exploration work on a claim the proposed activities would be subject to review and approval by the relevant land and water board and depending on the level of proposed activities and environmental assessment may be required. Each of these processes includes opportunities for affected parties to identify concerns to the Board on proposed activities.

Finally, the Department of Land's is currently establishing the NWT Surface Rights Board to assist in the resolution of any disputes over land access. The NWT Surface Rights Board will be operational as of April 1, 2016.

No relief was provided under the Bill C-47 Surface Rights Board provisions. NWTAC filed a submission and the resolution to the federal public consultation on the creation of separate NT and NU Mining Regulations (although those legislative changes dealt

primarily with the processes and requirements for claiming staking, rather than location). The issue was referenced in the NWTAC submission on the federal Devolution Act, Bill C-15. Since devolution, NWTAC has requested information on how the amendments could be pursued now that the GNWT has control of the applicable legislation. NWTAC is awaiting a GNWT response.

November 2016 Update:

The GNWT response dated September 13, 2016 identified that the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment has a mandate to promote industry and investment in a responsible manner for the benefit of all residents. While ITI respects the concerns raised by the NWTAC, ITI has concerns about the NWTAC Resolution's proposal to give municipalities control over whether claim staking can occur within municipal boundaries. The Yellowknife area has produced over 15 million ounces of gold that predominantly fall within the current municipal boundaries. In addition, geologically favourable rocks with high mineral potential exist within these current municipal boundaries. In the Yellowknife area there are active claims, some historic but many recent with active exploration programs underway. Several recipients of ITI's Mining Incentive Program have projects within Yellowknife's municipal boundaries. This program was created to enhance mineral exploration in the NWT.

From ITI's perspective, the elimination of the ability to explore and stake claims within municipal boundaries would send mixed messages to NWT residents. If stakeholders have concerns about the impacts of proposed land uses, they are encouraged to make their views known through the regulatory process. The regulatory boards welcome input from the public.

January 2018 Update

GNWT Response dated September 2017

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) understands and respects the concerns raised by the NWT Association of Communities. However, ITI continues to support the current legislation and is opposed to giving municipalities' discretionary control over the staking of mineral claims within municipal boundaries. ITI does not anticipate changing its position with regard to this issue and considers the resolution closed.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT – No change in response.

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RA-19-06-04

Building Inspectors

WHEREAS construction of new buildings both residential and commercial is done on an on-going basis in the NWT

AND WHEREAS structural integrity and occupant safety is a primary concern;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GNWT create positions of building inspectors in all regions.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

GNWT Response: In January 2013, MACA and Public Works and Services engaged the NWT Construction Association, the NWT Architects' Association, the NWTAC and the Consulting Engineers of the NWT to obtain their views about the building standards regulatory environment in the NWT. Stemming from those meetings, stakeholders indicated additional time was necessary to study the topic and to provide meaningful input. Since then, MACA has not received any further comments and will follow up with stakeholders in the summer of 2014.

November 2016 Update:

Further to the previous response, the GNWT added in September 2016 that in winter 2013, MACA met with industry stakeholders to discuss gaps in the current regulatory environment involving construction in the NWT. This effort signaled a need for stakeholders to discuss the topic among themselves before submitting feedback. In the fall of 2014, MACA reached out again to solicit stakeholder views concerning the nature and scope of the problem. No comments have been received since 2014 and MACA remains available should stakeholders wish to re-engage.

In summer 2016, MACA will release a discussion paper to help identify proposed amendments to the Fire Prevention Act. Through regulation, the FPA adopts the national model codes and it is through this effort that further comments concerning building inspections in the NWT will be invited.

The NWTAC actively supported the dissemination of these updated Plan Review Guidelines by featuring the changes and links in the E-News.

**January 2018 Update
GNWT Response dated September 28, 2017**

Since engaging stakeholders in 2013, the GNWT has not been able to form an adequate policy basis to justify creation of a building inspections regime in the NWT.

A second, more targeted round of consultation will occur in fall 2017 and it is the GNWT's goal to complete an update to the FPA during the 18th Legislative Assembly.

The Department of Infrastructure now serves the communities of the Northwest Territories by utilizing two Regional Inspection Offices. Inuvik has one Gas/Boiler Inspector and one Electrical Inspector. Hay River has the same staffing levels as Inuvik Yellowknife has Electrical, Gas, Boiler and Elevator Inspectors that serve the North Slave Region and will travel throughout the North to support regional operations when required.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT.

Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) has received many comments from stakeholders on the topic of code compliance and building standards over the past several years, which has presented a variety of recommendations. For example, some stakeholders indicate code compliance should be left entirely up to professionals, while others feel improved safety is necessary through a mature building inspection regime. Members of the Legislative Assembly have also raised the question of building standards legislation in the context of public safety and energy efficiency.

Recent consultation on the Fire Prevention Act has confirmed a need for a focused discussion on this topic. As such, MACA will re-engage residents, elected officials and stakeholders in 2018-2019, on how other jurisdictions in Canada manage code compliance, with a view to determining what approach is most suitable for the Northwest Territories; and how to effectively harmonize code review activities with other related territorial and municipal regulatory functions.

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RA-19-98-12 Limiting the time available to the Territorial Assessment Appeal Tribunal to reach a decision

WHEREAS the current provisions of the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* provide for the establishment of a Territorial Assessment Appeal Tribunal; and

WHEREAS the Tribunal has historically experienced some delays in hearing appeals on property assessments, thereby causing some delays in concluding taxation claims against properties subject to appeals; and

WHEREAS this uncertainty has continued in some instances for more than one year because of delays in hearing appeals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWTAC petition the GNWT to amend the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* such that the Tribunal be granted a period of no more than six months from the time of the deadline of appeals during which it must rule on said appeals.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

MACA has previously said that a review of the legislation would take place during this four-year Legislative Assembly term.

GNWT Response: A legislative review of the Property Tax Assessment and Taxation Act will not take place during the sitting of the 17th Assembly, and is not on MACA's list of legislative priorities. Due to the limited capacity of the Department to perform the work that is required to develop new or amend legislation, it has become necessary for MACA to prioritize its legislative initiatives. It has been MACA's long-standing policy to engage stakeholders and communities on any legislative work done by the Department and MACA will notify the NWTAC of any future consultations with regards to the revision of the PATA.

November 2016 Update:

GNWT Response September 2016:

MACA has recognized that the Property Assessment and Taxation Act is in need of review and updating. The Act is included on MACA's list of legislation requiring review. Unfortunately the list of legislation that MACA would like to review is lengthy, and will take some time to accomplish. Once the Act is scheduled, MACA will ensure that the Territorial Assessment Appeal Tribunal provisions are included in that review.

January 2018 Update

GNWT Response dated September 28, 2017

No new information on this issue from official response.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

Due in part to capacity, but also due to the number of Acts that MACA administers, it has become necessary for MACA to prioritize its legislative initiatives. During this year's NWT Association of Communities AGM, MACA did facilitate an interactive session with delegates to begin to gather input on legislation issues impacting community governments. This is the beginning of an engagement process that will contribute to establishing legislative priorities for the 19th Legislative Assembly.

MACA is aware that the NWT Association of Communities has passed as many as eight (8) resolutions that may impact the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. This is important feedback that will be considered, not only as we set priorities, but also once we begin the legislative review process.

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