

NEW RESOLUTIONS

2019-01 Taltson Hydro Project

The GNWT is committed to improving energy affordability, energy security and energy sustainability for transportation, heat, and electricity while providing support to energy efficiency and conservation, and promoting renewable and alternative energy solutions for the NWT.

The GNWT will continue to engage directly with communities and Indigenous organizations to encourage participation, partnership and empowerment when proposing and undertaking energy solutions as it implements the 2030 Energy Strategy.

The GNWT welcomes NWTAC comments and suggestions with respect to furthering a solution to effectively distribute clean energy from the Taltson Hydro project to Yellowknife and other key points in the Northwest Territories.

2019-02 Duty to Consult

The duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations is a GNWT responsibility. Municipalities can aid the GNWT's consultation process by engaging with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations early in their planning processes. The GNWT encourages the municipalities of the NWT to continue their good efforts of having strong working relationships with the Indigenous people of the NWT.

By having continual engagement and strong working relationships with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, municipalities can help identify and resolve potential issues, minimize future issues, and explore opportunities for collaboration and cooperation.

Municipal engagement will aid the GNWT consultation efforts helping to ensure a well informed and timely consultation process. No amendment of GNWT legislation is required for municipalities to continue their ongoing engagement efforts.

MACA requires communities to host public meetings as part of compliance with the Community Planning Act, the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Charters Act and the Hamlet Act.

Currently MACA is undertaking the duty to consult consultation for community plans prior to approval by the Minister. As this is early stage for consultation work, MACA will retain the responsibility.

2019-03 Alternative Voting Methods

A legislative review of the Local Elections Authorities 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. MACA has engaged with NWTAC and LGANT to begin to gather input on legislation issues impacting community governments. This will contribute to establishing legislative priorities for the 19th Legislative Assembly.

MACA is aware that these type of voting methods are being reviewed and considered in other jurisdictions and document this resolution for when the LAEA is reviewed.

2019-04 Cannabis Revenue Sharing

The GNWT share of the 2018-19 federal excise tax revenues is estimated at \$122,000, which at this rate would be \$300,000 for a full year.

The GNWT would encourage the NWTAC to provide the specific incremental costs faced by communities resulting from the legalization of cannabis.

2019-05 Post- Secondary Education- Transformation

The process of establishing a clear vision and goals for post-secondary education has included input from residents and stakeholders across the NWT.

During March and April 2019, the department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) hosted and widely advertised a public survey that provided the opportunity for broad input and the sharing of ideas about the future of post-secondary education in the territory.

Together with the public survey a Speaker Series on Post-Secondary Education was also organized to promote dialogue on post-secondary education in the NWT. ECE invited Indigenous governments, industry representatives, and academic and research organizations to participate and speak to the future of post-secondary education. Nine speaking events were held between Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife and the majority of these events were recorded and then made accessible online for those unable to attend in-person.

Survey input will be compiled and will shape the development of a vision statement and goals for the post-secondary education system in the NWT.

2019-06 Carbon Pricing

The GNWT's proposed approach to recycling carbon tax revenue was approved in the 2019-20 Budget and includes:

- Heating Fuel Rebate - for residents, governments and business entities with less than 50 kilotonnes of annual greenhouse gas emissions, heating fuel will be 100 per cent rebated at the point of purchase.
- Electrical Power Producers Rebate - Northwest Territories Power Corporation and other power producers will be provided with an annual rebate of carbon tax paid on non-motive diesel purchased for generating electricity for distribution. This rebate will insulate municipalities from increased electricity costs that would otherwise result from the carbon tax on diesel used to generate electricity.
- Cost of Living Offset (COLO) – this tax-free benefit would be provided quarterly to all NWT residents. This benefit would increase annually as NWT carbon tax rates are increased.
- Large Emitters (50 kilotonnes or more annual greenhouse gas emissions) Offset in two parts:
 - an annual rebate for 75 per cent of the carbon tax collected on non-motive diesel and heating fuel and
 - 25 per cent of the carbon tax collected on non-motive diesel and heating fuel held in individualized trust accounts that will be able to be accessed for investments by each entity that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The GNWT continues to prioritize investments in alternative energy options to provide reliable, affordable alternatives to carbon-intensive fuels for communities and businesses.

The Department of Finance intends to provide an annual report on carbon pricing: raised revenues, rebate expenditures, and the investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This report will also be included in the Climate Change Strategy action plan reporting requirements.

2019-07 Aurora College Transition to Polytechnic University

The Government Response to the Findings and Recommendations of the Aurora College Foundational Review (Government Response) commits to the development of an Academic Program Review Framework.

For Aurora College to become an accredited polytechnic university it is critical that a system is in place to regularly and effectively review programs and that it meets national standards and best practices.

As articulated in the Government Response, all Aurora College programs will be reviewed under the new Academic Program Review Framework and the first programs to be reviewed will be the Social Work Diploma and Bachelor of Education Programs.

2019-08 Infrastructure Funding Shortfall

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

Applications for the new Federal Investing In Canada Program are being evaluated to take into account capital shortfalls. The gap identified during the formula review has been considered 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.

MACA is using 2019 information from the NORCIX program to update the capital asset listing for community governments and will be using this information to further assist communities with planning and future budget increases. MACA will be publishing a Municipal Funding Strategy in 2019 that will include information about how MACA will address infrastructure funding through a long term approach.

2019-09 Multiyear Funding

MACA adheres to the provisions of the Community Government Funding Policy, and the *Financial Administration Act* to guide the administration of municipal funding agreements.

Under this legislative and policy base, multi-year agreements are permissible, and MACA has used these in the past to administer funding with non-government organizations.

It is essential to note, that any funding allocations contained within a multi-year funding agreement are always subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly through the process to approve annual Budget. Accordingly, any commitments to future year funding can always be changed through the budget approval process, so no future year funding should be viewed as a formal commitment to fund.

At best, multi-year agreements provide a basis for community governments to plan for the future. However, should funding allocations for future years be included in a multi-year agreement, these numbers could always change, for example through Forced Growth increases. As such, community governments could only plan notionally on any future year allocations.

MACA would be prepared to discuss the potential for multi-year funding agreements with the NWTAC on this basis. It would be important to understand the community government operational needs within this context.

For any programs that are administered through an annual call for applications, multi-year funding agreements would not be possible.

2019-10 Climate Change Adaptation

Building resilience and adapting to a changing climate is one of three goals outlined in the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework, released in May 2018. Actions needed to meet this goal are reflected in the 2030 NWT Climate Changes Strategic Framework 2019-2023 Action Plan (the 2019-2023 Action Plan) which was released April 3, 2019. This is the first of two five-year action plans to implement the Strategic Framework and several actions focused on resilience and adaptation identified under Goal #3.

A collaborative partnership-based approach will be needed to fully implement the 2019-2023 Action Plan. ENR welcomed the opportunity to participate in the planning and delivery of the NWTAC's 2018 NWT Climate Change Forum and Charrette, and looks forward to working closely with the NWTAC on climate change adaptation actions going forward.

Specific responses to climate change adaptation resolution 2019-10-A through 2019-10-I are provided below.

2019-10-A Climate Change Models and Forecasting for each NWT Community

Although this resolution is directed to Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Centre for Climate Services (ECCC CCCS) it is notes that ECCC CCCS and ENR are co-leads for action items 2.5C of the 2019-2023 Action Plan – Develop a plan for a northern climate hub to support delivery of climate services and products.

ENR agrees accurate models and forecasts are needed to support community planning and therefore will continue to work closely with ECCC CCCS to support the development of a northern climate hub and the dissemination of relevant climate services and products.

2019-10-B Permafrost

The NWTHC follows all appropriate municipal by-laws and processes when developing any new housing infrastructure. Further, the NWTHC is supporting the development of 33 community housing plans, one for each community, which will have a detailed analysis of housing need in the community and list the housing priorities of leadership, residents and stakeholders. Through this process the NWTHC would also be engaging with community proponents on their knowledge of known areas of soil erosion or permafrost degradation.

The NWTHC also relies on other GNWT departments as well as scientific agencies to gather and analyze information on known erosion or permafrost degradation areas to determine possible solutions when constructing or repairing NWTHC assets. In terms of adaptation, the NWTHC utilizes where appropriate, adjustable foundation designs such as space frames, pads and wedges and screw jack systems.

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.

MACA will continue to work with other GNWT departments to promote awareness and education regarding impacts of permafrost loss. MACA supports the Northern Infrastructure Standards Initiative which does create a standard for drainage. MACA will also continue to work with Public Safety Canada to support changes in funding programs that support planning efforts for disaster mitigation and adaptation.

2019-10-C Hazard Mapping

As outlined in action items 3.12A of the 2019-2023 Action Plan, ENR is the lead for the design of a community hazard mapping program. NWTAC is a key partner along with MACA and other GNWT departments, community governments and the federal government.

An advisory team is in place to guide the development of the hazard mapping program and the NWTAC's participation on this advisory team is extremely valuable. Securing funds to support this program is a priority for ENR. Federal funding will be pursued to support the capacity of the GNWT to better prepare the territory to adapt to climate change will enable the design of the community hazard mapping program.

Providing relevant hazard mapping outreach and training tools, and opportunities to support communities with their hazard mapping priorities is necessary. The advisory team can further discuss and plan for the development and dissemination of such outreach and training tools and discuss appropriate community engagement mechanisms to determine specific hazard mapping needs.

MACA will also continue to work with Public Safety Canada to encourage changes in funding programs that support planning efforts for disaster mitigation and adaptation.

2019-10-D Governance and Leadership on Climate Change in the GNWT

As outlined in the 2019-2023 Action Plan, ENR is the lead department for climate change in the GNWT. As the lead, the Minister of ENR oversees the implementation of the Action Plan. ENR will continue to work collaboratively within the GNWT and with external partners to provide overall leadership, coordination and guidance on climate change issues throughout the territory. The Action Plan highlights the GNWT's internal guidance mechanisms, including multi-level interdepartmental climate change committees, such as:

- A Director-level Climate Change Working Group formed in 2018, chaired by ENR;
- An Assistant Deputy Ministers' Climate Change Committee, chaired by ENR;
- A Deputy Ministers' Energy and Climate Change Committee; and
- A Ministerial Energy and Climate Change Committee of Cabinet.

All play key roles across departments in seeking funding, establishing partnerships and sharing information on the implementation of NWT climate change priorities.

ENR's Climate Change and Air Quality Unit, housed under the new Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Division, is responsible for coordinating cross-GNWT

implementation of the Action Plan and reporting on progress towards meeting the goals identified within the Framework. Working with the NWTAC and other partners to explore external funding sources that can support climate change adaptation in the NWT is critical and ENR looks forward to bolstering current partnerships and developing new partnerships to strengthen and build capacity within the territory to adapt to climate change.

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2019-10-E Climate Change Secretariat or Network

Establishing external guidance mechanisms to foster collaboration is an action area identified in the 2019-2023 Action Plan. As per action item 4.3A – Develop options for the establishment of an NWT climate change council or advisory body – work will be undertaken to outline options for the NWT. This will be informed by a review of approaches and models using in territories, provinces and other jurisdictions as well as current structures in place for guiding committees, councils and advisory bodies in the NWT.

As the lead for this action item, ENR will continue to engage with Indigenous and community governments, industry, non-government organizations and other potential partners in the implementation of the Action Plan to seek input on desired approaches and mechanisms to guide the implementation of the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework.

Addressing the recommendations outlined in the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's 2017 report on climate change in the NWT is a priority and numerous ENR-led action items outlined in the 2019-23 Action Plan, will be undertaken to achieve these recommendations. As reflected in the response to Resolution 2019-10-D, ENR has and is continuing to take a leadership role in addressing climate change in the NWT.

2019-10-F Research

The Knowledge Agenda Action Plan establishes and objective of supporting a territory-wide Knowledge Agenda. This objective is supported by Key Action 17, which is to assess knowledge gaps across the NWT. The Knowledge Agenda Action Plan will address this Key Action through two associated tasks:

- Developing a plan to engage with communities on a territory-wide research strategy or agenda for the NWT, and
- Facilitating university collaboration with Aurora College and the GNWT and grow knowledge-based programs, education needs and knowledge capacity throughout the NWT.

Key Action 15 of the Knowledge Agenda Action Plan aims to improve the ways in which researchers communicate results of their work back to decision makers with all levels of government in the NWT. Task associated with this objective include:

- Providing communities with a list of departmental contacts who can provide information on various areas of research supported by the GNWT;
- Developing a common reporting mechanism for GNWT and external researchers to summarize program results in plain language; and
- Developing and evaluating web-based dashboards and other tools which highlights research into Knowledge Agenda priorities and development of options for improving how plain language research result summaries are delivered to NWT communities.

2019-10-G Bridging the Community Capacity Gap

The GNWT will actively explore internal and external funding possibilities to address the comprehensive needs of the NWT communities in adapting to climate change.

Appropriate capacity will be needed to support and sustain the implementation of the 2019-2023 Action Plan on climate change, both within the GNWT and the Indigenous and community governments. To this end, a number of action items within the Action Plan focus specifically on capacity building and supporting communities and NWT residents. These action items are outlined in action areas 4.5, 4.6, and 4.7 to support community-based monitoring efforts, provide training for Indigenous and community governments, and support adaptation planning.

The Community Government Funding Policy provides the authority to Councils to determine their own priorities and MACA has support for strategic planning and budgeting. There are no barriers for communities to set aside monies and communities are encouraged to assess their needs in the areas of climate change and sustainability. MACA Capital Planning staff also promote this approach through the capital planning process.

The NWT has developed a climate change strategy with specific areas that MACA is working with communities in the areas of emergency management, capacity building and infrastructure planning.

2019-10-H Emergency Management Plans

The new territorial *Emergency Management Act* requires communities to update their emergency plans annually. MACA works with community governments to update plans and to improve their capacity through workshops and table-top-exercises at a community's request. The GNWT's emergency management approach incorporates key considerations associated with climate change.

MACA intends to work closely with community governments in 2019-2020 to update the NWT Hazard Identification Risk Assessment, which will help establish a good understanding of the risks, and possible mitigation and preparedness measures necessary to respond to climate change. This effort will also permit the GNWT to establish suitable programming, and encourage the federal government to do likewise. It is important that the territorial NWT Hazard Identification Risk Assessment and local workshops take into consideration traditional knowledge of past events and a changing climate. This approach is critical in understanding how to maximize the value from available resources and to help residents become aware of potential risks.

The GNWT also supports community governments who are developing projects to address specific climate changes risks by supporting specific mitigation options. MACA continues to work with Public Safety Canada by encouraging changes in funding programs that support planning efforts for disaster mitigation and adaptation.

MACA also continues to support implementation of the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework. Related activities in the Strategy include, support for improved community participation in research and monitoring initiatives, the completion of hazard mapping for vulnerable communities, increased monitoring of climate change impacts on community shorelines, transportation system assets and building foundations, and improved wildfire suppression planning and adoption of FireSmart principles in communities.

2019-10-I Adaptation Plans

The need to support regional or community adaptation planning and implementation of adaptation initiatives is highlighted in action item 4.7 of the 2019-2023 Action Plan and is a priority for the GNWT.

See response to resolution 2019-10-C Hazard mapping. An advisory team is in place to guide the development of the hazard mapping program and NWTAC's participation in this team is extremely valuable. Federal funding will be pursued to support the capacity of the GNWT to better prepare the territory to adapt to climate change will enable the design of the community hazard mapping program.

The GNWT also supports community governments who are developing projects to address specific climate changes risks by supporting specific mitigation options. MACA continues to work with Public Safety Canada by encouraging changes in funding programs that support planning efforts for disaster mitigation and adaptation.

2019-11 Improved Sharing of Data for Community Energy Use

The fuel volume data that is collected by the Department of Finance Tax Administration for the fuel and carbon tax collection purposes will be compiled by, and made available through, the Bureau of Statistics on an annual basis.

2019-12 Navigator for Energy Funding and Involvement in Funding Discussions

The 2030 Energy Strategy, the Energy Action Plan, and the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework were developed through extensive joint public engagements that included regional workshops with residents, communities, businesses, Indigenous governments and other stakeholders across the NWT.

GNWT-led projects are primarily prioritized in the 2030 Energy Strategy in terms of cost effectiveness such as greenhouse gas reduced per dollar invested. There are other factors as well, and the GNWT has to balance competing and often shifting factors in its decision making. The GNWT also consider the following factors for GNWT-led projects:

- Community and Indigenous government engagement, participation, involvement and approval
- Energy security and reliability
- Energy affordability
- Project complexity and likelihood of success
- Stakeholder and community interests and needs

The GNWT will be annually updating its three-year Energy Action Plan based on changing circumstances to transparently inform the public. The GNWT will also report annually on progress to remain accountable. We welcome input from communities about their priorities and what they would like to see in the Energy Action Plan.

The GNWT undertakes appropriate community engagement before major energy projects are advanced. GNWT will always attempt to accommodate a community's request to take part in a GNWT or utility led project.

If communities wish to lead their own energy projects, there is a significant amount of funding available through the GNWT's Government GHG Grant Program, the Arctic Energy Alliance community funding, and through the Community Energy Efficiency Upgrades funded under federal Infrastructure programs administered through Municipal and Community Affairs, as well as through federal sources such as Natural Resources Canada and CanNor.

The GNWT and the Arctic Energy Alliance currently take an active role in supporting communities in reaching their energy-related goals and objectives. If a community wishes to apply for GNWT and Arctic Energy Alliance funding, the community can ask for support and it will be provided, including advice on which fund would be most appropriate.

Should a community wish to apply for federal funding, the GNWT and the AEA are available to provide advice on where to apply and letters of support, as well as some technical support as appropriate for both the application process and for project implementation.

2019-13 Resourcing to Deal With Backlog of Legislative Amendments

During the term of the 18th Legislative Assembly, Municipal and Community Affairs successfully brought forward amendments to more legislation than any other previous term of the government.

In March 2018, Amendments were made to the *Western Canada Lottery Act* to bring the operations of this program within government to prevent a loss of revenue to taxation.

In November 2018, Amendments were completed to modernize the *Emergency Management Act*. In addition, the Territorial Emergency Plan has also been updated.

In November 2018, Amendments were completed to the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* to allow for the introduction of energy efficiency retrofit programs, and to support the introduction of a hotel tax. This legislative initiative was in direct response to a formal request from the City of Yellowknife, and in response to Resolution RA-13-03 (Energy Efficiency Retrofits) and RA-18-10-02 (Hotel Levy).

In March 2019, the 18th Legislative Assembly approved the new legislation *Northwest Territories 9-1-1 Act*, which will allow MACA to introduce the new 9-1-1 Service to all residents later in 2019.

MACA is also continuing its efforts to bring forward amendments under the *Fire Prevention Act*. MACA has identified the need for further engagement and research to determine the

amendments to be included in the Bill and Regulations. As a result, MACA will not be able to complete amendments to this legislation during the time of the 18th Assembly.

In 2018, MACA engaged with members of the NWT Association of Communities, and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT on potential future legislative priorities. While these efforts did not identify clear priorities for future amendments to legislation, MACA is interested in pursuing legislative amendments that will address the largest issues facing community governments.

MACA encourages the NWTAC to engage with their members, to identify and prioritize legislative amendments in order to inform the 19th Legislative Assembly who will establish the mandate of the next government.

The capacity of MACA to bring forward legislative amendments will always be restricted. An important element of any legislative initiative is the full engagement with community governments at a pace at which they can provide meaningful input to both issue identification and potential solutions. Accordingly, to update all legislation would exceed both the capacity of MACA, as well as the community governments that the legislation serves.

2019-14 Importance of Local/ Regional School Programs to Ensure Future Success

This resolution is addressed to the Auditor General of Canada, and therefore the Government of the Northwest Territories is not able to provide a response.

RE-AFFIRMED RESOLUTIONS

RA -19-18-01 Energy

The GNWT has released the final NWT 2030 Energy Strategy and the first annual three-year rolling Action Plan, which itemizes all of the actions to be undertaken to implement the Strategy. The GNWT will publicly release its second annual rolling three-year Action Plan this summer, which will include reporting on actions undertaken last year.

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.

RA-19-18-02 Economic Development Policy

As described in the 2018 response, 2018 saw the GNWT facilitate various opportunities to allow community governments and the northern business sector provide input that will help foster new ideas on economic development and the benefits that come with economic growth.

Building on the success of the 2018 NWT Economic Symposium in Inuvik, a 2019 NWT Economic Partners' Collaboration Symposium is planned to be held June 19 in Yellowknife.

The 2019 NWT Economic Partners' Collaboration Symposium will focus on working together to make a bigger NWT economy by building and strengthening working relationships to achieve improved investor confidence and to discuss resource development streams of opportunities and benefits.

RA-19-18-03 Wildfires

Twenty nine Community Wildfire Protection Plans were updated in 2019. Recommendations from these Plans will be shared with each community to help facilitate implementation.

Environment and Natural Resources continues to work 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.

Work is underway to improve integration of wildfire hazard assessment and community emergency planning with a view to better safeguarding municipal infrastructure and residents, and ensuring effective response measures.

Community governments may also use federal gas tax funds, as well as Community Public Infrastructure Funding to undertake new firebreak initiatives which are supported by a FireSmart Plan.

RA-19-18-04 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

The NWT HC has begun a review of all GNWT homelessness supports with an objective of the development of an overall GNWT homelessness strategy. It is anticipated that the strategy will identify areas where GNWT services and supports to end homelessness can be further improved. Alignment of initiatives between the GNWT and the City of Yellowknife will be an important aspect of the homelessness strategy going forward.

RA-19-18-05 Waste Management

The Government of the NWT has developed a 10-year road map for improving waste resource management throughout the NWT is nearing completion. The Waste Resource Management Strategy and Implementation Plan (the Strategy) was approved in spring 2019. This Strategy includes goals and actions to achieve greater waste reduction and diversion, including the creation of more territory—wide waste reduction and recycling programs, as well as increasing composting as addressed in this resolution.

In the process of developing the Strategy, the GNWT engaged Indigenous and community governments, including the NWTAC; business, industry; institutions; and the public. A Water Resource Advisory Panel (WRAP) was created in collaboration with the NWTAC. WRAP includes staff-level representation from a cross-section of NWT communities that reflect the different realities faced by communities of varying sizes, accessibility, and capacity. It also includes members from the GNWT (ENR and MACA) and the NWTAC. This panel was invited to provide input on the Strategy as it was being developed, and will play an integral part in the Strategy's implementation.

How waste is managed 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.

RA-19-18-06 MACA Funding Formula

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.

Applications on the next round of Federal Infrastructure Funding 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.

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.

MACA will be publishing a Municipal Funding Strategy in 2019 that will include information about how MACA will address infrastructure funding through a long term approach. Through this strategy, MACA will also be updating the Community Public Infrastructure Policy.

RA-19-18-07 Urban Indigenous Definition

The GNWT recognizes that the definition of Urban Indigenous People can be complicated when working with the 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.

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

The GNWT is currently focusing 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 completion and opening of the Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway (ITH) represents a significant milestone for the NWT. The highway is considered the northernmost section of an envisioned Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH), which will provide all-weather access from Wrigley to the Arctic Coast, and the ITH 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 ITH 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 GNWT's Mandate 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 (TASR), the extension of the MVH, and the Slave Geological Province (SGP) Corridor.

The GNWT has continued to work closely with the Tlicho Government (TG) and the Community of Whati as the TASR 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 Gamètì and Wekweètì. This regulatory permitting process is now underway and construction is expected to commence in the fall of 2019.

The TASR was undertaken as a Public Private Partnership (P3) to Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Maintain the asset over approximately a 3-year construction period and 25-year operating period. One of the key objectives of the project is Tlicho/Northern involvement over the life of the project. This objective is being achieved through two angles; 1) A dedicated schedule within the executed project agreement that outlines key business, employment and training targets to support a strong northern workforce and 2) TG partnering with Kiewit Canada Development (KCD) as an equity partner on the project (KCD 80% and TG 20%). We believe this is the first North American P3 with an Indigenous government as an equity investor.

In June 2018, the federal government approved \$102.5 million to advance the MVH under the National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF). The GNWT has committed \$37.5 million to the project, bringing the total investment to \$140 million.

The GNWT has applied for funding for environmental and planning for the SGP Corridor and replacement of the Frank Channel Bridge under the NTCF. Decisions on these applications are expected by June 2019.

The NWTAC provided letters of support for the GNWT's applications under the NTCF for the MVH and the SGP Corridor. As the GNWT moves forward with the development of the MVH and SGP Corridor, it will continue to engage Indigenous groups and work with them to take advantage of the benefits that the projects will bring.

In April 2019, the GNWT signed a MOU with the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, which sets out how the parties will work together in collaboration to advance the MVH through the environmental reviews and regulatory processes.

RA-19-18-09 Funding for Sport and Recreation Travel

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.

Further information is available through regional MACA offices.

RA-19-18-10 Highway Rescue and Ambulance Services

Since fall 2017, the GNWT has been working with stakeholders to develop an action plan to improve development and maintenance of the NWT's ground ambulance and highway rescue system.

Although work was delayed briefly in early 2018, research and consultation has been completed and MACA expects to advance a report and action plan in 2019-2020.

The GNWT conducted a two-day focus session with stakeholders in October 2018, which provided valuable information about community priorities and pressures.

While immediate interests centre on funding for service delivery on territorial highways, other priorities include standardization; inter-agency coordination; improved integration with the health system; cost-recovery; liability protection; and addressing un-serviced areas.

MACA anticipates sharing the research report and draft action plan with stakeholders and Members of the Legislative Assembly prior to implementation.

Approximately \$2.1 million has been provided to community governments over the past ten years to support ground ambulance and highway rescue service delivery on territorial highways. Subject to the results of the Action Plan project, the funding program will be updated in 2019-2020 to help address funding pressures experienced by communities.

The GNWT remains committed to working with key stakeholders to develop an effective ground ambulance and highway rescue response capacity for the NWT.

RA-19-18-11 Fire Prevention Act

The review of the *Fire Prevention Act* is included in the 18th Legislative Assembly Mandate.

MACA has identified the need for further engagement and research to determine the amendments to be included in the Bill and Regulations. As a result, MACA will not be able to complete amendments to this legislation during the time of the 18th Assembly.

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 the adopted codes and standards.

MACA has identified the need to engage further with GNWT departments, community governments and professional associations to determine a legislative approach for harmonized regulatory authority that is suitable for the Northwest Territories.

This scope of work will consider other related inspection, permitting and code compliance activities administered by municipal authorities and GNWT departments, with a view to encourage an integrated approach to code compliance in the NWT.

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

The Department of Lands continues to actively work 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 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.

RA-19-18-13 Making Homelessness a Priority

Further to the response for RA-19-18-04, the NWT HC intends to complete its review of all GNWT homelessness supports in 2019-20 and develop a GNWT Homelessness Strategy.

RA-19-18-14 Health Act

The Department of Health and Social Services is working with the Department of Justice to amend the Public Pool Regulations under the *Public Health Act* 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 2019.

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 lifeguards satisfies national standards and continues to provide for the safety of pool patrons.

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

During the term of the 18th Legislative Assembly, Municipal and Community Affairs successfully brought forward amendments to more legislation than any other previous term of the government.

In 2018, MACA engaged with members of the NWT Association of Communities, and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT on potential future legislative priorities. While these efforts did not identify clear priorities for future amendments to legislation, MACA is interested in pursuing legislative amendments that will address the largest issues facing community governments.

MACA encourages the NWTAC to engage with their members, so identify and prioritize legislative amendments in order to inform the 19th Legislative Assembly who will establish the mandate of the next government.

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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

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RA-19-18-17 Communication from GNWT Regarding Significant Activities and Visits to a Community

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.

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

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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

The Department is currently assessing revenues under the MVA and will be working with municipal enforcement agencies to determine their volumes of responses to look into the potential of splitting revenue in a fair and practical manner. Once this assessment is complete, a recommendation will be put forward.

RA-19-17-05 Shoreline Erosion

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 any funding opportunities related to mitigation programs. MACA continues to work with Public Safety Canada by encouraging changes in funding programs that support planning efforts for disaster mitigation and adaptation.

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.

RA-19-15-03 Territorial Ambulance Service

Since fall 2017, the GNWT has been working with stakeholders to develop an action plan to improve development and maintenance of the NWT's ground ambulance and highway rescue system. It is the GNWT's intention to strengthen support the current system which is comprised of municipal services.

Although work was delayed briefly in early 2018, research and consultation has been completed and MACA expects to advance a report and action plan in 2019-2020.

The GNWT conducted a two-day focus session with stakeholders in October 2018, which provided valuable information about community priorities and pressures.

While immediate interests centre on funding for service delivery on territorial highways, other priorities include standardization; inter-agency coordination; improved integration with the health system; cost-recovery; liability protection; and addressing un-serviced areas.

MACA anticipates sharing the research report and draft action plan with stakeholders and Members of the Legislative Assembly prior to implementation.

Approximately \$2.1 million has been provided to community governments over the past ten years to support ground ambulance and highway rescue service delivery on territorial highways. Subject to the results of the Action Plan project, the funding program will be updated in 2019-2020 to help address funding pressures experienced by communities.

The GNWT remains committed to working with key stakeholders to develop an effective ground ambulance and highway rescue response capacity for the NWT.

RA-19-15-05 Community Funding Review

MACA will continue to work with community governments and the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) on implementing 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 the analysis is updated on a regular basis so that any funds that are secured are distributed equitably based on need. MACA has updated the analysis in 2019, which will be included in the Municipal Funding Strategy to be released later this year.

RA-19-15-06 ATIPP Legislation for Communities

Bill 29: *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Privacy Protection Act (ATIPP)* received ascent in the Legislative Assembly on June 6, 2019. As part of the review of this Bill, the Standing Committee on Government Operations held public hearings in Fort Smith, Inuvik, Fort McPherson and Yellowknife. During the Public Hearing in Yellowknife in January 2019, both the City of Yellowknife, and the NWTAC presented to Standing Committee.

This Bill includes bringing community governments under the ATIPP Act in a staged approach. The timing of when the ATIPP will be made applicable to community governments has not been determined.

MACA and DOJ will establish a working group with representatives from the NWTAC and LGANT to review and assess capacity regarding the implementation of community governments inclusion under the ATIPP Act.

The GNWT will use feedback from the working group to prepare a realistic and measured implementation plan to address the training needs and resource requirements of community governments.

RA-19-15-07 CRTC Review of Telecoms

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 broadband matters with the potential to impact Northerners.

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

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (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. At the territorial level, MACA regularly works with its partners in Yukon and Nunavut and finds this relationship valuable.

MACA supports municipal associations working together for this purpose and would be able to participate in this meeting where appropriate, but given the fiscal environment, MACA does not anticipate that the GNWT will be able to offer any financial assistance to support this meeting.

RA-19-14-01 Fees for Households in the GTA

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) has the responsibility to assess lands and improvements across the Northwest Territories (NWT) in accordance with the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* and the Property Assessment Regulations. The Department of Finance is responsible for establishing mill rates and the collection of property taxes for territorial purposes on an annual basis, also in accordance with the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*. These tax revenues go into general revenues and are allocated to Government of the Northwest Territories (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.

Households living in proximity to tax-based community governments do not receive the same municipal services, such as: 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 households within 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. 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.

Should the review of the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* be deemed a priority for the 19th Legislative Assembly, MACA would be prepared to review this request.

RA-19-14-02 Homelessness

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has made it a priority to address homelessness and continues to commit to the goal of ending homelessness. Increasing the availability of safe, affordable housing and creating solutions for addressing homelessness is a priority of the 18th Assembly.

The GNWT continues its collaborative work within departments such as Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the NWT Housing Corporation under the direction of frameworks 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. This support includes funding for 5 emergency overnight shelters in the NWT, which have had their funding increase by more than 50% in recent years. This funding was administered by ECE and starting in 2019 is coordinated by the NWTHC. In 2019-20, the GNWT is investing an additional \$400,000 in emergency shelters to support their capacity.

The GNWT has been the primary funder and supporter of the Sobering Centre and Day Shelter in Yellowknife since it opened in late September 2018. This initiative is funded and supported by HSS and the NWT Health and Social Services Authority.

Warming shelters are also supported in the communities of Behchoko and Inuvik. The Department also provides funding towards the operation of the Side Door Youth Ministry's Hope's Haven Transition and Emergency Housing and Drop-in programs. These programs recognize the importance of providing supports for individuals who may be homeless and/or dealing with chronic mental health and addictions issues, and who need a safe place to go as an alternative to spending their time on the street.

Social programming such as the Homelessness Assistance Fund (NWTHC), Northern Pathways to Housing (NWTHC), Public Housing (NWTHC), Income Assistance (ECE), Community Wellness (HSS), mental health support (HSS), addiction services (HSS), and

reintegration programs (DOJ) are continued GNWT initiatives towards combatting homelessness.

Lastly, the NWTHC has begun a review of all GNWT homelessness supports with an objective of the development of an overall GNWT homelessness strategy. It is anticipated that the strategy will identify areas where GNWT services and supports to end homelessness can be further improved.

RA-19-14-03 Hazardous Waste Materials in Municipal Land Fills

Managing the stockpiles of hazardous waste in municipal solid waste facilities is a shared responsibility of all three levels of government; federal, territorial and municipal. For its part, the GNWT recognizes the importance of addressing historic stockpiles of hazardous waste in NWT communities, and this has been a key consideration in the development of a Waste Resource Management Strategy and Implementation Plan (the Strategy). This Strategy, which has been designed to be a 10-year road map to improving solid waste management in the NWT, was approved in spring 2019. The NWTAC and staff representatives of a cross section of NWT communities have played an active role in shaping the Strategy to best serve community needs, and will continue to play a vital role in its implementation.

In addition to future actions that will likely stem from the Strategy, MACA and ENR have been working with community governments to clean up their disposal sites, and transition to temporary storage of hazardous waste to prevent the recurrence of stockpiles. These departments will also continue to seek opportunities for coordinated transportation and disposal of hazardous waste at regional scale, and continue to provide necessary support and capacity building for communities to comply with regulatory and other waste management requirements.

In 2018-19, the GNWT provided funding to assist in hazardous waste removal from Uluhaktok, Fort Good Hope, and Tulita.

The issues reaffirmed in RA-19-14-03 continue to be addressed by ENR and MACA as capacity allows. Numerous communities have taken steps with support from ENR and MACA towards removing stockpiles of hazardous waste.

Improving the management of hazardous waste is identified as a priority area for the Waste Resource Management Strategy. MACA and ENR continue engagement with municipal governments throughout the NWT on cleaning up disposal sites and preventing hazardous waste from stockpiling.

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. These 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 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.

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

The Health and Social Services Professions Act (HSSPA) is an umbrella Act that will help protect the public by ensuring regulated professions meet established requirements, standards, and competency levels. The Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) is currently drafting the following profession-specific regulations under the HSSPA. The Emergency Medical Services Provider Regulation will be finalized by the end of 2019. The Naturopathic Practitioner Regulation and Psychologists Regulation will follow after that. The Executive Council is responsible for deciding which professions will be included under the Act. When the Act comes into force by the end of 2019, in accordance with section 2 of the Act, 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. Application procedures will be posted to the HSS website in fall 2019.

RA-19-13-02 Review and Amendment of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act and the Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes Policy

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RA-19-13-03 Highway Rescue Services

Since fall 2017, the GNWT has been working with stakeholders to develop an action plan to improve development and maintenance of the NWT's ground ambulance and highway rescue system. It is the GNWT's intention to strengthen support the current system which is comprised of municipal services.

Although work was delayed briefly in early 2018, research and consultation has been completed and MACA expects to advance a report and action plan in 2019-2020.

The GNWT conducted a two-day focus session with stakeholders in October 2018, which provided valuable information about community priorities and pressures.

While immediate interests centre on funding for service delivery on territorial highways, other priorities include standardization; inter-agency coordination; improved integration with the health system; cost-recovery; liability protection; and addressing un-serviced areas.

MACA anticipates sharing the research report and draft action plan with stakeholders and Members of the Legislative Assembly prior to implementation.

Approximately \$2.1 million has been provided to community governments over the past ten years to support ground ambulance and highway rescue service delivery on territorial highways. Subject to the results of the Action Plan project, the funding program will be updated in 2019-2020 to help address funding pressures experienced by communities.

The GNWT remains committed to working with key stakeholders to develop an effective ground ambulance and highway rescue response capacity for the NWT.

RA-19-12-03 Fiscal Year Legislation

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RA-19-12-09 Ground Ambulance

Since fall 2017, the GNWT has been working with stakeholders to develop an action plan to improve development and maintenance of the NWT's ground ambulance and highway rescue system. It is the GNWT's intention to strengthen support the current system which is comprised of municipal services.

Although work was delayed briefly in early 2018, research and consultation has been completed and MACA expects to advance a report and action plan in 2019-2020.

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In 2018, MACA made changes to the Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Policy to provide greater flexibility for community governments. The GNWT remains committed to working with key stakeholders to develop an effective ground ambulance and highway rescue response capacity for the NWT.

RA-19-11-02 Claim Staking within Municipal Boundaries

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, which includes the requirement for claim holders to obtain consent from surface title holders and lessees, prior to prospecting or staking claim posts. Further, the land use regulatory regime provides opportunities for residents, including municipalities, to raise concerns prior to activities being authorized. As ITI is responsible to administer and manage mineral resources to the benefit of all NWT residents, ITI does not support 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.

RA-19-09-08 Plumbing Inspections

The Government of the Northwest Territories does not have any legislation that could be used to regulate plumbing services. Municipal legislation provides municipal governments with the authority to pass bylaws to adopt in whole or in part, a code such as the National Plumbing Code or standard made or recommended by the Government of the Northwest Territories, Canada or a province.

The City of Yellowknife, for example, requires plumbers and plumbing companies to get a Mechanical Permit when undertaking plumbing work within their municipal boundaries. When applying for the permit, the contractor has to provide sufficient information that the work will conform to Yellowknife's by-laws, the National Building Code and the National Plumbing Code. Inspections are also required by the permit. Municipal governments, therefore, have all the legal authority they require to regulate plumbing work and they can do it by passing a by-law.

RA-19-06-04 Building Inspectors

Concerns about the absence of a robust code compliance system in the NWT to verify building safety for public occupancy in relation to the National Building Code have been raised on several occasions, by municipal authorities, professional associations and the Northwest Territories Association of Communities.

The GNWT is supportive of examining this issue with a view to improving harmonization among related regulatory functions and clarifying roles and responsibilities.

MACA has been mandated to review the *Fire Prevention Act* (FPA) which includes the GNWT's limited regulatory authority in this area through MACA's plan review function. Stakeholder engagement conducted in 2017 on the FPA identified the plan review function as a topic requiring a focused dialogue.

MACA will commence work with key GNWT departments in 2019-2020 to determine an approach that will help the GNWT fully understand the scope and breadth of the problem. A thorough understanding of the problem is crucial in helping to identify viable solutions.

RA-19-98-12 Limiting the Time Available to the Territorial Assessment Appeal Tribunal to Reach a Decision

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.

RA-19-16-03 Child Care

The 18th Legislative Assembly's Mandate was revised in October 2017. The following revised Mandate Commitment no longer references universal and affordable childcare:

Mandate Commitment 3.6.2 - We will improve the accessibility, affordability and inclusivity of child care in the NWT to allow all children aged zero to five to experience an enriching, quality early learning environment, by: Creating an action plan for a phased in approach to making childcare more accessible and affordable.

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

The GNWT continues to invest in quality early childhood development in the NWT. This action plan, which will be renewed in 2020, will continue to build upon existing initiatives and successful actions designed to support the early learning and child care needs of families in the NWT.

The Canada-NWT Bilateral Agreement and Action Plan was designed to build upon actions within the Right from the Start Framework and renewed 2017-2020 Action Plan, as well as align with the GNWT's Mandate for early childhood development. Activities include supporting the development of Early Childhood Educators and students pursuing post-secondary education in early childhood education.

RA-19-17-01 Aurora College Funding

The GNWT remains committed to working collaboratively with Aurora College to ensure that the appropriate support mechanisms are in place for northern students to continue to learn and grow.

The Government Response to the Findings and Recommendations of the Aurora College Foundational Review (Government Response) commits to maintaining an Administrator until such time as a governance structure for the polytechnic university is established. The GNWT is exploring options for increasing collaboration between ECE, the Aurora College Executive Leadership Team, the Aurora College Administrator and the Minister throughout the transformation of Aurora College into a polytechnic university.

The Government Response further commits to the establishment of an Advisory Committee and an Academic Advisory Council to support the work of the Associate Deputy Minister of

Post-Secondary Education Renewal and to provide guidance during the transformation in advance of the implementation of a governance structure for the transformed institution.

RA-19-17-02 TRC Recommendations

The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to move forward with work to implement relevant calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and to work with Indigenous governments through strong government-to-government relationships.

RA-19-17-03 Fiscal Year Resolution

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In 2018, MACA engaged with members of the NWT Association of Communities, and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT on potential future legislative priorities. While these efforts did not identify clear priorities for future amendments to legislation, MACA is interested in pursuing legislative amendments that will address the largest issues facing community governments.

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RA-19-17-06 Untenured Land

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is committed to ensuring that hazard assessment and risk mitigation recommendations are in place to assist all communities in emergency planning. ENR commits to working with other GNWT departments and communities on mitigating risk on Commissioner's Lands.

RA-19-17-07 CRTC Ruling

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 broadband matters with the potential to impact Northerners.

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

The management of municipal waste is the responsibility of each community.

The Department of Infrastructure (INF) continues to participate on the Interdepartmental Water and Waste Committee, as a technical resource, and to work collaboratively with the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), and Health and Social Services (HSS) on joint concerns related to waste management issues in the NWT.

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

The Department of Infrastructure ensures that GNWT Construction Contracts currently include provisions that address activities in municipalities. INF has updated the construction contract to include the following wording, which will be included in the next release of the construction contract:

"All waste material and debris must be disposed of in accordance with all federal, territorial and municipal requirements and Contractors must adhere to all procedures, standards and directions established by the municipal governments when utilizing their solid waste disposal facilities. Contractors are responsible for contacting community governments prior to the disposal of any construction waste materials in the community solid waste facility to obtain the direction or procedures on the use of their facility. The Contractor will be liable for any costs associated with improper disposal of construction materials."

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.

RA-19-17-04 Support of Proposed Sugary Drinks Tax

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 sugar-sweetened drinks tax and looks forward to further discussions as we work towards supporting the implementation of a sugar-sweetened drinks tax in collaboration with the Department of Finance.

RA-19-17-15 Smoking Outdoors Regulations

On February 28, 2019 the Department of Health and Social Services introduced Bill 40: *Smoking Control and Reduction Act*. This Bill intends to protect the public, particularly children and youth, from a variety of second hand smoke exposure and vaping effluent. The new Act proposes to repeal the *Cannabis Smoking Control Act* and replace it with comprehensive legislation that addresses the general act of smoking, including cannabis, tobacco products, and vapour products in public places as defined in the Act and Regulations.

RA-19-17-16 Posting FASD Information in Alcohol Sales Points

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.

Universal prevention interventions, such as warning labels and public messaging campaigns are an important part of any multi-faceted strategy related to prevention of FASD, but must be carefully designed to be most effective.

Additionally, the literature has failed to show that, by themselves (as a stand-alone intervention), warning labels have much impact on consumption. 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. Together, carefully planned and implemented combinations of these levels of prevention could decrease drinking during pregnancy, promote maternal health and reduce the number of children born affected by FASD. Language on education materials must be considered carefully so as not to create unintended consequences and stress among women who consume alcohol prior to knowing they are pregnant.

The Department is planning a series of evidence based learning events in 2019 aimed at improving practices with respect to discussing substance use with women and their support networks before and during pregnancy.

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.

Consequently, core funding has been established which has allowed for expansion of the FASD Family and Community Support Program to increase the number of children and families receiving support throughout the assessment and diagnostic process.

Additionally, the Department is currently working to expand the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority's Child Development Team and is implementing a territorial FASD assessment and support program for adults in 2019-20.

These enhancements will help our government to be more responsive to children and adults with FASD and their families. The Department is planning a series of evidence based learning events in 2019 aimed at improving practices with respect to discussing substance use with women and their support networks before and during pregnancy.

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

Universal prevention interventions, such as warning labels and public messaging campaigns are an important part of any multi-faceted strategy related to prevention of FASD, 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 FASD 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.

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

The Department of Justice recognizes the importance of serving traditional foods in our NWT correctional facilities. Traditional foods are served in NWT correctional facilities, particularly whitefish and other types of fish depending on the time of year and availability, and muskox and bison are served on special occasions such as National Aboriginal Day.

From time to time, Elders provide country foods to correctional facilities for programming purposes, and occasionally opportunities are provided for inmates to participate in the harvesting of traditional foods. The traditional foods that are harvested are either used by inmates or shared between facilities and/or Elders in the community.

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

Recognizing the benefits of providing access to traditional foods to patients in health facilities, the Department of Health and Social Services is working with the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority to complete guidelines for serving traditional foods in health facilities. This work has included extensive work with Stanton Territorial Hospital.

RA-19-17-19 Subsidy for Traditional Foods

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RA-19-17-20 Mackenzie Valley Highway

The Department of Infrastructure (INF) is committed to securing funding to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway under the GNWT's mandate.

In June 2018, the federal government approved \$102.5 million to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway under the National Trade Corridors Fund. The GNWT has committed \$37.5 million to the project, bringing the total investment to \$140 million.

This funding will support the construction of the Great Bear River Bridge, construction of the Wrigley to Mount Gaudet Access Road, and planning and environmental studies that will lead to obtaining permits for road construction.

In November 2018, the opening of the Canyon Creek All-season Road project was celebrated. This project is 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. The project provided important local training and employment experience that will allow residents to actively participate in the eventual construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

The construction of this project was completed through a negotiated contract with TDIC/HRN Contracting Joint Venture, a key stakeholder in the Tulita District Investment Corporation.

The Mount Gaudet Access Road project, now funded under the National Trade Corridors Fund, is a 15 kilometre all-weather access road linking Wrigley to Mount Gaudet. Similar to

the Canyon Creek All-Season Access Road, this project has the potential to provide important local training and capacity building within Wrigley.

Initial community engagement sessions started in February 2019, with meetings in Norman Wells, Tulita and Wrigley. Further meetings with communities in the Mackenzie Valley will take place in the coming months.

The GNWT will continue to engage Indigenous groups, and work with them to take advantage of the benefits that the project will bring.

In April 2019, the GNWT signed a MOU with the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, which sets out how the parties will work together in collaboration to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway through the environmental reviews and regulatory processes.

RA-19-17-21 Funding Review Implementation

MACA will continue to work with community governments and the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) on 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 has updated the analysis 2019, and will be including this in the Municipal Funding Strategy to be released later this year.

RA-19-17-22 Housing

The NWTHC signed a long-term (to 2028) bilateral agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in November 2018 that secures \$87.7 million in housing investment from the federal government and a total of \$140 million with cost-matches from the NWTHC.

This funding will be utilized to address the declining subsidy for Public Housing, the repair and replacement of Public Housing units, homeownership and community housing initiatives.

Further, under the National Housing Co-Investment Fund released by the federal government in 2018, NWT proponents are eligible to apply for housing project funding through a carve-off of the fund secured by the NWTHC for a total of \$60 million to 2028.

RA-19-17-23 Marijuana Legalization Implementation

The GNWT's *Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation Act* received assent on June 1, 2018. This legislation was based on research and what was heard during public engagement. It provides an approach that puts the health and safety of NWT residents first.

There has, and continues to be, coordination between the federal, provincial and territorial governments related to the legalization of cannabis, and this includes addressing implementation issues as they arise, and the upcoming federal regulations concerning edible, concentrated and topical cannabis products.

The GNWT is committed to ensuring that the public is fully informed of how cannabis is being regulated in the NWT and that the health and safety education is reaching residents. The GNWT is undertaking appropriate communication activities to ensure the public is informed, and will continue to do so.

In an effort to support community governments in the implementation of cannabis management, the GNWT hosted a conference from January 16 - 17, 2019.

- The conference covered topics of:
 - Outlying the legislation and regulations that are part of legalizing cannabis including the process of a retail store getting the permissions to sell cannabis;
 - The *Cannabis Smoking Control Act* and the regulations that restrict the smoking in certain public spaces. The process for the future work of combining of the *Tobacco and Cannabis Smoking Control Act* was explained
 - Health promotions efforts of the GNWT to communication with residents was highlighted;
 - Information on the changes to the *Motor Vehicle Act* and Impairment related issues and educational awareness in the area;
 - Restriction and Prohibition options for where a retail store can be located in the community or how additional public places where the restriction of smoking cannabis can occur were discussed and highlighted the actions the community government would need to be complete; and
 - Information about the impairment of cannabis on employees and as an employer what policies and tools does a community government need to have in place to ensure a safe workplace.

RA-19-17-24 Medical Travel

The NTHSSA administers the Medical Travel program for all regions, including the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority and the Tl'chô 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 GNWT Department of Infrastructure recently combined the non-exclusive SOAs for Medical Travel and the GNWT into one tender in order to receive the best rates and manage costs associated with employee duty travel and medical 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 for use by GNWT departments and boards. The tenders are publically advertised on an annual basis and available to any commercial airline company that chooses to bid.

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

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 23 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.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS

ST-19-10-09 Community Consultation on Any Proposed Changes to Electricity Delivery

The GNWT has released the final NWT 2030 Energy Strategy. One of the Strategic Objectives of the Energy Strategy is to “work together to find solutions: community engagement, participation and empowerment.”

The GNWT will continue to engage directly with communities and Indigenous organizations to encourage participation, partnership and empowerment when proposing and undertaking energy solutions and regulatory changes as it implements the 2030 Energy Strategy.

ST-19-08-02 Housing Assessment

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) assesses lands and assets across the whole of the Northwest Territories (NWT) throughout the Municipal Taxation Authority communities (MTAs) and the General Taxation Areas (GTAs). Property assessment is governed by the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* and the Property Assessment Regulations. The Act and the Regulations prescribe the manner in which the values of properties are to be determined for assessment and taxation purposes. A Fair Market Value approach to property assessment is based on there being sufficient sales data from which to develop mathematical models to value properties.

In the NWT, there may be sufficient data available in some MTAs to develop a Fair Market Value model for assessing land, but not in all. Additionally, to be effective and accurate with a Fair Market Value, assessments would need to be done much more often, to keep up with the fluctuating markets of the day. Land in the MTAs is assessed using a Fair Market Value approach, as land is subject to far less fluctuations. Improvements in the MTAs are assessed in accordance with the Act and Regulations. Land and improvement valuations in the GTAs are not market-based, but are assessed in accordance with the Act and Regulations. MACA has determined that it is unlikely that a movement to a Fair Market Value approach, applied across the NWT, is feasible in the foreseeable future.

ST-19-01-07 Permanent Station Placement of Community Registered Nurse

Several challenges arise when striving to provide healthcare services in small communities and these challenges are not unique to the Northwest Territories. In many of small, more remote NWT communities, there is concern not only with access to routine care, but particularly with the capacity to respond to a medical emergency when such an event

occurs. Programs such as Med Response facilitate immediate, around-the-clock access to physician support and emergency services, including medevac services. Through referral processes and medical travel services, all residents of the NWT have access to specialist and allied health services in the larger regional centres.

Healthcare is provided to residents in communities without a permanent nurse through nurse visits and also by the Community Health Representative, Community Health Worker and/or a Community Support Worker who reside in the community.

There are additional initiatives to balance scopes of practice for healthcare providers in small communities. One such initiative is the Tsiigehtchic emergency services pilot project, which was organized in response to residents' requests for full-time nursing staff. The Department, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA), members of the Beaufort Delta Region, and Tsiigehtchic leaders have been working together to explore an approach to emergency health care in Tsiigehtchic that is uniquely suited to Tsiigehtchic. The goal is to develop a new approach to emergency care that is tailored to meet community needs for care and emergency services in communities without resident nurses. The proposed approach incorporates first responder education for community members. The Community Based Emergency Care (CBEC) project has been piloted in Tsiigehtchic to help the community better respond to emergency situations.

Phase one of the CBEC project in Tsiigehtchic was completed on June 30, 2017, The working group members include the Department of Health and Social Services (Department), the NTHSSA, the Charter Community of Tsiigehtchic, the Gwichya Gwich'in Council, and Tsiigehtchic community members.

The second phase of the project commenced in mid-October, 2018 and was completed at the end of March 2019. This phase of the project focused on capacity-building and planning.

The Community Based Emergency Care training was delivered during the week of February 25th, 2019, 16 community members attended the training. Upon completion of the course participants received a custom Community Based Emergency Care certificate as well as a certificate in First Aid from the Canadian Red Cross.

Target populations identified to participate in the training were members of the Rangers, municipal workers, councilors, and other community members. The community Working Group members worked within their community to identify course participants. The SAO coordinated registration for the course.

From the program evaluation the participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the course and felt it was quite valuable.

The Department is anticipating a final program report that will contain the program curriculum, course evaluation and recommendations for future offerings.

ST-19-01-11 Permanent Placement of a Community RCMP Officer

The Department of Justice continues to be committed to working in partnership with the RCMP and community residents on policing services and local justice programming to enhance safety in communities. As a government, we are committed to ensuring each person has access to policing services, regardless of where they live. Although some of our smaller communities may not have permanent RCMP detachments, they receive policing services through regular patrols from adjacent communities, or by having members dedicated to the community who may spend several days per week in that community.

ST-19-15-04 Power Subsidy Billing Cycles

The GNWT considers the current level of support sufficient. The GNWT currently has no intention to expand or increase the total number of months where the larger subsidy would apply.

ST-19-12-07 Reduced Power Rate for Municipalities

The 2012, 2016, 2017 and 2018 GNWT response to the Resolution remains applicable. To reiterate, it should be noted that reducing the electricity rates for community governments means increasing the electricity rates for community residents.

ST-19-09-06 Training for Community Fire Departments

Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) continues to assess community fire departments to establish safe, effective, and sustainable community fire protection services in the Northwest Territories. A priority of the 18th Legislative Assembly is to work with stakeholders to identify priorities for Community Fire Protection Plans.

Since early 2017, twenty-three (23) community assessments have been completed, which has resulted in the development of twelve (12) action plans. Although progress is slower than anticipated, efforts will continue in 2019-2020 and beyond to complete assessments and action plans for all communities that do not maintain a general plan for their fire service.

A key consideration for the assessment is Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission's Firefighters Code of Practice, which provides practical guidance to achieve the safety requirements of the NWT *Safety Act* and Regulations.

Thus far assessments have identified a range of gaps and deficiencies, which to a large extent; will be addressed via training available through MACA's School of Community Government.

The ability to complete this work often is impacted by the capacity of the community governments which ebbs and flows. MACA has all the tools in place to respond to community governments, and recommends that this resolution be deleted.

ST-19-09-08 Plumbing Inspections

The Government of the Northwest Territories does not have any legislation that could be used to regulate plumbing services. Municipal legislation provides municipal governments with the authority to pass bylaws to adopt in whole or in part, a code such as the National Plumbing Code or standard made or recommended by the Government of the Northwest Territories, Canada or a province.

The City of Yellowknife, for example, requires plumbers and plumbing companies to get a Mechanical Permit when undertaking plumbing work within their municipal boundaries. When applying for the permit, the contractor has to provide sufficient information that the work will conform to Yellowknife's by-laws, the National Building Code and the National Plumbing Code. Inspections are also required by the permit. Municipal governments, therefore, have all the legal authority they require to regulate plumbing work and they can do it by passing a by-law.