



2022 Annual Report







PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the 2021/2022 Northwest Territories Association of Communities Annual Report. The report highlights our achievements, undertakings, and partnerships over the past year. We are pleased to share this with our community members.

As President of the NWTAC Board of Directors, working with people and organizations across Canada and the North, including our Board Members, is an honour. We welcomed the returning board members at the AGM and the new members who came in to replace outgoing board members throughout the year. We would like to thank Joe Lalonde, former Director for Hamlets and Charter Communities, and Lynn Napier, former President, for their work with the Association. We are thankful for Barb Hart, who joined us as a new Director for Hamlets and Charter Communities. We offer condolences to the Town of Fort Smith for Board Member Kevin Heron, who stepped in as a Director for Cities, Towns, and Villages and has recently passed away.

We did considerable preparation and planning in 2021/2022, working with our lobby consultants Solstice Public Affairs. You will see in our next Annual Report all of the meetings with ministers that have taken place because of this work.

We are committed to helping and advocating for our NWT Association of Communities Members. In this past year, we focused on continuing to advocate virtually and are pleased to be able to continue meeting both in person and virtually as we work for you. This year will bring different challenges, and we are confident in and thankful for our partnerships, our members, our hard-working staff, and my colleagues on the Board as we face these challenges head-on.

Mayor Rebecca Altty
President



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

I am proud to present the Annual Report for our 56th NWT Association of Communities AGM. Looking back at our 55th year, we continued to make strides in our advocacy and activities on the goals and projects we work toward for our members.

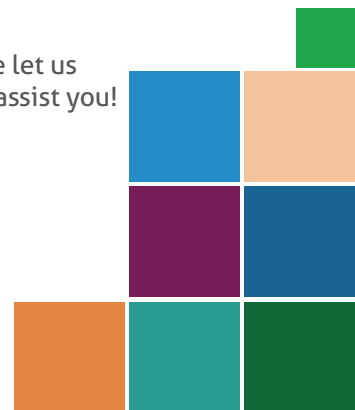
We are committed to serving our members and assisting communities in unity, solidarity, and collaboration as we address common issues, deliver programs, and exchange information. This past year, we worked to connect communities and various levels of government and resources through online meetings, presentations, and interactive sessions. Challenges brought opportunities for growth and connection as we worked together with and for our members.

This year the NWTAC remains focused on Climate Change, Community Wellness, Legislation and Policy. Our mission is to continue to be the unified voice for NWT communities on agreed-upon municipal goals as we promote our Northern uniqueness and affirm our challenges and requirements to live a healthy and constructive life.

It is my pleasure to continue to serve as CEO, and I look forward to the future work of our Association and how the board and our staff can best represent and help you.

The NWTAC is your Association – please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you!

Sara Brown
Chief Executive Officer



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President
**Mayor Rebecca Alty –
City of Yellowknife**

CHARTER COMMUNITIES, HAMLETS, AND SETTLEMENTS



Vice President -
Hamlets, Settlements and
Charter or Tlicho Community
Governments
**Mayor Raymond Ruben –
Hamlet of Paulatuk**

CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES



Vice President -
Cities Towns and Villages
**Mayor Kandis Jameson –
Town of Hay River**



DIRECTOR
**Councillor Barb Hart –
Hamlet of Enterprise**



DIRECTOR
**Deputy Mayor Kevin Heron –
Town of Fort Smith**



DIRECTOR
**Councillor Ryan Yakeleya –
Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk**



DIRECTOR
**Councillor Natasha
Kulikowski – Town of Inuvik**



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FEDERAL ADVOCACY

NWTAC CONTINUED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN FEDERAL MEETINGS, CONSULTATIONS, AND ADVOCACY OVER THE PAST YEAR.

- Federal Advocacy presentations and meetings
 - » We met to advocate for less costly, increased speed, and higher quality broadband in the Northwest Territory. We met with MP McLeod on issues that continue to affect Northern Communities and met with Minister of Infrastructure Catherine McKenna for Infrastructure Strategy Consultation.
- FCM Meetings of Board Members took place virtually from March 1 – March 9, 2021, June 1 – June 4, 2021, and September 9 – September 29, 2021. NWTAC continues to be represented through the Northern and Remote Forum (currently chaired by NWTAC President, Mayor Alty), the Prairies and Territories, the Rural Forum, the Board of Directors, and various other committees and forums on FCM.
- FCM Annual Tradeshow & Conference
 - » From May 31 to June 4, 2021, the NWTAC participated in the FCM's 2021 Virtual Annual Conference and Tradeshow. The AGM is intended for municipal leaders to exchange ideas, network with peers, learn from experts and hear from all four major Federal Parties. New to FCM is the Anti-Racism and Equity Committee. Many conversations about Northern issues and concerns were brought forward to all parties, representatives, and community leaders across the country.



FCM – ADVOCACY

The following are more FCM collaborations that the NWTAC continues to be involved in:

- FCM/StatsCan Technical Working Group
- FCM/CMHC Housing Working Group
- Canadian Women in Local Leadership
- Northern and Remote Forum
- Municipal Climate Services Collaborative
- Sustainable Communities Conference

OTHER FEDERAL CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION

Pan Territorial Meeting of Association Presidents and MPs

- Provincial/Territorial Association Meetings
 - » 6 meetings of Presidents and Executive Directors
 - » 7 meetings of Executive Directors
- Census Communications
- Election Platform
- All-Candidates Session for Election
- Pre-Budget Submission
- National Housing Summit



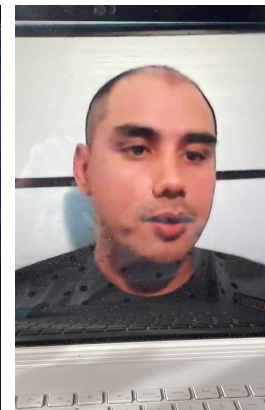
FEDERAL ELECTION

The Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) prepared a Federal Election Platform to make prospective candidates aware of the issues that are important to NWT Communities.

The submission had been prepared by the NWTAC based on the adopted resolutions of the organization, analysis of municipal governance issues and priorities for improvement of NWT economic and social conditions, and the priorities shared with partner organizations, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The Board extended an invitation to all NWT Candidates for a dialogue about their election platform and appreciated the opportunity to hear from those who attended:

- Kelvin Kotchilea
- Jane Groenewegen
- Roland Laufer
- Michael McLeod



TERRITORIAL ADVOCACY

Throughout the year, NWTAC has partnered and participated in activities with the Territorial Government and other Territorial Organizations. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of these were delivered virtually.

- 2 Campaign Schools
- Budget Dialogues
- Board Meeting with Cabinet
- Board Meeting with Minister of MACA
- Regular Meeting with Deputy Minister and Senior Staff
- 3 meetings regarding Public Lands Act Regulation – Technical Working Group
- 3 meetings of Ministerial Waste Reduction Committee
- Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Working Group
- 4 Meetings with Industry, Tourism, and Investment ADM
- Territorial Funding Policy Review

The following are Social Determinants Projects the NWTAC is working on:

HEALTHY LIVING PARTNERSHIPS

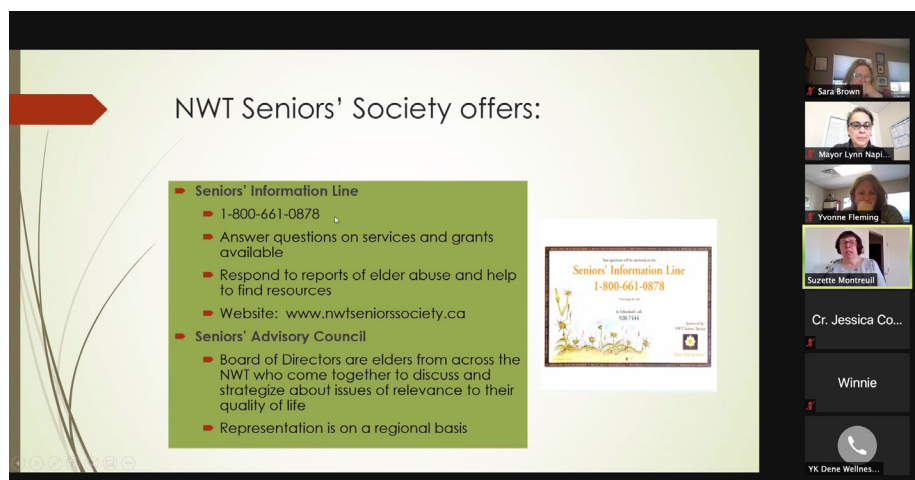
NWTAC has a project with Health and Social Services promoting, among other things, healthy traditional foods within communities and Alcohol awareness.

THE DOPE EXPERIENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE CANNABIS EDUCATION CONSULTATION BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Dope Experience is a customizable health education workshop developed collaboratively with NWT residents in March 2019. The workshop uses creative inquiry (arts and new media) to engage young people in essential conversations about substance use, mental wellness, and the importance of caring for ourselves and each other.

ALCOHOL STRATEGY, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN THE OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The aim of developing an Alcohol Strategy for the Northwest Territories (NWT) is to reduce all harms experienced by the population associated with alcohol use, whether it is that of the individual or the use of alcohol by others in their household, family or community. The Alcohol Strategy will lay out concrete steps to be undertaken at the territorial level that will support improvements, remove barriers to community-led initiatives, and empower communities to address alcohol-related harms experienced by their members.



TERRITORIAL ADVOCACY

ANTI-POVERTY FOOD SECURITY

This Roundtable focused on food security and provided a collaborative space for information sharing between the GNWT, Indigenous governments, non-government organizations (NGOs), community governments, industry, and other interested parties. The NWTAC presented at the conference from a climate change context.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH ALTERNATIVES NORTH FOR ANTIPOVERTY

In this session, Alternatives North presented their No Place for Poverty Coalition, 2020 Northwest Territories Poverty Report Card, and the steps governments can take to reduce poverty. They also discussed what you could do to make your community No Place for Poverty.

LIQUOR ACT CONSULTATION

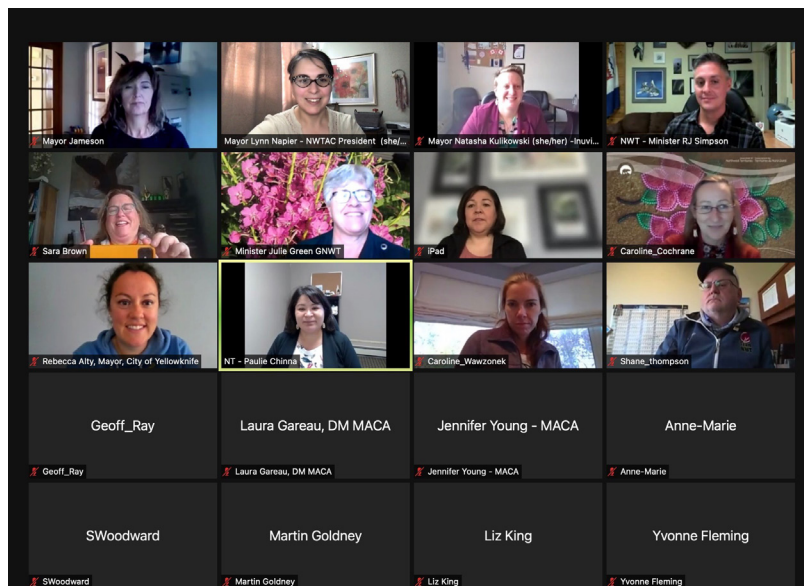
Four meetings were facilitated by the NWTAC with Mayors, Chiefs, and SAOs. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) undertook a Liquor Legislation Review (Review) to make the liquor legislation more modern, responsive to residents' needs, and streamlined. The Review aimed to improve the NWT's liquor legislation, specifically regarding the possession, consumption, sale, purchase, manufacture, importation and distribution of liquor in the NWT.

PROBLEMATIC SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE

This committee was created to engage with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, Community Governments and Non-Government Organizations to identify community-specific priorities and views, share promising evidence-based practices, and develop collaborative initiatives and approaches to addressing problematic use of alcohol and other harmful drugs within communities. The NWTAC CEO sits on this committee.

Other partnership and program meetings:

- Investments in Mental Health
- 5 Meetings with NWT Seniors
- 4 Meetings with Centre for the North – regarding Mental Health and Addictions Business Case
- 3 Meetings for Anti-Poverty Conference – Housing and Homelessness Preparation
- Meeting with Minister Bennett regarding Substance Abuse along with the GNWT



NWTAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2021 VIRTUAL AGM

The 55th Annual General Meeting was held virtually from February 25 to February 27, 2021. Due to the AGM being held virtually, the agenda was limited to essential items only.

Official business started with opening comments by President Napier and MACA Deputy Minister Eleanor Young. The President's Report, 2020 AGM Minutes, 2019-2020 Financial Statements, and the 2021 Budget were presented and adopted.

INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

- AEA/GNWT Infrastructure/Reache
- No Place for Poverty
- Education Act Modernization JK-12
- Skills for Success Update
- ECE JK-12 Curriculum Renewal
- Supporting Your Elders
- Early Learning and Child Care in the NWT
- Liquor Act Consultations
- Climate Change
- Aurora College Transformation

THE 2021 NWTAC AWARDS WINNERS WERE:

Community Builder Awards Sponsored by AON

- Community Service Award – **Ross Potter, Hay River Fire Chief, Retiring**
- Community Builder Award – **Rocky Norwegian, Tulita**

The Healthy Community Award aims to celebrate an NWT community that encourages and supports residents in adopting healthy lifestyle choices by providing programs promoting physical activities, nutrition and social connections that foster positive mental health.

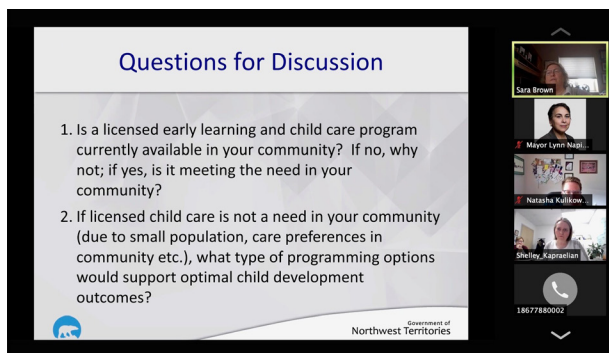
- Healthy Community Award (\$5,000) – **Inuvik Food Bank**

The Energy Excellence Award celebrates an NWT community that demonstrates leadership in improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- Energy Excellence Award (\$5,000) – **Charter Community of Tsiigehtchic**

The Climate Change Resilience Award honours communities that take a proactive approach to the challenges caused by climate change and that have strengthened community resilience through their actions. It also celebrates NWT communities that demonstrate leadership in climate change adaptation.

- Climate Change Resilience Award (\$5,000) – **Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk**



NWTAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The NWTAC President's award is a special award presented at the discretion of the NWT Association of Communities' President and Board of Directors.

- **Presidents Award – GNWT COVID Response & Dr. Kandola**
 - » The NWT Association of Communities had been so fortunate to have our Mayors and Chiefs meet regularly with the Premier and various members of Cabinet responsible for the GNWT Pandemic response. As experts in their respective communities, our Mayors and Chiefs appreciated the collaborative and respectful way they were treated throughout the pandemic as the response has evolved.
 - » We have appreciated the opportunity to not only express our challenges and concerns but to know that they were heard and actioned. It takes a unique insight to treat the community governments as important collaborators, partners, and leaders.
 - » When other jurisdictions across Canada were not encouraging outdoor activities, Dr. Kandola and the Department of Health were. She recognized how important this time outside on the land is to the mental and spiritual health of our residents. All NWT residents were so much healthier, both mentally and physically, for this approach.
 - » Dr. Kandola and Senior Staff had to make quick but informed decisions on altering the path the illness takes in the NWT and we sincerely appreciated that many of their actions or perhaps their timing have been in response to what was heard from our Mayors and Chiefs on our weekly calls and the advocacy from our Board.
 - » Whether it was through meetings with local and Indigenous Governments, during public hearings, or appearances on radio or TV, Dr. Kandola patiently explained the rationale and science behind all the decisions or approaches being taken and was always encouraging us all to be cautious, courageous, and kind to each other.



CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS

NWTAC STAFF HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH MANY PARTNERS TO STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND MITIGATE THEIR EMISSIONS. BELOW IS A LISTING OF INITIATIVES THAT THE NWTAC IS LEADING AND CONTRIBUTING TO:

CLIMATE CHANGE – PROJECTS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ACTIVITIES

- Hydrogen Workshop
- SmartIce Update
- Consultation on the Energy Strategy Action Plan
- Development of Guide for Community Planning
- MAMP Round 4 – Climate Change and Asset Management application
- Climate Change Preparedness in the North/Climate Change Health Program
 - » Hosting Liaison Position
 - » Sitting on Committee
- Consultation with External Agencies – ICLEI, Climate Risk
- Canadian Permafrost Association
- Hazard Mapping Standard Development
- Eco-Trust – Northern Carbon Community Toolkit
- AGM Interactive Session
- Quest
- Working on a collaborative DMAF application for Wildfire Protection
- Foundation Review for 7 most vulnerable NWT communities
- Plain language version of Advice to Researchers on Reconciliation

CLIMATE CHANGE – MEETINGS

- The NWTAC CEO sits on the Climate Change Council and attended 6 meetings
- 5 meetings as a board member of Arctic Energy Alliance
- 3 Ecology North
- 12 Foundation Review
- 4 Liaisons with Infrastructure Climate Change Lead
- 3 Hazard Mapping Meetings with ENR
- 8 Standing Meetings with Senior Staff at ENR Climate Change Division
- 2 Flood Risk Management
- 3 with various Permafrost Scientists
- 13 DMAF Application for Wildfire



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

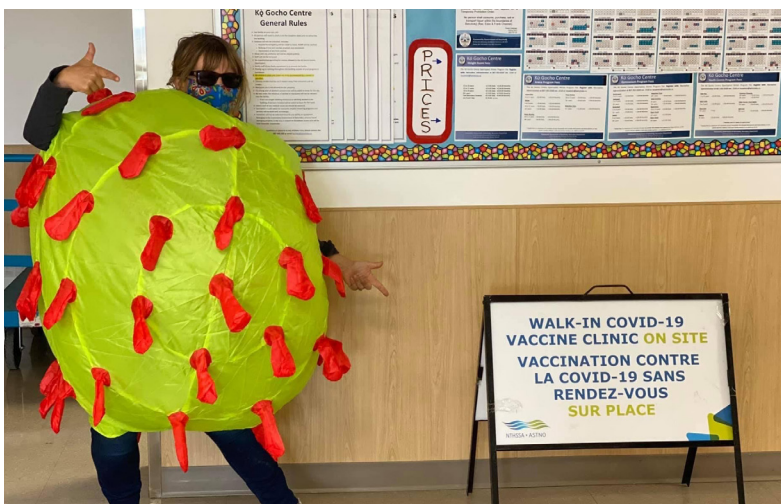
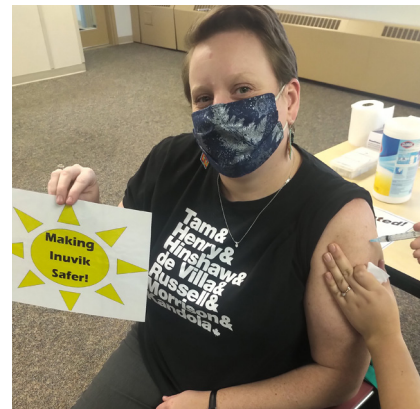
CENTRE CANADIEN DES SERVICES CLIMATIQUES

Figure Sources: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, SmartICE, Wikipedia, Wikimedia, Ouranos, BC Hydro, Flickr

COVID-19

In a full year of COVID-19 restrictions, NWTAC staff continued the work of providing municipalities with resources, accurate information, funding, and on reducing barriers.

- 13 meetings with Mayors and Chiefs
- 3 meetings of Red Tape Reduction Working Group
- 3 meetings of Business Advisory Committee
- Various meetings with SAOs regarding community facilities and public health orders
- Vaccine promotion fund



ASSET MANAGEMENT

At NWTAC, we understand the importance of asset management for communities in informing decisions based on the communities' present and future needs and the services provided. Therefore, we continued to expand our knowledge and services to our members in addition to updating the Asset Management toolkit.

- Collaboration with Asset Management Ontario
- Application for MAMP 4th round – SUCCESSFUL!!
- Asset Management Working Group
- PSAB 3280 Implementation



OTHER NWTAC ACTIVITIES

STRATEGIC PLANNING

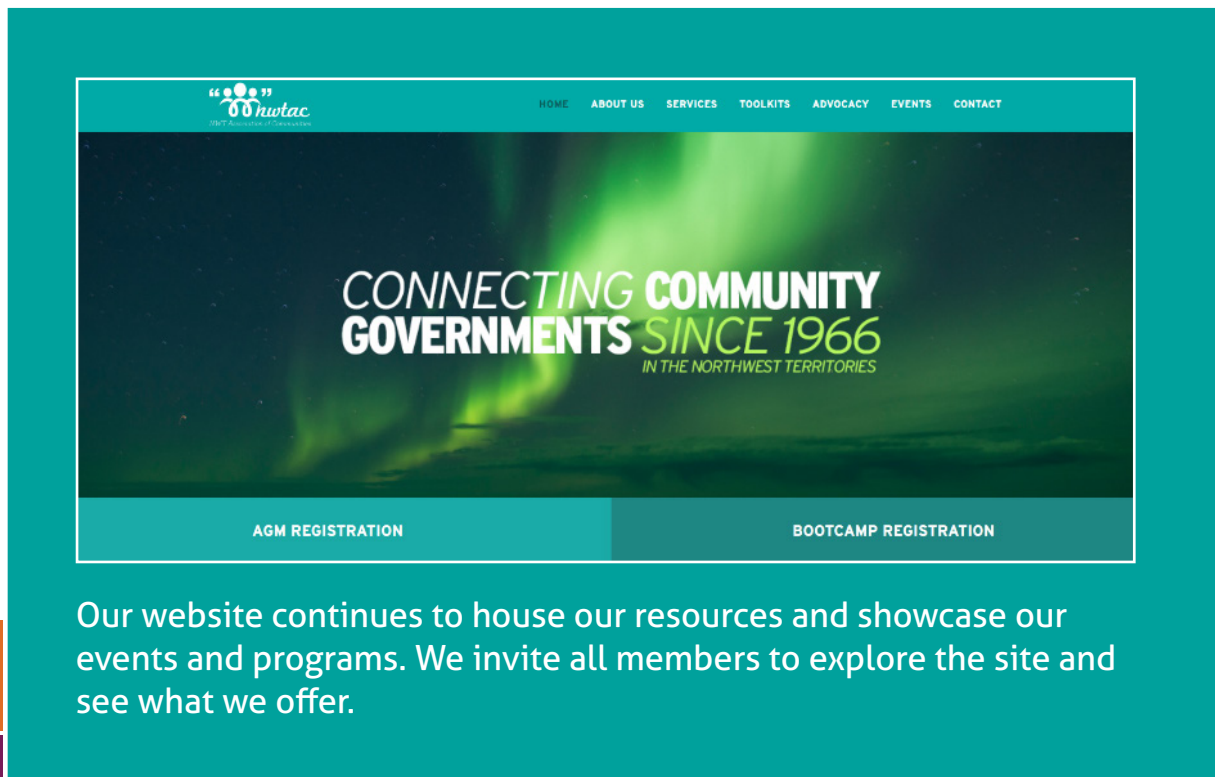
In May 2019, our Board and staff met for a full day of Strategic Planning, centring on identifying our successes over the past three years and focusing on what is required to help our communities succeed in the future. We continue to work on the implementation of the Strategic Plan

MEETINGS

- 6 Wilfrid Laurier University
- 3 Arctic Inspiration Prize
- 6 Insurance Meetings
- 10 Board Meetings
- 3 LGANT Meetings

PLAIN LANGUAGE VERSION OF ADVICE TO RESEARCHERS ON RECONCILIATION

Staff worked with a research group to update recommendations to plain language for acts that can be undertaken when doing research in the North, particularly within Indigenous communities.



MEMBER SERVICES

THE NWTAC PROVIDES SEVERAL SERVICES AND RESOURCES TO ITS MEMBERS, INCLUDING:

- Member Advisory Services
- Purchasing Program
- SAO Hiring and Managing Toolkits for Mayors and Councils
- Human Resources Policy Suite
- Election Posters
- Pothole Advertising Anti-Littering Posters
- Anti-Vandalism Poster
- Sample By-laws
- Sample Tenders and Contracts
- Contract Reviews
- Tool Kits

MEMBERS ADVISORY SERVICES

NWTAC MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO ADVISORY SERVICES:

Legal Support Services

Member Communities have access to legal advice through the NWTAC partnership with Brownlee LLP.

- Informal verbal advice by phone on the Municipal Helpline
- 3 hours of prepaid formal legal advice/ opinion per year
- Access to NWT licensed lawyers in litigation, corporate and municipal fields
- Development of resource materials for use by all members

Call the Toll-Free Municipal Helpline at **1-800-661-9069**

PURCHASING PROGRAM

NWTAC members have access to the largest purchasing program in Canada. For more information on how your community government can join in the savings, please see the Canoe Procurement website and contact:

**Ryan Yavis –
Client Relations Manager**

**780 720-5145 or
ryan@canoeprocurement.ca**

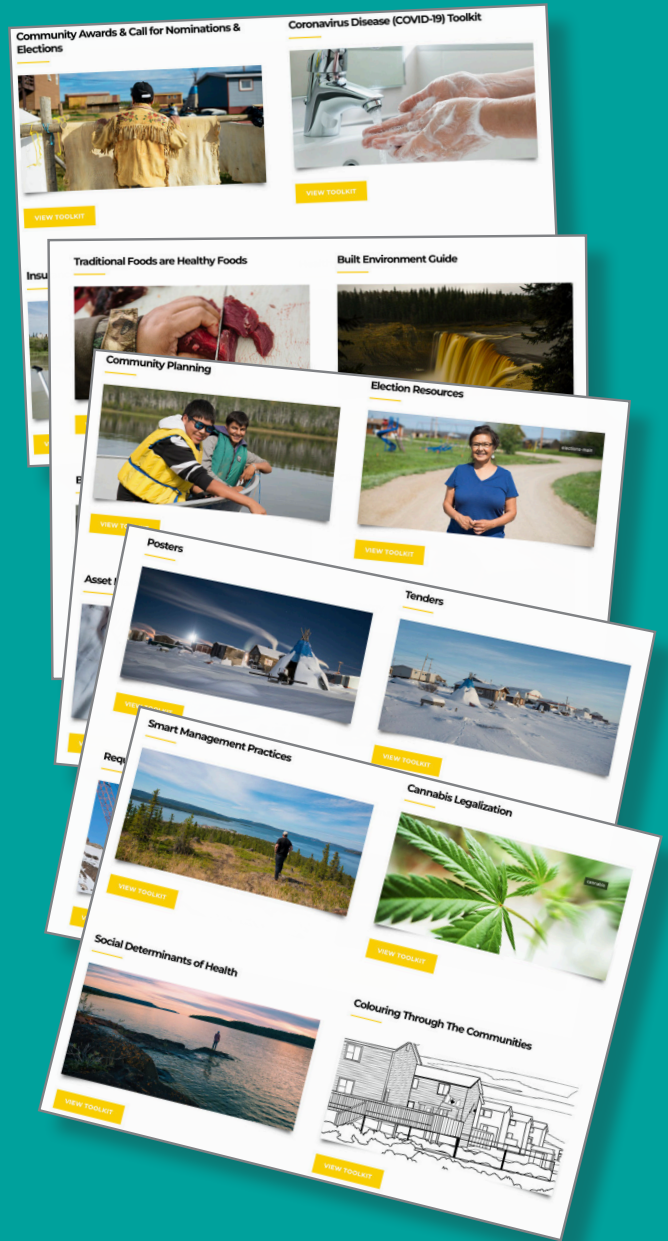


TOOLKITS

TOOLKITS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

- Healthy Communities
- Traditional Foods are Healthy Foods
- Built Environment Guide
- By-Laws
- Climate Change
- Community Planning
- Election Resources
- Asset Management
- Energy
- Posters
- Tenders
- Request for Proposals
- Human Resources
- Smart Management Practices
- Insurance
- Cannabis Legalization
- Coloring Through the Communities
- Social Determinants of Health
- COVID-19

CHECK IT OUT AT
WWW.TOALKITNWAC.COM



NWT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITIES SUPPORTIVE MEMBERS





NWT Association of Communities

Connecting Community Governments Since 1966

