

2023 & 2024 Annual Report



nwtac

NWT Association of Communities

Connecting Community Governments Since 1966







PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the 2022/2023/2024 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Association of Communities. We are delighted to share this with the members of our Association.

The report highlights not only our accomplishments, projects, and partnerships from the previous two years but also provides an overview of the challenges we have faced that have strained the resilience of our communities. Our ability to persevere reflects the spirit and dedication of our communities and the collaboration of our colleagues.

As President of the NWTAC Board of Directors, collaborating with individuals and organizations across Canada and the North, including our Board Members, is an honour. At the AGM, we greeted the returning board members and welcomed Chief Doreen Arrowmaker as our new Director for Hamlets and Charter Communities and Councillor Kevin Campbell as our new Director for Cities, Towns, and Villages. We also want to thank the former Director for Hamlets and Charter Communities, Ryan Yakeleya, for contributing to the Association.

Working with our lobbying consultants, Solstice Public Affairs, on preparation and planning has paid off. This endeavour is reflected here in our Annual Report.

NWT Association of Communities members have our support and will benefit from our ongoing advocacy. In the past year, we have focused on continuing to advocate for you, and we are delighted to be able to continue meeting in person and virtually as we continue to do so. Each year presents new adversities, and the last few years have brought exceptional challenges. I am confident and appreciative of our partnerships, members, hard-working employees, and Board colleagues as we confront these challenges head-on.

Mayor Rebecca Alty





CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MESSAGE

I am honoured to deliver the Annual Report at our 57th NWT Association of Communities AGM. As we take stock of the achievements of our 57th year, we are pleased with the progress we have achieved in promoting the objectives and initiatives that benefit our members.

Our constant commitment is to serve our members and strengthen communities via cooperation, solidarity, and togetherness, especially as we confront shared problems, present worthwhile initiatives, and promote essential knowledge sharing. Through online meetings, presentations, and interactive sessions, we have diligently worked to link communities with various levels of government and resources over the past years. Despite the difficulties we faced, we discovered chances for development and consolidated relationships as we cooperated with and for our members.

The NWTAC has continued to commit to advocating around Mental Health and Addictions, Climate Change, Asset Management, and Housing. Our purpose is to represent the collective voice of NWT communities by advocating for shared municipal objectives, highlighting the distinctiveness of our Northern area, and recognizing the obstacles we must overcome to live a healthy and productive life.

It is an honour to remain CEO, and I look forward to our Association's future endeavours. The board and our staff are dedicated to serving as your greatest advocates and offering support when necessary. The NWTAC is your Association, and we are here to help. If there is anything we can do to help you, don't hesitate to contact us.

Sara Brown

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President
Mayor Rebecca Alty –
City of Yellowknife

CHARTER COMMUNITIES, HAMLETS, AND SETTLEMENTS



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



DIRECTOR
Councillor Barb Hart –
Hamlet of Enterprise



DIRECTOR
Chief Doreen Arrowmaker
– Tłıchǫ Community
Government of Gamèti

CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES



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



DIRECTOR
Councillor Natasha
Kulikowski – Town of Inuvik



DIRECTOR
Councillor Kevin Campbell –
Town of Fort Smith



NWTAC STAFF



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Climate Change Community
Liaison/Partnership
Facilitator (new role)
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SUE WYMAN

Insurance Program
Coordinator
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It is with great sadness that we announce Cynthia Horton's passing on April 28, 2023. Cynthia worked at the NWTAC for over 20 years before retiring in January 2022. Our memories of Cynthia are filled with laughter, adventure, excitement, and treasured friendships. Cynthia was a cherished and valuable member of the NWTAC team who is fondly remembered, and we greatly miss her smile, the laughs, and the fun times we had together.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

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

- Federal Advocacy presentations and meetings
 - » MP McLeod to discuss the many issues which affect NWT Communities and how the Federal Government can support NWT Communities
 - » Minister Bennet regarding consultation on Polysubstance
 - » Minister Wilkinson on Program Design for Northern Communities Presentation to the Federal Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs – Consultation on Arctic Sovereignty and Emergency Preparedness on Indigenous Peoples
 - » Meetings with Senior Staff of Natural Resources Canada regarding program design for the North



Additionally, we had many in-person meetings to support and advocate for our NWT Communities:

In Yellowknife

- Honourable Dominic LeBlanc – Minister of Infrastructure
- Jagmeet Singh – Leader of the NDP
- Meeting with NWT Conservative Party President



In Ottawa

- MP Scott Aitchison – Conservative Shadow Minister for Housing & Diversity
- MP Jagmeet Singh – Leader of the NDP
- Honourable Ahmed Hussen – Minister of Housing, Diversity & Inclusion
- Assistant Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs
- Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change
- Honourable Carolyn Bennett – Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Honourable Marc Miller – Minister of CIRNAC
- MP Lori Idlout (NDP) – Critic of Indigenous Services, Northern Affairs and CIRNAC
- MP Jenny Kwan (NDP) – Critic Housing
- Minister Vandal – Minister of Northern Affairs, CANNOR
- Minister Ya'ara Saks – Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Honourable Sean Fraser – Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan – Minister of Emergency Preparedness
- Marie-Josée Houle – Federal Housing Advocate



- FCM – Advocacy

- » NWTAC regularly participates in the FCM Annual Conference and Tradeshow. The Annual Conference is intended for municipal leaders to exchange ideas, network with peers, learn from experts and hear from all four major Federal Parties. Mayor Alty co-presented on a panel discussing the relationship between large and small communities, the economic opportunities ahead, and the most urgent needs driving intergovernmental cooperation.

- » 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.

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

- » FCM/StatsCan Technical Working Group
- » Broadband Working Group
- » Meetings of the FCM/CMHC Housing Working Group
- » Canadian Women in Local Leadership
- » Northern and Remote Forum



OTHER FEDERAL CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION

- Provincial/Territorial Association Meetings
 - » 6 meetings of Presidents and Executive Directors
 - » 7 meetings of Executive Directors
- Pre-Budget Submissions
- National Housing Summit

NWTAC CONVENED VERY FRUITFUL MEETINGS:

- Pan Territorial Meeting of Association Presidents and MPs
- Pan Territorial Meeting of Association Presidents and MACA Ministers
- Letters of Support for GNWT Applications
 - » Double Hulled Boats
 - » Hay River Harbour dredging
 - » Funding for the Western Arctic Research Centre
- 2023 Territorial Election
 - » Development and circulation of the NWTAC Territorial Platform
 - » Questionnaire for Candidates
 - » Virtual Sessions with Candidates



TERRITORIAL ADVOCACY

Throughout the year, NWTAC has partnered and participated in activities with the Territorial Government and other Territorial Organizations.

- Board Meeting with Cabinet
- Board Meetings with the Minister of MACA
- Pre-Budget Meetings with MLAs
- Regular Meetings with Deputy Minister and Senior Staff
- *Public Lands Act Regulation* – Technical Working Group
- 3 meetings of the Ministerial Waste Reduction Committee
- ATIPP Working Group
- 3 meetings with ITI ADM
- 20 meetings of the Territorial Funding Policy Working Group
- Red Tape Working Group
- Committee for Government Operations Presentation – *Fire Protection Act*
- Committee for Government Operations Presentation – *Property and Taxation Act*
- Committee for Government Operations Presentation – Carbon Tax
- Committee for Government Operations Presentation – *Forestry Act*
- Consultation on the *Mineral Act*
- Consultation on the GNWT Knowledge Agenda
- Comments on the updated *Energy Strategy Action Plan*
- Comments to SCSD on Housing and Homelessness



Successfully lobbied for a portion of the Carbon Tax to go to community governments with no strings attached

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

INVESTMENTS IN MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS

- 5 meetings regarding Investments in Mental Health and Addictions – Business Case Model – with the Conference Board of Canada

HEALTHY LIVING PARTNERSHIPS

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

NWTAC PARTICIPATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALCOHOL STRATEGY, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN THE OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

- 4 meetings
- 4 meetings of the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee

ANTI-POVERTY HOUSING CONFERENCE

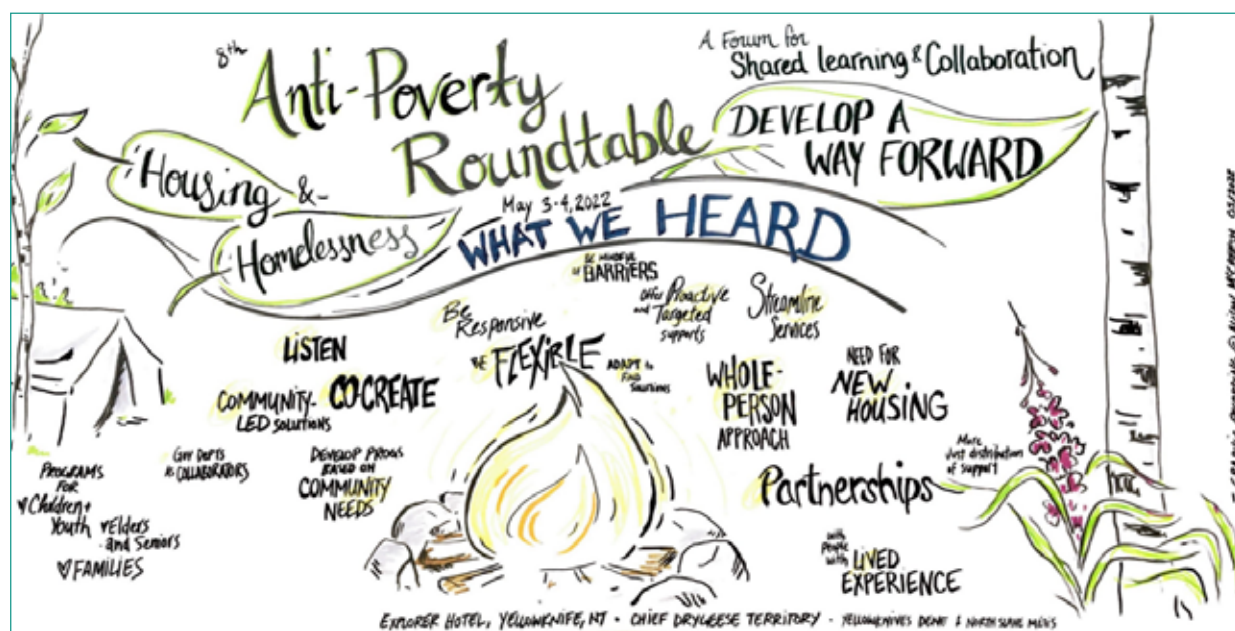
- The NWTAC Co-chaired this Roundtable focused on housing and homelessness. It provided a collaborative space for information sharing between the GNWT, Indigenous governments, non-government organizations (NGOs), community governments, industry, and other interested parties. It focused on sharing ideas, best management practices, and brainstorming ideas and solutions.

PROBLEMATIC SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE

- 8 meetings

OTHER PARTNERSHIP AND PROGRAM MEETINGS:

- Living Wage Session with Alternatives North
- 3 Meetings with NWT Seniors



NWTAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2022 AGM

The 56th Annual General Meeting was held in Yellowknife from September 15 to September 17, 2022.

Official business started with opening comments by NWTAC President Rebecca Alty, Minister Wawzonek on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and a welcome by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. The President's Report, 2022 Annual Report, 2021 AGM Minutes, 2020-2021 Financial Statements, and the 2022-2023 Budget were presented and adopted. NWTAC also delivered updates on the Northern Communities Insurance Program and Asset Management. In addition, MACA presented the updates to the Municipal and Community Affairs and Accountability Framework, after which Housing presented the Housing NWT Renewal. We were also pleased to have presentations by our Guest Speaker, Massey Whiteknife and our MP, Michael McLeod.

We held the 2022 Elections for President and Four Directors – Two for Cities, Towns, and Villages and Two for Hamlets/Charter Communities/Tłıchǫ Government/Community Governments. We welcomed back President Rebecca Alty and Directors Natasha Kulikowski, Barb Hart, and Kevin Campbell and were pleased to add Chief Doreen Arrowmaker as a new Director.



INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

- Wilfrid Laurier University – Partnering on research and community development needs
- Chief Public Health Officer – Living Well with COVID
- ITI – Overview of Tourism Funding Programs
- ENR – Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on NWT Communities
- HSS – Addictions Programs & Alcohol Strategy
- MACA – School of Community Government Strategic Plan
- MACA – Wastewater Removal Project
- LGANT – Supporting your SAO or Band Manager
- NWT Tourism – Attracting the right visitor to your community
- Your Insurance Program Questions Answered
- Ask Your Lawyer a Question – Brownlee LLP
- Arctic Inspiration Prize
- Arctic Energy Alliance – Energy Project Funding and Community Energy Planning
- FCM Update – President Taneen Rudyk
- NWTAC – Funding and support for climate change adaptation projects
- MACA – Wastewater Surveillance MACA – ATIP
- ENR – NWT Purple Air Project
- CIRNAC/NRCAN – Federal Funding for Clean Energy Projects



PRESENTATIONS OF COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARDS, WHICH ARE SPONSORED BY AON, INCLUDED:

- Community Service Award – **Soham Srimani**
- Community Service Award – **Cabin Radio**
- Community Builder Award – **Evelyn Krutko**

The Evelyn Krutko Mighty Warrior Award was inaugurated at the 2022 Annual General Meeting. This award embodies everything Evelyn Krutko stood for; hard-working, honest, never giving up, a strong leader, and one that goes the extra mile. We were proud to present the award to Evelyn's family to honour her as the award recipient.

- Evelyn Krutko Mighty Warrior Award – **Evelyn Krutko, posthumously**

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) – **Hay River Seniors Society**

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

- Energy Excellence Award (\$5,000) – **Town of Hay River**

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) – **Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation**

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 – **Hamlet of Enterprise**
The Hamlet of Enterprise stood out in the true spirit of communities helping each other. Notably, when the Hamlet of Tulita was without an ambulance, the Hamlet of Enterprise stepped up to be a hero and gifted their ambulance to the Hamlet of Tulita.



The NWTAC presented Long Standing Dedication Awards to the families of **Tom Williams** and **Alfred Moses**.

- NWT Long Standing Dedication Award – **Tom Williams, posthumously**

For many years, Tom was the voice and face of MACA and the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Williams dedicated himself to helping the residents of the NWT and the NWTAC for many years.

- NWT Long Standing Dedication Award – **Alfred Moses, posthumously**

Alfred Moses spent many years working for his community and communities across the NWT as both a Councillor with the Town of Inuvik and an MLA and as Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Minister of MACA, Minister of Health and Social Services, and Minister Responsible for NWT Housing Corporation, Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission, Homelessness, and Youth. Mr. Moses was not just about his community or his riding; he wanted the best for every community in the NWT and showed that with his passion for his job.



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

- 10 meetings with NWT Climate Change Council, NWTAC CEO sits on the Council

ENERGY

- 10 meetings with Board of Arctic Energy Alliance
- Consultation on NWT Housing Energy Strategy
- Hydrogen Workshop
- Addition of [Marjolaine Chevet](#) as an Energy Community Liaison to NWTAC Staff. This is a new position which has been created to help navigate the ever-changing Energy landscape. Marjolaine will work closely with energy-related community representatives to help advance empowering energy projects, from fund pathfinding to implementation assistance. Community of practice and information sharing will also be a priority.
- NWT Energy Circle
- Participated in and helped facilitate GNWT Energy Strategy Consultation

ADAPTATION



SUCCESSFUL \$20 Million DMAF Application for Wildfire Breaks

» Funding will support the creation of fire breaks and fuel reduction strategies to improve community protection from wildfires and help build resilience in the face of increasing natural disasters. At the current rate, the program would have taken 83 years to complete, and our communities would have remained vulnerable. With this project, the work can be completed in 8 years, protecting our communities and providing socio-economic benefits to communities across the North.

- Foundation Review – review of municipal foundations in 10 highest risk communities
- 2 meetings on Flood Risk Management Permafrost Scientists (3)
- SmartIce Update
- 4 meetings with Liaison with Infrastructure Climate Change Lead
- 8 Meetings with Senior Staff at Environment & Climate Change Division
- Presentation (Virtually) at the MCIP World Café
- 6 meetings on Hazard Mapping Standard Development & Promotion (Technical Chair)
- Review of Geotechnical Review Standard (Technical Chair)
- Support and Advice for NSERC funded Permafrost field school

- Climate Change Preparedness in the North/
Climate Change Health Program
 - » Hosting Liaison Position
 - » CEO Sitting on Committee
- Consultation on MACA's Infrastructure
Vulnerability Assessment Project
- Sitting on the National Adaptation
Strategy – Resilient Infrastructure Advisory
Committee – NWTAC Appointment to
Committee
- Community Planning and Climate Change
Guide Development
- Development and Promotion of a
Whitepaper on the use of Risk Based
Partnership Tables to tackle Climate Change
- Funding secured to staff position to help
facilitate the tables. The new Partnership
Facilitator will support the creation of
risk-based multistakeholder tables to build
collaborative approaches rather than each
community struggling to take measures to
adapt to climate change on their own.
- The new Partnership Facilitator position
will be staffed by [Miki Ehrlich](#). Miki has
worked at the NWTAC for 5.5 years as the
Climate Change Community Liaison and
will bring that valuable experience to the
new role. Hiring for a new Climate Change
Community Liaison has been successful.
- We are pleased to add [Christa Domchek](#)
to this important role of Climate Change
Community Liaison
- Planning to help support 2024 Planners
Climate Change Conference
- Consultation on ECC's Risk & Opportunities
Analysis
- Speakers panel on permafrost at Canadian
Science Policy Conference
- FCM Green Municipal Fund – Adaptation
Advisory Table
- Initiate dialogue with CPHO regarding Clean
Air Shelters



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 to add climate change considerations.

- Collaboration with Asset Management Ontario
- **SUCCESSFUL Application for 4th Round MAMP which funded the following;**
 - » Elected Officials Session at September 2022 AGM
 - » 2022 Climate Change and Asset Management Conference Nov/Dec 2022
~ Check out our *Conference Toolkit for the virtual minutes and resources!*
 - » Update of Asset Management Tools with Climate Change Lens
- FCM Asset Management Working Group



OTHER NWTAC ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS

- Meetings with Wilfred Laurier University
- Purchasing Program Updates
- Plain Language Version of *Advice to Researchers on Reconciliation*
- Insurance Meetings
- Board Meetings



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
- Election Resources

MEMBERS ADVISORY SERVICES

NWTAC MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO ADVISORY SERVICES, INCLUDING:

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:

Client Relations Manager
at (780) 720-5145

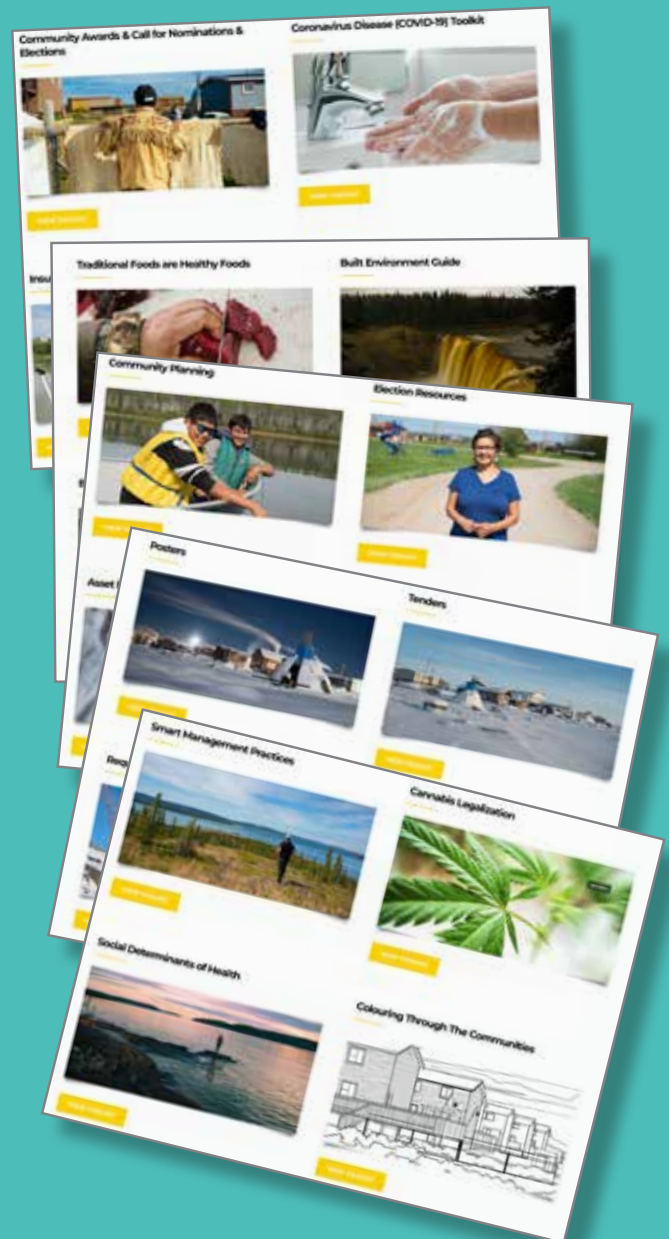


TOOLKIT

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.TOOLKITNWTAC.COM



*Our website continues to house our resources
and showcase our events and programs.
We invite all members to explore the site
and see what we offer.*

www.nwtac.com



NWT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITIES

SUPPORTIVE MEMBERS





NWT Association of Communities

Connecting Community Governments Since 1966

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