

## 2023 Prior Year Resolutions



## Resolution Breakdown

### **Re-affirm**

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

### **Standing**

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

### **Delete**

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

### **Expired**

(EX) As per resolution 2020-15 Lifespan of a Resolution, every NWTAC resolution has a lifespan of 4 years. It can be brought back for action at another time.

### **Internal**

(INT) Internal policies are administrative matters.

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

**NWT Association of Communities  
2023 RE-AFFIRMED RESOLUTIONS**

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Resolution			GNWT Dept.	GNWT Response
No.	Title	Text		
RA- 23-22-01	<b>Expand the Rural and Remote Stream of the Reaching Home Program</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> approximately 31% of the population of Canada lives in communities of 30 thousand or less and yet the Rural and Remote funding allocation is about 6% of the overall Reaching Home annual budget; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> research from Canada and the US indicates that while homelessness is prevalent in rural and remote communities, it remains significantly underfunded; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> this chronic underfunding means that the infrastructure is not in place in rural communities to enable them to jump on capital opportunities such as the Rapid Housing Initiative; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the National Housing Strategy has five streams of funding under the Reaching Home program designated for communities with populations above 25k; therefore, be it</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> That the Federal Government increases the amount of the Rural and Remote stream of the Reaching Home program from its current level of \$11 million per year to</p>	<b>Housing NWT</b>	<p>The GNWT supports the request for expanded federal funding, in the form of the rural and remote stream of the Reaching Home Program and continues to advocate for funding directed to benefit the whole of the Northwest Territories.</p> <p>Housing NWT is cognizant of the acute challenges and limited funding available to support members in remote, rural communities who are presently homeless or are at risk of homelessness and welcomes greater support from the federal government for our most vulnerable community members.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommends RE-AFFIRM.</b></p>

Resolution			GNWT Dept.	GNWT Response
No.	Title	Text		
		<p>\$50 million per year; and be it further</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> That the Federal Government gather data on rural housing and homelessness, including via the implementation of a national homelessness count for rural and remote communities; and be it further</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> That the Federal Government ensure that updates to the National Housing Strategy include measures to set aside meaningful funding for the provision of social and affordable housing in rural and remote communities.</p>		
RA-23-22-02	<b>Canada Community-Building Fund (Gax Tax Fund) Renewal</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which was formerly known as the federal Gas Tax Fund, provides \$2.2 billion in annual capital funding directly to municipalities through a predictable allocation mechanism; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Municipalities of all sizes use the CCBF to deliver direct results for Canadians by building and renewing core public infrastructure, including water infrastructure, local roads, public transit and</p>	<b>MACA</b>	<p>A permanent increase to the annual CCBF allocation for the territories is the most reliable and sustainable option to meaningfully address municipal needs in the north.</p> <p>The current Canada-NWT Administrative Agreement for the CCBF (formerly the Gas Tax Fund) expires on March 31, 2024. Canada has not yet initiated any discussions about renewal of the agreements.</p> <p>The GNWT has been engaging the Governments of Nunavut and Yukon to identify common pressures, themes and linkages to Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework to support strategic engagement and federal funding advocacy, including renewal of the CCBF.</p> <p>In renewal discussions, the GNWT will advocate for an ongoing funding increase for community governments in the NWT under the CCBF in the new agreement.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommends RE-AFFIRM.</b></p>

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No.	Title	Text		
		<p>community, cultural and recreational facilities; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> in Budget 2019 and Budget 2021 the federal government leveraged the CCBF as a proven mechanism to deliver infrastructure funding quickly by doubling the value of the fund in those years; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> each <i>Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund (2014-2024)</i> signed between the federal government and the provinces and territories is scheduled for renegotiation and renewal by April 1, 2024; Infrastructure Canada is leading a renewal engagement process with the aim of securing agreements in principle by September 2023; the scope of the CCBF renewal process includes decisions on signatories and program delivery partners, data collection and reporting and public communications, among other important program design considerations; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> reforms are needed to ensure that the Fund's growth and volume maintain pace with Canada's economic growth, the historic increase in construction prices, and the</p>		

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		<p>historic growth of federal sales tax revenues; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Government of Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework acknowledges longstanding inequalities in transportation, energy, communications, employment, community infrastructure, health and education continue to disadvantage people, especially Indigenous peoples, in Canada's Arctic and North; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Infrastructure Canada's practice of applying the current 2 percent index at \$100 million increments has caused municipalities to receive less funding than allocated: and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Budget 2022 signalled the federal government's intent to tie CCBF funding to actions by provinces, territories, and municipalities to increase housing supply where it makes sense to do so, marking an important new direction for the Fund; now, therefore, be it</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the federal government ensure that municipalities are meaningfully engaged in the development of</p>		

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		<p>the 2024-2034 Canada Community-Building Fund agreements through FCM and provincial and territorial municipal associations; and be it further</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the 2024-2025 Canada Community-Building Fund agreements modernize this critical municipal funding program by increasing the indexation from 2 percent to 3.5 percent annually, by eliminating the current practice of applying the index at \$100 million increments, and permanently triple the current funding allocation for the three Territories.</p>		

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RA-23-21-01	<b>Amendment to Disaster Assistance Policy – Solid Waste Management Facility Fires</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> NWT communities that are responsible for operation and management of a municipal solid waste management facility will not have adequate financial resources to support the cost of extraordinary, emergency firefighting and associated environmental protection related activities during a community solid waste management facility fire.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the cost of firefighting and environmental protection activities associated with a solid waste management facility fire will not be adequately covered through Northern Communities Insurance Program.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> increasing environmental regulations are equating to significant costs associated with emergency firefighting and associated air quality and water quality monitoring and mitigation.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the GNWT has recently ruled that a disaster classification requires proof of widespread damage that affects a significant number of people’s properties.</p>	<b>MACA</b>	N/A – Resolution was introduced in 2021.	<p>GNWT policies are designed to ensure that our decisions are consistent and fair, while taking into account the needs of residents and communities across the Northwest Territories. It is important that we follow our own policies when we make our decisions.</p> <p>The Disaster Assistance Policy provides guidance to how the GNWT may provide financial assistance to community governments, small businesses, or residents of the Northwest Territories who have suffered widespread damage as a result of a disaster. The intent of the Disaster Assistance Policy is to ensure overall community recovery in terms of infrastructure, essential services and functioning after a disaster. It is not a compensation program and it is not an insurance policy to recover actual losses.</p> <p>The Policy outlines that appropriate and reasonable measures to prevent and minimize damage should be taken by community governments, small businesses and residents. As part of the policy changes made by the Department effective April 1, 2007, communities are expected to establish a reserve to provide for unanticipated events; and were given additional authority and increased resources through the Community Public Infrastructure Fund and the Gas Tax Program to provide additional capacity to deal with emergency situations.</p> <p>The GNWT remains committed to developing policies that ensure that decisions are consistent and fair, while taking into account the needs of residents and community governments. It is important that the GNWT follow its own policies when decisions are made.</p> <p>The Disaster Assistance Policy has been in place since 1981 and was updated in 2022 to help the GNWT better meet the intent of the Policy, which remains unchanged.</p> <p>Amendments to the “Definitions” section align with the Policy’s principles and provide clarification as to what constitutes an eligible emergency and what is excluded. They exclude emergencies that affect a single sector or property; as such solid waste management facility fires are not eligible under the DAP.</p> <p>Community governments should take appropriate and reasonable measures to plan for, and to prevent and minimize damage.</p> <p>It is recommended that communities take a proactive approach to identify and address issues within their solid waste facilities to reduce the likelihood of future incidents occurring. Most recently through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program 28 communities are receiving funding to improve their solid waste facilities and incorporate</p>



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		<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the GNWT has recently ruled that environmental contaminants resulting from a significant solid waste management facility fire do not represent a risk to the health, safety and welfare of residents.</p> <p><b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the NWT Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to recognize extraordinary, emergency fires at solid waste management facilities as a potential disaster that can lead to significant municipal property destruction, significant environmental damage, and put peoples' health, safety and welfare at risk.</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that the GNWT's Disaster Assistance Policy be updated to include the specific indication that extraordinary, emergency solid waste management facility fires can be considered a disaster.</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that the GNWT's Disaster Assistance Policy's maximum assistance payable be increased from \$100,000 to</p>		<p>The Policy has been in place since 1981, and was last reviewed in 2005 with no change in the definitions since that time.</p> <p>The GNWT carefully considered the request by the Town of Hay River. A review of the circumstances of the Hay River landfill fire concluded that the event did not meet the criteria as set out in the Policy.</p> <p>Dump fires are not typically covered by disaster assistance in other jurisdictions and are not eligible under the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. There is no history in the Northwest Territories of the Disaster Assistance Policy being used for this type of incident. A review and modernization of the Disaster Assistance Policy by the department is being considered in the context of the 2021 flooding season.</p>	<p>best practices for solid waste management.</p> <p>MACA also continues to support community governments by providing training on solid waste management and can provide specialized expertise and is available to work with community governments upon request. MACA encourages community governments to participate in other training and educational opportunities such as those offered through the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)'s Northern Lights Chapter (e.g. Landfill Fire Training). MACA will continue to work with community governments to explore opportunities to support their ongoing solid waste program needs and proactively find solutions for preventing future solid waste site incidents.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolutions Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM – Some recent improvements in terms of amounts allocated for flooding to be in alignment with federal policy.</b></p>

Resolution			GNWT Dept.	GNWT Response		
No.	Title	Text				
		<p>\$1,000,000 to more appropriately cover the costs associated with or prevention of a community disaster.</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that the fiscal status of the community should have no bearing on the eligibility or amount of coverage under the GNWT Disaster Assistance Policy.</p>				
RA-23-21-02	<b>Property Tax Forgiveness When Property is Destroyed by Fire</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> in the event that an improvement is damaged or destroyed by fire and the damage or destruction is so significant as to render the taxable property unfit for further use or occupation, the Property Assessment and Taxation Act grants the Council of a municipal taxing authority to enact a by-law to reduce or rebate a portion of the property taxes, upon application by the assessed owner;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the ability to reduce or rebate a portion of</p>	<b>MACA</b>	N/A – Resolution was introduced in 2021.	<p>MACA is undertaking a review of the <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i> legislation and its corresponding policies and procedures in order to bring forward a Legislative Proposal during the 19th Legislative Assembly. A number of issues have long been identified with the Act, which have led to a lack of clarity, administrative challenges, inconsistent application and potential complaints. This issue was brought forward by the municipal taxation authorities. Senior Administrative Officers identified this during stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>A phased approach to amend the Act is planned, in order to prioritize some of the less complex administrative issues</p>	<p>MACA is using a phased approach to advance amendments to the <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i> (PATA).</p> <p>The first phase is addressing known administrative issues such as increasing the terms of appointments for members of both the Municipal and Territorial Boards of Revisions, while the second phase is intended to address more complex issues of property taxation and authorities such as the writing off property tax debt.</p> <p>Bill 66, <i>An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i> addresses the first phase amendments, and was introduced and received First and</p>

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		<p>the property taxes when fire damages or destroys an improvement and renders it unfit for further use is a reasonable action;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the current requirement to enact a by-law to effect the reduction or rebate of a portion of the property taxes under these circumstances introduces additional burden and potentially significant time delays, and unnecessarily brings public attention to what can be a very personal tragedy;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the reduction or rebate of a portion of the property taxes on a specific property under these conditions is largely prescriptive and can be achieved administratively without requiring policy direction from the Council of a municipal taxing authority;</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Northwest Territories Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider amending the Property Assessment and Taxation Act to enable the</p>		<p>before other more complicated or technical areas of the legislation.</p> <p>As part of the legislative review process, MACA will be taking into consideration those areas of the Act that may present regulatory hardship to affected community governments. MACA is completing preliminary research to further determine issues related to assessment which may require legislative or administrative solutions.</p> <p>MACA is also reviewing other property assessment legislation in Canada to identify common practices in property assessment and taxation and how these practices can be adapted to best fit our unique challenges and needs.</p>	<p>Second Reading in the Fall sitting of the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly (November 2022). MACA anticipates that Bill 66 will receive Third Reading in the Winter session (February/March 2023).</p> <p>MACA has established a Working Group to advance phase 2 that includes the departments of Lands and Finance, Local Administrators of Government of the NWT and the NWT Association of Communities. Given the complexity of taxation law, MACA has contracted a lawyer with expertise in taxation law to conduct research on the identified issues and propose recommendations for legislative amendments.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolutions Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM – NWTAC has been contacted to begin review of amendments to the Act.</b></p>

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		Senior Administrative Officer of a municipal taxing authority to approve, upon application by the assessed owner, the reduction or rebate of a portion of the property taxes when an improvement is damaged or destroyed by a fire that has rendered it unfit for further use or occupation.				
RA-23-21-03	<b>Accessibility Legislation</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> accessibility in Canada is about creating communities, workplaces and services that enable everyone to participate fully in society without barriers.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> according to the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability, more than 6 million Canadians aged 15 and over (22% of the population) identify as having a disability</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects a number of our rights and freedoms, including banning the discrimination of people with a mental or physical disability.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Canadian <i>Human Rights Act</i> and the Northwest Territories <i>Human Rights Act</i> prohibits the discrimination or harassment</p>	<b>MACA/ INF</b>	N/A – Response was introduced in 2021.	<p>The Standing Committee on Government Operations (SCOGO) Report on the Review of the 2018-19 Human Rights Commission Annual Report referred to the National Building Code concerning accessibility. The Commission is concerned about the lack of requirements set out in the National Building Code and what is considered an accessible space.</p> <p>SCOGO recommended that the GNWT investigate and take the necessary steps to solve the issues and remove the steps between the NBC and the <i>Human Rights Act</i>. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) worked with the Department of Infrastructure to develop a response to the SCOGO recommendation.</p> <p>The GNWT response to all the recommendations was tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the February-March 2021 session.</p>	<p>MACA established a Working Group consisting of representatives from the Department of Infrastructure and Housing NWT to advance amendments to the <i>Fire Prevention Act</i>. In May 2022, MACA released the <i>Fire Prevention Act Discussion Paper: Review of the Fire Prevention Act and Consideration of Building Standards Framework</i> and a ‘What We Heard Report’ following analysis of the engagement on the discussion paper in August 2022.</p> <p>This report was used to develop Bill 67, <i>An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act</i> that is before the Legislative Assembly for review. Bill 67 was introduced and received First and Second Reading in the Fall sitting of the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly (November 2022). MACA anticipates that Bill 67 will receive Third Reading in the Winter sitting of the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly (February/March 2023).</p> <p>Although the Bill does not include specific amendments focused on accessibility, the GNWT anticipates</p>

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		<p>of people on a number of grounds, including disability.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the provinces of Ontario, Nova Scotia and Manitoba have provincial accessibility legislation and British Columbia has introduced provincial accessibility legislation;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the <i>Accessible Canada Act</i> received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019 and came into force on July 11, 2019 and many provinces are expected to adopt mirroring legislation;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Canada joined the United Nations (UN) <i>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</i> in 2010. The Convention protects and promotes the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities without discrimination and on an equal basis with others.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Courts and Human Rights Tribunals have determined that meeting the <i>National Building Code</i> is not always adequate for individuals and building owners to ensure they are meeting accessibility</p>		<p>MACA is advancing its review of the <i>Fire Prevention Act</i> and Regulations, which will include a discussion on which code compliance measures are most appropriate to protect residents. Within the current legislative environment, the GNWT is not mandated or resourced to provide incentives to developers to incorporate accessible designs. Should the discussion about the <i>Fire Prevention Act</i> shift towards broader building standards legislation, issues regarding accessibility and other Human Rights considerations in the context of the National Building Code would be considered.</p> <p>In addition to MACA, the review of the <i>Fire Prevention Act</i> will involve multiple other departments, including Infrastructure (INF), Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Health and Social Services (HSS), the NWT Housing Corporation (NWTAC), and others who build and operate public infrastructure. There is no simple or quick solution for the issue of accessible design, and it remains a challenge faced by all Canadian jurisdictions. Implementation of accessible design in our current environment would include many stakeholders and decision makers and will require a cultural shift in the way our society approaches design and responsibilities for inclusive facilities.</p>	<p>adopting the 2020 Nation Building Code (NBC) via regulations in 2023. 2020 NBC makes several improvements with respect to accessibility.</p> <p>The accessibility of buildings is improved by revising the minimum dimensions of building elements to accommodate persons using various types of mobility devices and by increasing the visibility, detectability and ease of use of building elements by persons with reduced dexterity, vision or hearing. 2020 NBC introduces requirements for universal washrooms and shower rooms, for visible and audible feedback signals, and for tactile safety signage. More pedestrian entrances and floor levels are also required to be accessible.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolutions Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM – Above referenced review of the Fire Prevention Act did not include any amendments focused on accessibility.</b></p>

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		<p>requirements under Human Rights Acts.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> there is no clear guidance for in the Northwest Territories on how to address accessibility in facilities and services.</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Government of the Northwest Territories establish comprehensive accessibility legislation that enables all persons to participate fully in society without barriers by providing clarity of requirements and standards to be met throughout the Northwest Territories.</p>			<p>The GNWT aims to show leadership on this topic through the planning, design and construction of GNWT-owned infrastructure, but does not currently have a mandated role to play in the accessibility standards for private and municipal infrastructure.</p>	
RA 23-20-06	<b>Water and Sewage Policy</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> at the last LGANT meeting in Yellowknife, MACA officials presented its paper “Environmental Services Backgrounder”;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the conversation between MACA officials and some SAOs revealed the possibility of major changes to MACA’s Water Sewage Policy;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the conversation between the MACA officials and some SAOs at LGANT</p>	<b>MACA</b>	<p>Conversations between MACA and Senior Administrative Officers are not considered consultation or engagement, these conversations are to help inform MACA as the department starts to review changes to municipal funding policies.</p> <p>MACA will continue to review and work with the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) and LGANT to better understand the valuation methods and how to best measure changes over time. This</p>	<p>The Department routinely engages with community officials on all policies to review and address issues.</p> <p>As part of the 19th Assembly’s Mandate commitment to address the municipal funding gap, MACA will be updating the Community Government Funding Policies. The Department will continue to work with the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) and LGANT to discuss policy options and details and will engage before any final policy decisions are made.</p>	<p>MACA engages the NWTAC to obtain feedback on community government funding, including the preferred split for the \$5 million mandate investment between the three core funding pots (Operations and Maintenance, Water &amp; Sewer, and Community Public Infrastructure).</p> <p>To date \$4.17 million has been approved, with the remainder pending the review of the 2023-24 Main Estimates.</p> <p>The GNWT is currently working with an Advisory Group comprised of members nominated by the NWTAC and LGANT to</p>

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		<p>does not constitute proper or sufficient consultation with LGANT members;</p> <p><b>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED</b> that MACA arrange for full consultation and disclosure of changes prior to implementing its proposed changes to its Water Sewage Policy;</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that the NWT Association of Communities immediately petition the GNWT Department of MACA to fully disclose its intention to amend its Water Sewage Policy and to consult with LGANT members prior to implementing its proposed changes to its Water Sewage Policy.</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that the NWT Association of Communities immediately petition the GNWT Department of MACA to fully disclose its intentions to immediately increase O&amp;M funding to all NWT municipal governments.</p>		will include updates to funding policies to clearly identify how funding is being provide and how the deficit will be calculated on an ongoing basis.		<p>update the Community Government Funding policies and remains committed to amending these policies in 2022-23.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolutions Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM –work of committee is underway.</b></p>
RA-23-20-07	<b>O &amp; M Funding Levels</b>	<b>WHEREAS</b> the GNWT MACA has been reviewing its funding formula;	<b>MACA</b>	The Department will work with the NWTAC to obtain their input	MACA has engaged with the NWTAC to obtain their feedback on all additional	MACA engages the NWTAC to obtain feedback on community government

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		<p><b>WHEREAS</b> there is still a wide gap between funding needs and funding levels;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> most, if not all, municipal governments have been struggling with less than adequate funding from the GNWT;</p> <p><b>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED</b> that GNWT MACA arrange for full consultation and disclosure of its progress in finalizing the review of its funding formula;</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that the NWT Association of Communities immediately petition the GNWT Department of MACA to fully disclose the results of the review of its funding formula.</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that the NWT Association of Communities immediately petition the GNWT Department of MACA to fully disclose its intentions to immediately increase O&amp;M funding to all NWT municipal governments.</p>		<p>on the preferred split for the \$5 million mandate investment between the 3 core funding pots (Operations and Maintenance, Water &amp; Sewer, and community public infrastructure).</p> <p>With this mandate commitment, MACA is taking the opportunity to reassess the 2014 Municipal Funding Policy Review.</p>	<p>community government funding, including the preferred split for the \$5 million mandate investment between the three core funding pots (Operations and Maintenance, Water &amp; Sewer, and Community Public Infrastructure).</p> <p>\$3.3 million has been added to Community Government Funding to date plus an increase of \$750,000 in Gas Tax Funding.</p> <p>MACA, along with the Federal Government has distributed over \$8 million, to community governments to support costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>MACA will continue to work with all levels of government through established budget processes to seek funding opportunities to address the gap as well as continue to support communities to increase revenue generation and reduce operating costs.</p>	<p>funding, including the preferred split for the \$5 million mandate investment between the three core funding pots (Operations and Maintenance, Water &amp; Sewer, and Community Public Infrastructure).</p> <p>To date \$4.17 million has been approved, with the reminder pending the review of the 2023-24 Main Estimates.</p> <p>The GNWT is currently working with an Advisory Group comprised of members nominated by the NWTAC and LGANT to update the Community Government Funding policies and remains committed to amending these policies in 2022-23.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolutions Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM - work of committee is underway.</b></p>
RA-23-20-09	<b>Infrastructure Shortfall</b>	<b>WHEREAS</b> the 19th Legislative Assembly has tabled document 1-19(1) titled "Priorities of the	<b>MACA</b>	The Department will work with the NWTAC to obtain their input on the preferred split for the \$5	The Department has engaged with the NWTAC to obtain their feedback on all additional community government	MACA engages the NWTAC to obtain feedback on community government funding, including the preferred split for



Resolution			GNWT Dept.	GNWT Response		
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		<p>19th Legislative Assembly” wherein it directs Cabinet to work in partnership with governments to implement its 22 priorities which explicitly includes “Reduce the municipal funding gap”.</p> <p>Within the Cabinet’s Guiding Principles, tabled document 3-19(1) titled “Cabinet’s Guiding Principles – 19th Legislative Assembly”, among the six guiding principles it states;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>We will promote personal and community self-sufficiency.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><i>We recognize that being able to make and implement decisions for ones’ self is a fundamental part of individual dignity and self-confidence. When we make decisions about GNWT policies, programs and services, we will choose those options that give people and communities the support they need to develop their own capacity and skills to choose and direct their own futures.</i></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> GNWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs identified a \$39.2 million Community</p>		<p>million mandate investment between the 3 core funding pots (Operations and Maintenance, Water &amp; Sewer, and community public infrastructure).</p> <p>With this mandate commitment, MACA is taking the opportunity to reassess the 2014 Municipal Funding Policy Review.</p>	<p>funding, including the preferred split for the \$5 million mandate investment between the three core funding pots (Operations and Maintenance, Water &amp; Sewer, and Community Public Infrastructure).</p> <p>\$3.3 million has been added to Community Government Funding to date plus an increase of \$750,000 in Gas Tax Funding.</p> <p>MACA has also distributed over \$8 million to community governments to support costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>MACA will continue to work with all levels of government through established budget processes to seek funding opportunities to address the gap as well as finding other ways to either increase revenue generation or reduce operating costs.</p>	<p>the \$5 million mandate investment between the three core funding pots (Operations and Maintenance, Water &amp; Sewer, and Community Public Infrastructure).</p> <p>To date \$4.17 million has been approved, with the reminder pending the review of the 2023-24 Main Estimates.</p> <p>The GNWT is currently working with an Advisory Group comprised of members nominated by the NWTAC and LGANT to update the Community Government Funding policies and remains committed to amending these policies in 2022-23.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolutions Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM – work of committee is underway.</b></p>

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		<p>Infrastructure Funding shortfall in 2014, and more recently for the 2019 fiscal year end, identified the gap to be about \$30 million; WHEREAS the 18th Legislative Assembly tabled the 2020/2021 Capital Estimates, <i>Aug 2019 – TD-511-18(3)</i> with approved infrastructure investments of \$398.6 million for the 2020-21 fiscal year.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> less than 10% of the budgeted infrastructure expenditure (capital estimates) would fund the identified Community Infrastructure funding shortfall for municipalities, thus allowing community governments to invest in maintaining local infrastructure necessary to sustain and support basic community living requirements, promote long-term sustainability of community infrastructure and, to provide critical local economic stimulus.</p> <p><b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the 19th Legislative Assembly prioritize its 2020/2021 and future years</p>				

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		<p>funding to eliminate the municipal Community Infrastructure shortfalls as identified by GNWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that the GNWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provide the members of the 19th Legislative Assembly with updated reporting that identifies the underfunding of critical infrastructure funding for municipalities.</p>				
RA-23-20-16	<b>Building Code Act</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> at this time, the Northwest Territories (NWT) is the only jurisdiction within Canada without a regulatory building regime framework. Compared to our sister territories, the Yukon Territory and Nunavut, the NWT does not have any legislation that regulates construction in detail. The Yukon Territory has a <i>Building Standards Act</i> and Nunavut has a <i>Building Code Act</i>. The NWT does not have similar legislation, leading to an absence of clear building-related responsibilities for municipalities.</p>	<b>MACA/ INF</b>	<p>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 &amp; National Fire Code have been raised on several occasions, by municipal authorities, professional associations and the NWTAC.</p> <p>The GNWT is supportive of examining this issue with a view to improving harmonization among related regulatory functions and clarifying roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>MACA has committed to a</p>	<p>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 &amp; National Fire Code have been raised on several occasions, by municipal authorities, professional associations and the NWTAC.</p> <p>The GNWT is supportive of examining this issue with a view to improving harmonization among related regulatory functions and clarifying roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>MACA is undertaking a review of the Fire Prevention Act during the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Stakeholder engagement conducted in 2017 on the Act identified the plan review function as a topic requiring a focused dialogue.</p>	<p>In May 2022, MACA released the <i>Fire Prevention Act (FPA) Discussion Paper: Review of the FPA and Consideration of Building Standards Framework</i> and a 'What We Heard Report' was released in August 2022 following analysis of the engagement on the discussion paper.</p> <p>MACA recognizes that updates to the FPA do not fully address the need for a building standards framework, and there is strong support from the 'What We Heard Report' to advance building standards legislation as a legislative priority for the 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>Further research and engagement with industry stakeholders and community governments, as well as a discussion on the GNWT's mandate related to building</p>

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		<p><b>WHEREAS</b> through the <i>Cities, Towns, and Villages (CTV) Act</i>, CTV's can choose to adopt by-laws to regulate the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property. Pursuant to this, the City of Yellowknife has chosen to create the Building By-law, that regulates local construction; however, the <i>CTV Act</i> does not formally define the building-related responsibilities and interconnection between the function of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and tax based municipalities.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> a <i>Building Code Act</i> is different than a <i>Fire Prevention Act (FPA)</i>, and work on a <i>Building Code Act</i> should not be tied to the completion of the <i>FPA</i> review and update. Both Yukon and Nunavut have legislation regarding building codes and fire prevention.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> individuals and developers are often frustrated because they need to deal with multiple regulatory offices for building plans, electrical permits,</p>		<p>review of the Fire Prevention Act (FPA) which includes the GNWT's regulatory authority in this area through MACA's plan review function.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement conducted in 2017 on the FPA identified the plan review function as a topic requiring a focused dialogue.</p> <p>MACA is proposing to conduct a review of the Fire Prevention Act and the Fire Prevention Regulations during the term of the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. In considering the FPA, consideration needs to be given to the scope of the review - particularly with regards to broader building standards and the NWT regulatory compliance framework. A thorough understanding of the problem is crucial in helping to identify viable solutions.</p>	<p>In considering the Act, consideration is being given to the scope of the review - particularly with regards to broader building standards and the NWT regulatory compliance framework.</p>	<p>standards legislation, will be needed before advancing this work.</p> <p>The GNWT will form a working group to determine whether building standards and inspections legislation can be introduced in the 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM: The absence of these Acts was flagged again for discussion under the Fire Protection Act Review.</b></p>

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		<p>construction, inspections and occupancy. By having a <i>Building Code Act</i>, the clarity on who is the ultimate authority and how regulatory requirements are interpreted would improve the terms for development considerably.</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) establish a comprehensive building regime for the purpose of providing regulatory clarity throughout the Northwest Territories.</p>				
RA-23-20-17	<b>Presumptive Coverage for Work-Related Psychological Injury (including PTSD)</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> Nunavut, Northwest Territories (NWT) and Quebec are the only jurisdictions in Canada without presumptive coverage for work-related psychological injury (including PTSD).</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> in all jurisdictions with a PTSD presumption, the legislation states that, for eligible workers diagnosed with PTSD, their condition will be presumed to be related to their employment, unless the contrary is proven.</p>	<b>WSCC</b>	<p>The WSCC actively monitors and considers policy trends within the worker's compensation industry including specific issues such as presumptive coverage for work-related psychological injury.</p> <p>Although the terminology "presumptive" is not specifically incorporated into the WSCC Policy on Psychiatric and Psychological Disorders (03.09), the resulting application of the policy already provides for outcomes in line with other jurisdictions</p>	<p>No change: The coverage provided by the WSCC for psychiatric and psychological disorders is not restricted to any category of worker but is equally provided to all workers under the Workers' Compensation Act. Our coverage, like other jurisdictions, is dependent on the psychiatric or psychological disorder being work-related and diagnosed through the DSM. These coverage factors already exist within WSCC policy regardless of the specific title "presumptive coverage".</p> <p>Policy 03.09 Psychiatric and Psychological Disorders is again set to be</p>	<p>The coverage provided by the WSCC for psychiatric and psychological disorders is not restricted to any category of worker but is equally provided to all workers under the Workers' Compensation Act. Our coverage, like other jurisdictions, is dependent on the psychiatric or psychological disorder being work-related and diagnosed through the DSM. These coverage factors already exist within WSCC policy regardless of the specific title "presumptive coverage."</p> <p>In 2022, Policy 03.09 Psychiatric and Psychological Disorders was reviewed and will be going forward to the Governance Council in December for</p>

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		<p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the GNWT work with relevant stakeholders, including community governments, to update legislation to have presumptive coverage for work-related psychological injury (including PTSD).</p>		<p>that specifically prescribe a presumption.</p> <p>For psychiatric and psychological disorders to be eligible for WSCC compensation they must be work-related, and they must be diagnosed by the most current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).</p> <p>To ensure protection of Human Rights, all injuries are treated fairly regardless of being physical and/or psychiatric or psychological in nature. The WSCC regularly reviews its policies. The policy regarding psychiatric and psychological injuries was reviewed and updated in 2014, and again in December of 2017, to ensure fairness and alignment with Territorial Human Rights Legislation. To ensure that emerging issues are considered, the WSCC sets out a five-year policy review schedule. As per that schedule, Policy 03.09 Psychiatric and Psychological Disorders is again set to be reviewed by the Governance Council in September of 2022.</p>	<p>reviewed by the Governance Council in September of 2022.</p>	<p>approval.</p> <p>There are no anticipated changes in the policy in regards to coverage for work-related psychiatric or psychological disorders diagnosed through the most current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).</p> <p>Looking forward, the WSCC will be reviewing PTSD for firefighters as a part of its review of Firefighters' Presumption Regulations.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM: NWTAC will continue to monitor.</b></p>

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				<p>All jurisdictions with presumptions require that the diagnosis of a psychological injury or PTSD be made using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual or Mental Disorders (DSM).</p> <p>Employment criteria are also considered under their presumptions. Some jurisdictions limit the application of presumption to certain categories of workers (e.g. First responders, front-line workers, or emergency-response workers), others extend the coverage to any worker covered by their Acts who is exposed to a work-related traumatic event.</p> <p>Specific wording of presumption in some jurisdictions simply states that provided the diagnostic and employment criteria are met, a worker's PTSD is presumed to be a work-related injury, unless the contrary is proven on the balance of probabilities. For others, the presumptive language explicitly includes the requirement that the worker's condition has to have</p>	

Resolution			GNWT Dept.	GNWT Response		
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				<p>arisen in response to an individual traumatic event or a series of such events.</p> <p>The coverage provided by the WSCC for psychiatric and psychological disorders is not restricted to any category of worker, but is equally provided to all workers under the Workers' Compensation Act. Our coverage, like other jurisdictions, is dependent on the psychiatric or psychological disorder being work-related and diagnosed through the DSM. These coverage factors already exist within WSCC policy regardless of the specific title "presumptive coverage".</p>		
RA-23-20-20	<p><b>REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS AND DISABLED PERSONS PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT, R.S.N.W.T. 1988,c.50 (Supp.), as amended</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the <i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act</i> grants municipalities the authority to exempt the eligible property of a senior citizen or a disabled person from part of the property taxes;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the <i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act</i> requires other property owners to be dependent on the senior or disabled owner in order for the relief to apply;</p>	<b>MACA</b>	<p>During the 18th Assembly, MACA advanced and completed four significant pieces of legislation and Regulations; an updated Western Canada Lottery Act, the new Northwest Territories 9-1-1 Act, an updated Cities, Towns and Villages Act and a new Emergency Management Act, in addition to completing an initial legislative review of the Fire Protection Act.</p> <p>MACA has identified three large pieces of legislation to</p>	<p>During the 18th Assembly, MACA advanced and completed four significant pieces of legislation and Regulations; an updated Western Canada Lottery Act, the new Northwest Territories 9-1-1 Act, an updated Cities, Towns and Villages Act and a new Emergency Management Act, in addition to completing an initial legislative review of the Fire Protection Act.</p> <p>MACA has identified three large pieces of legislation to</p>	<p>The <i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act</i> has not been comprehensively reviewed since it was enacted and it needs to be updated to address identified concerns.</p> <p>Resource constraints due to COVID-19 and flooding in 2021 and 2022 led MACA to defer this legislative review. MACA intends to advance the Act as a legislative priority in the next Assembly.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee</b></p>



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		<p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the definition of dependent within the <i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act</i> is vague and allows for a wide range of diverse and potentially conflicting interpretations;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the vagueness of this definition can create confusion and misunderstanding;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> this confusion and misunderstanding may inhibit fair and consistent application of the tax relief provisions; determines eligibility strictly on the basis of age and/or disability;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the <i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act</i> does not provide any mechanism for municipalities to consider financial need when considering eligibility for property tax relief;</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Northwest Territories Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider: (i) Amending the <i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act</i></p>		<p>prioritize for review and significant amendment during the 19th Assembly. These are, in order of anticipated priority: the Fire Prevention Act, the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, and the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act.</p> <p>In addition to MACA-led initiatives, community governments have expressed a strong interest in the Fire Prevention Act and the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. MACA intends to prioritize these legislative initiatives with the greatest stakeholder interest before considering the addition of another large legislative project.</p>	<p>Taxation Act, and the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act.</p> <p>MACA intends to finalize the reviews of these acts in the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, before considering the addition of another large legislative project.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM: More work is required on this. MACA is in the process of forming working group for PADA (PATA) review.</b></p>

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		<p>to allow municipalities to determine how dependency is defined and determined in situations where not all owners are seniors and/or disabled; and</p> <p>(ii) Amending the <i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act</i> to allow municipalities to define and apply a financial means test to ensure that property tax relief is directed at property owners who need it.</p>				
RA-23-20-21	<b>Winter Roads</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> Climate Change is occurring in the North at more than twice the rate of the rest of Canada;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> The transportation network connecting communities in the NWT is particularly vulnerable to climate change due to its reliance on temperature sensitive systems such as winter roads and bridges;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the winter road network is a critical transportation link for nine NWT communities who rely on winter roads to bring in food, fuel, building supplies, and other essential goods and</p>	<b>INF</b>	<p>The Northwest Territories is experiencing numerous changes and impacts due to a rapidly warming climate, and there are many knowledge gaps that need to be better understood and addressed. Overarching action areas required to improve climate change knowledge include the planning, management and use of information, along with enhanced research and monitoring networks.</p> <p>Using the best available information to improve the understanding of current and future impacts of climate change based on local, national</p>	<p>The GNWT is continuing to work with federal partners on northern research projects and with national organizations on design and maintenance standards, to adapt and build in resilience to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>One initiative INF is working on with Transport Canada is a winter road portage road base and resiliency study. The study is complete for the first phase of investigations.</p> <p>The study placed temperature instruments along a section of northern winter road portages (which are the most vulnerable sections of winter roads due to rising temperatures) and the respective portages characterized for</p>	<p>The GNWT is working with Canada to make investments into the NWT transportation system to address impact of climate change.</p> <p>Climate change considerations will also be made as the Department will be undertaking a review of the 25-year Transportation Strategy, which will include engagement with Indigenous governments, community governments, stakeholders and public.</p> <p>The GNWT continues to work with federal partners on northern research projects and with national organizations on design and maintenance standards, to adapt and build in resilience to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Initiatives include an INF-Transport</p>

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		<p>services plus many others that rely on ice bridges</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> climate warming and increasing variability in temperatures has generally shortened the winter road season and increased uncertainty resulting in delays and cancellations, increased costs, and increased safety risks for travellers.</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the winter roads are GNWT assets, and the GNWT bears the responsibility for the planning and maintenance necessary to keep the transportation network operational and viable.</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the total costs of permafrost degradation on public assets is estimated to be in the order of \$1.3 billion.</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> taking proactive tactics to addressing climate change adaptation is the preferred approach;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> We will see the best success by working collaboratively with our many partners;</p> <p><b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Government of the Northwest Territories to</p>		<p>and scientific knowledge will be paramount.</p> <p>In recent years, the GNWT has been working with other levels of government as well as academic institutions and researchers on numerous research and monitoring projects targeted at addressing climate change knowledge gaps.</p> <p>INF is involved in the construction and monitoring of test sections along the NWT highway system in order to understand and mitigate climate change effects on transportation infrastructure. For example, four test sections were constructed and monitored on Highway No. 3, and two test sections were constructed and continued to be monitored on Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway.</p> <p>These test sections are a part of a research and development program intended to evaluate better rehabilitation techniques for infrastructure constructed on warm, ice-rich, discontinuous and continuous permafrost. During construction, each test section was instrumented with</p>	<p>vulnerability. These instruments will be monitored annually. The information will be used to develop a portage decision-making tool to allow for more accurate predictions of winter road closures, and to develop construction techniques that create more resilient portages.</p> <p>Another initiative recently started involves integrated water and ice monitoring and risk mitigation for northern Canada's high impact and low frequency events due to climate change. Specifically, the initiative aims to provide technology-based products and tools to help adapt to the consequences of climate change, including a focus on ice road hazards. This is a federal program in collaboration with several universities, and in partnership with the Dept. of ENR and INF. Work is expected to continue until 2024.</p> <p>This work, along with ongoing related studies by INF and academic institutions, are helping us to better understand the impact of climate change, and the options and limitations we have available to deal with the impacts.</p> <p>This is not just an NWT issue, but a northern issue. We are more than ever collaborating, and sharing information and experience, with many jurisdictions and academic institutions who are</p>	<p>Canada collaboration on a winter road portage road base and resiliency study. The study is complete for the first phase of investigations.</p> <p>The study placed temperature instruments along a section of northern winter road portages (which are the most vulnerable sections of winter roads due to rising temperatures) and the respective portages characterized for vulnerability. These instruments will be monitored annually. The information will be used to develop a portage decision-making tool to allow for more accurate predictions of winter road closures, and to develop construction techniques that create more resilient portages.</p> <p>Another initiative involves integrated water and ice monitoring and risk mitigation for northern Canada's high impact and low frequency events due to climate change. Specifically, the initiative aims to provide technology-based products and tools to help adapt to the consequences of climate change, including a focus on ice road hazards. This is a federal program in collaboration with several universities, and in partnership with the Dept. of ENR and INF. Work is expected to continue until 2024.</p> <p>This work, along with ongoing related studies by INF and academic institutions, are helping us to better understand the</p>

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		<p>acknowledge the urgency and immediacy of the threat climate change poses to the winter road network and make the development of strategic adaptation measures a top priority;</p> <p><b>AND FURTHER THAT</b> the GNWT take a strategic approach to research and planning that considers the vulnerability of communities.</p> <p><b>AND FURTHER THAT</b> the GNWT lead a collaborative approach to transportation planning and research that is inclusive of every level of government and explores innovative partnerships with indigenous, federal and community governments, development corporations, and researchers.</p> <p><b>AND FURTHER THAT</b> the GNWT take a leadership role and work in partnership with community governments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research, develop and implement adaptation measures to respond to the increasingly uncertain winter road season;</li> <li>• Ensure that transportation infrastructure is developed to</li> </ul>		<p>thermistor cables connected to data loggers. The data downloaded from data loggers have been used to relate climate change effects and develop mitigation techniques.</p> <p>We will continue to work with our partners to understand, adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change on transportation infrastructure.</p>	<p>addressing this challenge. Examples are the Yukon and Alaska governments, and Laval, Carleton, Toronto, and Alberta universities.</p> <p>impact of climate change, and the options and limitations we have available to deal with the impacts.</p> <p>This is not just an NWT issue, but a northern issue. Increasingly, we are collaborating, and sharing information and experience, with many jurisdictions and academic institutions that are addressing this challenge. Examples are our work with the Yukon and Alaska governments, and Laval, Carleton, Toronto, and Alberta universities.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM: NWTAC will continue our work with GNWT on climate change. More action is required on this resolution.</b></p>

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		<p>be resilient to the changing climate; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build the resilience of communities so they are better able to withstand and adapt to the impacts of climate change on the transportation network.</li> </ul> <p><b>AND FURTHER THAT</b> the GNWT to provide information to winter road dependent communities in a transparent and timely manner.</p>				
RA-23-20-22	<b>United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly in 2007 to establish minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories resolved in 2008 to recognize and support the Declaration;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the NWT Association of Communities has also supported the Declaration;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> Canada committed in 2016 to fully</p>	<b>EIA</b>	<p>As described in the GNWT's 2019-2023 Mandate, the GNWT is committed to further identifying, prioritizing and strengthening key actions to further implement UNDRIP work with Indigenous governments, including creating and implementing an action plan that identifies changes required in GNWT legislation and policies to best reflect the principles set out in UNDRIP.</p> <p>The GNWT is anticipating developing a Terms of Reference (TOR) for a Working Group with Indigenous governments in 2020.</p>	<p>The GNWT is establishing a multilateral forum with all Indigenous governments to discuss and collaborate on common issues, including the implementation of the UN Declaration, with the forum's inaugural meeting which took place in June 2021.</p>	<p>A legislative Framework to guide the drafting of legislation to implement the UN Declaration and a Memorandum of Understanding are expected to be reviewed and approved by NWT Council of Leaders by Winter 2023.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM: NWTAC will continue to work on this resolution.</b></p>

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		<p>implement the Declaration without qualification; and</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories states that implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within the constitutional framework of Canada will advance reconciliation;</p> <p><b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the NWT Association of Communities call on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the Government of the Northwest Territories implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through territorial legislation co-developed with Indigenous Governments within the calendar year 2020; and</li> <li>2. the Government of the Northwest Territories to work in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Governments to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ensure that territorial laws, policies, mandates and measures comply with the Declaration; and</li> <li>b. co-develop and implement territorial action plans to</li> </ol> </li> </ol>				

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		achieve the objectives of the Declaration.				
RA-23-19-03	<b>Alternative Voting Methods</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> Section 52.1 .(1 } of the Local Authorities Elections Act authorizes a local authority, that is a municipality, to pass a by-law to provide for voting by way of mail-in- ballot or the casting of ballots at the office of the returning officer;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> other jurisdictions within Canada allow for Alternative Voting Methods such as telephone voting and internet voting;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the acceptance of digital technology in society is increasing exponentially;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the use of technology can improve accessibility, enhance voter privacy and convenience, reduce ballot errors and increase efficiency of elections;</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Northwest Territories Association of Communities lobby the Government of the Northwest Territories to amend the Local Authorities Elections Act to incorporate technological advancements and alternative</p>	<b>MACA</b>	<p>A legislative review of the <i>Local Authorities Elections Act</i> (LAEA) has not been identified as a priority during the 18th Legislative Assembly and has not been put on MACA’s list of legislative priorities.</p> <p>As of February 2020, phone voting in municipal elections is not done in any Canadian jurisdiction. Most Canadian jurisdictions do not have online voting, with the exception of some municipalities in Ontario.</p> <p>Individuals in these Ontario municipalities register for online voting. They are sent PIN numbers at a cost of \$2.00 per online voter (mailing costs). Ontario elections take longer than the 49 day calendar used in NWT municipal elections to allow for PINs to be distributed.</p> <p>MACA will consider these types of alternative voting methods along with other jurisdictions and will refer to this resolution at which time the LAEA is up for review.</p>	<p>A legislative review of the <i>Local Authorities Elections Act</i> (LAEA) has not been identified as a priority during the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Most Canadian jurisdictions do not have online voting, with the exception of some municipalities. Phone voting in municipal elections has not been common in many Canadian jurisdictions, but with the impacts of COVID-19, the perception of the need for more accessible and safe digital systems may change the future of online and telephone voting nationwide. MACA is monitoring and reviewing how and where on-line voting is used throughout Canada and how this has evolved throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will refer to this Resolution when the LAEA is up for review in the future.</p> <p>Elections in the NWT and other jurisdictions provincially and globally have successfully taken place during the pandemic. The LAEA allows for various voting opportunities leading up to election day, which lessens the number of people in the voting station on election day: advance voting, mail-in ballots via bylaw, voting in the office of the returning officer via bylaw, proxy voting, and mobile voting. Voters are encouraged to vote prior to Election</p>	<p>The <i>Local Authorities Elections Act</i> (LAEA) was last amended in 2015. It is not identified as a priority for the 19th Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>MACA is moving its legislative agenda forward in line with current commitments of the 19th Legislative Assembly and has begun work on identifying legislative priorities for the 20th Legislative Assembly</p> <p>The LAEA currently allows community governments to provide various alternative voting options leading up to an election day, including advance voting, mail-ballots, voting in the office of the returning officer, proxy voting, and mobile voting.</p> <p>To conduct elections through other means such as mail-ballots, community governments first need to have passed a bylaw allowing them to do so.</p> <p>The GNWT recognizes that safe and accessible digital voting options support the participation of all citizens in democratic processes. When the LAEA is identified as a legislative priority, a review of the legislation will include consideration of digital voting options, and consultation considerations with the NWTAC will be coordinated with the review process.</p>

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		voting methods such as, but not limited to telephone voting and internet voting.			Day.	<p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM: In a year where COVID 19 tested our ability to work from home and communicate with others, communications, and the ability to use options such as those for voting is important. NWTAC will continue to advocate to amend the Local Authorities Election Act to incorporate these voting methods.</b></p>
						<p>The GNWT continues to advance initiatives under the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework and Action Plan that address the impacts of climate change on communities and infrastructure. This includes ongoing efforts to support the Northern Infrastructure Standards Initiative (NISI) and promote awareness and education regarding impacts of permafrost loss. The GNWT has advocated for the importance of NISI to continue to create plain-language documents to accompany these standards.</p> <p>MACA is advocating for Infrastructure Canada and the federal government to develop and improve funding</p>



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						<p>programs that support planning efforts for disaster mitigation and adaptation, including funding for relocation of critical assets. MACA has also completed O&amp;M Drainage Manuals for communities considering northern climate change and drainage practices. Manuals were distributed in September 2021.</p> <p>The Department has hired a Climate Change Coordinator and will continue to work with the NWTAC to improve information sharing for communities.</p> <p>Housing NWT continues to support the completion of community housing plans, for those communities who express an interest, and engages with community proponents on their knowledge of known areas of soil erosion or permafrost degradation.</p> <p>Housing NWT also continues its collaboration with other GNWT departments as well as scientific agencies that may have information on known erosion or permafrost degradation areas to determine possible solutions, when constructing or repairing Housing NWT assets and to inform future planning.</p> <p>As part of its ongoing renewal, Housing NWT is improving the way that it engages with local and Indigenous Governments.</p> <p>Housing NWT provides notice of new</p>

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						<p>construction and ensures the building and sitework, including drainage, complies with local bylaws, community zoning bylaws, building bylaws and general community plans. Housing NWT will continue to proactively engage communities as part of the delivery of all new construction projects, continues to implement new technologies and design in new construction projects, and supports the process of adaptively managing potential impacts related to climate change.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM: NWTAC will continue to work with GNWT on this resolution. NWTAC hired consultant to review buildings of 10 most vulnerable communities.</b></p>
RA-23-18-03	<b>Wildfires</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> Localized drought conditions seem to cause more and more severe fire seasons;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Many NWT communities are surrounded by old-growth coniferous forests that are ready to burn;</p> <p><b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> That the GNWT's department of Municipal and Community Affairs bring more resources and focus more on ways to</p>	<b>MACA / ENR</b>	<p>ENR, MACA and communities continue to update the status of wildfire risk and occurrence to support emergency management organizations' planning and preparedness activities.</p> <p>ENR continues to provide advice and recommendations to communities to assist to reduce the risk from wildfire. 29 Community Wildfire</p>	<p>ENR, MACA and communities continue to update the status of wildfire risk and occurrence to support emergency management organizations' planning and preparedness activities.</p> <p>ENR continues to provide advice and recommendations to communities to assist to reduce the risk from wildfire. 29 Community Wildfire Protection Plans have been updated.</p> <p>ENR has met with most communities to talk about their updated plans, and</p>	<p>ENR continues to provide advice and recommendations to communities to assist to reduce risk from wildfire. All 29 forested communities in the NWT have updated their community wildland fire protection plans, and recommendations are being implemented in communities as part of ENR's standard business operations.</p> <p>Thanks to a strong collaboration between ENR and NWTAC, over \$20 million of federal funding was secured to</p>

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		<p>safeguard our communities from wildfires and at the same time put a higher priority on bolstering emergency measures organizations in the community so they can better deal with the imminent threat from a fire threatening their community.</p>		<p>Protection Plans have been updated.</p> <p>ENR has met with most communities to talk about their updated plans, and continues to engage communities to implement the recommendations. ENR also provides available FireSmart funding to support community protection. Information on available funding and the application process is available from regional ENR offices and on the ENR website.</p> <p>MACA helps community governments improve community emergency management capacity, through emergency planning workshops and table top exercises, which consider hazards relating to wildfires.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Community governments may also use federal gas tax funds, as well as Community Public Infrastructure Funding to</p>	<p>continues to engage communities to implement the recommendations. ENR also provides available FireSmart funding to support community protection. Information on available funding and the application process is available from regional ENR offices and on the ENR website.</p> <p>MACA helps community governments improve community emergency management capacity, through emergency planning workshops and table top exercises, which consider hazards relating to wildfires.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>create fire breaks and implement fire fuel reduction strategies for over 1,200 hectares of land across the 29 NWT communities exposed to wildfire. The development work done by the ENR with community governments to produce Community Wildfire Protection Plans was the needed background work.</p> <p>ENR completed a wildfire landscape analysis. This community-centric landscape analysis provided information on the likelihood of a fire to occur and spread in the medium term.</p> <p>ENR, MACA and communities continue to update the status of wildfire risk and occurrence to support emergency management organizations' planning and preparedness activities.</p> <p>MACA continues to help community governments improve community emergency management capacity, through emergency planning workshops and tabletop exercises, which consider hazards relating to wildfires.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM – more work is needed on this resolution. NWTAC will work with the GNWT to further action on this resolution. Also working to see if fire breaks create an agricultural opportunity.</b></p>

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				undertake new firebreak initiatives which are supported by a FireSmart Plan.		<b>Secured \$20 million from DMAF to construct wildfire breaks in 29 communities starting in 2024.</b>
RA-23-18-10	<b>Highway Rescue and Ambulance Services</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the City of Yellowknife operates a full-time fire and ambulance service through the City of Yellowknife Fire Division;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the City of Yellowknife Fire Division also responds to calls for service outside of the municipal boundary;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has initiated a review of highway rescue and ground ambulance services within the territory;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> community governments across the territory must prioritize their services with the funding available to them;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the cost recovery for emergency services provided outside of municipal boundaries may be difficult for a number of NWT community governments;</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that until such time as the GNWT has reviewed the strategy for Highway Rescue</p>	<b>MACA/ HSS</b>	<p>Since fall 2017, the GNWT has been working with key stakeholders through an interdepartmental committee to develop an action plan to build capacity and support for GAHR services in the NWT.</p> <p>Research and consultation completed to date confirms that solutions to gaps and challenges with the current system will not be attained without longer-term collaboration involving the GNWT, key communities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Priorities identified moving forward include developing and gaining consensus on options for governance and establishing an acceptable fiscal arrangement between the GNWT and community governments. Committee continues to define priorities and develop a way forward through action planning and collaboration with key stakeholders.</p> <p>Service expansion is a key component of the GAHR Action</p>	<p>Since fall 2017, the GNWT has been working with key stakeholders through an interdepartmental committee to develop an action plan to build capacity and support for GAHR services in the NWT.</p> <p>Research and consultation completed to date confirms that solutions to gaps and challenges with the current system will not be attained without longer-term collaboration involving the GNWT, key communities and other stakeholders. Priorities identified moving forward include developing and gaining consensus on options for governance and establishing an acceptable fiscal arrangement between the GNWT and community governments.</p> <p>Work continues to define priorities and develop a way forward through action planning and collaboration with key stakeholders.</p> <p>Service expansion is a key component of the GAHR Action Plan. In its environmental assessment of the Tłı̄ch̄q All-Season Road (TSAR), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board recommended in Measure 5-6 that the GNWT develop and implement an effective</p>	<p>A full review of the Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services policy is anticipated in the 20th Legislative Assembly, which will contribute to a whole-of-government funding approach for these services.</p> <p>The GNWT working group on Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue has been re-engaged and will be working to determine the appropriate framework for ambulance services in the NWT, both within and outside of municipal boundaries.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM: highway rescue is still a concern for our communities. NWTAC will continue our work on this issue. City of Yellowknife recommends affirmation.</b></p>

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		Services (RA-17-13-05} and conducted a feasibility study towards a Territorial Ground Ambulance Service (RA-17-15-03}, that the GNWT should adequately fund those communities conducting ground ambulance or highway rescue services outside of their respective community boundaries.		<p>Plan. In its environmental assessment of the Tłıçhǫ All-Season Road (TSAR), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board recommended in Measure 5-6 that the GNWT develop and implement an effective GAHR action plan for the TASR in collaboration with the Tłıçhǫ Government (TG), Tłıçhǫ Community Services Agency (TCSA), Community Government of Whatì, and Community Government of Behchokǫ.</p> <p>Work that has been progressing on the TASR will feed into the larger GAHR project. Moving forward, the GNWT (MACA, HSS) will continue to work closely and collaboratively with the TG, TCSA, and all Community Governments providing Highway Rescue and Ambulance Services.</p>	<p>GAHR action plan for the TASR in collaboration with the Tłıçhǫ Government (TG), Tłıçhǫ Community Services Agency (TCSA), Community Government of Whatì, and Community Government of Behchokǫ.</p> <p>Work that has been progressing on the TASR that will feed into the larger GAHR project.</p> <p>Moving forward, the GNWT (MACA, HSS) will continue to work closely and collaboratively with the TG, TCSA, and all Community Governments providing Highway Rescue and Ambulance Services.</p>	
RA-23-18-12	<b>Transfer of Lands to Community Governments</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the City of Yellowknife is seeking ownership and regulatory control of lands within the municipal boundary;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> there are outstanding land applications on Commissioner's lands</p>	<b>LANDS / MACA / EIA</b>	A working group consisting of the GNWT Departments of Lands, Executive and Indigenous Affairs, Municipal and Community Affairs and the City has been established to complete a bulk transfer of vacant public land to the City	The Department of Lands encourages community governments to reach out so we can better understand their needs and interests to administer and manage land within community boundaries. Each capacity to administer and manage land is different.	The Department of Lands provides fee simple title to community governments that have an interest and a need to support their growth and future development. Land transfers to community governments can be done under the existing regulations and are not dependent on or linked to the

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		<p>within the municipal boundary;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the City of Yellowknife is beginning a statutory review of the General Plan pursuant to <i>the Community Planning &amp; Development Act</i>,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the City is required to accommodate for land, growth and facilities over the next 10 years during this review;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the uncertainty around land prevents the City from taking a comprehensive approach to land use, infrastructure, utilities and zoning;</p> <p><b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the GNWT expedite and prioritize land transfers to community governments for the purpose of comprehensive and sustainable community planning and development.</p>		<p>of Yellowknife. The working group has met several times through the fall, winter and early spring.</p> <p>A process document has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by the City. Work has begun on an overarching agreement between the GNWT and the City to address outstanding questions and to ensure clarity of approach in future years. This agreement may include: managing land selection processes related to Aboriginal Rights agreements with Indigenous governments; future GNWT land requirements not currently anticipated; the City's requirements; and the costs to complete surveys. The Department of Lands provided preliminary mapping of current land tenure and existing interests.</p> <p>The City is reviewing the mapping to ensure consistency with their records. Further work with the City to identify specific areas of interest, including any land the GNWT needs.</p>	<p>At the same time, the GNWT wants to make sure land is available when negotiating Aboriginal rights agreements, which has implications when transferring land to community governments. For this reason, the Department relies on Interim Land Withdrawals to protect land selection interests.</p> <p>The Department is actively working with the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to create a process guide for the bulk transfer of land within municipal boundaries, in support of the Mandate commitment to reduce the municipal funding gap.</p> <p>A draft of the process guide was shared with the City of Yellowknife, EIA, and MACA in February 2020. Formal comments from the City were provided in January 2021 and a revised process document was updated and shared on May 1, 2021. A draft will be shared with the NWTAC for feedback once a revised draft is more complete.</p> <p>The Department of Lands will continue to manage land tenure requests according to the process outlined in the land transfer process guide. The value of land transferred from GNWT to community governments for</p>	<p>regulations being developed under the Public Land Act.</p> <p>At the same time, the GNWT wants to make sure land is available when negotiating Aboriginal rights agreements, which has implications when transferring land to community governments. For this reason, the Department relies on Interim Land Withdrawals to protect land selection interests.</p> <p>Lands is currently working through an application from the City of Yellowknife for bulk land transfers of public land in fee simple. In addition, a Memorandum of Agreement between the City and the Department is expected to be completed in early 2023.</p> <p>In August 2022, Lands shared a process guide on transferring land within municipal boundaries with the NWT Association of Communities. The purpose of this guide is to make land transfer processes clearer for all communities.</p> <p>In 2021-22, 16 parcels were transferred to municipal governments, totaling 60.39 hectares of land, and valued at \$1,431,000.</p> <p>MACA continues to work with communities interested in acquiring land tenure under community public infrastructure or land required for future CPI and future growth areas to support</p>

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				<p>The Minister of Lands has met with Chief Sangris and Chief Betsina of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) and Mayor Alty to discuss, among other things, the potential bulk transfer of unoccupied public land within the current boundary of the City of Yellowknife. The Minister heard from the YKDFN that any bulk land transfer cannot impact the Akaitcho process.</p>	<p>nominal value is one way of helping bridge the municipal funding gap. In 2020-21, the assessed values of land transferred to community governments was \$265,400, and from 2017- 18 to 2019-20 was \$4,928,079.</p>	<p>the submission of land applications to the Department of Lands where required and the alignment to the administration of community governance tools (bylaws) related to land management.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM – more work is needed on this resolution. NWTAC will work with the GNWT to further action on this resolution.</b></p> <p><b>Reminder – these issues are not exclusive to the City. This matter will be included in the work being done with the Department of Lands under the Public Lands Act Regulations.</b></p>
RA-23-13-02	<b>Review and Amendment of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act and the Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes Policy</b>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Commissioner are not liable to taxation pursuant to Section 73(2) of the <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i>;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the Government of the Northwest Territories makes grants in lieu of taxes pursuant to the Grants-In-Lieu Of Property Taxes Policy 21.09 in recognition of the services it receives from municipal governments and to pay its share of the costs to</p>	<b>MACA</b>	<p>The current <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i> was enacted in 1988 and has not had a comprehensive review since coming into force.</p> <p>MACA has identified some issues with the <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i> legislation and the corresponding policies and procedures that lead to confusion, administrative challenges, and potentially complaints.</p> <p>MACA has initiated preliminary research to identify issues</p>	<p>The current <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i> was enacted in 1988 and has not had a comprehensive review since coming into force.</p> <p>MACA has identified some issues with the <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i> legislation and the corresponding policies and procedures that lead to confusion, administrative challenges, and potentially complaints.</p> <p>MACA has initiated preliminary research to identify issues related to assessment that may require legislative or administrative solutions. This research will support the basis of a Legislative Proposal later in the 19<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>MACA is using a phased approach to advance amendments to the <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i> (PATA).</p> <p>The first phase is intended to address known administrative issues such as increasing the terms of appointments for members of both the Municipal and Territorial Boards of Revision, while the second phase is intended to address more complex issues of property taxation and authorities such as the writing off of property tax debt.</p> <p>Bill 66, <i>An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i>, which implements the first phase</p>

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		<p>municipalities where territorial property is located; and</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the Government of the Northwest Territories does not pay Grants-In-Lieu of Property Taxes on property it leases to third parties;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> municipal governments cannot sell territorial property to recover unpaid taxes against defaulting tenants and are forced to take other measures, including making court applications, to recover unpaid taxes and such actions often never allow a municipality to recoup the loss;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the Government of Canada is exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 125 of the Constitution Act, 1867 but makes payments in lieu of property taxes to local governments;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the Government of Canada recognized that the term "grant" for the payments made in lieu of property taxes did not reflect the value of the services provided by municipal levels of government to federal properties and proceeded to</p>		<p>related to assessment that may require legislative or administrative solutions.</p> <p>This research will support the basis of a Legislative Proposal later in the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly.</p> <p>The preliminary research includes engagement with a number of stakeholders including GNWT staff who are responsible for the implementation of the Act, the NWTAC and the public. MACA is also reviewing other property assessment legislation in Canada.</p> <p>MACA has identified three large pieces of legislation to prioritize for review and significant amendment during the 19th Assembly. These are, in order of anticipated priority: the <i>Fire Prevention Act</i>, the <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i>, and the <i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act</i>.</p> <p>The capacity of MACA to bring forward legislative amendments will always be restricted. An important element of any legislative initiative is the full</p>	<p>Assembly.</p> <p>The preliminary research includes engagement with a number of stakeholders including GNWT staff who are responsible for the implementation of the Act, the NWTAC and the public. MACA is also reviewing other property assessment legislation in Canada.</p> <p>MACA had identified three large pieces of legislation to prioritize for review and significant amendment during the 19th Assembly. These are, in order of anticipated priority: the <i>Fire Prevention Act</i>, the <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i>, and the <i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act</i>.</p> <p>The capacity of MACA to bring forward legislative amendments is restricted and must always consider the level of engagement required to bring forward any legislative change that will affect community governments. The pace at which these changes are advanced is carefully considered to ensure that community governments can provide MACA with meaningful input to both issue identification and potential solutions. Accordingly, to update all legislation under the mandate of the department would exceed both the capacity of MACA, as well as the community governments that the legislation serves.</p>	<p>amendments, was introduced and received First and Second Reading in the Fall sitting of the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly (November 2022). MACA anticipates that Bill 66 will receive Third Reading in the Winter sitting of the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly (February/March 2023).</p> <p>MACA has established a Working Group to advance the second phase consisting of members from the departments of Lands and Finance as well as Local Administrators of Government of the NWT and the NWT Association of Communities. The feedback from this Working Group will be incorporated into the development of a legislative proposal and the Bill.</p> <p>Given the complexity of taxation law, MACA has contracted a lawyer to conduct research on the identified issues and propose recommendations for legislative amendments. Engagement with community governments, identified stakeholders, and the public is expected to occur in April 2023. MACA anticipates introducing a Bill early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Assembly.</p> <p><b>NWTAC Resolution Committee Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>RE-AFFIRM – this legislation is being worked on. NWTAC will continue our work on this resolution.</b></p>



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		<p>amend the name of the act to “Payments in Lieu of Taxes”;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the Government of Canada recognized the difficulty encountered by municipal governments in recovering unpaid taxes against tenants of federal property and beginning in the 2000 tax year included a provision in the Property in Lieu of Taxes Act for municipalities to request a payment in lieu of taxes on federal property occupied by a defaulting tenant, after demonstrating that every reasonable attempt has been made to collect the taxes from the tenant without success;</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> various provincial governments have recognized the difficulty encountered by municipal governments in recovering unpaid taxes against tenants of provincial property and have included provisions in the applicable legislation to allow municipal governments to request a payment in lieu of taxes if all reasonable attempts to collect the outstanding taxes have not been successful;</p>		<p>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.</p>		

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		<p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> there have been instances where municipal governments have not been able to collect unpaid property taxes from tenants of territorial property and have not received any grant in lieu of taxes; and</p> <p><b>AND WHEREAS</b> the purpose of the grants made in lieu of taxes is to deal equitably and fairly with municipalities;</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Northwest Territories Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider:</p> <p>i. amending the <i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act</i> and the Grants-In-Lieu of Properties Policy to allow municipal governments to request a payment in lieu of taxes if all reasonable attempts to collect the outstanding taxes have not been successful in accordance with what the federal and other provincial governments have already done; and</p>				

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		<p>ii. (ii) changing the name of the 'Grants-In-Lieu of Properties Policy' to the 'Payments-In-Lieu of Properties Policy' to emphasize the territorial government's responsibility as a property owner to share in the cost of local government, rather than its generosity in making a payment which it is not legally obliged to make.</p>				