

**NWT Association of Communities
2020 Re-Affirmed Resolutions**

Resolution No.	Name of Resolution	Page
RA-20-19-01	Taltson Hydro Project	4
RA-20-19-02	Duty to Consult	5
RA-20-19-03	Alternative Voting Methods	6
RA-20-19-04	Cannabis Revenue Sharing	7
RA-20-19-05	Post - Secondary Education - Transformation	8
RA-20-19-06	Carbon Pricing	10
RA-20-19-07	Aurora College Transition to Polytechnic University	11
RA-20-19-09	Multi- Year Funding	12
RA-20-19-10	Climate Change Adaptation	13
RA-20-19-10-A	Climate change models and forecasting for each NWT community	14
RA-20-19-10-B	Permafrost	16
RA-20-19-10-C	Hazard mapping	17
RA-20-19-10-D	Governance and leadership on climate change in the GNWT	19
RA-20-19-10-E	Climate Change Secretariat or Network	20
RA-20-19-10-F	Research	22
RA-20-19-10-G	Bridging the community capacity gap	23
RA-20-19-10-H	Emergency management plans	24
RA-20-19-10-I	Adaptation Plans	25
RA-20-19-12	Navigator for energy funding and involvement in funding discussions	27
RA-20-19-13	Resourcing to deal with backlog of Legislative Amendments	29

RA-20-18-01	Energy	31
RA-20-18-03	Wildfires	32
RA-20-18-06	MACA Funding Formula	34
RA-20-18-07	Urban Indigenous Definition	35
RA-20-18-08	Secondary Access Road to Communities	37
RA-20-18-11	Fire Prevention Act	40
RA-20-18-12	Transfer of Lands to Community Governments	42
RA-20-18-16	Review and Amendment of: Cities, Towns and Villages Act, S.N.W.T.2003,c.22 Article 122 Hamlets Act S.N.W.T. 2003,c.22 Article 124 Charter Communities Act S.N.W.T. 2003,c.22 Article 126 Tlicho Community Government Act S.N.W.T.2004,c.7 Article 118	44
RA-20-18-18	Review and Amendment of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, R.S.N.W.T. 1988 c.P-10, as amended with regards to Unsold Property Article 97.85	45
RA-20-18-19	Review and Amendment of the MOTOR VEHICLES ACT R.S.N.W.T. 1988,c.M- 16, and amendments	47
RA-20-17-02	TRC Recommendations	49
RA-20-17-06	Untenured Land	50
RA-20-17-20	Mackenzie Valley Highway	51
RA-20-17-24	Medical Travel	55
RA-20-17-25	Decentralization of Jobs and Services	56
RA-20-15-06	ATIPP Legislation for Communities	57
RA-20-14-01	Fees for Households in the General Taxation Area	61
RA-20-14-03	Hazardous Waste in Municipal Landfills	63
RA-20-13-01	Regulation of Massage Therapy Providers	67
RA-20-13-02	Review and Amendment of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act	69

RA-20-98-12	Limiting the time available to the Territorial Assessment Appeal Tribunal to reach a decision	71
RA-20-18-06	MACA Funding Formula	73
RA-20-18-04	10-year plan to end homelessness	81
RA-20-18-10	Highway Rescue and Ambulance Services	87
RA-20-17-03	Fiscal Year Resolution	93
RA-20-17-05	Shoreline Erosion	96
RA-20-17-07	CRTC Ruling	100

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife acknowledges the importance of clean, affordable power; AND **WHEREAS** all NWT communities are major consumer of electrical power;

AND WHEREAS the financial costs of electrical power represent a significant expenditure for the City; AND **WHEREAS** the City of Yellowknife recognizes that electrical power is a necessity for its residents; AND **WHEREAS** the cost of electric power can represent a significant expenditure for many households;

AND WHEREAS clean and affordable power is essential for continued economic development within all of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife encourages clean, renewable energy production to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NWTAC lobby the Government of the Northwest Territories to advance its efforts with respect to furthering a solution to effectively distribute clean energy from the Taltson Hydro project to Yellowknife and other key points in the Northwest Territories; to initiate indigenous engagement and partnership discussions to ensure success of the distribution solution; and to actively engage in energy market discussions with prospective customers to ensure diverse requirements are met as cost-effectively as possible.

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

The GNWT is committed to improving energy affordability, energy security and energy sustainability for transportation, heat, and electricity while providing support to energy efficiency and conservation, and promoting renewable and alternative energy solutions for the NWT. The GNWT will continue to engage directly with communities and Indigenous organizations to encourage participation, partnership and empowerment when proposing and undertaking energy solutions as it implements the 2030 Energy Strategy. The GNWT welcomes NWTAC comments and suggestions with respect to furthering a solution to effectively distribute clean energy from the Taltson Hydro project to Yellowknife and other key points in the Northwest Territories.

Feb 2020 Update:

The NWTAC continues to lobby for federal funding for energy in the NWT both through its lobby through the FCM as well as independently

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-01 Duty to Consult

WHEREAS Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 provides constitutional protection to the indigenous and treaty rights of indigenous peoples in Canada.

WHEREAS The GNWT has a legal duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal governments and organizations whenever it considers carrying out a government action that has the potential to adversely affect asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

WHEREAS The duty to consult is a constitutional obligation that is rooted in Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982.

WHEREAS The Government of the Northwest Territories is still developing a framework regarding obligations and expectations related to conducting consultation as it relates to municipal activities.

WHEREAS The City of Yellowknife has been advised that the Government of the Northwest Territories could delegate procedural aspects of Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 to community governments.

WHEREAS a determination of the responsibilities of community governments in the procedural aspects of Section 35 Community Consultation are not yet defined.

WHEREAS community governments identify statutory consultation through Territorial legislation, such as the Cities, Towns of Villages Act and the Community Planning & Development Act and Section 35 Consultation is not defined within the legislation guiding municipal activities at this time.

WHEREAS Community governments are required to seek Ministerial approval on specific plans and by laws but are unable to confidently determine which aspects of Section 35 Consultation are required to form part of a project methodology or process.

WHEREAS Community governments seek to have strong working relationships with Indigenous peoples in Canada but have not received clear guidelines related to Ministerial expectations related to Community Consultation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwest Territories Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to engage community governments in the development of amendments to applicable legislation in order to provide a clear regulatory framework related to delegation of procedural aspects of Section 35 Community Consultation, within which community governments who can then implement municipal projects.

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

The duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations is a GNWT responsibility. Municipalities can aid the GNWT's consultation process by engaging with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations early in their planning processes.

The GNWT encourages the municipalities of the NWT to continue their good efforts of having strong working relationships with the Indigenous people of the NWT.

By having continual engagement and strong working relationships with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, municipalities can help identify and resolve potential issues, minimize future issues, and explore opportunities for collaboration and cooperation. Municipal engagement will aid the GNWT consultation efforts helping to ensure a well informed and timely consultation process. No amendment of GNWT legislation is required for municipalities to continue their ongoing engagement efforts. MACA requires communities to host public meetings as part of compliance with the Community Planning Act, the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Charters Act and the Hamlet Act. Currently MACA is undertaking the duty to consult consultation for community plans prior to approval by the Minister. As this is early stage for consultation work, MACA will retain the responsibility.

February 2020 Update

NWTAC Continues to encourage the GNWT to clarify the respective roles for consultation

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19 -03 Alternative Voting Method

WHEREAS 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;

AND WHEREAS other jurisdictions within Canada allow for Alternative Voting Methods such as telephone voting and internet voting;

AND WHEREAS the acceptance of digital technology in society is increasing

exponentially;

AND WHEREAS the use of technology can improve accessibility, enhance voter privacy and convenience, reduce ballot errors and increase efficiency of elections;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 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 voting methods such as, but not limited to telephone voting and internet voting.

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 26, 2019 GNWT response

A legislative review of the Local Elections Authorities Act has not been identified as a priority during the 18th Legislative Assembly and has not been put on MACA's list of legislative priorities. Due in part to capacity, but also due to the number of Acts that MACA administers, it has become necessary for MACA to prioritize its legislative initiatives. MACA has engaged with NWTAC and LGANT to begin to gather input on legislation issues impacting community governments. This will contribute to establishing legislative priorities for the 19th Legislative Assembly. MACA is aware that these type of voting methods are being reviewed and considered in other jurisdictions and document this resolution for when the LAEA is reviewed.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-04 Cannabis Revenue Sharing

WHEREAS the Government of Canada passed the Cannabis Act S.C. 2018, c.16 (Bill C-45 which legalized non-medical marijuana (cannabis) in Canada effective October 17, 2018;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories enacted the Cannabis Products Act S.N.W.T. 2018,c.6 and the Cannabis Smoking Control Act S.N.W.T. 2018, c.6, to legalize the sale and use of cannabis in the Northwest Territories. effective October 17, 2018;

AND WHEREAS the 2018 Federal Budget affirms that it is the federal government's expectation that a substantial portion of the revenues from cannabis excise taxes provided to provinces and territories will be transferred to municipalities and local communities, who are on the front lines of legalization;

AND WHEREAS it will be the responsibility of local governments to establish and/or enforce regulations and policies related to zoning, business licensing, building code and public consumption, which will result in initial and ongoing costs:

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has indicated that there will be no transfer of revenue from cannabis excise taxes received by the territorial government shared with municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NWTAC lobby the Territorial Government to provide 25% of the excise tax on cannabis that is shared with the Government of the Northwest Territories by the federal government, and the same share of any additional tax that the Government of the Northwest Territories imposes on the sale of cannabis, be shared with municipalities.

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

The GNWT share of the 2018-19 federal excise tax revenues is estimated at \$122,000, which at this rate would be \$300,000 for a full year. The GNWT would encourage the NWTAC to provide the specific incremental costs faced by communities resulting from the legalization of cannabis.

Feb 2020 Update

Will continue to lobby the GNWT on the basis that they have not had to justify the GNWT costs to the Federal Government

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-05 Post Secondary Education Transformation

WHEREAS transformation of post-secondary education is essential to advancing and supporting the economic social and workforce development in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories undertook a review of Aurora College to ensure NWT residents have access to high quality postsecondary education in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS the Aurora College Foundational Review Report contained 67 recommendations, including transformation of Aurora College into a polytechnic university;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories issued a response to the Aurora College Foundational Review Report and accepted the recommendation to transform Aurora College into a polytechnic university;

AND WHEREAS the transformation of Aurora College into a polytechnic university is an investment in the knowledge economy that will ensure both research investment and knowledge remain in the NWT;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of the Northwest Territories take immediate steps to work with key partners, including municipalities, to create a successful vision for post-secondary education in the territory.

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

February 2020 Update

The College was invited to consult with communities during the February 2020 AGM in Inuvik. They declined the offer.

Moving away from treating Community Governments as “Public” and using the same consultation methods as listed above have been included in a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the GNWT and NWTAC.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-06

Carbon Pricing

WHEREAS fossil fuel use contributes to climate change inducing greenhouse gas emissions;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories is a signatory to the Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change and is committed to meeting Federal benchmark for carbon pricing by 2019;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has implemented Pan-Canadian Carbon Pricing in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has adopted a Carbon Tax as the preferred option for carbon pricing;

AND WHEREAS communities in the NWT and their residents will see a direct increase in costs as a result of the carbon tax;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwest Territories Association of Communities lobby the Government of the Northwest Territories to ensure:

- That 100% of the carbon tax revenue be recycled into the economy through transfers to households, business, industry and municipalities;
- That support regarding the implementation of the carbon tax is addressed to the satisfaction of the communities;
- That communities are proportionally funded to offset increased cost of municipal operations as a result of the carbon tax implementation;
- That it commits to the advancement of sustainable initiatives to reduce the reliance on non-renewable fuels; and
- That the implementation and reporting processes related to the carbon tax initiative are presented in a transparent manner.

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

• Heating Fuel Rebate - for residents, governments and business entities with less than 50 kilotonnes of annual greenhouse gas emissions, heating fuel will be 100 per cent rebated at the point of purchase.

• Electrical Power Producers Rebate - Northwest Territories Power Corporation and other power producers will be provided with an annual rebate of carbon tax paid on non-motive diesel purchased for generating electricity for distribution. This rebate will insulate municipalities from increased electricity costs that would otherwise result from the carbon tax on diesel used to generate electricity.

• Cost of Living Offset (COLO) – this tax-free benefit would be provided quarterly to all NWT residents. This benefit would increase annually as NWT carbon tax rates are increased.

• Large Emitters (50 kilotonnes or more annual greenhouse gas emissions) Offset in two parts:

- an annual rebate for 75 per cent of the carbon tax collected on non-motive diesel and heating fuel and
- 25 per cent of the carbon tax collected on non-motive diesel and heating fuel held in individualized trust accounts that will be able to be accessed for investments by each entity that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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

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

February 2020 Update

The NWTAC presented to the Standing Committee on the Carbon Tax and associated amendments and highlighted the impacts of the tax on community operations

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-07

Aurora College Transition to Polytechnic University

WHEREAS
programs

The Aurora College Foundational review recommended keep

WHEREAS
programs

the GNWT vowed not to cut funding but has not allowed intake into the

WHEREAS

the GNWT Aurora College Response accept the recommendation that

the VP Education and Training to conduct a program review for both the Social Worker Diploma as well as the Bachelor of Education as a matter of priority to determine whether the programming: is of sufficient quality to continue, continue with major improvements required, or needs to be suspended/eliminated

WHEREAS intake for the Bachelor of Education Program and for the Social Work Diploma program has been suspended since 2017

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT continue to fund Aurora College to continue running the Bachelor of Education program and the Social Work program

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff be retained to assist with the review of the Bachelor of Education Program and with the Social Work Diploma program to ensure enrolment can continue without a complete shutdown of the programs

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GNWT continue to prioritize the current programming of courses is its consultation with communities and government leaders to ensure all programs can start to work for the students of the NWT as soon as possible.

Submitted by the Community of: Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

The Government Response to the Findings and Recommendations of the Aurora College Foundational Review (Government Response) commits to the development of an Academic Program Review Framework. For Aurora College to become an accredited polytechnic university it is critical that a system is in place to regularly and effectively review programs and that it meets national standards and best practices. As articulated in the Government Response, all Aurora College programs will be reviewed under the new Academic Program Review Framework and the first programs to be reviewed will be the Social Work Diploma and Bachelor of Education Programs.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-09-17 Multiyear Funding

WHEREAS Consistency of funding allows for Community Governments to provide quality and sustainable programs it is necessary for GNWT departments to commit to multi-year (3-5 year) contribution agreements for community programs;

WHEREAS multi-year contribution agreements support the sustainability of quality programs to serve community residents, allowing for multi-year planning and budgeting,

and improved recruitment and retention of skilled staff;

WHEREAS single year funding results in challenges to program sustainability, including: gaps between fiscal year end reporting, opening of funding application processes, and notification of funding approval; inconsistency in funding allocations (noted decreases in funding amounts in the last 3-4 years); difficulty in recruiting and retaining skilled staff; inability of Community Governments to commit to long term employment of staff and may result in breaks in employment; challenges in supporting professional development and training of staff; and

WHEREAS single year funding results in unnecessary time demands for the application and reporting processes and that these processes are incongruent with the needs of the community and how funds will be allocated to best serve those needs and that contributions should be made to communities which allow them to best direct the use of the funds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT commit to multi-year program contribution agreements.

Submitted by the Community of: **Town of Fort Smith**

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

It is essential to note, that any funding allocations contained within a multi-year funding agreement are always subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly through the process to approve annual Budget. Accordingly, any commitments to future year funding can always be changed through the budget approval process, so no future year funding should be viewed as a formal commitment to fund. At best, multi-year agreements provide a basis for community governments to plan for the future. However, should funding allocations for future years be included in a multi-year agreement, these numbers could always change, for example through Forced Growth increases. As such, community governments could only plan notionally on any future year allocations. MACA would be prepared to discuss the potential for multi-year funding agreements with the NWTAC on this basis. It would be important to understand the community government operational needs within this context. For any programs that are administered through an annual call for applications,

multi-year funding agreements would not be possible.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-10 Climate Change Adaptation

WHEREAS Climate Change is occurring in the North at more than twice the rate of the rest of Canada;

AND WHEREAS The North is particularly vulnerable to climate change due to its reliance on temperature sensitive systems such as permafrost;

AND WHEREAS All NWT communities are experiencing the impacts of climate change;

AND WHEREAS the 2018 NWT Climate Change Forum and Charrette was an important gathering where communities voiced their concerns and the challenges they face in addressing vulnerabilities caused by the climate change.

AND WHEREAS taking proactive tactics to addressing climate change adaptation is the preferred approach;

AND WHEREAS We will see the best success by working collaboratively with our many partners;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWT Association of Communities enact the following suite of climate change adaptation resolutions:

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-10-A Climate change models and forecasting for each NWT community

WHEREAS The ability of communities to predict the impacts of climate change is highly dependant upon having access to appropriately developed climate models;

AND WHEREAS Communities need access to up-to-date models and forecasts to support planning for a myriad of community government responsibilities including emergency preparedness and disaster planning, community development plans, infrastructure maintenance and replacement, recreation and trails, etc.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Centre for Climate Services (CCCS) provide each community government with models and forecasting of expected climate trends and resulting risks.

AND FURTHER THAT CCCS deliver this information in a format that will align with standards being developed through the Northern Infrastructure Standardization Initiative;

AND FURTHER THAT CCCS make this information publicly accessible online;

AND FURTHER THAT CCCS lead efforts to assist communities in analysing, interpreting and applying climate information to support decision making.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

Although this resolution is directed to Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Centre for Climate Services (ECCC CCCS) it is notes that ECCC CCCS and ENR are co-leads for action items 2.5C of the 2019-2023 Action Plan – Develop a plan for a northern climate hub to support delivery of climate services and products. ENR agrees accurate models and forecasts are needed to support community planning and therefore will continue to work closely with

ECCC CCCS to support the development of a northern climate hub and the dissemination of relevant climate services and products.

June 21, 2019 ECE Federal Response

The Government of Canada established the Canadian Centre for Climate Services (CCCS) in fall 2018 to provide Canadians with information and support needed to understand and plan for impacts of climate change. The CCCS has staff in Yellowknife

to enhance the delivery of northern climate services; in 2019-2020, this will include

beginning the development of community specific climate summaries for NWT communities. If interested, the CCCS is open to sharing the draft products with the

NWTAC, to seek your input to enhance products that respond to the needs of local decision makers.

In addition, Environment and Climate Change Canada's Science and Technology Branch is developing a National Climate Change Science and Knowledge Plan expected to be released in spring 2020. The plan will outline areas of climate change

science and knowledge to inform Canada's climate actions, including those identified in

the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF). It will also

help guide current and future investment in priority research areas, encompassing both

the natural and social sciences. A departmental official will contact NWTAC to benefit

from your valuable perspectives and advice as part of the engagement process for the plan.

February 2020 Update:

NWTAC has been working on draft product to have a climate profile available for each community and have met with ECCC staff.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-10- B Permafrost

WHEREAS Permafrost thaw poses significant risks to community and privately owned infrastructure, the transportation network, access to the land, food security, waste management, and many other issues affecting residents;

AND WHEREAS the total costs of permafrost degradation on public assets is estimated to be in the order of \$1.3 billion.

AND WHEREAS Surface water has a significant impact on permafrost and the development and implementation of Community Drainage Plans is critical;

AND WHEREAS the Housing Corporation is an important partner with the communities in meeting the climate change adaptation challenge;

AND WHEREAS Communities wish to support their ratepayers by educating them about permafrost and climate change and how best to protect their properties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GNWT provide adequate funding and resources to assist municipalities in completing and implementing Community Drainage Plans;

AND FURTHER THAT the Housing Corp. adequately consult with communities about their development plans and ensure that they comply with all land use and adaptation plans;

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT develop requirements to ensure the consideration of permafrost thaw in all development and adaptation planning for NWT infrastructure.

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT work with the NWT Association of Communities and other partners to develop plain language materials to educate the public about permafrost thaw and assist owners of privately-owned homes and other infrastructure in protecting their properties from the impacts of permafrost thaw.

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT take a leadership role in conducting a vulnerability assessment of all community assets.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2019 GNWT Response

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

The NWTHC also relies on other GNWT departments as well as scientific agencies

to gather and analyze information on known erosion or permafrost degradation areas to determine possible solutions when constructing or repairing NWT HC assets. In terms of adaptation, the NWT HC utilizes where appropriate, adjustable foundation designs such as space frames, pads and wedges and screw jack systems.

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

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

February 2020 Update:

The NWTAC continues to promote the Climate Change Challenges facing NWT communities including the cost associated with Permafrost Thaw between meetings with Federal leaders and presentations at national meeting.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-10-C Hazard mapping

WHEREAS Hazard mapping is a critical element in climate change adaptation and building the resiliency of communities;

AND WHEREAS Hazard mapping is not a one size fits all type of undertaking and requires collaboration across many disciplines and organizations;

AND WHEREAS securing funding to develop and apply Hazard Mapping is critical to their completion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GNWT work with the NWTAC and other partners to ensure that hazard maps are developed by the GNWT in a timely and strategic manner.

AND FURTHER THAT the federal government should ensure that adequate funding is available to complete hazard mapping for all NWT communities;

AND FURTHER THAT the NWT Association of Communities work with the GNWT and other partners to identify opportunities to support communities in participating in the

development of hazard maps and their application to community planning by developing tools for outreach, communication, education and training.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

February 2020 Update

NWTAC continues to participate in the Advisory Committee and support a pilot project associated with this work.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-10-D Governance and leadership on climate change in the GNWT

WHEREAS Leadership is essential to respond to the climate change challenges and

coordinate efforts across departments and organizations;

AND WHEREAS The October 2017 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Climate Change in the Northwest Territories found that ENR had not addressed deficiencies affecting its leadership on climate change that were identified more than 10 years ago.

AND WHEREAS ENR, in its response to the Auditor General's Report committed to examine its authority, roles, and responsibilities, and the resources required to effectively carry out the Climate Change Strategic Framework (CCSF).

AND WHEREAS The CCSF and draft Action Plan do not give adequate attention to authority, roles, responsibilities and resources to carry out the commitments made beyond stating the status quo.

AND WHEREAS The current configuration of GNWT departments and initiatives that have been tasked with addressing climate change do not support a strategic, multidisciplinary and collaborative approach.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GNWT ensure that ENR is given the appropriate recognition and authority to act as the lead for climate change in the Government of the Northwest Territories

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT commit to allocate the full complement of resources necessary for ENR to fulfill their responsibility as lead on climate change and for the CCSF to be successfully implemented. This includes the creation and staffing of permanent climate change positions within ENR and in other departments.

AND FURTHER THAT NWT Association of Communities work with the GNWT and other partners to advocate for federal funding and other resources to fill any funding or resource shortfalls.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2019 GNWT response

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

- A Director-level Climate Change Working Group formed in 2018, chaired by**

ENR;

- **An Assistant Deputy Ministers' Climate Change Committee, chaired by ENR;**
- **A Deputy Ministers' Energy and Climate Change Committee; and**
- **A Ministerial Energy and Climate Change Committee of Cabinet.**

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

ENR's Climate Change and Air Quality Unit, housed under the new Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Division, is responsible for coordinating cross-GNWT implementation of the Action Plan and reporting on progress towards meeting the goals identified within the Framework. Working with the NWTAC and other partners to explore external funding sources that can support climate change adaptation in the NWT is critical and ENR looks forward to bolstering current partnerships and developing new partnerships to strengthen and build capacity within the territory to adapt to climate change.

Working with the NWTAC and other partners to explore external funding sources that can support climate change adaptation in the NWT is critical and ENR looks forward to bolstering current partnerships and developing new partnerships to strengthen and build capacity within the territory to adapt to climate change.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-10- E Climate Change Secretariat or Network

WHEREAS The Auditor General's Report found that in the absence of leadership from ENR on climate change, there has been a piecemeal and uncoordinated approach to adaptation efforts within the GNWT and amongst communities.

AND WHEREAS The Auditor General's Report found that ENR did not fulfill its commitment to provide departments and communities with information needed to take action on climate change;

AND WHEREAS Every regional consultation held by ENR during the 2016/17 CCSF engagement sessions raised the concern that existing climate change information and analysis was not shared, and that this was a barrier to adaptation;

AND WHEREAS A knowledgeable public will be better equipped to contribute to territorial efforts on climate change and build resilience in communities.

AND WHEREAS The Yukon and Nunavut both have a Climate Change Secretariat in place, as do many of the provinces.

AND WHEREAS An arms-length climate change centre (e.g. Secretariat/Office/Network) can provide effective co-ordination of all aspects of climate change adaptation and mitigation. A climate change centre will mobilize resources, including information and expertise to enable their citizens to take leadership on climate change issues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GNWT create an arms-length climate change centre

AND FURTHER THAT Part of development of the CC Centre include investigation of effective models of climate change secretariat/offices that are providing leadership and coordination on climate change in Canada and abroad in order to find relevant examples and best practices which may be useful to the NWT. These findings will be shared with the public;

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT work with the NWT Association of Communities and other partners to support the development and implementation of an improved approach to leadership, coordination, and information sharing on climate change in the NWT, which should include a Climate Change Centre.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-10-F Research

WHEREAS Most communities have not been involved in setting the research agendas in their communities;

AND WHEREAS Communities are often not made aware of the outcomes of the research being completed in their communities and many research papers must be purchased;

AND WHEREAS The lack of a northern university means that the academic knowledge base relating to Arctic issues is scattered throughout the country;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the GNWT and Federal Government work with the NWT Association of Communities, communities, and with its various partners to ensure that the research needs of the communities are being promoted and supported when setting research agendas;

AND FURTHER THAT communities engage the researchers who are already working in their communities to assist them in addressing their research needs.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2019 GNWT response

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

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

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

- Providing communities with a list of departmental contacts who can provide information on various areas of research supported by the GNWT;
- Developing a common reporting mechanism for GNWT and external researchers to summarize program results in plain language; and
- Developing and evaluating web-based dashboards and other tools which

highlights research into Knowledge Agenda priorities and development of options for improving how plain language research result summaries are delivered to NWT communities.

June 21, 2019 ECE Federal Response

The Government of Canada established the Canadian Centre for Climate Services (CCCS) in fall 2018 to provide Canadians with information and support needed to understand and plan for impacts of climate change. The CCCS has staff in Yellowknife to enhance the delivery of northern climate services; in 2019-2020, this will include beginning the development of community specific climate summaries for NWT communities. If interested, the CCCS is open to sharing the draft products with the NWTAC, to seek your input to enhance products that respond to the needs of local decision makers.

In addition, Environment and Climate Change Canada's Science and Technology Branch is developing a National Climate Change Science and Knowledge Plan expected to be released in spring 2020. The plan will outline areas of climate change

science and knowledge to inform Canada's climate actions, including those identified in the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF). It will also help guide current and future investment in priority research areas, encompassing both the natural and social sciences. A departmental official will contact NWTAC to benefit from your perspectives and advice as part of the engagement process for the plan.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-10-G Bridging the community capacity gap

WHEREAS NWT communities are chronically underfunded by 37% and this funding shortfall limits their ability to be resilient in the face of climate change.

AND WHEREAS Lack of capacity was a recurring concern voiced by participants from every region at the 2018 Climate Change Forum and Charrette. Limited financial and human capacity, and difficulty accessing information, expertise and other resources is hampering progress to adapt to a changing climate.

AND WHEREAS Collaboration with communities on the development of Climate Change Strategic Framework Action Plans will support transparency in priority-setting and accountability for actions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GNWT allow for the creation of Sustainability Coordinators for every community government in the NWT and adequately resource these positions.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-10-H

Emergency management plans

WHEREAS Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent

AND WHEREAS This makes the importance of emergency planning and status of emergency plan completion and implementation in communities more critical

AND WHEREAS It is critical that emergency plans incorporate the consideration of climate change forecasting and predicted impacts into planning

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT GNWT allocate adequate funding and support to update emergency management plans to include climate change and provide resources to fully implement plans for every community in a timely and strategic

manner.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-10-I Adaptation Plans

WHEREAS the development of Adaptation Plans is a critical element in ensuring the resiliency of communities;

AND WHEREAS securing funding to develop and implement Community Adaptation Plans is critical to their completion;

AND WHEREAS the GNWT identified Supporting Communities both fiscally and from a resource basis as a priority within the Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federal Government should ensure that adequate funding is available to ensure that Adaptation Plans are completed for all NWT communities including a thorough evaluation of all municipal infrastructure.

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT assist communities to complete their Adaptation Planning and Hazard Mapping and Implementation;

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT explore opportunities to assist communities through the development of various tools.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2019 GNWT Response

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

Page 11 of 47

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-12 Navigator for energy funding and involvement in funding discussions

WHEREAS Significant funding for renewable energy and GHG reduction initiatives in the North has been announced by the federal government as part of the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

AND WHEREAS It is difficult for communities to determine how to access these funding opportunities.

AND WHEREAS The GNWT has created an Energy Strategy and Action Plan however it remains unclear how decisions on funding allocations will be made and how stakeholders can provide input.

AND WHEREAS During regional engagement sessions on energy, the GNWT heard that communities want more involvement in determining their energy futures and want to be at the table as partners in determining energy choices for their communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWTAC be funded to create staff positions to assist communities in accessing funding, finding technical expertise and other resources they need to move ahead with their priority projects.

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT develop a transparent and accountable process (i.e. a decision-making matrix) to support decisions on fund allocation. The process should include criteria that will allow the NWT to prioritize projects and make reasoned, transparent and defensible decisions on project funding.

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT ensure that this decision-making approach will enable stakeholders to provide input so that it is an effective tool to help make the most of the opportunities created by federal climate change mitigation funding.

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT will work with the NWT Association of Communities, Arctic Energy Alliance and other partners to ensure the effective communication of tools and resources to communities to address energy challenges, including training and educational resources, technical support, and funding opportunities.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 26, 2019 GNWT Responses

The 2030 Energy Strategy, the Energy Action Plan, and the 2030 NWT Climate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

February 2020 Update

Arctic Energy Alliance is prepared to assist with advisory services in the

accessing of all energy funds, even those which they do not administer.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-19-13 Resourcing to deal with backlog of Legislative Amendments

WHEREAS Numerous requests for legislation or legislative amendments are being put on-hold due to GNWT capacity

AND WHEREAS This is an issue has been compounding and will certainly continue to do so without action

AND WHEREAS Resolutions are not getting addressed and are being re-affirmed not because of a philosophical difference but because there are no resources being directed to the process of making the requested changes

AND WHEREAS Resolutions aside, the GNWT encourages community governments to regularly review their legislation (by-laws), this is not practiced by the GNWT

AND WHEREAS Many of the public consultations of the Standing Committee Reviews of proposed legislation are often more extensive than the one completed for the drafting

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Departments of MACA and Justice address the long standing backlog of legislative reviews, amendments and act creation

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT explore alternate consultation processes that reduce the time and duplication and facilitate a broad participation by communities when reviewing or creating legislation.

Submitted by: NWTAC Board of Directors

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed
June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

updated.

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

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

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

Page 13 of 47

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

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

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

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

February 2020 Update

NWTAC has expressed concern to the GNWT about the volume and speed with which so many pieces of legislation were rushed through the end of the 18th Legislative Assembly with little or no consultation prior to the Standing Committee Consultations. This has been included in the MOU proposed to the GNWT.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-01 Energy

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

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

WHEREAS The GNWT is required to spend carbon tax credits;

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Response

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

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

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

June 26 2019 GNWT Response

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

undertaken last year.

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-03 Wildfires

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

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

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

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

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Responses

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

Environment and Natural Resources continues to work with community governments to develop and implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans which provide practical and operational wildland/urban interface risk mitigation strategies to reduce the threat of wildfire to developments within a community.

Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) helps community governments improve community emergency management capacity, through emergency planning workshops and table top exercises, which consider hazards relating to wildfires.

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-06 MACA Funding Formula

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

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

June 2018 GNWT Responses

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

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

MACA will be publishing a Municipal Funding Strategy in 2019 that will include information about how MACA will address infrastructure funding through a long term approach. Through this strategy, MACA will also be updating the Community Public Infrastructure Policy. Discussions on how the next round of Federal Infrastructure Funding will be administered are underway. The gap identified during the 2014 formula review will be a consideration as well as a community's ability to contribute their portion of the funds to projects.

In addition, MACA is working with communities, the NWTAC and other organizations to implement asset management. Asset management supports a long-term look at the cost of infrastructure throughout its lifecycle. Implementation of asset management will shift thinking from a shorter-term capital plan to a longer

term whole life asset investment plan. This will provide the decision makers the information necessary to make the best decisions related to infrastructure investment, including setting aside monies for planned investment.

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-07 Urban Indigenous Definition

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS The development of this definition will:

1. Provide consistency as to what defines a Indigenous Community between Government departments and programs;
2. Allow programming to serve the predominantly indigenous population regardless of the community;
3. Larger communities have capacity to deliver programming that will serve larger regions and centres;
4. These larger communities have a more diverse nature and have a smaller Indigenous population;
5. Allow the NWT, as a unique physical, social and economic environment, to participate in infrastructure programs that have been previously designed for the South;
6. Allow communities in the NWT to gain funding that will stimulate their economy as well as develop and maintain critical infrastructure integral to the quality of life in the North by securing dollars, support, and continuity;

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

Indigenous People;

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

February 2020 Update

NWTAC Continues to flag the issue as we consult with all Federal Departments and agencies

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-08 Secondary Access Road to Communities

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS The development of secondary community access roads will:

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

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

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

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

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

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

Residents of Tuktoyaktuk are now connected to the all-weather highway system year round, providing new social and employment opportunities, stabilizing the cost of living in the territory, increasing our resiliency to the impacts of climate change, and providing better access to natural resources. The Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway is also a great example of how partnerships can help to maximize the benefits of large construction projects for local residents and businesses.

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

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

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

The GNWT has continued to work closely with the Tlicho Government (TG) and the Community of Whati as the TASR proceeds through the environmental assessment process and procurement stage. The project will connect Whati to the all-weather highway system, while increasing the window of access via winter road to the communities of Gamètì and Wekweètì. This regulatory permitting process is now

underway and construction is expected to commence in the fall of 2019.

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

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

Page 18 of 47

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

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-11 Fire Prevention Act

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT consult with communities when

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

Municipal and Community Affairs will continue work on the *Fire Prevention Act (FPA)*

and *Regulations* in 2018-2019. Information received from the 2017 public and stakeholder engagement effort is intended serve as the foundation for a

second engagement process that will ask stakeholders and the public to consider and comment on potential legislative solutions to address identified issues in

the FPA and Regulations.

A specific area of interest is the Office of the Fire Marshal's plan review function,

which serves to verify that construction plans and specifications comply with adopted codes and standards. The NWT Association of Communities and other stakeholder groups have made it clear this regulatory function requires a focused dialogue to help determine future changes to the FPA and Regulations.

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

A specific area of interest is the Office of the Fire Marshal's plan review function, which serves to verify that construction plans and specifications comply with the adopted codes and standards.

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

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

February 2020 Update

The NWTAC continues to advocate for a more comprehensive Building Code Approach throughout the NWT to be administered by the GNWT as per the June 2019 response.

[Return to Top](#)

RA-20-18-12 Transfer of Lands to Community Governments

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

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

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

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

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

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the City of Yellowknife

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

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

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

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response.

No new information

February 2020 Update

NWTAC provided comment on the Public Lands Act when it was before the Legislative Assembly. This issue was strongly flagged by the NWTAC and a significant number of NWT Communities.

Further we have engaged the Department to form a working group to examine this issue. They also plan to attend the 2020 NWTAC Annual General Meeting.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-16 Review and Amendment of Cities, Towns and Villages Act, S.N.W.T.2003.c.22 Article 122 Hamlets Act S.N.W.T. 2003.c.22 Article 124 Charter Communities Act S.N.W.T. 2003.c.22 Article 126 Tlicho Community Government Act S.N.W.T.2004.c.7 Article 118

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

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

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

Background Information:

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Inuvik

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Responses

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

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

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will keep note of this issue on file for consideration when these pieces of legislation are discussed further as legislative priorities are prepared for consideration for the 19th Assembly. That way, we do not lose the concern for further discussion when these Acts are next opened. At this time, the Department does not see the case for amending the acts for this purpose alone.

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-18 Review and Amendment of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act.R.S.N.W.T. 1988 c.P-10, as amended with regards to Unsold Property Article 97.85

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

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

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

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

Background Information:

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

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Inuvik

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Response

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

Due in part to capacity, but also due to the number of Acts that MACA administers, it has become necessary for MACA to prioritize its legislative

initiatives. During this year's NWT Association of Communities AG M, MACA did facilitate an interactive session with delegates to begin to gather input on legislation issues impacting community governments. This is the beginning of an engagement process that will contribute to establishing legislative priorities for the 19th Legislative Assembly.

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-19 Review and Amendment of the MOTOR VEHICLES ACT R.S.N.W.T. 1988.c.M- 16, and amendments

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

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

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

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

Background Information:

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Submitted by the Town of Inuvik

Policy Committee Recommends: Reaffirmed

June 2018 GNWT Response

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Responses

The Department is currently assessing revenues under the MVA and will be working with municipal enforcement agencies to determine their volumes of

responses to look into the potential of splitting revenue in a fair and practical manner. Once this assessment is complete, a recommendation will be put forward.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-17-02 TRC Recommendations

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Resolution Committee recommends: REAFFIRMED

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

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

The GNWT continues work across departments related to the recommendations

put forth by the TRC. An update on work was tabled in the legislature in March 2017 and can be

June 26, 2019 GNMWT Response

The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to move forward with work to implement relevant calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and to work with Indigenous governments through strong government-to-government relationship found at <https://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/sites/eia/files/>

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-17-06 Untenured Land

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

WHEREAS All landholders are encouraged to fire smart their properties;

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

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

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

Submitted by the Town of Fort Smith

Resolution Committee Recommends: REAFFIRM

[Return To Top](#)

January 2018 Update

The Department of Lands does not as a general practice fire smart on untenured Commissioner's Land due to the significant area this would involve and the lack of resources to undertake this activity. Recognizing that the spread of forest fires are a concern for everyone, a way forward would be for the Department of Lands

to engage with individual communities and FireSmart Committees (if operational) to consider options consistent with fire response plans. An example could be the establishment of fire breaks on Commissioner's Land at strategic locations around the community.

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-17-20 Mackenzie Valley Highway

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

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

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

WHEREAS the development of the Mackenzie Valley Highway will

- I. Decrease the cost of living by increasing access to good and services; and
- II. Increase access to health care, education, training resources and employment opportunities; and
- III. Enable communities and families to share social, cultural, recreational and sports activities; and
- IV. Increase economic activity from the building and maintenance of the highway itself; and

- V. Will create meaningful opportunities to diversify the economy, increase business development and increase competitiveness; and
- VI. Support resource exploration, development and production to stimulate the local, regional and national economies; and
- VII. Develop hospitality and tourism markets and other businesses; and
- VIII. Reduce the cost of delivering government services

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

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

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

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

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

February 8, 2017 – Letter from NWTAC sent to the Prime Minister’s Office

INAC minister Carolyn Bennett as well as Minister of Transport Marc Garneau regarding the importance Mackenzie Valley Highway to the NWT.

July 18, 2017

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

the \$2 billion NTCF to support the three Territories. Minister Garneau also reiterated the 2017 Budget announcement of an investment of \$5 billion in the Canada Infrastructure Bank for trade and transportation projects.

July 25, 2017 NWTAC received a letter from INAC Minister Carolyn Bennett acknowledging the February 8th letter and to inform the Board that Canada has invested

\$200 million for the construction of the Inuvik to Tuk highway.

January 2018 Update

A letter dated October 3, 2017 from Minister of Infrastructure and Communities MP Sohi, indicating that the Mackenzie Highway project would be the GNWT – Department of Infrastructure’s responsibility and that discussions of the development should happen with the GNWT. It was stated that \$2 billion will be invested by Federal Government to rural and Northern communities because of the unique infrastructure needs. More funds through Arctic Energy Fund will be sourced from Green Infrastructure Provision-

\$400 million to help address energy security in the Territories including Indigenous communities. Noted as well that Infrastructure Canada has started discussions with NWT Partners to sign a long term agreement that would see \$570,776,826 invested in infrastructure over next 11 years.

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

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

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

In January 2017, the GNWT received \$20 million under the New Building Canada Plan to advance construction of the Canyon Creek All-season Access Road, a 14 kilometre road outside of Norman Wells that represents a first step in converting the existing Mackenzie Valley Winter Road to an all-weather highway. On April 25, 2017, INF awarded a negotiated contract for construction of the Canyon Creek All-season Access Road to TDIC/HRN Contracting Joint Venture, a key stakeholder in

the Tulita District Investment Corporation, and construction is underway. Right-of-way clearing work began on March 15, 2017. The project is expected to be complete by fall 2018.

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

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

June 19, 2018 GNWT Response

No new information

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

In November 2018, the opening of the Canyon Creek All-season Road project was celebrated. This project is a 14 kilometre road outside of Norman Wells that represents a first step in converting the existing Mackenzie Valley Winter Road to an all-weather highway. The project provided important local training and employment experience that will allow residents to actively participate in the eventual construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-17-24 Medical Travel

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

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

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

Submitted by : The Town of Hay River

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

The NTHSSA administers the Medical Travel program for all regions, including the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority and the Tl1chQ Community Services Agency.

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

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

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

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

bid adjustment will be applied.

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

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

June 19, 2018 GNWT Response

No new information.

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

No new information from GNWT

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-17-25 Decentralization of Jobs and Services

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

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

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

Submitted by: The Town of Hay River

Policy Committee Recommends: **REAFFIRMED**

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

The GNWT continues to reallocate positions to communities and looks to establish new positions in regional centers and other communities whenever it is appropriate to do so. Where it makes economic sense or the reallocation of a position can be justified in order to meet new service delivery requirements the GNWT will follow through with this commitment. An example of this process in action has been the establishment of 20 Government Service Officer Positions at the community level in the NWT over the past several years.

In 2016 the GNWT also introduced the Regional Recruitment Program, a training and development initiative that creates employment opportunities for potential

employees by linking vacant regional positions with relevant on-the-job work experience.

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

June 19, 2018 GNWT Response

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

no new information

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-15-06 ATIPP Legislation for Communities

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

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

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

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

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

AND WHEREAS the implementation of the ATIPP Legislation has proven a

challenge even at the GNWT scale;

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

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

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

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

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolution Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

August 20, 2015 GNWT Response:

In September 2014, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs distributed a discussion paper to NWT community governments to obtain feedback from community governments on the potential application of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (ATIPP). The discussion paper "*Possible Application of ATIPP Act to Community Governments*", was developed in consultation with a working group made up of representatives from the (MACA), the Department of Justice, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories. Three main topics were presented and discussed in the paper:

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

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

capacity of community governments to be able to manage responsibilities under legislation of this nature.

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

Update May 2016:

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

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

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

November 2016 Update:

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

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

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

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

place with municipalities to plan for implementation.

January 2018 Update

September 25th 2017 Question Period.

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

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

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

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

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

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

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

Feb 2019 Update

The Amendments to the ATIPP Act to include Municipalities has received 1st and 2nd reading. The NWTAC presented to the Standing Committee examining these amendments in both Inuvik and Yellowknife. The resolution was reaffirmed at that

time.

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

[*Return To Top*](#)

RA-20-14-01 Fees for Households in the General Taxation Area

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

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

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

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

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

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

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

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

Municipal councils are already able to raise revenue from households living outside municipal boundaries who use municipal services by charging user fees. Some NWT municipalities distinguish between residents and non-residents when charging user fees for emergency response services so that individuals living outside municipal boundaries are charged higher fees for fire and ambulance services than municipal residents.

Municipal councils also have the ability to change the property tax/user fee mix to extract higher user fees so that more of the cost recovery is paid by the user of the service, regardless of whether the user is a resident or non-resident than through general property taxes.

November 2016 Response:

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

January 2018 Update

The GNWT provided no new information related to this issue

June 19, 2018 Update-

GNWT provided no new information just reiterated the previous comment.

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

No new information

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

[Back To Top](#)

RA-20-14-03 Hazardous Waste in Municipal Landfills

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AND WHEREAS communities throughout NWT are challenged with similar situations.

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

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

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRM

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

GNWT Response:

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

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

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

November 2016 Update:

In its official response to resolutions dated September 13, 2016, the GNWT stated

that ENR and MACA are collaborating on an action plan with the NWTAC called the “Clean- Up Clean Start” campaign to address the current state of hazardous waste stockpiles and hazardous waste management at municipal disposal facilities.

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

January 2018 Update

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

GNWT response September 28, 2017

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

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

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

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

The issues reaffirmed in RA-17-14-03 continue to be addressed by ENR and MACA as capacity allows. The communities of Aklavik, Behchoko, Colville Lake, Deline, Dettah, Fort Providence, Jean Marie River, Paulatuk, Whati, Tutselk'e, Tuktoyaktuk have taken steps in recent years towards removing stockpiles of hazardous waste. ENR is distributing household hazardous waste collection bins

and signs to regional centres and communities throughout the NWT. Some of the supplies have already been delivered to communities while the remaining will reach communities during the next winter road season.

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

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

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

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

Improving the management of hazardous waste is identified as a priority area for the Waste Resource Management Strategy. MACA and ENR continue engagement

with municipal governments throughout the NWT on cleaning up disposal sites and preventing hazardous waste from stockpiling.

[Back To Top](#)

RA-20-13-01 Regulation of Massage Therapy Providers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRM

GNWT Response:

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

considered once these four profession- specific regulations are completed.

November 2016 Update:

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

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

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

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

June 19, 2018 GNWT Response

No new information from GNWT

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

Application procedures will be posted to the HSS website in fall 2019.

February 2020 Update

Application Procedures Referenced above to be completed in 2020

[Back To Top](#)

RA-20-13-02 Review and Amendment of the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, R.S.N.W.T. 1988 c.P-10, as amended and the *Grants-In-Lieu of Property Taxes Policy 21.09*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

GNWT Response:

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

November 2016 Update:

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

The GNWT provided no new information related to this issue.

June 19, 2018 Update GNWT

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

[Back To Top](#)

RA-20-98-12 Limiting the time available to the Territorial Assessment Appeal Tribunal to reach a decision

WHEREAS the current provisions of the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* provide for the establishment of a Territorial Assessment Appeal Tribunal; and

WHEREAS the Tribunal has historically experienced some delays in hearing appeals on property assessments, thereby causing some delays in concluding taxation claims against properties subject to appeals; and

WHEREAS this uncertainty has continued in some instances for more than one year because of delays in hearing appeals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWTAC petition the GNWT to amend the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* such that the Tribunal be granted a period of no more than six months from the time of the deadline of appeals during which it must rule on said appeals.

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED

MACA has previously said that a review of the legislation would take place during this four- year Legislative Assembly term.

GNWT Response:

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

September 2016 GNWT Response:

MACA has recognized that the Property Assessment and Taxation Act is in need of review and updating. The Act is included on MACA's list of legislation requiring review. Unfortunately the list of legislation that MACA would like to review is lengthy, and will take some time to accomplish. Once the Act is scheduled, MACA will ensure that the Territorial Assessment Appeal Tribunal provisions are included in that review.

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

No new information on this issue from official response.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

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

MACA is aware that the NWT Association of Communities has passed as many as eight

(8) resolutions that may impact the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. This is important feedback that will be considered, not only as we set priorities, but also once we begin the legislative review process.

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

No new Information

RA-20-18-06 MACA Funding Formula

WHEREAS the Community Funding Review was completed in 2014;

WHEREAS the Funding Review identified significant underfunding of community governments in the order of 37% or \$40,000,000;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AND WHEREAS the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has completed

a review of community funding policies with the participation of a Stakeholders Group of community leaders and administrators representing a cross-section of NWT communities;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Policy Committee Recommends: CONCURRENCE

Replacing 20-18-06, 20-17-21, & 20-15-05

August 20, 2015 GNWT Response:

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

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

May 2016 Update:

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

In August, 2015, the NWTAC received a finalized report from the Conference Board of Canada regarding the multiplier effect of community spending. A media release was produced to introduce this report and its findings. The report concludes that dollars invested in community governments add significant value to the economy through job creation, wage contributions, and GDP.

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

- Increase the overall amount of funding provided to community governments, based on the documented and proven need

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

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

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

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

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

November 2016 Update:

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

In September, MACA delivered its response to NWTAC resolutions and deferred the Community Funding Review as a transition item for the next Legislative Assembly, in light of the current fiscal framework. MACA anticipates that the implementation will require a phased-in approach over several years. MACA reiterated its commitment to working with the NWTAC and community governments towards the implementation of recommendations made under the funding review, and commits to working in partnership with the NWTAC to "Develop a strategy for full implementation and aims to make the needs-based approach model to fund communities a focal point of the 2017-

2018 Business Plan Process.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

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

MACA will continue to work with community governments and the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) on developing a strategy for the

implementation of the funding review recommendations to address the specific concerns identified in the resolution. MACA intends to table the strategy in 2017-18. MACA is conducting analysis on both short term and longer term options for full implementation of the results of the review. Changes to the funding policies will be implemented within the next 5 years.

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

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

January 2018 Update

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

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

June 19, 2018 Update GNWT

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

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

November 1, 2018 Update

from the Members Statement- Question 482-18(3) Funding Gap

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

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

February 2019 Update

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

MACA has updated the analysis in 2019, which will be included in the Municipal Funding Strategy to be released later this year.

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

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

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

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

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

MACA will be publishing a Municipal Funding Strategy in 2019 that will include information about how MACA will address infrastructure funding through a long term approach. Through this strategy, MACA will also be updating the Community Public Infrastructure Policy. Discussions on how the next round of Federal Infrastructure Funding will be administered are underway. The gap identified during the 2014 formula review will be a consideration as well as a community's ability to contribute their portion of the funds to projects.

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

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

February 2020 Update

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

MACA tabled a Funding Gap Strategy on the last day of sitting of the 18th Legislative Assembly. The NWTAC has provided comment on MACA's Funding Gap strategy in indicating that what was proposed was insufficient.

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-04 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Policy Committee Recommends: CONCURRENCE

Replaces 20-18-04, 20-18-13, & 20-14-02

[Return To Top](#)

GNWT Response:

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

GNWT departments and agencies including Health and Social Services, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Education, Culture and Employment and Justice work collaboratively under the auspices of overarching direction such as the NWT Anti- Poverty Strategic Framework: Building on the Strengths of Northerners to end poverty. Priorities for action under the Framework are key components of addressing homelessness: Safe and Affordable Housing; Sustainable Communities; and an Integrated Continuum of Services.

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

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

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

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) has a "Small Community Homelessness Fund", which allocates funding to small communities throughout the territory with an identified need for meal/food bank programs. All of this funding has been allocated in the 2014-2015 year, and has

supported such services as soup kitchens, food banks, and food vouchers. The NWTAC also has a Homelessness Assistance program and a Shelter Enhancement Fund, providing single-year and emergency support funding for individuals in crisis. These funds can be accessed by local governments, Aboriginal governments, non-government organizations, and individuals, according to the funding type and situation.

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

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

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

Update May 2016:

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

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

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

November 2016 Update:

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

Of note:

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

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

June 16, 2016: MLA Herbert Nakimayak (Nunakput) raised a question about community access to homelessness funding, specifically regarding residents who have already accessed the one-time Homelessness Assistance Fund but are in additional need.

Minister Responsible for Homelessness Caroline Cochrane responded that counselling services are provided now alongside the HAF support, which can address underlying causes, and are then referred to community social workers. MLA Nakimayak then asked about the women's emergency centre in Tuktoyaktuk and the funding for 2016-2017.

Minister Cochrane then detailed the funding received and how it was prioritized among the shelters. MLA Nakimayak then asked a final question about the planned work for Paulatuk, Sachs Harboru, and Ulukhaktok to access homelessness funding. Minister Cochrane responded that the Housing Corp is working with communities to enable them to prioritize their own homelessness needs and elaborated on the services that are currently funded in these communities.

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

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

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

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

September 28 2017 GNWT Response

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

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

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

June 2018 GNWT Responses

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

The NWT HC will be conducting a broad review of homelessness, services and

programming within the NWT. The NWT HC has committed to share the findings from this assessment with the City of Yellowknife. The NWT HC

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

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

The GNWT continues its collaborative work within departments such as Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the NWT Housing Corporation under the direction of frameworks such as the NWT Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework: Building on the Strengths of Northerners to end poverty. Priorities for action under the Framework are key components of addressing homelessness: Safe and Affordable Housing, Sustainable Communities, and an Integrated Continuum of Services.

The GNWT provides support to community partners for the provision of short-term, community-driven homelessness support services such as day shelters, overnight shelters, and soup kitchens. This support includes funding for 5 emergency overnight shelters in the NWT, which have had their funding increase by more than 50% in recent years. This funding was administered by ECE and starting in 2019 is coordinated by the NWT HC. In 2019-20, the GNWT is investing an additional \$400,000 in emergency shelters to support their capacity.

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

Warming shelters are also supported in the communities of Behchoko and Inuvik. The Department also provides funding towards the operation of the Side

Door Youth Ministry's Hope's Haven Transition and Emergency Housing and Drop-in programs. These programs recognize the importance of providing supports for individuals who may be homeless and/or dealing with chronic mental health and addictions issues, and who need a safe place to go as an alternative to spending their time on the street.

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-18-10 Highway Rescue and Ambulance Services

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

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

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

WHEREAS the appropriate Fire Divisions and Ambulances respond to calls for service outside of the municipal boundary;

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

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

WHEREAS the access to this funding has been very prescriptive, by allowing only

small equipment purchases rather than for larger capital items such as a ground ambulance;

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

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

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

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

CATEGORY A CONCURRENCE

Policy Committee Recommends: CONCURRENCE

Replaces 20-18-10, 20-15-03, 20-13-0, & 20-12-09

August 20, 2015 GNWT Response:

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

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

GNWT Response:

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

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

GNWT Response:

MACA received approval in its 2014-15 Main Estimates for an additional \$200,000 to add to existing Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Funding. A total annual program offering of \$400,000 is now available to help ensure support for the communities seeking to develop and administer critical life-safety services. In early summer 2014, MACA obtained approval for the following funding changes aimed at maximizing value from available resources:

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

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

May 2016 Update:

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

November 2016 Update:

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

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

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

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

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

opportunities to increase highway safety. The strategy resulted in the following progress:

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

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

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

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

The project will also examine potential funding models to help maintain

adequate and consistent emergency care on territorial highways now and in the future.

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

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

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

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

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

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

July 4, 2018 Update

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

To date numerous community and Government stakeholders have been consulted.

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

Since fall 2017, the GNWT has been working with stakeholders to develop an

action plan to improve development and maintenance of the NWT's ground ambulance and highway rescue system. It is the GNWT's intention to strengthen support the current system which is comprised of municipal services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-17-03 Fiscal Year Resolution

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

WHEREAS the NWT Charter Communities Act and the Hamlets Act require a fiscal

year ending March 31, except in the case of a Municipal Taxing Authority; and

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

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

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

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

Resolution Committee recommends: CONCURRENCE

Replaces 20-17-05 & 20-12-03

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

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

May 2016 Update:

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

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) recognizes that there are a number of good reasons why the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) may want to consider the legislative changes required to allow all municipalities the option of choosing the same fiscal year (matching the calendar year or a fiscal year that ends on March 31, or some other option).

Such a change would require amendments to five pieces of territorial legislation including the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Charter Communities Act, the Hamlets Act, the T11chp Community Government Act, the Property Assessment and Taxation Act and the Local Authorities Election Act. These amendments would represent a significant undertaking and given the current legislative priorities of the department, their completion could not be expected in the time frame identified in the NWT Association of

Communities resolution.

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

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-17-05 Shoreline Erosion

WHEREAS: Some communities in the NWT are facing coastal and riverbank and soil erosion issues;

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

WHEREAS Many communities have faced significant costs, including loss of life, due to riverbank issues and that there continues to be ongoing coastal and riverbank issues that affect community infrastructure, including sewage lagoon lines, water intakes and roadbanks;

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

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

Resolution Committee Recommends: CONCURRENCE

Replaces 20-17-05 & 20-15-01

[**Return To Top**](#)

August 20, 2015 GNWT :

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

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

community governments are aware of this funding opportunity.

Other Updates:

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

November 2016 Update:

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

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

September 28, 2017 GNWT Response

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

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

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

2017 Update

NWTAC has had initiation meetings with the new Community Planning Unit. Predict on- going working relationship. NWTAC is working with ENR to complete an estimate of all costs associated with Climate Change including Erosion. This will allow for more effective lobbying.

January 2018 Update

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

MACA has re-established its Community Planning Unit, within the Community Governance Division. Shoreline Erosion issues can and should be taken into consideration when community governments update their community plans. The updating of community plans is gas tax eligible within the terms of the 2014-2023 Agreement. MACA also encourages the community to look at their annual Capital Planning Process allocations to help deal with projects that will support the *mitigation of shoreline erosion*. *MACA will ensure that community governments are aware of these funding opportunities, as well as new federal funding opportunities, and encourage communities to discuss these matters with the MACA Regional Offices.*

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

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

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

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

In addition, in a broader planning context, the updating of community plans is gas tax fund eligible within the terms of the 2014-2023 Agreement. MACA also encourages the community to use their annual Capital Planning Process and funding allocations to identify projects that will support the mitigation of shoreline erosion especially where it relates to protecting core community

public infrastructure. MACA will continue to ensure that community governments are aware of these funding opportunities, as well as new federal funding that may apply, and encourage communities to discuss these matters with the MACA Regional Offices.

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

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

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

MACA has re-established its Community Planning Unit, within the new Community Governance Division. Land use planning is one of the most effective processes to facilitate local adaptation to climate change. Land use planning refers to the processes and instruments to manage the use of land and the physical development of a community.

Shoreline Erosion issues can and should be taken into consideration when community governments update their community land use planning tools, including: community plans, zoning bylaws, development permits, and other development policies that may be used to minimize risks to communities in these areas experiencing erosion, landslides and other natural hazards.

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

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

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

In addition, in a broader planning context, the updating of community plans is gas tax fund eligible within the terms of the 2014-2023 Agreement. MACA also encourages the community to use their annual Capital Planning Process and funding allocations to identify projects that will support the mitigation of

shoreline erosion especially where it relates to protecting core community public infrastructure. MACA will continue to ensure that community governments are aware of these funding opportunities, as well as new federal funding that may apply, and encourage communities to discuss these matters with the MACA Regional Offices.

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

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

[Return To Top](#)

RA-20-17-07 CRTC Ruling

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolution Committee Recommends: CONCURRENCE

Replaces 20-17-07 & 20-15-07

August 20, 2015 GNWT Response

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

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

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

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

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

Update May 2016:

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

Last March, the CRTC instructed NorthwestTel to stop charging customers an extra

\$20-\$30 each month for a standalone DSL connection. NorthwestTel complied but on February 1, 2016 reversed its decision, and effective April 1, 2016 the standalone DSL charge will be reinstated.

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

November 2016 Update:

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

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

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

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

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

Sept 28, 2017 GNWT Response

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

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

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

June 19, 2018 Update from GNWT

The GNWT notes that this Resolution is directed to the attention of the CRTC and the Government of Canada. The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is encouraged to see that the Resolution also directs the NWTAC to take a more direct role as an intervener in CRTC regulatory matters, and for the NWTAC to work with the GNWT and other partners to ensure that the voice of the North is heard in CRTC consultations.

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

February 2019 Update

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

June 26, 2019 GNWT Response

The GNWT notes that this Resolution is directed to the attention of the CRTC and the Government of Canada. The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is encouraged to see that the Resolution also directs the NWTAC to take a more direct role as an intervener in CRTC regulatory matters, and for the

NWTAC to work with the GNWT and other partners to ensure that the voice of the North is heard in CRTC consultations.

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

February 2020 Update

The Importance of telecoms and broadband to the NWT Communities formed part of the NWTAC Federal Election Platform and Federal Priorities. It also formed part of the NWTAC Pre-budget Submission and presentation to the Federal Finance Committee on February 5, 2020.

[Return To Top](#)