

NWT Association of Communities
2020 Resolutions
CATEGORY A

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NWTAC Resolutions are divided into the following categories:

CATEGORY A Territorial Wide Municipal Issues

This category will contain resolutions on issues that are of a direct or indirect concern to all territorial Communities.

**CATEGORY B Issues which Pertain to Regional Concerns Only or
Are Not Within Municipal Jurisdiction**

This category will contain resolutions, which are of a regional concern only or are not within municipal jurisdiction. No action is taken on Category B resolutions.

**CATEGORY C Matters Dealt with by the NWTAC in the Previous Three
Years**

This category will contain resolutions relating to specific matters, which have already been considered by the NWT Association of Communities within the previous three years.

2020-04 Day Care Funding

WHEREAS NWT communities have more working guardians with small children to care for;

WHEREAS many Mothers cannot work because they must stay at home to care for their small children resulting in less household income;

WHEREAS the lack of adequate funded Day Care facilities exacerbates an existing situation;

WHEREAS federal political parties prior to the last federal election espoused Universal Funding for Day Cares;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT amend its Day Care policies to ensure adequate funding for NWT Community Day Cares;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWT Association of Communities immediately petition the GNWT and the Federal Government for adequate funding for NWT Community Day Cares.

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2020-05

Day Homes in Social Housing

WHEREAS There is a shortage or absence of daycares and day homes within all NWT communities;

AND WHEREAS This shortage of childcare is an impediment to many participating in the economy;

AND WHEREAS This shortage of childcare is an impediment to recruitment and retention of staff in the communities;

AND WHEREAS The provision of day home services is a complimentary activity for those who cannot work for various reasons including the provision of childcare for their own children;

AND WHEREAS The hosting of day homes is currently not permitted in public housing;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWT Housing Corporation revise their policies to permit the hosting of day homes within their units while still ensuring that they meet all other regulatory requirements.

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2020-06 Water and Sewage Policy

WHEREAS at the last LGANT meeting in Yellowknife, MACA officials presented its paper “Environmental Services Backgrounder”;

WHEREAS the conversation between MACA officials and some SAOs revealed the possibility of major changes to MACA’s Water Sewage Policy;

WHEREAS the conversation between the MACA officials and some SAOs at LGANT does not constitute proper or sufficient consultation with LGANT members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MACA arrange for full consultation and disclosure of changes prior to implementing its proposed changes to its Water Sewage Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWT Association of Communities immediately petition the GNWT Department of MACA to fully disclose its intention to amend its Water Sewage Policy and to consult with LGANT members prior to implementing its proposed changes to its Water Sewage Policy.

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2020-07 O & M Funding Levels

WHEREAS the GNWT MACA has been reviewing its funding formula;

WHEREAS there is still a wide gap between funding needs and funding levels;

WHEREAS most, if not all, municipal governments have been struggling with less than adequate funding from the GNWT.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that GNWT MACA arrange for full consultation and disclosure of its progress in finalizing the review of its funding formula.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWT Association of Communities immediately petition the GNWT Department of MACA to fully disclose the results of the review of its funding formula.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWT Association of Communities immediately petition the GNWT Department of MACA to fully disclose its intentions to immediately increase O & M funding to all NWT municipal governments.

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2020-09 Infrastructure Shortfall

WHEREAS the 19th Legislative Assembly has tabled document 1-19(1) titled “Priorities of the 19th Legislative Assembly” wherein it directs Cabinet to work in partnership with governments to implement its 22 priorities which explicitly includes “Reduce the municipal funding gap”.

Within the Cabinet’s Guiding Principles, tabled document 3-19(1) titled “Cabinet’s Guiding Principles – 19th Legislative Assembly”, among the six guiding principles it states;

- *We will promote personal and community self-sufficiency. We recognize that being able to make and implement decisions for ones’ self is a fundamental part of individual dignity and self-confidence. When we make decisions about GNWT policies, programs and services, we will choose those options that give people and communities the support they need to develop their own capacity and skills to choose and direct their own futures.*

WHEREAS GNWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs identified a \$39.2 million Community Infrastructure Funding shortfall in 2014, and more recently for the 2019 fiscal year end, identified the gap to be about \$30 million;

WHEREAS the 18th Legislative Assembly tabled the 2020/2021 Capital Estimates, *Aug 2019 – TD-511-18(3)* with approved infrastructure investments of \$398.6 million for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

WHEREAS less than 10% of the budgeted infrastructure expenditure (capital estimates) would fund the identified Community Infrastructure funding shortfall for municipalities, thus allowing community governments to invest in maintaining local infrastructure necessary to sustain and support basic community living requirements, promote long-term sustainability of community infrastructure and, to provide critical local economic stimulus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 19th Legislative Assembly prioritize its 2020/2021 and future years funding to eliminate the municipal Community Infrastructure shortfalls as identified by GNWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GNWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provide the members of the 19th Legislative Assembly with updated reporting that identifies the underfunding of critical infrastructure funding for municipalities.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CBC News – North: August 19, 2019

In 2014, the territory's Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) agreed to undertake a review of a funding formula established in 2007 known as the "New Deal."

Together with the NWT Association of Communities, the department found community governments received \$39.2 million less per year than they would need to maintain and replace their existing infrastructure.

According to MACA Deputy Minister Eleanor Young, the territory has made moderate increases to funding over time, reducing the overall gap to about \$30 million by the end of the 2019 fiscal year.

But Sara Brown, CEO of the NWT Association of Communities, said the new money, which amounted to an average of just over \$42,000 per community last year, is a little better than a "cost of living" increase.

The benefits of closing the gap could be substantial. The NWT Association of Communities estimates adequate funding could increase the territory's GDP by \$21 million and result in 220 new jobs.

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2020-10 NWT Education Reform

WHEREAS education is a powerful agent of change that can improve health and livelihoods, contributes to social stability and long-term economic growth and is essential to community well-being. And by recognising the power of education, policy makers can better address diverse societal challenges, which municipal governments increasingly have to contend with.

AND WHEREAS the three-year education renewal action plan entitled "Education Renewal and Innovation Framework, Directions for Change" published in 2015 states, "The current approach to education is not producing the overall levels of student achievement that we need and should reasonably expect for the investments that are being made.";

WHEREAS it was recognized in NWTAC Resolution 2019-14 that;

- ECE has responsibility to provide essential and basic educational programming in the NWT to all communities;
- It is recognized/acknowledged that there are deficiencies and lack of adequate programming and resources in many communities;
- GNWT has identified a desire to improve public education in the NWT via Education Renewal and "Early Childhood Framework.";
- Many residents of the NWT may lack the capacity to succeed at education, that the GNWT look at alternate programming;
- Be it resolved that the Auditor General of Canada review education to ensure that all NWT residents have the capacity to successfully enter post-secondary upon graduation.;

WHEREAS the NWT's Bureau of Statistics for "Highest Level of Schooling Attained" for the period of 2009 compared to 2019, do not show significant improvements in educational achievement for residents living outside of the NWT's major centres.

WHEREAS the GNWT expends 18.4% (\$ 332.1 million) of its annual operating budget on the delivery of educational programs across the NWT.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT take immediate steps to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the NWT's educational programs delivery model by conducting a Institutional and Organizational Assessment ⁽¹⁾ (IOA) encompassing but not limited to, early childhood development, primary and secondary education (JK to grade 12) and, post-secondary education to assess the overall program efficiency, effectiveness and delivery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IOA be undertaken by an independent party prior to any further significant reorganization of educational program delivery or significant investments in new infrastructure for educational program delivery.

(1): Institutional and Organizational Assessment (IOA) model, developed by International Development Research Centre (IDRC Canada)

In the IOA model, performance is defined in terms of the organization's effectiveness (mission fulfillment), efficiency (accuracy, timeliness and value of service and program delivery), ongoing relevance (the extent to which an organization adapts to changing conditions and its environment), and financial viability. The model also presents an approach to assessing the three underlying forces that drive performance: the capacities of an organization, its external environment, and its internal context or motivation.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Hansard: August 13, 2019

Question 797-18(3): Education in the Sahtu Region

Oral Questions (Page 5971 / 5972)

I can't commit to doing a full review of education in the Sahtu. What I can say, though, is that it is needed. It is not only needed in the Sahtu. It is needed right across the Northwest Territories. I don't know who will be in the House, but I am hopeful that one of the Regular MLAs or Cabinet will actually grab this the Assembly and bring it forward because I think it is time.

It is time that our whole Education Act and our whole system was looked at with the understanding that self-government have the right to draw down...

...but I am hopeful that education will be on the priority list for the next Assembly. We need to work better. We are failing at our children. Our graduation rates are low. Our early developmental index is coming in low. It is not okay. Our children are our future. We keep saying that. If we really believe that as a society, we have to put our energy, we have to put resources behind that, and the next government has to focus more on that.

CBC New – North: August 14, 2019

The education system in the Northwest Territories is failing students and is in desperate need of reform, but it will need to wait until after this fall's election, says Education Minister Caroline Cochrane.

Cochrane offered her frank assessment of education in the territory in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, responding to questions from Sahtu MLA Danny McNeely.

"It's time that our whole system is looked at," she said. "We're failing our children, our graduation rates are low, our early developmental index is coming in low, it's not OK.

"Our children are our future — we keep saying that. As a society, we have to put our energy, our resources behind it, and the next government has to focus on that," she said.

Percentages: Highest Level of Schooling

Source - NWT Bureau Statistics

| | All of NWT | | Yellowknife | | 3 Reg Centres | | Rest of NWT | |
|-------------------------|------------|------|-------------|------|---------------|------|-------------|------|
| | 2019 | 2009 | 2019 | 2009 | 2019 | 2009 | 2019 | 2009 |
| Less than grade 9 | 8.2 | 9.4 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 4.8 | 5.8 | 18.0 | 21.9 |
| High school, no diploma | 19.6 | 20.6 | 12.2 | 12.8 | 19.3 | 21.6 | 31.5 | 31.9 |
| High school, diploma | 22.5 | 21.7 | 25.7 | 26.7 | 21.9 | 21.6 | 17.9 | 14.2 |
| Certificate / diploma | 28.8 | 28.3 | 29.7 | 29.2 | 34.7 | 33.5 | 22.8 | 23.0 |
| University degree | 20.9 | 19.3 | 28.8 | 7.9 | 19.3 | 16.9 | 9.8 | 7.9 |

Highest level of educational attainment (%) - 15 years and older

Source – Stats Canada (2016 Census)

| Geographic name | No certificate diploma or degree | High school diploma or equal [1] | Trades certificate or diploma [2] | Certificate of apprenticeship [3] | College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma | University certificate or diploma below bachelor level | Bachelor's degree | University certificate or diploma above bachelor level | Master's degree | Earned doctorate |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Canada | 18.3 | 26.5 | 5.4 | 4.4 | 19.4 | 2.8 | 15.5 | 1.6 | 4.6 | 0.8 |
| NWT | 27.4 | 21.4 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 18.9 | 2.5 | 13.9 | 1.0 | 4.4 | 0.3 |
| Alberta | 16.9 | 27.9 | 3.0 | 6.7 | 19.2 | 3.0 | 16.5 | 1.2 | 4.2 | 0.8 |
| British Columbia | 15.5 | 29.4 | 3.7 | 5.1 | 18.1 | 3.6 | 16.1 | 1.8 | 5.1 | 0.9 |
| Manitoba | 22.0 | 29.6 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 17.7 | 2.9 | 14.4 | 1.6 | 2.9 | 0.6 |
| New Brunswick | 22.0 | 28.5 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 21.8 | 1.9 | 11.8 | 1.1 | 2.9 | 0.5 |
| Nfld & Labrador | 23.4 | 25.0 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 23.1 | 2.4 | 9.8 | 0.7 | 3.4 | 0.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 19.8 | 25.3 | 5.5 | 4.4 | 21.8 | 2.4 | 14.0 | 1.2 | 4.2 | 0.8 |
| Nunavut | 50.7 | 15.1 | 4.8 | 2.9 | 15.0 | 0.9 | 7.0 | 0.4 | 2.9 | 0.2 |
| Ontario | 17.5 | 27.4 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 20.8 | 2.2 | 17.3 | 1.7 | 5.4 | 0.9 |
| PEI | 19.2 | 27.2 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 23.8 | 2.6 | 13.2 | 1.1 | 3.7 | 0.6 |
| Quebec | 19.9 | 21.5 | 12.2 | 4.7 | 17.6 | 3.6 | 13.1 | 1.8 | 4.2 | 0.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 20.7 | 30.5 | 4.4 | 6.0 | 17.1 | 3.3 | 13.2 | 0.9 | 2.8 | 0.6 |
| Yukon | 16.3 | 23.7 | 4.2 | 6.6 | 21.2 | 2.8 | 16.6 | 1.5 | 5.9 | 0.5 |

[1]: 'The category 'Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate' includes only people who have this as their highest educational qualification. It excludes persons with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree. Data users are advised to consult the "Comparability with other data sources" section of the Education Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2016, Catalogue no. 98-500-X2016013 for information regarding the historical comparability of this category.

[2]: 'Trades certificate or diploma' includes trades certificates or diplomas such as pre-employment or vocational certificates and diplomas from brief trade programs completed at community colleges, institutes of technology, vocational centres and similar institutions.

[3]: 'Certificate of Apprenticeship or Certificate of Qualification' also includes Journeyperson's designations.

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2020-11 Universal Child Care Program In NWT

WHEREAS the 19th Legislative Assembly has identified “Advance universal childcare by increasing availability and affordability” as a key priority.

WHEREAS countless studies, surveys, research reports, and public policy documents about early learning and childcare have been issued since the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women (1970). Together they demonstrate that significant public spending on early learning and childcare is essential for economic growth, women’s equality and economic security, and the positive development of children and the well-being of families.

WHEREAS access to and the affordability of child care in the NWT have been identified as significant barriers to economic development, community population growth, ability to advance personal educational opportunities, and has also been directly linked to the socio-economic welfare of families, most notably impacts single-parent and low-income families.

WHEREAS universal childcare has been recognized as a three-way economic stimulus program: it helps parents work (reducing poverty), directly creates jobs for early childhood educators, and the early learning provides a boost to the next generation of skilled labour.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 19th Legislative Assembly commit to introducing legislation and commit the necessary financial resources to advance universal childcare access and services in all communities in the NWT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the introduction of legislation addressing universal child care accessibility in the NWT be included as a key measurable success indicator and component of the mid-term review of Cabinet’s performance, and failure to bring forward meaningful progress will elicit votes of non-confidence for all members of Cabinet.

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Background

Source: Statistics Canada

In 2018, women accounted for 75% of all core-aged part-time workers and a third of these women cited childcare or family responsibilities as a reason for their part-time status compared to just 10% of their male counterparts. Closing the gender wage gap will require broad-based policies that increase part-time wages and that ensure women have access to affordable care for their children and family members

Countless studies, surveys, research reports, and public policy documents on early learning and childcare have been issued from the time the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women (1970) to the present day. Together they demonstrate that significant public spending on early learning and childcare is essential for economic growth, women's equality and economic security, the positive development of children and the well-being of families. Although this evidence has been recognized by a broad and diverse cross-section of Canadian society in support of a growing clamour for robust action by the Government of Canada, we have seen only limited progress.

Source: Center for American Progress (Childcare Resource Research Unit)

A growing number of cities and states have dedicated resources to establish or expand preschool programs, with policymakers frequently citing the impact that preschool participation has on school readiness. Preschool attendance has been shown to improve children's academic and socio-emotional skills, preparing them for kindergarten and beyond. Research also shows that effective preschool programs benefit children from disadvantaged families the most, providing those children with a nurturing environment for healthy development.

Moreover, along with these important educational benefits, public preschool also allows some parents to re-enter the labor force or increase the number of hours they work, providing a decided boon to families' economic well-being. That has been the experience in Washington, D.C., where parents—specifically mothers—have returned to or entered the workforce in significant numbers since the city expanded to universal preschool.

Unfortunately, that is not the case for millions of parents throughout the United States, who report cutting back on hours or making career sacrifices due to challenges related to childcare. Since private tuition for high-quality, full-day preschool can cost many thousands of dollars per year, free public preschool has the potential to significantly increase take-home pay for parents.

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2020-12 Reinstate the Public Boards of Aurora College & the NWT Power Corporation

WHEREAS The Government of the Northwest Territories in all its services, organizations and corporations exist to serve the needs and directions of the residents of the Northwest Territories; and

WHEREAS engaged public boards of governance are an essential component of a healthy democracy and representative of a Government that is interested in listening, and acting in the best interests of its residents, by following the directions and feedback of its public; and

WHEREAS The Members of the 17th & 18th Assembly of The Government of the Northwest Territories Dissolved the public boards of Aurora College, The NWT Power Corporation, all Community based Health and Social services Authorities Boards; and

WHEREAS Effective boards are those that are empowered with independence and made up of members with equity involvement in the successful operation of services. One that can act with respect, and trust to the issues they face, but speak with candor and honesty as required.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the NWTAC ask the Government of the Northwest Territories to re-instate the public boards of The Northwest Territories Power Corporation, and Aurora College.

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2020-13 Reinstate Local Health Authorities

WHEREAS The Government of the Northwest Territories in all its services, organizations and corporations exist to serve the needs and directions of the residents of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS engaged public boards of governance are an essential component of a healthy democracy and representative of a Government that is interested in listening, and acting in the best interests of its residents, by following the directions and feedback of its public;

AND WHEREAS The Members of the 17th & 18th Assembly of The Government of the Northwest Territories Dissolved the public boards of Aurora College, The NWT Power Corporation, all Community based Health and Social services Authorities Boards; and

AND WHEREAS Effective boards are those that are empowered with independence and made up of members with equity involvement in the successful operation of services. One that can act with respect, and trust to the issues they face, but speak with candor and honesty as required;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the NWTAC ask the Government of the Northwest Territories to re-instate the community based local health authorities and empower them with the necessary resources to help solve the many issues plaguing community-based health and social services delivery.

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2020-15 Lifespan of Resolution

WHEREAS many issues confronting community governments require actions by levels of government other than the municipal level. Sometimes these issues are common to many municipalities. It is by way of resolutions that Municipal Members bring their concerns to the NWTAC for consideration at the Annual General Meeting. Resolutions endorsed by members of the NWTAC are an effective way to bring important issues to the attention of Territorial or Federal Governments or national agencies such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

WHEREAS the NWTAC currently has 90 resolutions.

WHEREAS it is difficult for other orders of government to prioritize the NWTAC's resolutions when there are so many.

WHEREAS in having a lifespan on resolutions means community governments will need to consider whether they want to bring the resolution back in four years time, or whether it's no longer a pressing priority.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each resolution, once approved at an AGM, has an effective lifespan of four years.

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2020-16 Building Code Act

WHEREAS at this time, the Northwest Territories (NWT) is the only jurisdiction within Canada without a regulatory building regime framework. Compared to our sister territories, the Yukon Territory and Nunavut, the NWT does not have any legislation that regulates construction in detail. The Yukon Territory has a *Building Standards Act* and Nunavut has a *Building Code Act*. The NWT does not have similar legislation, leading to an absence of clear building-related responsibilities for municipalities.

WHEREAS through the *Cities, Towns, and Villages (CTV) Act*, CTV's can choose to adopt by-laws to regulate the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property. Pursuant to this, the City of Yellowknife has chosen to create the Building By-law, that regulates local construction; however, the *CTV Act* does not formally define the building-related responsibilities and interconnection between the function of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and tax based municipalities.

WHEREAS a *Building Code Act* is different than a *Fire Prevention Act (FPA)*, and work on a *Building Code Act* should not be tied to the completion of the *FPA* review and update. Both Yukon and Nunavut have legislation regarding building codes and fire prevention.

WHEREAS individuals and developers are often frustrated because they need to deal with multiple regulatory offices for building plans, electrical permits, construction, inspections and occupancy. By having a *Building Code Act*, the clarity on who is the ultimate authority and how regulatory requirements are interpreted would improve the terms for development considerably.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) establish a comprehensive building regime for the purpose of providing regulatory clarity throughout the Northwest Territories.

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2020-17 Presumptive Coverage for Work-Related Psychological Injury (including PTSD)

WHEREAS Nunavut, Northwest Territories (NWT) and Quebec are the only jurisdictions in Canada without presumptive coverage for work-related psychological injury (including PTSD).

WHEREAS in all jurisdictions with a PTSD presumption, the legislation states that, for eligible workers diagnosed with PTSD, their condition will be presumed to be related to their employment, unless the contrary is proven.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT work with relevant stakeholders, including community governments, to update legislation to have presumptive coverage for work-related psychological injury (including PTSD).

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2020-18 Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms and Costs in the NWT

WHEREAS the Provincial and Territorial Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation Project (CAPE) is a rigorous assessment of the extent to which evidence-based alcohol policies have been implemented in all 13 jurisdictions in Canada.

WHEREAS a comprehensive alcohol policy framework was developed, containing gold standard best practices across 11 different policy domains.

WHEREAS the types of alcohol policies being evaluated at the provincial and territorial level include those with *direct* evidence of effectiveness as a means of reducing population level consumption of alcohol and/or related harms such as: pricing and taxation; physical availability of alcohol; impaired driving countermeasures; marketing and advertising controls; minimum legal drinking age laws; screening, brief intervention and referral programs; and liquor law enforcement.

WHEREAS they also assess evidence-based strategies that more *indirectly* facilitate implementation of the direct policies mentioned above. These strategies include: control systems for the distribution and sale of alcohol; provincial and territorial alcohol strategies; monitoring and reporting of alcohol related harms; and health and safety messaging.

WHEREAS the NWT scored 33% in 2017 in regards to implementing gold standard best practices to reduce alcohol related harm, which is 12% below the average of 45% for the rest of Canada.

WHEREAS as identified in the GNWT's Mental Health and Addictions Strategic Framework, alcohol and drug use is very costly to our system. Between 2008/09 and 2010/11, on an annual average basis, 429 NWT patients were hospitalized 615 times with one or more alcohol or drug related issues, resulting in 3,250 bed days at an estimated cost of \$7.5 million to the territorial health system.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop an alcohol strategy with evidence-based gold standard best practices to address alcohol related harm in the Northwest Territories.

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2020-19 Support for Federal Mandate

WHEREAS the Federal government has identified a range of priorities for their upcoming term.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NWTAC lobby to ensure the Federal government follows through with their mandate including the following items:

1. Require that all provinces and territories identify and approve all their long-term infrastructure priorities within the next two years and according to the signed bilateral agreements. Funds that are not designated for specific approved projects by the end of 2021 will be reinvested directly in communities through a top up of the federal Gas Tax Fund.
2. Implement the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework to create a future where Northern and Arctic people are thriving, strong and safe.
3. Give consideration to the recommendations to come from the Task Force on post-secondary education in Canada's Arctic and Northern regions as announced in Budget 2019 as appropriate and relevant to the federal government and Indigenous communities in order to establish a robust system of post-secondary education in the North.
4. Support territorial planning for hydroelectricity projects.
5. Enhance the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency's economic development programming with a focus on IDEANorth to allow the Agency to support a wider range of initiatives, including the development of foundational economic infrastructure such as roads and visitor centres.
6. Continue to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action* and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' *Calls for Justice* in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.
7. Provide more accessible and affordable childcare including the creation of a national secretariat that will lay the groundwork for a pan-Canadian childcare system.
8. Continue to build and renovate housing through the National Housing Strategy.
9. Address critical infrastructure needs in Indigenous communities, including the development of a distinctions-based urban Indigenous housing strategy.
10. Implement the plan to ban harmful single-use plastic products and take steps toward eliminating plastic pollution in Canada. This includes working with provinces and territories to develop national targets, standards and regulations that will make companies that manufacture plastic products or sell items with plastic packaging responsible for collecting and recycling them.
11. Continue to advance Canada's first-ever National Action Plan on Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries for first responders.

12. Support the transition of Indigenous communities from reliance on diesel-fueled power to clean, renewable and reliable energy by 2030.
13. Create more opportunities for Indigenous businesses to succeed and grow by creating a new target to have at least 5 per cent of federal contracts awarded to businesses managed and led by Indigenous Peoples.
14. Build on the new Federal Tourism Growth Strategy that encourages tourism as an economic driver for the regions, including Indigenous tourism. This includes the creation of a Tourism Community Infrastructure Fund to invest \$100 million in the local needs of communities that rely on tourism, over the next four years.
15. Lead work across government to move forward with the new Food Policy for Canada introduced in Budget 2019. This policy has four areas of near-term action, including:
 - Help Canadian communities access healthy food;
 - Make Canadian food the top choice at home and abroad;
 - Support food security in northern and Indigenous communities; and
 - Reduce food waste.

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2020-20 REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS AND DISABLED PERSONS PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT, R.S.N.W.T. 1988,c.50(Supp.), as amended

WHEREAS the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act* grants municipalities the authority to exempt the eligible property of a senior citizen or a disabled person from part of the property taxes;

AND WHEREAS the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act* requires other property owners to be dependent on the senior or disabled owner in order for the relief to apply;

AND WHEREAS the definition of dependent within the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act* is vague and allows for a wide range of diverse and potentially conflicting interpretations;

AND WHEREAS the vagueness of this definition can create confusion and misunderstanding;

AND WHEREAS this confusion and misunderstanding may inhibit fair and consistent application of the tax relief provisions;

AND WHEREAS the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act* determines eligibility strictly on the basis of age and/or disability;

AND WHEREAS the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act* does not provide any mechanism for municipalities to consider financial need when considering eligibility for property tax relief;

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

- (i) Amending the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act* to allow municipalities to determine how dependency is defined and determined in situations where not all owners are seniors and/or disabled; and
- (ii) Amending the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act* to allow municipalities to define and apply a financial means test to ensure that property tax relief is directed at property owners who need it.

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2020-21

Winter Roads

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

AND WHEREAS The transportation network connecting communities in the NWT is particularly vulnerable to climate change due to its reliance on temperature sensitive systems such as winter roads and bridges;

AND WHEREAS the winter road network is a critical transportation link for nine NWT communities who rely on winter roads to bring in food, fuel, building supplies, and other essential goods and services plus many others that rely on ice bridges

AND WHEREAS climate warming and increasing variability in temperatures has generally shortened the winter road season and increased uncertainty resulting in delays and cancellations, increased costs, and increased safety risks for travellers.

AND WHEREAS the winter roads are GNWT assets, and the GNWT bears the responsibility for the planning and maintenance necessary to keep the transportation network operational and viable.

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

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 Government of the Northwest Territories to acknowledge the urgency and immediacy of the threat climate change poses to the winter road network and make the development of strategic adaptation measures a top priority;

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT take a strategic approach to research and planning that considers the vulnerability of communities.

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT lead a collaborative approach to transportation planning and research that is inclusive of every level of government and explores innovative partnerships with indigenous, federal and community governments, development corporations, and researchers.

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT take a leadership role and work in partnership with community governments to:

- Research, develop and implement adaptation measures to respond to the increasingly uncertain winter road season;
- Ensure that transportation infrastructure is developed to be resilient to the changing climate; and
- Build the resilience of communities so they are better able to withstand and adapt to the impacts of climate change on the transportation network.

AND FURTHER THAT the GNWT to provide information to winter road dependent communities in a transparent and timely manner.

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2020-22 United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation

WHEREAS the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly in 2007 to establish minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories resolved in 2008 to recognize and support the Declaration;

AND WHEREAS the NWT Association of Communities has also supported the Declaration;

AND WHEREAS Canada committed in 2016 to fully implement the Declaration without qualification; and

AND WHEREAS the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories states that implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within the constitutional framework of Canada will advance reconciliation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NWT Association of Communities call on:

1. the Government of the Northwest Territories implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through territorial legislation co-developed with Indigenous Governments within the calendar year 2020; and
2. the Government of the Northwest Territories to work in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Governments to:
 - a. ensure that territorial laws, policies, mandates and measures comply with the Declaration; and
 - b. co-develop and implement territorial action plans to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

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