

Jane Groenewegen's responses to Candidates Questions provided by NWTAC – Received via Bonnie Dawson, Official Agent September 10, 2021

NWTAC
Questions for Federal Candidates
2021 Election

1. There continues to be a funding gap in the NWT as it relates to funding from the GNWT. The doubling of the gas tax has been a great asset, certainly for the communities in the NWT. I would work with and advocate for a continuation of this funding source with the incoming Federal Government.
2. This is a very timely area of concern for many of the communities in the NWT. From shore erosion in Tuktoyaktuk to flooding along the McKenzie River and rising water levels on Great Slave Lake. This is an area where the North will need an all-government approach with the fiscal support and expertise of the Federal government.
3. I have been clear both on my reasons for running as an independent and the advantages I see as representing the North as an independent. I believe in consensus, and I have spent the better part of my life participating and discussing northern issues with all facets of the population of the North. I have stated that all decisions made about the North should be seen through the lens of the constituents they represent. As an independent I will not be guided by party allegiance to platforms that don't always represent the best interests of the people of the NWT.
4. Homelessness, mental health and addictions are areas that I have represented in my past experience as GNWT Minister of Health, as a businessperson and as an advocate for change. Most recently I along with an NGO and many interested community partners and the GNWT was able to provide a space for the homeless in my home community. This is an example of my ability to work with a view to consensus across government lines to create a positive outcome to a long-standing social concern. This is an example of the out of the box thinking and consensus building that I will bring to the social problems plaguing our communities.
5. As with the previous question my experience as a businessperson involved with housing gives me a clear understanding of the need and requirement for housing for all levels of our population. There is a deficit in affordable housing for the marginalized members of our communities. There is a need for adequate housing for singles and most importantly single parents. The challenge is to find that balance so that we can house our own but also to give us the ability to attract professionals to the NWT in areas such as health and education. There has been some progress in funding from the Federal government in this area but much more is required. As an Independent I will have the ability to work across party lines for the best outcomes in housing for the residents of the GNWT.
6. If there is one thing Covid has brought to light in the North is the inequity of telecommunications services and costs. The cost to parents for children doing home learning has been crushing to many

families. Most major parties have policies on expanding service and controlling the costs of those services. I will work with whatever party becomes the next government to ensure that they live up to those commitments.

7. Notwithstanding my response to the telecommunications question above we as Northerners are only too aware of the gaps in cell phone service and coverage in our territory. This is a significant safety concern in the North. Through my commitment to consensus, I am committed to working with the GNWT, communities, and indigenous governments to resolve this significant safety risk.