

## Questions for MLA candidates - Election 2023

On behalf of the NWT Association of Communities, please accept these Questions for Member of Legislative Assembly Candidates about issues important to communities in the Northwest Territories. We would greatly appreciate your response to these questions by November 7, 2023.

We intend to post all candidate responses to the following questions on our webpage and will follow up with the elected members throughout the term of the 20th Assembly. Please email responses back to [info@nwtac.com](mailto:info@nwtac.com).

1. NWT communities have faced a persistent funding shortfall, which became more apparent with the 2023 review. Despite commitments by the Legislative Assembly, this underfunding issue has persisted for years. Will you commit to the funding to address this persistent funding gap of nearly \$40 million/year for community governments in the NWT and provide them with the permanent resources they require?
2. What steps will you take to ensure that these communities can continue to afford to deliver these services?
3. The 37% budget shortfall makes climate change in the NWT even more difficult for communities to address. How will you help communities in the NWT become more resilient in the face of climate change, and what funding priorities will you establish to address these challenges, including disaster mitigation?
4. Are you committed to investing in municipal infrastructure and initiatives to address and prevent the effects of climate change and making it a top priority for the territorial government, particularly considering catastrophic wildfires that threaten entire communities? How will you ensure communities battling inadequate funding and legislative restrictions have the necessary resources?
5. The education system in the NWT has faced criticism for failing to provide students with fundamental abilities. The purpose of the recently passed Bill 81 is to recognize the duties of Indigenous peoples and governments, clarify responsibilities, and increase parental involvement in education. Considering these amendments, do the modifications adequately address the deficiencies in the NWT education system, or is an Auditor General Review of the education system still required?
6. How do you intend to ensure educational facilities in the NWT implement the new legislative changes proposed in Bill 81 to enhance education, emphasizing addressing deficiencies and ensuring students graduate with the required skills?
7. The issues of homelessness, mental health, and addiction are complex and interconnected. How do you propose to resolve the homelessness crisis in Northern communities and improve access to affordable housing?
8. How will you ensure that mental health and addiction services are accessible and adequately funded to enhance the well-being of all Northwest Territories residents?