

# Questions and Responses for Election 2023

## MLA candidates – Vince Mckay

Questions were sent on behalf of the NWT Association of Communities to all Member of Legislative Assembly Candidates about issues important to communities in the Northwest Territories. We will follow up with the elected members throughout the term of the 20th Assembly.

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?

**Response:** This is one of my priorities. The NWT needs to take care of its home first before wasting money on projects not needed. I will work to close this gap.

2. What steps will you take to ensure that these communities can continue to afford to deliver these services?

**Response:** It's all about priorities and wasting money is not mine.

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?

**Response:** I want to lose the carbon tax and work on keeping the money in the communities that can't make affordable changes. Again... it's all about priorities. Why build an NWT university when we can't handle the Education system we have. Fix that problem first.

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?

**Response:** again... I think it's all about priorities and not wasting money on projects not needed at this time.

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?

**Response:** With the right amount of funding for the education system and appropriate spending of these funds, I am sure students wouldn't have failed. It's up to the GNWT to review the education system.

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?

**Response:** Make sure the GNWT works with the Education system and supporting agencies to make sure legislative changes are implemented as required.

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?

**Response:** We need to work with local governments and agencies to see what is required locally.

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?

**Response:** the GNWT needs local NWT services and provides funding for the agencies to do the work. Priorities funding to get these programs working.