

Report for Councils

2025 NWTAC

59th Annual General Meeting

February 27 – March 1, 2025
Yellowknife



Northwest Territories Association of Communities

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The NWTAC's 59th Annual General Meeting (AGM) saw nearly 200 delegates and observers participating, with representation from 25 communities.

On February 26, the NWTAC hosted a Chiefs and Mayors Bootcamp, which was well-attended.

On February 27, Elected Officials Training was provided on:

Climate Change and Fire Resiliency
Enhancing Trust Through Leadership

Board Elections:

Elections were held for 1 Vice-President and 4 Directors, however, the election of Yellowknife Mayor and NWTAC President Rececca Alty on April 28, 2025 to Parliament as the NWT MP resulted in the following slate of Board of Directors for 2025-2026:

President:

Mayor Kandis Jameson – Town of Hay River

Vice-President, Cities, Towns and Villages

Deputy Mayor Mike Keizer – Town of Fort Smith

Vice-President: Hamlets/Charter Communities/Tlicho Government/Community Governments:

Mayor Patsy Klengenberg – Hamlet of Ulukhaktok

Directors for Cities, Towns and Villages

Mayor Ben Hendriksen – City of Yellowknife

Deputy Mayor Kathy Tsetso – Village of Fort Simpson

Directors for Hamlets/Charter Communities/Tlicho Government/Community Governments:

Mayor Raymond Ruben Sr. – Hamlet of Paulatuk

Councillor Tammy Steinwand-Deschambault – Community of Behchoko

Resolutions:

The following 17 resolutions were passed:

- 2025-01 – Air Transportation
- 2025-02 – Create a Plan for the Future of the NWT
- 2025-03 – NTPC Governance Model Reform
- 2025-05 - Land is Vital for Municipalities to Grow their Communities and Tax Base
- 2025-06 - Aurora College Community Learning Centre Closures
- 2025-07 - Renewed NWT Energy Strategy
- 2025-08 - Supply Chain Analysis
- 2025-09 - Pellet Supply Chain
- 2025-10 - Emergency Plan Working Groups
- 2025-11 - Amendment to Disaster Assistance Policy – Solid Waste Management Facility Fires
- 2025-12 - Property Tax Forgiveness When Property Is Destroyed by Fire
- 2025-13 - Building Code Act
- 2025-14 - Review And Amendment of the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act
- 2025-15 - Alternative Voting Methods
- 2025-16 - Wildfires
- 2025-17 - Highway Rescue and Ambulance Services
- 2025-18 - Review and Amendment of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act and the Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes Policy

Copies of the New, Re-Affirmed, Standing and Deleted Resolutions are posted on the Resolutions page of the NWTAC website (<https://nwtac.com/resolutions>) and in the binder.

Awards:

The 2025 NWTAC Awards winners are:

- Community Service Award – Margaret Ireland
- Community Builder Award – Sambaa K'e First Nation
- President's Award – Karen Kuronen
- Long Service Award – Robert Bouchard, Hay River
- Evelyn Krutko Mighty Warrior Award – Eleanor Young
- Healthy Community Award – Town of Hay River

- Climate Change Resilience Award -- Tthets'éhk'édéł First Nation (Jean Marie River First Nation)
- Energy Excellence Award – Hamlet of Fort McPherson

The GNWT Department of Health and Social Services sponsored the NWT Healthy Communities Luncheon and Award. The award was presented to the Town of Hay River.

Note: Information on the awards is available on the NWTAC website (<https://agm.toolkitnwtac.com>).

PRESENTATIONS:

February 27, 2025

Elected Officials Training

- Patrick Michell - Climate Change and Fire Resiliency. Lytton First Nation Rebuild Director and former chief discussed the Lytton experience and lessons learned.
- Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada. Climate Toolkit for Housing & Infrastructure. Build low-carbon climate resilient communities.
- Tracy Lorenson – Enhancing Trust Through Leadership. Trust is the foundation of effective leadership—especially in small communities, where strong relationships drive progress. Explored proven strategies for building trust with your Council, staff, and community.
- Thebacha Leadership Council. Heard all about the Leadership Council in Fort Smith: How to facilitate collaboration and implement a shared community vision
- Fireside chat on research partnerships. An opportunity to hear from a panel of community leaders on their experience working with researchers to address priority issues. We learned about benefits these partnerships have brought to communities, lessons learned, and advice for others interested in this approach

February 28, 2025

Presentations

- Northern Communities Insurance Program Update
- MACA Update

Interactive Sessions

- Marine Transportation Services – 2025 Operational Update

- Canadian Security Intelligence Service – Building partnerships to support resiliency against national security threats
- NWT Recreation and Parks – Funding, Clean Air, Staff Training
- Aurora College – Updates
- Research Partners – How can research partnerships help your community address pressing issues?
- NT Energy – Renewable Energy and Support for Communities
- Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada – Support for Climate Ready Infrastructure
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities- Updates and Feedback
- Local Government Administrators of the NWT - Updates
- Elections NWT – Can we support your elections?
- MACA – On-line voting & Community Elections
- ECC/MACA – Solid Waste Facilities and Wildlife
- RCMP – Body Worn Cameras – Transparency & Public Trust
- Centre for Indigenous Statistics and Partnerships – Indigenous Data
- NWT Chief Public Health Officer – Drugs 101 & Smoking Cessation Support

March 1, 2025

Keynote Speaker – Tracy Lorenson of Civic Excellence

Achieving excellence isn't about having more — it's about working better together, which is particularly true in small and remote communities. In this keynote, Mayors & Chiefs and Senior Administrative Officers (SAOs) and Band Managers learned practical ways to improve their organizations, even with limited people and budgets. The session showed how strong governance systems and a healthy team culture can build trust, improve accountability, and help council and staff work toward shared goals. Participants left with simple, real-life strategies to encourage teamwork, solve problems, and lead their communities to success, including setting boundaries for supporting civility.

NWTAC Annual Report—Sara Brown, CEO

Interactive Sessions

- NWTAC – Funding and Partnerships to address climate change risks
- Northern REACHE – Resources for your Energy Projects
- Arctic Inspiration Prize
- Thebacha Leadership Council – Initiatives & lessons learned
- EIA – An Update on Service Integration & Integrated Service Delivery
- MACA/HSS – NWT 911 / Ground Ambulance

- MACA – Hosting Evacuated Communities
- MACA – Debris Management Plans
- NWT Ombud & Acting Language Commissioner - Addressing unfairness in the GNWT & protection of the NWT's 11 Official Languages
- ECC – Waste Reduction and Management: Spotlight on Compost!
- United Way – Emergency, Recovery, Community Planning support – We can assist
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Climate Adaptation funding priorities consultation
- Arctic Energy Alliance – How can AEA programs support you?
- Canadian Urban Institute – Technical Support for Climate Ready Infrastructure

A copy of the AGM Agenda and Program is posted on the NWTAC website. Copies of PowerPoint presentations delivered by presenters are also available on the NWTAC website.

GNWT Cabinet -Open Discussions with participants: BEAR PIT

Honourable Premier R.J. Simpson (Executive and Indigenous Affairs, Justice)
 Honourable Lucy Kuptana (Housing NWT, Status of Women)
 Honourable Jay Macdonald (Environment and Climate Change)
 Honourable Vince McKay (Municipal and Community Affairs, WSCC, PUB)
 Honourable Lesa Semmler (Health and Social Services)
 Honourable Caroline Wawzonek (Deputy Premier, Finance, Infrastructure, NTPC)
 DM Jamie Fulford (Education, Culture & Employment)
 North Slave RS Kris Johnson (Industry, Tourism & Investment)

The cabinet discussion was live-streamed and included the following topics:

- Providing infrastructure and services in communities.
- Dealing with homelessness, addictions and mental health.
- Strengthening and diversifying the economy.
- How to ensure communities are prepared for future emergencies?
- How does the GNWT plan to fix the community funding crisis?
- Reducing vacancy rate in public housing and increasing market housing
- Need to develop educational programs that are more suited to creating a workforce that will be needed when self-government agreements are signed.

Closing -- Banquet and Awards