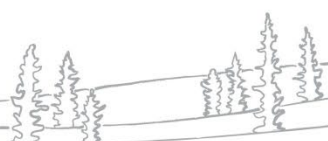




Municipal and Community Affairs Update

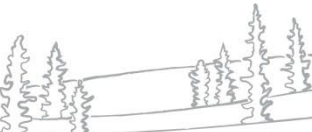
NWT Association of Communities AGM

February 27, 2026



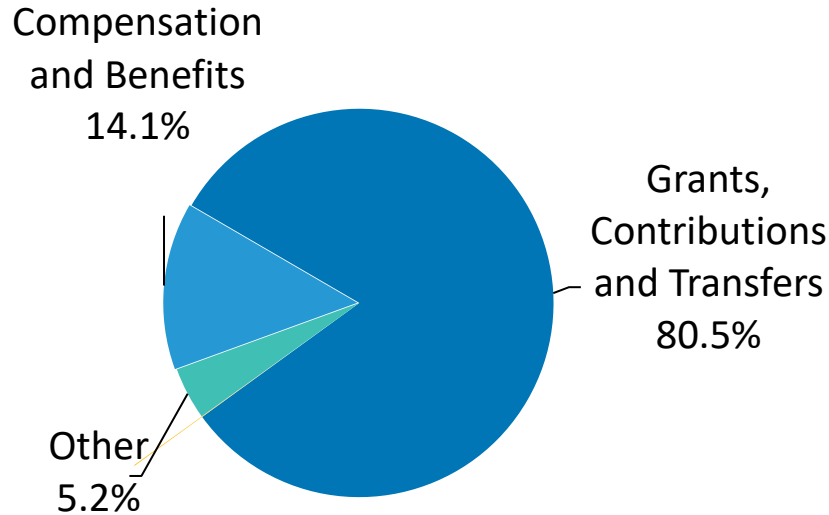
Outline

- MACA By the Numbers
- Reflections from my Second Year
- Looking ahead
- 2026-27 Budget Summary
- Questions



MACA by the Numbers

Operation Expenditures by Category



- \$135 million budget
- \$102 million for Community Governments
- 115 staff
- 5 regional offices
- 33 community governments
- 20 pieces of legislation
- 29 policies
- 1 great team!

Reflections from the past year



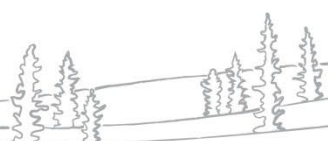
New Faces



DIRECTOR, PUBLIC SAFETY:
KEVIN WHITEHEAD



DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:
STEPHEN VERHAEGHE



Familiar Faces



DEPUTY MINISTER:
GARY BRENNAN



ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER:
CATHERINE BOYD



DIRECTOR,
CORPORATE AFFAIRS:
MARGARET LOVELY



Familiar Faces



REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT,
SOUTH SLAVE REGION:
BOBBY BOURQUE



REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT,
SAHTU REGION: CHRISTINA
GAUDET



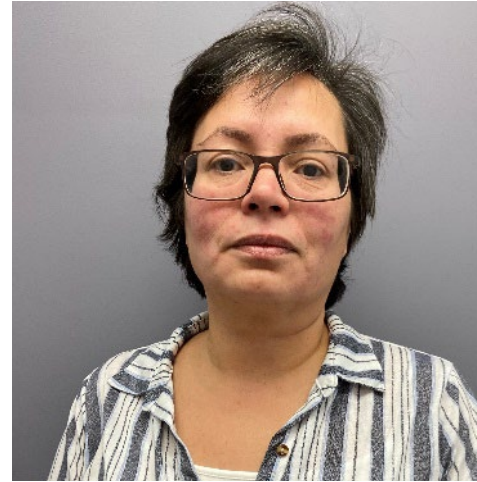
REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT,
INUVIK REGION:
DANA MORAN



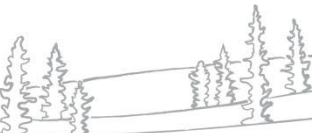
Familiar Faces



REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT,
NORTH SLAVE REGION:
TARA NAUGLER



REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT,
DEHCHO REGION:
MELINDA LENOIR



Familiar Faces



DIRECTOR, SPORT,
RECREATION AND YOUTH:
ALISON BROWN



DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY
OPERATIONS:
GRACE LAU-A



Familiar Faces



DIRECTOR,
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:
ADRIEN BARRIEAU

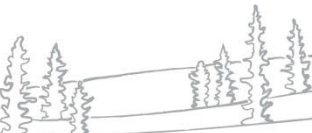


DIRECTOR,
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE:
LORIE FYFE



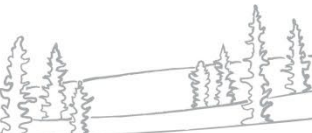
20th Assembly Legislative Priorities

- Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act
 - *Next Step: Draft Discussion Paper*
- Real Estate Agents Licensing Act
 - *Next Step: 3rd Reading*
- Property Assessment and Taxation Act (PATA) – Phase 2
 - *Finance to follow up*
- Fire Prevention Plan Review Appeal Board Regulations
 - *Confirm Board Members*



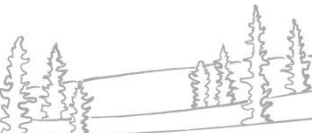
Emergency Management Act Review and Update

- The review of the *Emergency Management Act* (EMA) will be informed by the recommendations from the 2023 Wildfire Emergency Response After Action Review (AAR) and feedback from Indigenous and community governments.
- MACA has identified a preliminary list of issues that we will review with Indigenous governments and community governments to develop collaborative and sustainable solutions.



iGaming

- The only legislation that contemplates gaming in the NWT are the *Lotteries Act* and the *Western Canada Lotteries Act*, and neither allows non-charitable or online gaming.
- The GNWT plans to undertake research and engagement on regulating iGaming in the NWT in order to bring forward a regulatory framework.

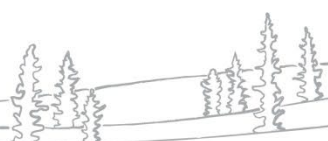


Policy Updates

- Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes Policy (GIL)
- Disaster Assistance Policy (DAP)
- Sport and Recreation Policy Suite Review
 - including review of Multisport Games participation

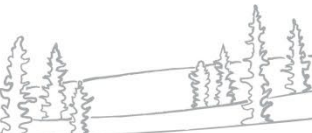
Community Planning

- The GNWT is dedicated to equipping NWT community governments with the tools they need to plan for the future.
- MACA's new Community Planning Framework, released in September 2025, helps community governments manage land use within their boundaries in ways that reflect their priorities and values.
- The GNWT is working with community governments from coastal communities to develop tailored coastal erosion adaptation measures.
- The Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Project will create a governance framework for informed, community-led decisions in Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, and Ulukhaktok to strengthen climate resilience in those communities.



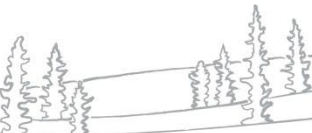
Community Flood Mapping

- Flood Map Development
 - Maps being developed for 10 high risk communities
 - Includes flood inundation maps (what has happened) and hazard maps (1:100 and 1:200)
- Flood Map Adoption
 - New flood maps and planning tools will empower community governments to make safer, more informed decisions about development and emergency preparedness.
 - Community governments will be encouraged to use 1:200-year flood maps in their community land use plans and zoning bylaws (developing permitting processes)
 - New NWT flood maps will align with the 1:200-year mapping standards used in the updated federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.
 - Flood Mapping Guide and maps available on GNWT website



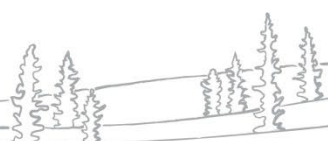
Community Government Funding Policy Updates

- The Funding Policies were updated in October 2023.
- 2025-2026 is the first year of the 3-year implementation of the updated policies.
 - Water and Waste Services Funding and Community Public Infrastructure Funding are transitioning towards all community governments receiving the same % of their Community Allocation Model (CAM)
 - No changes to Operations and Maintenance Funding during this period
- Amendments to support staff housing
 - The CPI Policy will be amended to allow for staff housing to remove recruitment barriers



Federal Infrastructure Programs

- **New Building Canada Plan – Small Communities Fund (SCF)** - \$38.7 million
 - The Agreement expires March 31, 2028
- **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan (ICIP)** - \$117 million
 - All funds have been allocated, 85 projects were approved for completion by 2027
- **Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF)** - \$18.75 million annually
 - The agreement was renewed in June 2024 and is effective to April 2035
 - The agreement will provide approximately \$94.5 million over the next 5 years
- **Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF)** - \$74 million
 - Eligible projects in water, wastewater and solid waste that lead to improved housing
 - Agreement expires March 2034
 - MACA is currently taking applications for projects



Clean Up, Clean Start

Clean up

- Over 1,000 tonnes of hazardous waste removed
 - Approximately 2,000 pallets, or 35 semi truck loads....and counting
- Reducing scrap metal stockpiles
 - Est. 14,000 tonnes of scrap metal



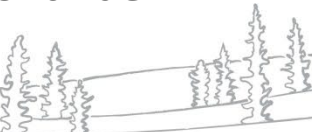
Clean start

- Supporting communities to control access and improve operations
- Prevent stockpiles from reaccumulating



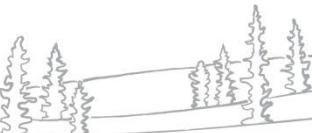
Emergency Management

- GNWT Mandate Commitments
 - Supporting Community Governments to develop/update emergency plans and increase the number of communities with up-to-date plans in place
 - Train GNWT staff on Incident Command System to increase GNWT surge capacity
- After-Action Reviews
 - The GNWT accepted 26 of the AAR's 35 recommendations, 5 legislation-related recommendations were accepted in principle, 3 were partially accepted.
 - The GNWT did not accept the recommendation to create a dedicated emergency management agency.
 - Collaboration with community governments, Indigenous governments, NGOs, and other emergency management partners, to implement the responses will continue.



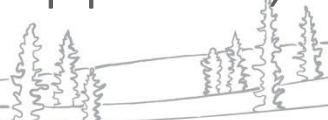
Stand-Alone EMO Agency

- Embedding the EMO within MACA provides a strong foundation for supporting Local Authorities, who are responsible under the *Emergency Management Act* for leading emergency response at the community level.
- Establishing a separate agency would introduce significant costs, duplicate existing functions, and pose staffing challenges due to the NWT's limited population and resource base.
- There is no guarantee that the creation of a standalone agency will solve the need for better communication, better coordination and more training.
- The GNWT is focusing its efforts on continuous improvements in emergency management activities within the existing structure.



Pre-Facility Transport Services

- The provision of ground ambulance services is a complex medical service that is not feasible for many community governments to deliver.
- The GNWT is developing an approach focused on supporting existing services and developing a pre-facility transport service model that communities can adopt based on local needs and capacity.
- The GNWT provides a limited amount of funding to five communities to assist with the cost of providing ground ambulance and highway rescue services and extending that service outside of community boundaries on territorial highways.
- The GNWT remains committed to engaging with NWTAC, local leaders, and emergency responders to share findings, gather feedback, and co-develop practical, long-term solutions.



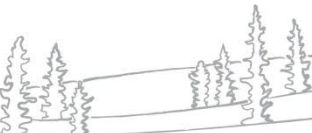
Public Safety

NWT 9-1-1

- Regardless of which community you are in, you can call 911 for assistance in the event of an emergency
- The GNWT is committed to ensuring access to emergency services through this simple universally recognized number.
- MACA continues to work to ensure the 9-1-1 program is resourced appropriately and consistent with its legislation.

New Defensive Firefighting Training has been developed

- To date, 19 communities across the NWT with defensive fire departments are planning to implement the NWT-DFT program, with more expected to join.



Multisport Games

- The GNWT is committed to supporting meaningful opportunities for athletes to build and develop skills, foster personal growth, and encourage a lifelong love of physical activity and healthy lifestyles.
- The Multisport Games program will be reviewed alongside the eligibility policy to ensure continuous improvements.
- MACA and partners are also assessing the feasibility of hosting the 2035 Canada Winter Games, including facilities, infrastructure, and community readiness.



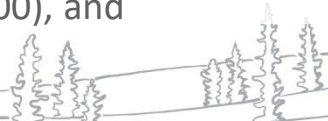
Budget 2026

The 2026-27 budget is under debate in the Legislative Assembly. Proposed increases include:

- Funding for Team NT participation in multisport games and stabilizing funding for Territorial Sport Organizations (\$2.8 million),
- Enhanced support for emergency management to implement key recommendations of the 2023 AAR (\$790,000),
- Research and engagement on expanding legislated gaming options (\$300,000),
- More support for community firefighting (\$270,000), and
- Restructuring to enhance MACA's capacity to provide financial oversight and advance legislative initiatives (funded from existing resources).

Forced growth measures include:

- O&M and Water & Waste Services for community governments (\$1.4 million), and
- Support to complete claims for disaster assistance while providing ongoing support to affected residents (\$1.4 million).



Thank You / Questions

