

**NWT Association of Communities  
2026 Resolutions  
Community Resolutions**

<b>Resolution #</b>	<b>Resolution Title</b>	<b>Page #</b>
<a href="#"><u>2026-01</u></a>	Medical Escort Policy & Medical Travel Priority Seating	Page #2
<a href="#"><u>2026-02</u></a>	Access to Social Work & Youth Mental Wellness Services	Page #3
<a href="#"><u>2026-03</u></a>	Return to Regional Hosting of Arctic Winter Games Trials	Page #4
<a href="#"><u>2026-04</u></a>	Conduct a Review and Improve the Current 911 Dispatch System	Page #5
<a href="#"><u>2026-05</u></a>	Enhance Wildland – Urban Interface (WUI)	Page #6
<a href="#"><u>2026-06</u></a>	Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Measures	Page #7
<a href="#"><u>2026-07</u></a>	Riverbank/Shoreline Erosion	Page #8
<a href="#"><u>2026-08</u></a>	Tools and Support for Managing Solid Waste Facility Fires	Page #9
<a href="#"><u>2026-09</u></a>	Learning and Development for Local Government Staff	Page #10

## **2026-01- Medical Escort Policy & Medical Travel Priority Seating**

**WHEREAS** access to timely and reliable medical travel is essential for the health and safety of residents in remote and isolated communities; and

**WHEREAS** the current medical escort policy is age-specific and does not consistently reflect medical, cultural, or caregiver needs; and

**WHEREAS** medical travel passengers and escorts from remote communities experience limited access to priority seating, delayed bookings, and flight disruptions that affect medical outcomes;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) be requested to conduct a review of the medical escort and medical travel booking policies affecting all communities, particularly remote and isolated communities;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the review include:

- a) Flexibility in medical escort eligibility beyond age-based criteria;
- b) Improved priority seating for medical travel passengers and approved escorts;
- c) Earlier and proactive booking of medical travel where possible; and
- d) Consistent application of policies across all remote communities.
- e) Consideration of a dedicated medical travel liaison position to support patients with exceptional needs, address personal and cultural considerations, and provide follow-up throughout the medical travel process.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Category A  
Concurrence**

**Submitted by: The Hamlet of Ulukhaktok**

[Return to Page 1](#)

## 2026-02 Access to Social Work & Youth Mental Wellness Services

**WHEREAS** social work and youth mental wellness services are critical to community well-being, safety, and early intervention in remote and isolated communities; and

**WHEREAS** communities periodically experience **no on-site social worker or youth mental wellness support**, creating service gaps during times of crisis or increased need; and

**WHEREAS** limited staffing capacity and travel constraints compound challenges in delivering consistent mental wellness services in small northern communities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) be requested to review service delivery models for social work and youth mental wellness services in all communities, particularly remote and isolated communities;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the review consider:

- a) Minimum service coverage standards for social work and youth mental wellness;
- b) Improved continuity of services during staff absences or vacancies;
- c) Enhanced community-based, mobile, or hybrid service delivery models; and
- d) Long-term strategies to improve recruitment and retention in remote communities.
- e) That the Government of the Northwest Territories ensure adequate and sustained funding for community based healing and wellness programs, supported by long-term financial commitment.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Category A  
Concurrence**

**Submitted by: The Hamlet of Ulukhaktok**

[Return to Page 1](#)

## 2026-03      **Return to Regional Hosting of Arctic Winter Games Trials**

**WHEREAS** the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) announced in the summer of 2025 that the January trials for the 2026 Arctic Winter Games (AWG) will be centralized in Yellowknife; and

**WHEREAS** previous Arctic Winter Games trials have been hosted in regional centres, including Hay River, providing equitable opportunities for athletes across the Northwest Territories to participate; and

**WHEREAS** centralizing the trials in Yellowknife places a disproportionate financial and logistical burden on athletes and families from outside of Yellowknife, creating barriers to participation and potentially excluding athletes from competing; and

**WHEREAS** the removal of trials from regional centres negatively impacts local economies, which rely on increased visitation and associated spending in the service sector to support economic sustainability; and

**WHEREAS** communities outside of Yellowknife have invested significant resources—totaling millions of dollars—into developing high-quality sport and recreation facilities that meet or exceed territorial standards; and

**WHEREAS** failing to utilize these facilities for territorial events such as the AWG trials undermines both the opportunities available to athletes and the investments made by local sponsors, organizations, and residents; and

**WHEREAS** hosting trials in regional centres supports community well-being by fostering volunteerism, strengthening community cohesion, and encouraging broader participation and interest in sport;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) formally requests that MACA reconsider its decision and reinstate future regional hosting of the Arctic Winter Games trials; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the NWTAC urges MACA to strongly adopt an equitable hosting model for future Arctic Winter Games trials that ensures fair access for athletes across all regions of the Northwest Territories; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be forwarded to MACA, Sport North, and relevant MLAs for their support and consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Category A**  
**Concurrence**  
**Submitted by: Town of Hay River**

[Return to Page 1](#)

**2026-04      Conduct a Review and Improve the Current 911 Dispatch System**

**WHEREAS** the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) introduced territory-wide 9-1-1 emergency dispatch services in 2019; and

**WHEREAS** the Town of Hay River, along with other tax based communities, continues to operate and promote its own secondary dispatch services due to limitations of the GNWT's 9-1-1 system; and

**WHEREAS** Council recognizes that the current limitations of the 9-1-1 service may leave gaps in desired dispatch services and pose unnecessary risks to both emergency responders and callers, including inconsistent information and errors communicated from dispatch; and

**WHEREAS** Council acknowledges that there are potential cost efficiencies, service improvements, and liability reductions associated with potential for a single, centralized GNWT-managed dispatch system, provided the system meets an acceptable standard of service;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) formally request that the GNWT undertake a review and meaningful improvements to the territory-wide 9-1-1 service to ensure accuracy, reliability, and modernized communication capabilities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the NWTAC engage with the GNWT to review dispatch performance limitations and completes identified changes to improve current service levels; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the appropriate GNWT departments and agencies for consideration and action.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Category A  
Concurrence**

**Submitted by: Town of Hay River**

[Return to Page 1](#)

## **2026-05 Enhance Wildland – Urban Interface (WUI)**

**WHEREAS** Wildfires are a critical hazard facing the Northwest Territories with wildfire frequency and intensity increasing due to climate change and;

**WHEREAS** Wildfires pose a significant threat to life, property and infrastructure in NWT communities and;

**WHEREAS** Managing Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) helps control fire spread, protect communities and balance ecosystem needs with human populations and;

**WHEREAS** The integration of community fire and wildland fire in planning, preparedness and response operations is a best practice in Alberta and elsewhere that has proven to be successful and;

**WHEREAS** Increased coordination between the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) and community governments is a recommendation coming out of ECC's After Action Assessment, "Northwest Territories 2023 Wildfire Response Review" and;

**WHEREAS** Some NWT communities struggle to populate their local fire departments making it unrealistic to have additional training expectations and;

**WHEREAS** Communities from across the NWT have expressed strong interest in developing a WUI program for the NWT (as articulated at the April 2025 NWT Wildfire Preparedness Workshop)

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** The Government of the Northwest Territories lead and fund the development of a comprehensive Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI) program that coordinates and delivers services and supports to communities including:

- Qualified WUI teams and specialized equipment that can be deployed to assist communities as needed
- Standardized inclusive WUI training, cross-training, and certification to enable interested/capable community fire departments to work effectively with WUI teams
- Clear and responsive coordination between MACA and ECC that enables the seamless co-management of operations

**RECOMMEND:**

**CATEGORY A  
CONCURRENCE**

**Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors**

[Return to Page 1](#)

## **2026-06 Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Measures**

**WHEREAS** The Northwest Territories is disproportionately impacted by climate change, warming 2 – 4 times faster than the rest of Canada, which is causing significant changes to the natural environment including among others ice, permafrost, water, vegetation and wildlife and;

**WHEREAS** Climate change is also impacting human health, infrastructure, public safety, food security and economic/cultural activities in the NWT and;

**WHEREAS** Federal disaster and climate mitigation funds (such as the now defunct *National Disaster Mitigation Program* and the *Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund*) were greatly appreciated and have supported many studies that identify options to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts;

**WHEREAS** Proactive funding to complete climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies is an efficient use of resources as compared to responding reactively to consequences of inaction; and

**WHEREAS** Climate adaptation resources through disaster mitigation funding have been positive for Canada communities facing floods and wildfires, and could benefit the North even more if Northern climate change pressures (i.e., permafrost thaw, extreme weather and disrupted supply chains) are also included.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** In order to move forward on planning and feasibility work done to date on climate change mitigation and adaptation, the Government of Canada provide adequate ongoing funding to territorial, Indigenous and community governments to enable these governments to effectively implement mitigation and adaptation strategies that address the impacts of climate change.

**RECOMMEND:**

**CATEGORY A  
CONCURRENCE**

**Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors**

[Return to Page 1](#)

## **2026-07 Riverbank/Shoreline Erosion**

**WHEREAS** Climate change is impacting slope stability and erosion risk along shorelines as permafrost thaws and weather patterns and extremes become more unpredictable and ;

**WHEREAS** Many NWT communities are facing shoreline erosion and slope instability issues along their riverbanks, lakeshores, and coastal areas and;

**WHEREAS** Shoreline erosion and slope instability threatens food and drinking water supply and vital infrastructure (including roads, ports/docks, buildings), disrupts supply chains, causes land loss (including culturally significant sites like cemeteries) displaces communities, damages traditional harvesting areas, disrupts travel routes and creates hazard from landslides and unpredictable slopes. These changes are having a negative impact on northern ways of life and economic stability and;

**WHEREAS** Options to mitigate risks associated with erosion and instability hazards require multi-disciplinary perspectives to assess public safety, land use, disaster resiliency planning, infrastructure and short- and long-term financial impacts; and

**WHEREAS** Communities and technical experts need to collaborate on shoreline erosion and slope instability to assess options and strategies to mitigate the impacts.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** The GNWT establish a coordinating mechanism, such as a working group with representation from appropriate departments, to collaborate with impacted communities on riverbank/shoreline erosion to ensure coordination of information, emerging issues, monitoring and mitigation measures;

**AND FURTHER THAT** The coordinating mechanism also be mandated to support research and information including longitudinal tracking of data related to riverbank/shoreline in the NWT; and

**AND FURTHER THAT** The coordinating mechanism establish a single point of contact for communities to be able to engage effectively with GNWT.

**RECOMMEND:**

**CATEGORY A  
CONCURRENCE**

**Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors**

[Return to Page 1](#)

## **2026– 08 Tools And Support For Managing Solid Waste Facility Fires**

**WHEREAS** Solid waste facilities, including landfills, recycling facilities, and composting sites are increasingly experiencing fires that pose significant risks to public safety, worker health, environmental protection, and municipal infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS** Emerging waste streams, including lithium-ion batteries and other hazardous or combustible materials, have increased the frequency, complexity, and severity of fires at solid waste facilities and;

**WHEREAS** Local governments often bear primary responsibility for land-use planning, emergency response, and community safety, yet may lack consistent, comprehensive, and up-to-date guidance specific to the prevention, management, and response to solid waste facility fires; and

**WHEREAS** Coordinated, evidence-based guidelines can support consistent planning standards, operational best practices, emergency preparedness, inter-agency coordination, post-incident recovery across jurisdictions and reduce risk and improve fire prevention and suppression measures.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Government of the Northwest Territories develop, in consultation with municipalities and other relevant stakeholders, comprehensive guidelines for the planning, management, and emergency response to fires at solid waste facilities; and

**AND FURTHER THAT** Such guidelines should address, at a minimum:

- land-use planning and siting considerations;
- facility design and operational best practices;
- fire prevention, detection, and suppression measures;
- emergency response planning and inter-agency coordination;
- training, data collection, and incident reporting; and
- post-incident remediation and recovery.

**RECOMMEND:**

**CATEGORY A  
CONCURRENCE**

**Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors**

[Return to Page 1](#)

## **2026-09 Learning and Development for Local Government Staff**

**WHEREAS** Local governments rely on a skilled, knowledgeable, and adaptable workforce to deliver essential public services and respond to evolving community needs; and

**WHEREAS** The responsibilities of local government staff continue to grow in complexity due to legislative and regulatory changes, technological advancements, public expectations, and emerging challenges; and

**WHEREAS** Access to high-quality training and professional development is critical to building organizational capacity, supporting workforce retention, and ensuring effective and accountable local governance; and

**WHEREAS** The now defunct School of Community Government proactively supported training and development for local governments in the past that was both standardized to address core and essential services and specialized to address emerging needs; and

**WHEREAS** Flexible training models that include both online and in-person options improve accessibility, equity, and participation for staff working in diverse communities and operational contexts; and

**WHEREAS** Upper orders of government are well positioned to support coordinated, adequately funded, and responsive training and development programs that reflect the needs of local governments;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the GNWT should

- Develop, fund and support post SCG, a comprehensive, applied-learning, skills-based training and development framework specifically tailored to the needs of local government staff;
- Ensure training options are accessible and appropriate, including a balanced mix of online, hybrid, and in-person learning opportunities;
- Engage local governments representatives in the design and ongoing evaluation of training programs to ensure relevance, practicality, and responsiveness; and
- Provide sustainable funding and coordination to support continuous learning, workforce development, and long-term capacity building within the local government sector.

**RECOMMEND:**

**CATEGORY A  
CONCURRENCE**

**Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors**

[Return to Page 1](#)