

**NWT Association of Communities
2018 NEW Resolutions**

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NWTAC Resolutions are divided into the following categories:

CATEGORY A Territorial Wide Municipal Issues

This category will contain resolutions on issues that are of a direct or indirect concern to all territorial Communities.

CATEGORY B Issues which Pertain to Regional Concerns Only or Are Not Within Municipal Jurisdiction

This category will contain resolutions, which are of a regional concern only or are not within municipal jurisdiction. No action is taken on Category B resolutions.

CATEGORY C Matters Dealt with by the NWTAC in the Previous Three Years

This category will contain resolutions relating to specific matters, which have already been considered by the NWT Association of Communities within the previous three years.

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2018-01 Energy

WHEREAS The world, out of necessity is moving away from petroleum/carbon based fuels for the generation of electricity and to heat homes;

WHEREAS Petroleum/carbon based fuels are expensive to ship to our isolated NWT communities and very costly to operate over time;

WHEREAS The GNWT is required to spend carbon tax credits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the GNWT produce for public scrutiny, a concentrated, harmonious and sensible plan to incorporate unused yet readily available forms of energy in every NWT community, including biomass, wind and solar power to be implemented in such a way as to make our NWT communities energy-independent and in the process create quality long term jobs at the local level

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2018-02 Economic Development Policy

WHEREAS The GNWT continues to be dedicated to the expansion and creation of hydro dams on NWT rivers as a cornerstone of its economic development policy;

WHEREAS The Government of the NWT is lobbying to open the Arctic Ocean to offshore drilling for oil and gas;

WHEREAS The likelihood of those initiatives coming to fruition is slim, and meanwhile, the NWT current economy is largely based on mining development only, which has an intrinsic boom and bust character;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the GNWT be asked to facilitate sometime in 2018, an economic development symposium which allows extensive public input to facilitate and foster new ideas on economic growth in the Territory that will result in the stimulation of local economies in our towns and hamlets, and result in high quality, stable new jobs in the communities.

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2018-03 Wildfires

WHEREAS Localized drought conditions seem to cause more and more severe fire seasons;

WHEREAS Many NWT communities are surrounded by old-growth coniferous forests that are ready to burn;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED RESOLVED That the GNWT's department of Municipal and Community Affairs bring more resources and focus more on ways to safeguard our communities from wildfires and at the same time put a higher priority on bolstering emergency measures organizations in the community so they can better deal with the imminent threat from a fire threatening their community.

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2018-04 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

WHEREAS The unprecedented increase in homelessness for all Member communities is recognized as a multifaceted problem exasperated by a shortage of affordable housing and an increase in need for social housing that is the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories; and

WHEREAS Environmental conditions living in the NWT can be harsh and deadly; and

WHEREAS Homelessness in the NWT is not always obvious as the ‘hidden homeless’ are bouncing from friends and family couches and are not easily known; and

WHEREAS The NWT Association of Communities has previously re-affirmed its resolutions RS-17-14-02 on homelessness resolving that the GNWT fully fund Homeless Shelters within the boundaries of its communities and direct funds to its department to end homelessness; and

WHEREAS The City of Yellowknife Community Advertising Board on Homelessness and Yellowknife City Council have adopted Everyone is Home- Yellowknife’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness to find a way forward in ending homelessness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWT Association of Communities urge the GNWT to consider adopting the City of Yellowknife’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the NWT Associations of Communities reaffirm RA-17-14-02.

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2018-05 Waste Management

WHEREAS Waste Management can impact the quality of our environment through preservation of land, air, and water in our Northern regions:

WHEREAS Waste management can impact the health of wildlife, plants, ecosystems, and people living in the NWT;

WHEREAS The NWT has unique challenges such as northern climate, small isolated populations, and lack of all-season roads;

WHEREAS Studies show that provincial and territorial wide waste management strategies are integral to achieve quantifiable successes;

WHEREAS Recycling and composting programs would:

1. Prevent recyclable goods and compost from ending up in landfills;
2. Significantly increase the lifetime of many municipal landfills;
3. Provide economic benefits to local and territorial economies by creating green jobs'
4. Convert up to 35% of household waste back into healthy soil through composting;

WHEREAS The GNWT should be seen to be supporting the environmental, human and financial health of our natural resources and environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWTAC and Territorial Agencies work in cooperation to develop and implement a Waste Management Strategy that meets the needs of the diverse and unique needs of the communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the NWTAC take a vital role in the development of this document as they are the voice of the communities in the NWT.

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2018-06 MACA Funding Formula

WHEREAS Communities and Municipalities should aim to be proactive in achieving financial stability by setting aside money in reserves, instead of seeking reactionary emergency funds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That MACA review the funding formula for communities to provide incentives for municipalities that set aside funds for planned and unplanned capital projects.

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2018-07 Urban Indigenous Definition

WHEREAS The communities in the NWT range in Indigenous populations from 24% to 100% with Territorial average of 50%; and

WHEREAS Many federal programs offered serve a predominantly Indigenous clientele regardless of the nature of the community: excluding many NWT communities; and

WHEREAS Communities are the best places of all levels of government to have significant impact on the health and wellness of their residents;

WHEREAS By these definitions many federal funding initiatives end up excluding the NWT as a whole; and

WHEREAS The development of this definition will:

1. Provide consistency as to what defines a Indigenous Community between Government departments and programs;
2. Allow programming to serve the predominantly indigenous population regardless of the community;
3. Larger communities have capacity to deliver programming that will serve larger regions and centres;
4. These larger communities have a more diverse nature and have a smaller Indigenous population;
5. Allow the NWT, as a unique physical, social and economic environment, to participate in infrastructure programs that have been previously designed for the South;
6. Allow communities in the NWT to gain funding that will stimulate their economy as well as develop and maintain critical infrastructure integral to the quality of life in the North by securing dollars, support, and continuity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWTAC and GNWT work in partnership with the Federal Government to develop and implement a definition of Urban Indigenous People;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the NWTAC and GNWT work in partnership with the Federal Government to resolve their programming to include the NWT and its subsequent communities.

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2018-08 Secondary Access Road to Communities

WHEREAS The on-going impacts of climate change being experienced in the NWT will continue to increase the vulnerability of seasonal transportation connectins to NWT communities by wildfire; and

WHEREAS Localized drought conditions seem to cause more and more severe fire seasons; and the majority of our NWT communities are surrounded by old-growth coniferous forests that are ready to burn;

WHEREAS It is critical to provide year-round transportation links to improve resiliency of communities as well as connecting communities to the rest of the NWT and the rest of Canada; and

WHEREAS There is a desire to see the majority of the benefits of the road construction and maintenance remain within the NWT; and

WHEREAS The development of secondary community access roads will:

1. Decrease the cost of living by access to goods and services;
2. Increase economic activity from the building and maintenance of the highway itself;
3. Will create meaningful opportunity to diversify the economy, increase business development and increase competitiveness; and
4. Develop hospitality and tourism markets and other businesses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWT Association of Communities supports the Government of the Northwest Territories continuing to make the development of strategic transportation corridors a priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the development of the secondary access roads for communities should be complete in such a way as to encourage as much local participation as possible both during construction and maintenance phases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That projects should explore innovative partnerships, with Aboriginals, Federal and Community Governments and their development corporations.

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2018-09 Funding for Sport and Recreation Travel

WHEREAS There are limited sports and recreational opportunities within the smaller communities; and

WHEREAS To ensure participation in competitive events, community members must travel outside of their home community often by air at substantial costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NWTAC urge the GNWT to ensure that adequate funding be provided for sport and recreation travel to enable appropriate participation by all communities in the NWT.

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2018-10 Highway Rescue and Ambulance Services

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife operates a full-time fire and ambulance service through the City of Yellowknife Fire Division;

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife Fire Division also responds to calls for service outside of the municipal boundary;

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has initiated a review of highway rescue and ground ambulance services within the territory;

WHEREAS community governments across the territory must prioritize their services with the funding available to them;

WHEREAS the cost recovery for emergency services provided outside of municipal boundaries may be difficult for a number of NWT community governments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that until such time as the GNWT has reviewed the strategy for Highway Rescue Services (RA-17-13-05) and conducted a feasibility study towards a Territorial Ground Ambulance Service (RA-17-15-03), that the GNWT should adequately fund those communities conducting ground ambulance or highway rescue services outside of their respective community boundaries.

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2018-11 Fire Prevention Act

WHEREAS the City has recently approved a Planning & Development Operational Review;

WHEREAS the Operational Review recommends that the City should work towards delegated authority from the GNWT for fire safety reviews as a means of improving coordination and overall customer services;

WHEREAS the GNWT is currently reviewing the *Fire Prevention Act* to update the legislation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT consult with communities when reviewing the *Fire Prevention Act* to ensure that support to community government permitting and review processes be prioritized to ensure that this function does not block development or cause undue delays and that the GNWT either 1. Transfer the authority and resources to community governments to undertake the responsibilities as outlined in the Act or, 2. That additional dedicated resources be provided to the Office of Fire Marshal to ensure community governments are provided with effective and consistent service.

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2018-12 Transfer of Lands to Community Governments

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife is seeking ownership and regulatory control of lands within the municipal boundary;

WHEREAS there are outstanding land applications on Commissioner's lands within the municipal boundary;

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife is beginning a statutory review of the General Plan pursuant to *the Community Planning & Development Act*,

WHEREAS the City is required to accommodate for land, growth and facilities over the next 10 years during this review;

WHEREAS the uncertainty around land prevents the City from taking a comprehensive approach to land use, infrastructure, utilities and zoning;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GNWT expedite and prioritize land transfers to community governments for the purpose of comprehensive and sustainable community planning and development.

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2018-13 Making Homelessness a Priority

WHEREAS the unprecedented increase in homelessness for all Member Communities is recognized as a multifaceted problem exasperated by a shortage of affordable housing and an increase in need for social housing that is the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories;

WHEREAS the NWT Association of Communities has previously re-affirmed its resolution RS-17-14-02 on homelessness resolving that the GNWT fully fund Homeless Shelters within the boundaries of its communities and direct funds to its department to end homelessness;

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife Community Advisory Board on Homelessness and Yellowknife City Council have adopted Everyone Is Home – Yellowknife's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness to find a way forward in ending homelessness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwest Territories Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider adopting the City of Yellowknife's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and further, that the NWTAC reaffirm resolution RA-17-14-02.

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2018-14 Health Act

WHEREAS disinfecting pool water continues to be of prime importance for the safety and comfort of pool patrons,

WHEREAS the current Act relies on manual pool chemistry readings that requires approximately 2 hours of staff time to carry out testing procedures once per hour during operating day for hot tub and every 4 hours for main pool,

WHEREAS pool automation has been developed such that the pool chemistry readings are carried out continuously and those readings are verified daily through a manual test to verify calibration and therefore should be acceptable to ensure bather safety and comfort,

WHEREAS safeguarding the pool patrons is of utmost importance,

WHEREAS there are several nationally recognized regulatory bodies that provide certification of lifeguards and further that facilities are required to train lifeguard staff to their specific facility standards,

WHEREAS relying on only one nationally recognized regulatory body for lifeguard certification restricts the number of individuals to be considered for employment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwest Territories Association of Communities urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider amending the *Health Act* to reflect the benefits of swimming pool automation in the maintaining pool water disinfection as well as bather comfort, and further, to recognize all national lifeguard certification programs.

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2018-15 Property Assessment and Taxation Act

WHEREAS the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* requires the Senior Administrative Officer of a municipal taxation area to cause a notice of assessment to be mailed to each assessed owner of each property each year;

WHEREAS the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* requires the Senior Administrative Officer of a municipal taxation area to cause a notice of tax payable to be mailed to each assessed owner of each property each year;

WHEREAS the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* requires the Senior Administrative Officer of a municipal taxation area to cause other written documents relevant to the assessment and taxation processes to be mailed to assessed owners;

WHEREAS the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* currently requires the notice of assessment, notice of tax payable and other documents to be paper documents;

WHEREAS the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* currently requires the notice of assessment, notice of tax payable and other documents to be mailed to the address shown on the certified assessment roll;

WHEREAS municipal governments have successfully adopted computerized methods to streamline the management of their assessment and taxation processes;

WHEREAS these computerized methods are capable of producing electronic versions of a notice of assessment, a notice of tax payable, and other related documents in accordance with the regulations stipulated in the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*;

WHEREAS a growing number of property owners are increasingly managing their financial affairs using electronic means;

WHEREAS many financial institutions and service providers successfully communicate with customers using solely electronic means;

WHEREAS municipalities communicate extensively with citizens using electronic

means;

WHEREAS electronic distribution of information is more timely and more cost effective than paper distribution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWTAC lobby the Government of the Northwest Territories to amend the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* to allow municipalities the option of providing notices of assessment, notices of tax payable, and other documents relevant to the assessment and taxation processes electronically, using electronic delivery methods.

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2018-16 **Review and Amendment of Cities, Towns and Villages Act,**
S.N.W.T.2003,c.22 Article 122 Hamlets Act S.N.W.T. 2003,c.22 Article
124
Charter Communities Act S.N.W.T. 2003,c.22 Article 126
Tlicho Community Government Act S.N.W.T.2004,c.7 Article 118

WHEREAS Under the various acts should a municipality wish to forgive a debt to it there is a long and involved process which must be followed to forgive that debt.

WHEREAS This can, in some cases, be more expensive to execute than the actual amount of debt being forgiven.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Cities, Towns and Villages, Hamlets, Charter Communities and the Tlicho Community Government Acts be amended to allow for municipalities to give forgiveness of a debt of less than \$500.00 by a simple resolution of Council instead of via by-law and other regulations outlined in the Acts.

Background Information:

Many times there are instances where a debt owed to a municipality is of a very small amount and it is determined to be uncollectable. Currently for a Municipality to forgive this debt they must go through a by-law process including advertising for 30 days prior to a 3rd reading providing information regarding the debt. The Municipality may have to expend more money than the debt itself to have it "written off the books". By making an amount by which Council may forgive the debt via a simple resolution it will provide for a more efficient and timely process. With this limitation Council still retains the final say regarding the forgiveness but in a more efficient manner for smaller amounts.

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2018-17 Communication from GNWT regarding significant activities and visits to a community

WHEREAS Community governments are recognized essential partners and a distinct order of government;

WHEREAS Community governments are the lead public governing organizations within Northwest Territories communities;

WHEREAS Whereas the Mandate of the 18th Legislative Assembly commits the GNWT to "changing how it does business by... Increasing transparency and accountability and strengthening consensus through improved communications; Building stronger relationships with community governments and stakeholders..."

WHEREAS Community governments do not consistently receive notice about GNWT visits and events that are taking place in their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Government of the Northwest Territories commit to developing a protocol, collaboratively with the NWTAC, to provide community governments with advance notice of significant visits (by elected leaders and senior management) and events (meetings, workshops, engagements , etc.) to ensure clear communications and strengthened relationships.

Background Information:

Some communities have experienced occasions where senior GNWT officials including Cabinet ministers were visiting their community yet there was no formal communication to those communities regarding these visits. This is also true of events and consultations being held in the Community. These communities are asking that the GNWT follow its commitment for this assembly to be more accountable through improved communications.

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2018-18 Review and Amendment of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, R.S.N.W.T. 1988 c.P-10, as amended with regards to Unsold Property Article 97.85

WHEREAS Under article 97.85 when a property is unsold at a property tax auction the owner retains ownership of the property

WHEREAS This can allow a property owner to potentially circumvent paying outstanding taxes and reducing municipal revenues

WHEREAS Currently Municipalities must purchase the property through the auction process should they wish to possession of the property

THEREFORE BEIT RESOLVED That the Property Assessment and Taxation Act be amended to allow for municipalities to have the option to take possession of a property for unpaid taxes after a defined period of time and it not having been sold at a public tax auction.

Background Information:

There are circumstances where a property owner will not pay property taxes and make the property not conducive for sale at an auction. As a result that owner may go a number of years without paying taxes knowing that the property will not be sold at an auction. Under the current articles of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act the only way a municipality can acquire that property is to participate in the auction process itself and thereby in a sense purchase the property from the owner. In other jurisdictions municipalities are given the option under specific circumstances have the property transferred (forfeited) to the municipality who then may make the necessary adjustments to the property and sell it in various ways. It should be noted that in some circumstances the municipality may not want to title to the property when there maybe additional liabilities associated with the property.

An example of legislation to this effect in in Alberta under Division 8, 8.1 and 9 of the Municipal Government Act.

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2018-19 Review and Amendment of the MOTOR VEHICLES ACT R.S.N.W.T. 1988,c.M- 16, and amendments

WHEREAS Under the Motor Vehicles Act Municipal By-law Enforcement officers may issue violation tickets for items such as lack of insurance, driver's license and insurance.

WHEREAS These must be done on Territorial Summons and not Municipal ones.

WHEREAS All revenues from these violations go to the Territorial Government yet all expenses incurred when issued by a Municipal by-law officer are borne by the Municipality including any time as a result of court appearance related to the offense.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Motor Vehicles Act Articles 337 & 338 be amended to provide for a revenue sharing structure option be included with a Municipality for all offense summons issued by Municipal By-law Officer.

Background Information:

Currently many Municipalities have By-law Enforcement Officers that are by way of their appointment allowed to issue summons (tickets) for certain violations of the Motor Vehicle Act. While the Act allows for some violations to be written on Municipal summons and the revenues for those violations going the Municipality certain ones (which have the highest fines) must be written on Territorial summons and therefore the revenues go to the Territorial Government. While it is recognized that there are costs incurred by the Territorial Government in maintaining the Act and its regulations many of the direct costs of enforcement are borne by the Municipality including prosecution should the offence go to court. In other jurisdictions such as Alberta their legislation allows for a revenue sharing system to be implemented with a Municipality for these circumstances

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