

Denise Yuhas for Thebacha MLA

September 13, 2019

In reply to NWT Association of Communities – Questions for MLA Candidates Election 2019:

(Answers in number sequence to each question received)

1. A \$40 million shortfall still exists for community governments. What is your position on the funding formula for community governments and the significant shortfall not being addressed over the past five years?

The \$40 million shortfall that has been identified will have to be addressed through working with the NWTAC and all levels of government. The Metis, Dene and Inuvialuit should be at the table as well. There needs to be a review and it should be done together, this issue will not be able to be addressed by one government. New MLA's are going to have to collectively address the fiscal realities and make sure that all funding and other opportunities to access funds are being thoroughly pursued.

2. What steps will you take to ensure that communities funding shortfall as identified by MACA is addressed and do you commit to prioritizing funding?

If the parties mentioned in question #1 are at the table we have a fighting chance to address complex issues we are facing in communities across the North.

3. Homelessness, mental health and addictions are serious issues in the North. Are you willing to work to ensure these issues get addressed and potential solutions put in place in a timely manner?

Yes I am willing to work hard to ensure these issues get addressed, we need healthy people in order for us to move forward as a territory.

4. How do you think communities can prepare for the climate change crisis that is presently occurring in many communities and what is your position on the Territorial Government finding solutions and taking a leadership role with funding?

We need to unite this entire territory and all levels of government to address the challenges and realities of Climate Change. I do agree that it will take funding and leadership to address the threat. The government does have a vital role to play and funding should be part of addressing, educating and implementing change.

5. What are your views on the issue of the early childhood education deficiency in the NWT and how it relates to post-secondary success of students and do you support an Auditor General Review of the education system?

I would rather see a special committee of the Legislative Assembly in collaboration with the NWTAC and Indigenous Governments struck to do a review and report back. We have to address this as northerners together.

6. The 2018 Federal Budget affirmed that its expectation is that a 25% portion of the revenues from cannabis excise taxes provided to the Territory and Provinces be transferred to municipalities and local communities. What is your view of the GNWT deciding that there will be no revenues passed on to the municipalities from the Territorial Government?

If all governments come together on climate change for example, we can then talk about other priorities and taxes as well. There will be many financial challenges ahead, we should be working collaboratively to come to the best way forward.