

Hughie Graham for Range Lake MLA

September 12, 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 funding gap needs to be closed as many communities are underfunded in NWT. I assume that modernizing the funding formula is part of 2014 funding review taken by MACA.

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?

The GNWT should commit to implementing this over the 19th Assembly if the review has already been completed and recommendations are contained within the review.

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

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 be innovative about climate change solutions. We need to work with experts in the field of permafrost among other specialties to find solutions. The Territorial Government should work with the Federal Government for funding for issues unique to each community.

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?

We need to be better at early childhood education and provide a solid foundation to life long learning. I do support an Auditor General Review of the education system. ECE has a 10 year Education Renewal initiative that is ongoing. It would be advantages to evaluate how that review is progressing and where ECE is able to improve with real results.

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?

The GNWT needs to commit to a revenue sharing deal with municipalities and local communities.