

Louis Sebert for Tebacha 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?

As a former Municipal Councillor, for 14 years, I am well aware of the funding gap which all governments are facing (the GNWT has identified an infrastructure gap of more than \$2 billion). During the 18th Assembly increases in funding to community governments of almost \$10 million were made but I am aware a gap still remains and am committed to working with NWTAC to reduce and possibly eliminate the gap.

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?

I am prepared to work with the communities to reduce and hopefully eliminate the funding gap.

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?

Many of these issues are intertwined and expansion of the Integrated Case Management Model should definitely be examined and expanded so that we can more efficiently deliver services to individuals with complex needs.

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?

As this is a territory wide issue I would be prepared to work with NWTAC to find solutions including funding.

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?

The Department of EC&E is well aware of the issues and I do not believe that an Auditor General review of the Education System would be beneficial. I believe that junior kindergarten is a step to improving Early Childhood Education but more must be done.

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?

Revenues from cannabis are far less than expected and this issue should only be revisited when the market and sales stabilize. I would encourage community governments to identify and inform our government of any additional costs resulting from legalization.

Louis Sebert
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