

## Niels Konge for Yellowknife Centre MLA

September 14, 2019

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

(Answers in number sequence to each question received)

Q1: 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 address over the past five years?

A1: First and foremost, let's get this straight - the Communities need to be properly funded. The funding formula was agreed upon through a committee with government and community representation. The agreement needs to be upheld. The Communities do a lot of good work that the Government can't do. The Communities need to be supported properly. Without Communities there is no GNWT.

Q2: What steps will you take to ensure that communities funding shortfall as identified by MACA is address and do you commit to prioritizing funding?

A2: Prioritization has to be address during budget development. Without having been a part of that development, I cannot promise anything. However I cannot imagine it would be too difficult to find \$40 million in a \$1.7 billion budget. I will commit to looking for the funds within the budget and meeting the agreement. It is essential to support communities.

Q3: 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?

A3: Absolutely, it is part of my platform. I am committed to finding solutions to improve the lives of vulnerable people in our communities.

Q4: How do you think communities can prepare for 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?

A4: In terms of climate change, I am in support of the expansion of Talston and the increase of greener technologies such as heat capture from diesel power generation, solar, wind, district heating. Right now we are wasteful. In YK the Jackfish power plant produces enough waste energy that the lake does not freeze during the winter. Think about that. We waste so much energy that it keeps a lake in the sub arctic from freezing during the winter. This energy could be used through a district heating system, to heat a community greenhouse or other creative solutions. And this is happening in every diesel community in the north. So prepare by using the resources to their fullest. And the Government should be finding solutions that are practical and fiscally and environmentally responsible.

Q5: What are your views on the issue of early childhood education deficiency in the NWT and how it relates to post-secondary success of students and do you support an AGR of the education system?

A5: AGR(Auditor General Reviews) are always a useful tool that bring relevant information to communities, government and school boards. I would definitely support a review. I'd like to see Early Childhood Education partnered with community governments, Social services, school board, and local daycare providers. There are many solution globally that we could take all or part of on this. We are not alone and there are solutions.

Q6: 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 the GNWT deciding that there will be no revenues passed onto the municipalities from the Territorial Government?

A6: There was a lot of work that was offloaded to the communities when the Liquor and Cannabis Act was changed. It is unreasonable to expect the communities to do the governments work without funding.