

Paulie Chinna for Sahtu MLA

September 16, 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?

Informing and educating the communities is a priority, I would encourage the importance of property taxes and statistics. If payments are not received and participation was not successful, the communities will notice a decrease in the amount of funding expected. Information sessions should be delivered in all non-tax-based communities.

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?

As a government we need to prioritize the communities as the effects to lack of funding contributes to the social impacts, addiction and education issues that are rising.

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?

Addressing the social issues will be a priority as I would like to encourage the need for a treatment centre that should include, follow up programs and addressing mental illness.

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?

Addressing the impacts on climate change and the need to educate and promote the effects. I would like to work closely with our indigenous groups and with the community-based monitoring program and identify environmental programs that are available to promote education on climate 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?

Early childhood is a compelling subject as our education system is in a crisis right now, we need to develop a strategic plan to work with our post-secondary students to determine the lack of support they have received from our education system.

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?

25% of the cannabis taxes would have contribute to the 40% loss of revenue to all communities. it is imperative the GNWT honor their commitment.