

Yanik D'Aigle Response
NWT Association of Communities Survey

1. In the last budget, the government doubled the gas tax funding for one time, and it was well received. Do you support the permanent doubling of the gas tax fund for 211 communities in Canada?

As Prime Minister, Andrew Scheer will maintain all statutory spending such as the Gas Tax Fund. We will pursue opportunities to allow eligible Indigenous communities to receive the federal Gas Tax Fund directly, thereby empowering communities to make more localized decisions on spending.

2. Climate change and weather-related emergencies are on the rise in recent years. How will you work with our local governments to increase resiliency to extreme weather events and the effects of climate change?

The Conservatives have presented "A Real Plan to Protect our Environment," which stands on three principles: green technology-not taxes, a cleaner and greener natural environment, and taking the climate change global.

We are committed to working with local governments by incorporating a mitigation and adaptation lens to the government's infrastructure investments. Communities must be able to identify risks and be able to plan to address them. An adaptation lens can include designing infrastructure to be resilient to extreme weather events, but it also might include designing other infrastructure to protect against known hazards. In either case, this will help communities be prepared in the event of an emergency.

3. The design of a program to support climate change in the north must be done in consultation with Northerners to be ensure it has uptake and be effective. Will you ensure that any program that is developed on climate change will be in consultation with Northerners?

Yes, we are able to ensure that programs developed on climate change will be in consultation with Northerners. We will conduct consultations with local communities and governments, business owners, and Indigenous peoples to make sure that our approach has the best interests of the communities in mind.

4. Homelessness, mental health and addictions are serious issues in the North. How will your party work to ensure these issues get addressed and solutions developed?

We need to work toward building a system of care where everyone who struggles with addiction is offered treatment and a pathway to recovery.

To realize our vision to have recovery be the goal of substance abuse policy, we

will invest in recovery community centres, recovery high schools, and treatment centres. This will give those who suffer from addiction, their families, and those who have recovered, spaces where they can get the help they need and support each other.

5. Inadequate housing in terms of both quantity and quality is greatly affecting outcomes for our residents, whether it is in education, health, justice and many other areas. Will your party ensure that long term funding is made a priority, and will you work to find a flexible program that works for our Northern region?

Conservatives support effective investments in important areas, such as access to housing, health services and good quality drinking water. It is critical that government spending translates into meaningful results on the ground.

We will work with the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) to remove the stress test from mortgage renewals.

To lower monthly mortgage payments and afford home buyers a lower barrier to entry to the housing market, we will extend the maximum amortization period on insured mortgages for first-time home buyers to 30 years.

We will also work towards making surplus federal real estate available for development to increase the supply of housing – transitioning public housing to social housing.

6. It is essential that all communities have access to all telecommunications so they can participate in the digital economy as well as all aspects of digital life. How do you intend to advocate for this essential service to all NWT homes and improve service and reliability for all?

Conservatives understand that reliable internet access is essential for rural and remote communities across the country. Unfortunately, for four years Justin Trudeau's Liberal government has taken rural Canadians for granted and failed to make high speed internet a priority. A Conservative government led by Prime Minister Andrew Scheer will make ensuring rural Canadians have high speed internet a priority.

We will also redirect existing rural broadband funding toward strategic priorities, such as high-capacity backbone where there is no incentive for the private sector to fund telecommunications infrastructure. We will take a smarter approach that allows the private sector to do its work, while focusing government investment on areas that are less commercially attractive.

7. More work needs to be done to ensure cellular coverage along current and future NWT highways. It is a necessity for safety in the North. How will your government support the NWT in this safety requirement?

To ensure that the largest number of Canadians are connected to the internet at high speeds, we will set aside a portion of all spectrum auctions for rural Canada. Ensuring that public resources like wireless spectrum are prioritized for Canadians living in rural and remote areas will help achieve that.