



POLICY

03-01
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Water Licence Contribution

1. Statement of Policy

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs may provide funding to community governments to assist with costs associated with obtaining water licences from regulatory authorities.

2. Principles

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is guided by the following principles when implementing this policy:

- (1) Residents of the Northwest Territories are entitled to the use of water, and to the deposition of waste.
- (2) Community governments should exercise full authority and responsibility for the provision of water to community residents.
- (3) As regulatory requirements for the operation of water treatment and disposal systems are increasing rapidly, community governments may encounter unforeseen costs in complying with these requirements.

3. Scope

This policy applies to eligible community governments.

4. Definitions

Community Government – A corporation established under or continued by the Charter Communities Act, the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Hamlets Act, Tłıchǫ Community Government Act or any Recognized First Nations Council.

Water License – A licence required by the *Northwest Territories Waters Act*, administered by the applicable water board, that regulates the deposit of waste and the use of water in designated areas.



Authority and Accountability

(1) General

This policy is issued in accordance with Financial Management Board direction to delegate to Ministers authority to establish grants and contribution programs. Authority and accountability is further defined in Financial Administration Manual directives 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1904 and as follows:

(a) Minister

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (the Minister) is accountable to the Financial Management Board for the implementation of this policy.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (the Deputy Minister) is accountable to the Minister and responsible to the Minister for the administration of this policy.

(2) Specific

(a) Minister

The Minister may:

- (i) approve changes to this policy,
- (ii) approve grants or contributions according to the terms and conditions outlined in this policy, and
- (iii) delegate the authority to approve grants and contributions to the Deputy Minister.



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(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister has the following authority and accountability, which he or she may delegate to Regional Superintendents or Directors:

- (i) determine the need for assistance based on consultations with community governments and/or departmental officials, and
- (ii) authorize contributions to community governments.

6. Provisions

(1) Eligibility

Community governments are eligible to apply for funding under this policy.

(2) Criteria

- (a) Community governments are provided funding through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' Water and Sewer Services Funding policy to assist with the costs of their water and sewer services.
- (b) Community governments are eligible to receive funding under this policy:
 - (i) during years when their water licences are up for renewal, and there is a requirement for a substantial amount of research and/or technical analysis required to comply with application requirements; or
 - (ii) when unforeseen measures are required by a regulatory body in order to comply with licensing requirements.



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- (c) Water licence contribution funding will not be used to establish new capital projects, to fund capital enhancements or to fund ordinary operating and maintenance costs.

7. Financial Resources

Financial resources required under this policy are conditional on approval of funds in the Main Estimates by the Legislative Assembly and there being a sufficient unencumbered balance in the appropriate activity for the fiscal year for which the funds would be required.

8. Prerogative of the Minister

Nothing in this policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Minister to make decisions or take actions respecting grants or contributions. In this regard, the Minister may make a special exception to the rules set out in this policy. Any exception will require substantiation in writing and must be recorded with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Robert C. McLeod
Minister

November 29, 2010
Date
