

# Non-Government Organization Stabilization Fund

2021-2022 Annual Report

AUGUST | 2023





## Minister's Message

I am pleased to present the Non-Government Organization (NGO) Stabilization Fund Annual Report for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This report outlines performance, financial and activity information related to the functioning of the NGO Stabilization Fund, as administered by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

This report represents an important step to improve the evaluation and transparency of this Fund, ensuring that it continues to effectively deliver support to NGOs across the Northwest Territories.

I want to recognize the important work of NGOs in serving residents of the Northwest Territories. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Government of the Northwest Territories remain committed to supporting organizations that carry on this important work.



**The Honourable Shane Thompson  
Minister, Municipal and Community Affairs**

# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
NGO Stabilization Fund.....	3
2020 Program Evaluation.....	4
2021-22 Performance Measurement Evaluation.....	5
Key Activities.....	6
Application Process.....	6
Eligibility Screening.....	6
Assessment of Eligible Applicants.....	7
Eligible Applicants Not Recommended for Support.....	7
2021-22 Trends.....	8
Approved Funding 2021-22.....	8
Conclusion.....	9
Contact Information.....	10

## Executive Summary

The Non-Government Organization (NG) Stabilization Fund provides short-term support for NGOs who deliver critical services and programs that support essential Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) policy objectives.

For the 2021–2022 fiscal year, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), under the NGO Stabilization Fund, supported 21 projects by providing \$733,655 in funding to NGOs delivering critical services and programs that support policy objectives of the GNWT. Six other applications were not approved as funding was fully expended or the application was deemed ineligible.

The annual budget for the NGO Stabilization Fund is \$700,000 and, as noted, actual costs totalled \$733,655 in 2021-22 due to an extraordinary contribution. MACA does not plan on future unbudgeted projects under this program.

## Introduction

This Annual Report provides information on the outcomes of the 2021-2022 NGO Stabilization Fund.

The fund is a GNWT program administered by MACA. The program supports GNWT-funded NGOs facing extraordinary costs that threaten to destabilize their operations and are ineligible for additional funding through their primary contribution agreement. The *Stabilizing Non-Government Organization (NGO) Operations Policy* was implemented in 2009 as an application-based contribution program to provide short term support to assist with these costs and support NGOs who deliver critical GNWT-funded programs and services to NWT residents.

In July 2020, an external evaluation was completed on the NGO Stabilization Fund. The evaluation resulted in six recommendations, including to develop an annual report that provides performance information related to the administration of the Fund as well as project activities and impacts.

This NGO Stabilization Fund 2021-2022 Annual Report was prepared in accordance with the recommendations from the program evaluation.

## NGO Stabilization Fund

Recognizing that many NWT NGOs deliver critical services and programming that supports GNWT policy objectives such as: homelessness, addictions support, and shelters for women and families the NGO Stabilization Fund was established in 2009.

Funding support is available for eligible NGOs who:

- deliver critical GNWT-funded programs or services to NWT residents;
- receive annual funding from the GNWT for the delivery of those critical services or programs and are in compliance with existing funding agreements; and
- are registered and in good standing in the NWT either as a society or association or as created under NWT or federal statute.

Support can be granted for eligible one-time general costs to stabilize or develop organization capacity to manage programs and services including:

- General management costs that cannot be attributed to specific programs or services. Examples are general administration and management, finances, and bookkeeping.
- Governance costs or board related costs. Examples are governance and board training.
- Organizational development costs related to the structure and processes of the organization.

- Additional general operations costs related to general operations and maintenance that cannot be directly attributed to specific programs or services. Examples are one-time general office costs or one-time maintenance costs.

Examples of approved past projects include improving service levels to smaller communities, board governance, organizational planning and development, transition support to stabilize operations, and other extraordinary general operations costs.

The program is application-based, and NGOs must apply each year to receive funding. The maximum amount provided is \$50,000 annually. Demand for funding from the NGO Stabilization Fund normally exceeds the available annual budget, and partial funding approvals can be used to increase the number of organizations supported per year.

## 2020 Program Evaluation

MACA hired PRA Inc., an independent research company, to conduct an evaluation of the NGO Stabilization Fund. Overall, the Fund’s application process was found satisfactory. Program deficiencies were noted in applicant awareness and understanding of key features of the Fund, including the substantial increase in the available funding, the eligibility criteria, and eligible project costs. Other areas of potential improvement included offering additional support to applicants and greater transparency in funding decisions. The evaluation outlined six recommendations that MACA has now incorporated into the delivery of the program.

The following table provides information on the six recommendations and the status of MACA’s implementation:

Recommendation	Current Status
1. Review current outreach efforts in terms of reach, methods used, and content to work towards ensuring that all potentially eligible NGOs are aware of the Fund and understand its eligibility and assessment criteria.	Accepted and Implemented: Reached out to all former applicants and implemented a new advertisement, radio advertisement and email campaign through an established network.
2. Review the assessment process to increase transparency, such as by developing a template for assessment that can be shared with applicants, a process for providing feedback to funding applicants, and measures to make funding decisions public.	Accepted and Implemented: Rating template and guidelines were made available to all applicants publicly on the MACA website in advance of the application deadline. The department has also published online all funded recipients for transparency purposes.

Recommendation	Current Status
<p>3. Review the restriction on Yellowknife NGOs. Given that the assessment criteria include a regional distribution of funded projects, this restriction may not be required in order to ensure that Yellowknife NGOs do not receive a disproportionate amount of the available funding.</p>	<p>Accepted and Implemented: This recommendation addresses a policy requirement that Yellowknife-based organizations must show \$50,000 in funding from a GNWT source to qualify.</p> <p>There is no documented reason why this condition is required, although it is logical that this condition is included in the policy to ensure that Yellowknife NGOs do not dominate the program budget.</p> <p>In response to this recommendation, the policy was updated in March 2022, however this was too late in the 2021-22 fiscal year to affect funding in that year. The impact of this policy change will be reflected in the 2022-23 fiscal year Annual Report.</p>
<p>4. Integrate the Guidelines with the application form to assist NGOs with understanding the eligibility and assessment criteria.</p>	<p>Accepted and Implemented: Application, guidelines and rating criteria are published online in one document for transparency purposes.</p>
<p>5. Develop a template for project reporting in order to support consistency in reporting while maintaining flexibility in how certain information is presented (e.g., allow narratives for project outcomes).</p>	<p>Accepted and Implemented: This is complete and was available to all 2021-22 recipients for purposes of reporting on contributions.</p>
<p>6. Develop an annual report for the Fund that provides performance information related to the administration of the Fund, as well as project activities and impacts.</p>	<p>Accepted. This 2021-2022 Annual Report is the first and updates to the performance information will be provided on an annual basis.</p>

## 2021-22 Performance Measurement Evaluation

As part of the 2020 evaluation, performance measurements were established to assist with ongoing effectiveness of the NGO Stabilization Fund. The performance of the Fund in 2021-2022 will be used as the baseline for additional future performance measures.

Expected Outcomes	Performance Measurement	Baseline	Target	2021-22 Summary
1. Outputs				
1.1 Calls for applications	Number of calls for applications by fiscal year	One call for applications per fiscal year as per the <i>Stabilizing Non-Government Organization (NGO) Operations Policy</i>	One call for applications will be issued each spring as per policy.	Call for applications ran from April 29, 2021 to May 27, 2021.



Expected Outcomes	Performance Measurement	Baseline	Target	2021-22 Summary
1.2 Application assessments	Number of applications assessed by fiscal year	22 applications assessed in 2020-2021	Two applications assessed per region and greater than ten applications total per year	In 2021-22, 27 applications were assessed.
1.3 Funded Projects	Number of projects funded by fiscal year	14 projects funded in 2020-2021	Greater than 14	In 2021-22, 21 applications were approved.

## Key Activities

### Application Process

A public call for applications to the NGO Stabilization Fund for 2021-22 was issued April 29 and the application deadline was May 27, 2021. Twenty-seven (27) applications were received: 16 from NGOs in Yellowknife, 8 from the South Slave Region, 2 from the Sahtu Region and 1 from the Dehcho Region. The total 2021-22 funding requested as part of these applications was \$1,061,048.

### Eligibility Screening

All applications were screened for eligibility in accordance with the provisions of the *Stabilizing Non-Government Organization Operations Policy*. Applications determined to be eligible basis of the following principles:

- A. Must deliver critical GNWT funded services;
- B. Must receive funding from GNWT;
- C. Must be registered and in good standing in NWT as a society or association or as created under NWT or federal statute; and
- D. If located in Yellowknife; receive \$50,000 or more in annual funding from GNWT.

Twenty-four applications in 2021-22 were deemed eligible and three were deemed ineligible. One applicant was status was not in good standing with Corporate Registries as a society and remaining two applicants did not receive \$50,000 or more in funding from the GNWT for the delivery of critical services in Yellowknife.

Results of the eligibility screening were communicated in writing to all applicants within three weeks of the application deadline.

## Assessment of Eligible Applicants

The assessment of eligible applications was carried out in accordance with the *Stabilizing Non-Government Organization Operations Policy*. Applications were prioritized on the basis of the following principles:

- A. Applications from NGOs who deliver programs and services that:
  - Help ensure people’s basic needs for shelter and food are met.
  - Provide social support within their community or communities.
  - Build capacity through education, training, and skill development.

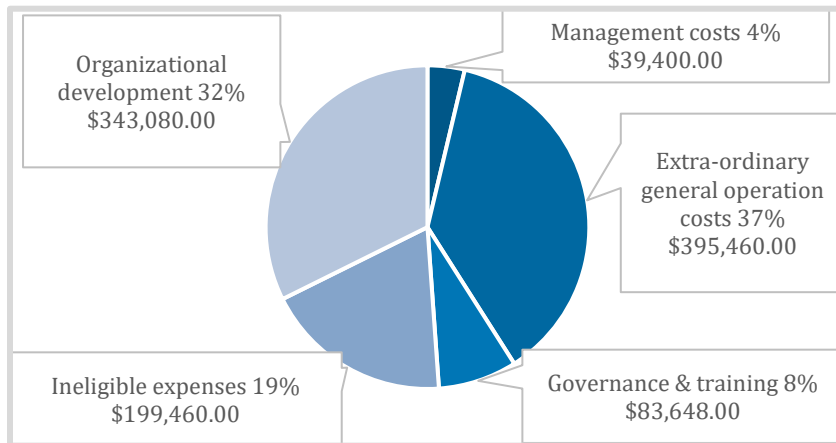
Take priority over applications from NGOs who deliver less critical services such as cultural or recreational program delivery.

- B. Collaborative projects or projects that benefit more than one NGO take priority over projects that benefit only the applicant NGO.
- C. Management costs (general administration, management, finances, and bookkeeping), governance and organizational development (strategic or expansion take priority over extraordinary general operations costs (office costs, utilities, maintenance, and renovations).
- D. Projects that have not received support (new projects) take priority over projects that are similar as those supported in previous years for the same NGO.

## Eligible Applicants Not Recommended for Support

The twenty-four eligible applications were evaluated and ranked by priority. Three eligible applications were not recommended as demand surpassed the available annual budget. An extraordinary additional eligible application for \$46,960 was approved for \$33,655 above the Stabilization Fund annual budget for the Hay River Ski Club to support its strategic planning efforts to access long term funding as extraordinary funding support.

Funding Request Types 2021-22



## 2021-22 Trends

Ineligible funding requested by NGOs for stabilization projects included NGOs actively seeking longer term capital and/or major renovation funding, multi-year funding, and regular personnel and programming funding- these costs are not eligible with the *Stabilizing Non-Government Organization Operations Policy*.

Applications for projects already previously approved is a recurring theme. In 2021-22, 50% or thirteen project proposals were received from NGOs with projects approved in 2020-21. Applicants noted a lack of available operations funding under other GNWT programs to maintain their ability to offer critical GNWT services or programs.

Projects approved in 2021-2022 had positive outcomes including safety and first aid training and equipment; policy, communications, onboarding, diversity and risk management training and development; financial and accounting systems and training; and critical heating, asset upgrades and minor renovations.

Unfortunately, a number of approved projects were not able to be completed and funding was invoiced back to the GNWT. Challenges in 2021-2022 that NGOs encountered included the inability to secure qualified contractors, lasting impacts of the 2021 spring flooding, lasting impacts of COVID-19 related travel and gathering restrictions delaying training and professional development, and increased materials and service expenses due to increased costs for transportation, labour, and other necessities.

## Approved Funding 2021-22

Organization	Approved Funding
Association Franco-Culturelle De Hay River	\$27,000
Avens Seniors	\$50,000
Deh Cho Friendship Centre	\$25,000
Family Support Centre	\$47,500
Foster Family Coalition	\$18,000
Hay River Committee for Persons with Disabilities	\$50,000
Hay River Museum Society	\$25,000
Hay River Ski Club	\$33,655*

Organization	Approved Funding
Inclusion NWT Part 1	\$15,000
Inclusion NWT Part 2-4	\$35,500
K'asho Got'ine Housing Society	\$41,500
Local Government Administrators of the NWT (LGANT)	\$31,500
Norman Wells Land Corporation	\$42,000
NWT Literacy Council	\$50,000
NWT Senior's Society	\$5,000
Salvation Army	\$50,000
SideDoor (Home Base Yellowknife)	\$20,000
Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre	\$50,000
Yellowknife Women's Society	\$25,000
YWCA NWT	\$43,000
Zhahti Koe Friendship Centre	\$50,000
<b>Total Funding Approved</b>	<b>\$733,655.00</b>

\*Extraordinary funding approved

## Conclusion

The NGO Stabilization Fund supports GNWT funded NGOs with short term extraordinary funding to strengthen and stabilize NGOs who deliver critical GNWT programs and services to NWT residents. With the limited funding options from governments and private sources and increased service and program needs within the NWT, MACA anticipates that the program will continue to be over-subscribed going forward.

The 2020 program evaluation recommendation implementation has promoted increased program awareness and transparency in rating; and guidelines and approved funding have improved processes to ensure the program is meeting the needs of NWT NGOs. MACA welcomes additional input from stakeholders and the public on issues and concerns and potential improvements to the Fund.

## Contact Information

Sport, Recreation and Youth  
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9  
**Phone:** (867) 767-9166  
**E-mail:** [youth\\_and\\_volunteer@gov.nt.ca](mailto:youth_and_volunteer@gov.nt.ca)  
**Website:** [www.maca.nt.ca](http://www.maca.nt.ca)