



MACA Update 2023

Government of
Northwest Territories

If you would like this information in another official language, call us.

English

Si vous voulez ces informations dans une autre langue officielle, contactez-nous.

French

Kīspin ki nitawih̄tīn ē nīh̄yawih̄k ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

Tłıchq̄ yatı k'èè. Dı wegodi newq̄ dè, gots'ō gonede.

Tłıchq̄

ʔerih̄tł'is Dēne Sų́líné yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóttı.

Chipewyan

Edı gondı dehgháh got'je zhatıé k'ée edatł'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahłı.

South Slavey

K'áhshó got'jne xədə k'é hederı ʔedłhtł'é yerınwę nıde dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijāhch'uu zhit yınohthan jı', diits'at ginohkhii.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta.

Inuvialuktun

Ć'ᑔᑕ ᑎᑎᑦᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ.

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

Indigenous Languages:

(867) 767-9346 ext. 71037

French:

867-767-9348

866-561-1664 Toll Free

Table of Contents

Message from the Minister	2
Introduction.....	3
Approved Budget and Financial Information.....	3
Community Government Funding	3
New Programs, Services and Initiatives.....	5
Updates to Existing Programs, Services and Initiatives	5
Community Governance.....	5
Community Operations	6
Public Safety.....	6
Regional Operations	7
Sport Recreation and Youth	7
School of Community Government.....	9
Policy and Legislation	9
GNWT Strategies and Action Plans	10
Northwest Territories Waste Resource Management Strategy and Implementation Plan	10
NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan 2021-2025	10
2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework 2019-2023 Action Plan.....	11
Disability Action Plan: 2018-2022.....	11
Mind and Spirit: Promoting Mental Health and Addictions Recovery in the NWT - Child and Youth Mental Wellness Action Plan: 2017-2022	11
Working Together II: An Action Plan to Reduce Poverty in the NWT: 2019-2022	12
Changing the Relationship – Action Plan: In response to the calls for justice on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people	12
Contact	13

Message from the Minister

On behalf of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA or the department), I am pleased to provide this MACA Update to give an overview of MACA's work to support community governments.

MACA prides itself on strong partnerships with community governments that promote information-sharing and collaboration in achieving our mutual goals and a shared vision in delivering programs and services.



Over the last few years, the department has used lessons learned through our response to the pandemic, as well as to the significant flood events in 2021 and 2022. These lessons have brought about new tools, better communication, and significant work towards being better prepared to address future events. We have strengthened our ability to work in partnership with community governments to meet the needs of residents across the Northwest Territories (NWT) during an emergency. The lessons also highlighted the need for additional resources in emergency management, and as a result, MACA now has additional staff in the Emergency Management Organization (EMO) to support community governments to better prepare for, and manage emergencies.

In this last year we have prioritized our legislative and community planning priorities. While the COVID-19 pandemic did cause delays to progress as all levels of government focused on the safety and security of residents and communities, we were able to substantially advance our legislative agenda.

Specifically, MACA has updated the *Western Canada Lotteries Act*, the *Fire Prevention Act* (FPA), and the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* (PATA). The update process included public engagement that included community governments. Given the challenges faced by the department and community governments coming out of the pandemic, and the recent natural disasters that have impacted several communities since 2021, this is a significant achievement.

I hope that you find this year's MACA Update informative and useful. If you have questions about any of the information included in this document, please contact the Regional Superintendent in your region.

Introduction

A key purpose of the MACA Update is to provide community governments with an indication of the level of funding they can anticipate for the coming year, as well as a summary of program highlights.

The information contained in this document is intended to provide information to assist community governments in their budgeting and program planning, especially in those cases where the fiscal calendars of the GNWT and the community government are different.

Approved Budget and Financial Information

The GNWT's 2023-24 budget was approved in March 2023, and included an increase of \$833,000 to community government funding, which has achieved the Mandate Priority to reduce the municipal funding gap by \$5 million by the end of the 19th Legislative Assembly. This brings the total amount of community government funding for operations and maintenance to almost \$55 million annually.

There is also a one time funding increase to provide flood recovery assistance for the Town of Hay River and the Kátł'odeeche First Nation reserve as a result of the 2022 flood. The majority of this funding is expected to be recovered from the federal government under its disaster assistance programs.

MACA has an additional \$400,000 in 2023-24 to support Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue (GAHR) services, as well as an additional \$500,000 in ongoing funding starting in 2023-24 to support youth involvement in sport, recreation and youth development initiatives across the territory. Please see the Updates to Existing Programs, Services and Initiatives section for more detail.

An audit by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada of the GNWT's 2020-2021 financial statements and its interpretation of the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards resulted in the reclassification of some Third-Party Funding Agreements. These include the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan (ICIP) and Small Communities Fund (SCF) agreements, both of which end on March 31, 2028.

As part of the requirements under these programs, MACA will continue to provide the federal government with regular reports on the progress of projects in the NWT. These progress reports will not require any additional reporting from the community governments however MACA regional staff may contact community governments periodically to discuss projects and check whether there are needs for additional assistance. Other reporting under these programs remains unchanged. MACA will continue to support community governments to ensure reporting on a timely basis.

Community Government Funding

MACA provides funding to community governments through three main funding policies: the Community Public Infrastructure Policy, Operations and Maintenance Funding Policy, and the

Water and Sewer Services Funding Policy. It also delivers funding for community infrastructure through federal agreements, including the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF).

2023-24 is the last year of the current CCBF administrative agreement. Canada will undertake consultation with provinces and territories in 2023 on a renewed agreement. The table below provides a summary of community government funding that MACA is providing in 2023-24:

Community	Operations and Maintenance Funding	Water and Sewer Funding	Community Public Infrastructure Funding	Canada Community Building Fund
Aklavik	1,808	654	895	355
Behchokq	2,439	1,276	1,155	726
Colville Lake	840	457	675	90
Dettah	683	233	708	90
Enterprise	827	261	646	90
Fort Good Hope	1,697	757	868	328
Fort Liard	1,552	740	856	314
Fort McPherson	1,820	1,136	992	453
Fort Providence	1,488	613	885	330
Fort Resolution	1,132	639	829	101
Fort Simpson	1,933	1,270	1,187	653
Fort Smith	2,263	606	1,446	1,014
Gamètì	1,221	441	735	90
Hay River	2,319	1,089	1,833	1,560
Inuvik	2,698	1,385	1,854	1,543
Jean Marie River	618	552	640	90
Kakisa	541	260	620	90
K'atl'odeeche	800	389	736	90
Łutselk'e	905	508	768	225
Nahanni Butte	653	573	665	90
Norman Wells	1,171	997	1,272	716
Paulatuk	1,681	370	759	229
Sachs Harbour	1,563	369	717	224
Trout Lake	616	486	646	90
Tsiigehtchic	1,439	463	696	90
Tuktoyaktuk	1,982	725	981	424
Tulita	1,687	698	804	284
Ulukhaktok	1,820	600	823	298
Wekweètì	1,107	407	675	178
Whatì	1,684	740	818	284
Wrigley	672	506	692	90
Yellowknife	7,860	429	3,718	5,926
Total	51,519	20,629	31,594	17,460

*Funding of \$3.699 million is provided separately to the Deline Gotine Government (DGG) for community government services consistent with the terms of the DGG Financing Agreement with the GNWT

New Programs, Services and Initiatives

Enhancing the Emergency Management Organization

Climate change is affecting the NWT, including increasing permafrost thaw, greater coastal and river erosion, changing ice conditions and longer ice-free seasons, changes to water quality and quantity, and increasing risk of wildfires. In the past ten years the NWT experienced its most severe wildfire season on record in 2014, followed by two unprecedented flood seasons causing widespread damage in 2021 and 2022.

For both the 2021 and 2022 flood events, the GNWT applied its Disaster Assistance Policy (DAP). The DAP is the GNWT's disaster recovery program.

MACA revised the DAP in May 2022 based on jurisdictional research and lessons learned from the 2021 flood event. The DAP was subsequently used for the 2022 flood response. Changes made to the DAP include a significant increase in the maximum amount of assistance, from 80% of total eligible costs to a maximum of \$100,000, to 90% of total eligible costs to a maximum of \$240,000.

As emergency events are increasing in severity and intensity, MACA has implemented changes within its Emergency Management Organization (EMO). MACA has increased EMO staffing resources by eight, with three new positions at Headquarters and five new positions in regions (one in each of MACA's five regions). Collectively, these positions have enhanced EMO capacity to support community governments in their emergency prevention/mitigation, preparedness response and recovery efforts.

Updates to Existing Programs, Services and Initiatives

Community Governance

Community Land Use Planning

MACA is developing a Community Planning Framework. The Framework is intended to promote enhanced territorial community land use planning systems, and support the review process of community plan bylaws and land use plans. Starting in 2023-24, this Framework will support the community planning process and ensure key challenges such as climate change impacts, asset management, land use management, and public safety concerns are considered and addressed. It is anticipated that the Framework will be provided to community governments in Winter 2024.

Transfer of Lands

MACA is developing a Community Land Transfer Assessment Tool as a companion to the Department of Environment and Climate Change's "Process Guide Transfer of Public Lands to Communities." This decision-making guide is intended to help community governments assess their levels of readiness in land administration, acquisition, and disposal within their boundaries. It is anticipated that the Assessment Tool will be provided to community governments in summer 2023.

Community Operations

Asset Management

MACA is implementing an Asset Management Strategy for community governments in collaboration with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT. Strong asset management practices can help community governments make the most of their infrastructure dollars and provide a source for best practices in this area, including climate change adaptations and energy efficiencies. After being interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, MACA has been re-engaging with community governments using the online asset management software and continues to create a toolkit for community government best practices.

Community Government Funding Policy Review

The department plans to complete the review of its Community Government Funding Policies in 2023-24. This review may include updates to the Community Public Infrastructure Policy, the Operations and Maintenance Funding Policy, and the Water and Sewer Services Funding Policy. This review is being informed by an advisory council comprised of representatives from the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT.

Public Safety

Office of the Fire Marshal

MACA welcomed a new Fire Marshal in December 2022, and the Office of the Fire Marshal continues to advance work to develop and review various processes to inform and improve service standards and work with community governments on fire related matters.

NWT 9-1-1

MACA is reviewing NWT 9-1-1 administrative processes and is working on options to balance funding and operational revenue. Additionally, MACA has been reviewing operational activities, including engagement with community governments on dispatch processes. Engagement activities with the City of Yellowknife and the RCMP have resulted in updates to standard operating procedures. Additional engagement with community governments is expected in the coming year with the goal of better integration of NWT 9-1-1 and community-based emergency services.

Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue

MACA's base budget includes \$185,000 in funding that is provided to the five community governments that currently provide ground ambulance or highway rescue services on GNWT-owned highways; this funding is provided consistent with the Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Funding Policy. Additional one-time funding of \$400,000 is included in MACA's 2023-24 budget.

MACA is using this one-time funding for an application-based program to support activities eligible under the existing policy such as training, purchasing equipment, improving capacity, supporting existing services and/or providing for one-time implementation costs to improve service delivery.

MACA will review applications using pre-established criteria to promote equitable distribution of funding. Eligible community governments will be able to submit for multiple projects in their application. Some projects may be partially funded depending on the program subscription rate.

Consistent with the existing policy, community governments with a successful application will be provided with a contribution agreement for their project(s). The contribution agreement will require financial reporting to substantiate how the money was spent. Eligible project expenses include training expense (instructors/course fees), equipment, software, and hardware systems. A call for applications was issued in June 2023.

Consumer Affairs

MACA collects fees for the issuing of collection agency, vendor, direct seller, Real Estate salesperson, and Real Estate agent licences. Additionally, MACA collects fees and issues business and lottery licences in communities where such activities are not governed by a local by-law. Regular fee increases are intended to keep pace with inflation; however, in recent years, these increases were deferred in recognition of the financial and economic impacts of the pandemic. MACA is committed to ensuring the fees for various Consumer Affairs-related licences are adequate to cover the cost of administering these programs. Fees are scheduled to increase on July 31, 2023 in agreement with changes to the consumer-price index since the last fee increase.

Regional Operations

The EMO has been transferred to the Regional Operations division, to better integrate this function with MACA's regional offices.

The EMO has resumed offering Community Emergency Planning and Tabletop Exercise workshops to assist community governments and their Local Emergency Management Organizations to better understand the emergency management system in the NWT.

Workshops are intended to assist community governments to develop, update and practice community emergency plans. The EMO has reached out to all community governments to offer delivery of these workshops with priority for Community Emergency Planning Workshops going to those community governments with the oldest emergency plans. Tabletop Exercise Workshops can be conducted virtually and are available on request.

Additionally, the EMO launched an online portal to provide community governments access to all the tools and templates developed to assist with community emergency management programs.

Please contact the Regional Emergency Management Coordinator or Regional Superintendent in your region for more details.

Sport Recreation and Youth

Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Framework

MACA is working with stakeholders to develop a Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation (SPAR) Framework. The SPAR Framework will guide investments and the promotion and delivery of physical activity, sport, and recreation programs. Engagement began in December 2022 and the

SPAR Framework is anticipated to be finalized summer 2023. Based on this work, MACA will review and potentially re-profile existing sport, recreation and youth programming and budgets, including the new funding added this year. MACA has received an additional \$500,000 in 2023-24 and ongoing for MACA to support youth involvement in sport, recreation and youth development initiatives across the territory, which is being used as follows:

- \$250,000 for Youth Tours that bring healthy lifestyle and community wellness messages directly to youth. Tours will include speakers and role models from a wide variety of backgrounds including northern and national celebrities, Territorial Sport Organizations (TSOs) and others whose messages resonate with youth.
- \$250,000 for the Regional Sport Development Policy (RSDP) to support residents in accessing funding by application through the Mackenzie Recreation Association (MRA) for the South Slave, Dehcho and North Slave communities, and directly from MACA for the Inuvik and Sahtu communities. These programs support increasing opportunities for community members, athletes and coaches to improve participation in physical activity and sporting events, leading to positive, healthy lifestyles.

Multisport Games

MACA provides funding support to Team Northwest Territories (Team NT) at major multi-sport games events. The Sport North Federation and the Aboriginal Sport Circle are funded for each of the multi-sport games they administer through the Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Fund.

MACA is preparing for several multi-sport games including the 2023 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in Halifax, Nova Scotia from July 15 to 23, 2023; and the 2024 Arctic Winter Games (AWG) in Mat-Su, Alaska in March 2024.

MACA is facilitating the Youth Ambassador Program at 2023 NAIG. A new call for applications is expected in summer 2023 for Youth Ambassadors in 2023-24. Applications will close in September 2023, with a mandatory training event planned in Yellowknife in November 2023. Those that successfully complete the training will be invited to attend the 2024 AWG in Mat-Su Burrough, Alaska in March 2024.



School of Community Government

A Strategic Plan is in place to guide the re-alignment work of the School of Community Government (School) to improve and support the development of workplace skills and learning.

The School has a two-year calendar for community governments to use to plan staff training up to two years in advance. The calendar is augmented with a sessional calendar published three times per year, with course-specific information, courses, and learning events.

The School has recently added conferences to its learning events. These are learning conferences where community government employees come together for two to three days and learn various topics with their peers. For example, in April 2023, a Public Works Conference was held in Fort Smith. The agenda included managing employees, heavy equipment operations via a simulator, and asset management. There will be a Finance and Administration conference in October 2023 and a Recreation conference in November 2023.

The School offers council orientation workshops for new councils, as well as strategic planning workshops. The School hosts online courses available for registration at any time. A sample of courses available includes Minute Taking 101; Administrative Support; ICS 100; Time Management; Good Governance and Governance for First Nations Councils.

Advancing Local Government Administrators Program (ALGAP) Policy

MACA has amended the Advancing Local Government Administrators Policy and program guidelines. The amendments will improve service delivery to community governments by making the program more accessible through flexible eligibility and participation criteria. The new Guidelines will be finalized and distributed to community governments in August 2023.

Policy and Legislation

Fire Prevention Act

Bill 67: An Act to Amend the FPA (Bill 67) received Assent on March 30, 2023 and will be fully in force once new *Plan Review Appeal Board Regulations* are brought into force.

MACA is engaging with specific industry stakeholders on the Plan Review Appeal Board with respect to composition and appointment processes, that will occur while developing regulations. It is expected that the Appeal Board will be in place before the end of the 19th Legislative Assembly.

Property Assessment and Taxation Act

MACA is using a phased approach to advance amendments to PATA. The first phase amendments are now in force as of March 30, 2023. The second phase of amendments examine more complex issues of property taxation and will be advanced in the 20th Legislative Assembly.

Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP) Act

MACA is currently conducting research and planning needed to bring community governments as public bodies under the ATIPP Act. A change to the Regulations is anticipated to be completed in the 20th Legislative Assembly.

Real Estate Licensing Act

Earlier in 2023, the department undertook public engagement about the need to update the Act. MACA is now analyzing the results of this engagement and conducting research to determine whether a legislative update is required. MACA anticipates releasing a What We Heard Report in August 2023.

GNWT Strategies and Action Plans

The GNWT has a number of strategies and action plans led by departments that are strongly interconnected with the goals and interests of community governments. See below for MACA's most recent actions to advance interdepartmental work.

Northwest Territories Waste Resource Management Strategy and Implementation Plan

Led by the Departments of Environment and Climate Change and Municipal and Community Affairs

MACA is assisting 25 community governments in removing hazardous waste and scrap metal stockpiles through the GNWT Clean Up/Clean Start program.

Once the regional waste diversion projects are completed and the logistical costs have been determined, the feasibility of implementing a backhaul program will be assessed.

NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan 2021-2025

Led by the Department of Environment and Climate Change

To support the role community governments play to ensure continued protection of the aquatic environment, MACA has developed a rating system to assess risk of NWT landfills to water contamination. Additionally, MACA has installed monitoring wells in 21 community government landfill sites. This information is further being used to guide investments to areas with higher risk to the environment and public health.

2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework 2019-2023 Action Plan

Department of Environment and Climate Change

MACA is leading or co-leading 14 of the GNWT action items outlined in the Action Plan related to supporting community governments to better prepare for the impacts of climate change.

The Risk-Based Approach for Community Planning in the Northern Regions was published in January 2023.

Community Emergency Planning Workshop materials and Community Emergency Plan templates were updated to incorporate Hazard Identification Risk Assessment exercises and discussions on adapting and planning for changing hazard environments.

Disability Action Plan: 2018-2022

Department of Health and Social Services

MACA leads seven actions within the Disability Action Plan and has currently completed four out of the actions. MACA plans to complete the remaining three actions by 2024.

MACA's work to develop tools and resources to support community government emergency planning included content on how to better assist vulnerable populations during evacuations. MACA also completed updates to the annual Capital Planning checklist that is provided to community governments to identify accessibility improvements.

Mind and Spirit: Promoting Mental Health and Addictions Recovery in the NWT - Child and Youth Mental Wellness Action Plan: 2017-2022

Department of Health and Social Services

MACA continues to advocate for broad sport, recreation and physical activity programming provided through community governments and NGOs. The delivery of sport, recreation and physical activity programming is viewed as the type of service that can support wellness efforts at the community level.

Working Together II: An Action Plan to Reduce Poverty in the NWT: 2019-2022

Department of Health and Social Services

MACA sits on the Anti-Poverty GNWT working group, and actively supports an integrated approach to the Anti-Poverty Action Plan.

MACA continues to provide support and training to community organizations that deliver programming for children and youth supports annually.

Changing the Relationship – Action Plan: In response to the calls for justice on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people

Minister Responsible for Status of Women (Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs)

MACA continues to provide the public, communities and first responders with effective emergency communications services through NWT 9-1-1 and Alert Ready. This includes participating in the CRTC-led initiative to introduce Next Generation 9-1-1, although this has been delayed by the need for telecommunications infrastructure and network upgrades at a national level. The Alert Ready system has been fully implemented in the NWT to inform the public via both intrusive and non-intrusive alerts in emergency situations.

MACA continues to work with emergency service partners to ensure up-to-date dispatching procedures and services. Additionally, MACA revised and modernized an online, self-directed by-law enforcement officer course in 2022-23. MACA continues to offer the course to both community government staff, as well as those interested in becoming by-law officers in the NWT, through the School of Community Government.

Contact

Dehcho Region

Melinda Lenoir, Regional Superintendent

E-mail: Melinda_Lenoir@gov.nt.ca

Phone: 867-695-7220

Inuvik Region

Dana Moran, Regional Superintendent

E-mail: Dana_Moran@gov.nt.ca

Phone: 867-678-8045 ext. 21650

North Slave Region

Mike Drake, Regional Superintendent

E-mail: Mike_Drake@gov.nt.ca

Phone: (867) 767-9167 ext. 21130

Sahtu Region

Christina Gaudet, Regional Superintendent

E-mail: Christina_Gaudet@gov.nt.ca

Phone: 867-587-7105

South Slave Region

Bobby Bourque, Regional Superintendent

E-mail: Bobby_Bourque@gov.nt.ca

Phone: 867-872-6531 or 867-874-5076