



MACA Update 2024

Government of
Northwest Territories



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French

Kīspin ki nitawih̄tīn ē nīh̄yawih̄k ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

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

Tłıchq̄

ʔerih̄t'is Dēne Sų́nė yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theᓯᓯ ᓯat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóttı.

Chipewyan

Edı gondı dehgháh got'je zhatıé k'éé edat'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahí.

South Slavey

K'áhshó got'jne xədə k'é hederı ʔedjht'é yerııwę nıde dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijáhch'uu zhit yınohthan jı', diıts'at ginohkhii.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqłuta.

Inuvialuktun

Ć^bđ< ǀǀ^{sb}Δ^c ǀǀLJΔ^{rc} Δ^{sb}ǀǀǀǀ^cǀǀǀǀ^b, ǀǀ^cǀǀ^aǀǀ^c ǀǀ^bǀǀ^aǀǀ^{sb}ǀǀ^c.

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

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Message from the Minister

On behalf of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), I am pleased to provide the 2024 MACA Update to give an overview of the Department's work to support community governments.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has been committed to learning lessons from the 2023 emergency season and the evacuations that occurred across the Northwest Territories (NWT). For MACA, this has included updating the NWT Emergency Plan prior to the 2024 emergency season. Updates included:

- revised language to better reflect the purpose of the plan;
- clarified roles and responsibilities for everyone involved in emergency response, including local authorities;
- outlined response and hosting costs for which community governments may be reimbursed; and
- updated GNWT approach to emergency-related communications.

These updates also clarified the escalation of responsibilities during emergencies, starting at the individual level all the way up to federal support. With these updates, it is important to note that no changes were made to the roles and responsibilities of the GNWT or community governments, and that the updated plan remains consistent with the current powers and authorities outlined in the *Emergency Management Act*.

The Emergency Management Organization (EMO) has continued to work with all GNWT departments and agencies to review their functions within the NWT Emergency Plan to ensure accuracy and clarity. The updated plan was shared with the Council of Leaders and the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC). MACA regional staff continue to offer presentations to community governments to collaborate on planning for and responding to emergencies.

A message we all need to share is the importance of being prepared and ready to respond to and recover from emergencies. This includes everything from having emergency kits and insurance, to knowing how and where to receive information.



On behalf of the GNWT, I once again extend our thanks to all community leadership, staff and volunteers for your hard work in keeping residents and communities safe.

Even while focusing on the safety of residents and communities through the emergencies faced across the NWT, MACA was able to substantially advance its legislative and policy agenda. Specifically, MACA has advanced regulations under the *Fire Prevention Act*. These regulations established a Plan Review Appeal Board to create a more authoritative plan review process that includes a formal avenue of appeal. MACA has also advanced regulations that adopt the 2020 National Building Code. The codes were developed by the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes. Numerous changes have been incorporated to better reflect current requirements. MACA has also released the Active Living Framework and is now in the process of reviewing Sport and Recreation policies to assure alignment that is reflective of the current environment for Sport and Recreation across the NWT. Another priority MACA is working on is updating the *Real Estate Agents' Licensing Act*, in which MACA has completed public engagement and received valuable feedback to address key issues.

One final note on the potential for amendments to the *Emergency Management Act* and its regulations; once the after-action review of the 2023 wildfire season is complete and recommendations have been received, the GNWT is committed to providing the opportunity for consideration and engagement on any potential legislative changes with community governments, Indigenous governments, and the public, as well as other partner agencies. We are all in this together and will move forward in the spirit of partnership and collaboration.

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

The MACA Update aims to inform community governments about new and revised programs, services, and initiatives that were available over the past year. It offers an overview of the anticipated funding levels for the upcoming year and provides a summary of program highlights. This document is designed to assist community governments in their budgeting and program planning.

Approved Budget and Financial Information

Overall, MACA's budget for 2024-2025 was reduced by \$29.354 million, decreasing from \$185.681 million in the 2023-2024 Main Estimates to \$156.327 million in this year's Main Estimates. This budget supports the Mandate objectives for the Department while continuing to meet the GNWT's fiscal objectives to prioritize responsible and strategic spending.

Much of this decrease is due to the 2022 flood recovery work funding, which will sunset at \$61.729 million. This is partially offset by new funding of \$28.963 million for the 2022 flood and 2023 wildfire response and recovery. The reductions also show MACA's contribution toward the GNWT Fiscal Sustainability Strategy through proposed reductions to undersubscribed programs. The Fiscal Sustainability Strategy reductions are:

- Community Operations - Community Financial Services Contribution \$135,000;
- Community Government Learning and Development - Training Program Contracts \$300,000;
- Regional Operations - New Deal Taxation Revenue Program Grant \$565,000;
- Public Safety - Controllable Assets \$69,000; and
- Sport, Recreation and Youth - High Performance Athlete Grant \$50,000, Volunteer Contributions \$70,000, Volunteer Recognition \$30,000 and Youth Corps Contributions \$350,000.

Highlights of the 2024-25 MACA budget includes an increase of \$500,000 in funding for youth development, and \$322,000 in funding for an additional Emergency Medical Dispatcher, as well as funding for six Relief Emergency Medical Dispatcher staff for NWT 9-1-1.

Other highlights of the budget include forced growth approval in three areas that include Increases for Grant-in-Lieu of Property Taxes of \$379,000, Increased Operations and Maintenance funding for community governments of \$2,524,000, and Increased Water and Sewer Services funding for communities governments of \$1,331,000.

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).

In July 2024, the Governments of Canada and the GNWT signed a renewed 10-year agreement for the CCBF. Under this agreement, the GNWT will receive \$94.5 million in funding through the CCBF over the first five years to provide predictable, long-term and stable funding to community governments across the territory. The renewal of this agreement means that critical infrastructure, including infrastructure that supports housing, will continue to be built, maintained, and expanded.

The table below provides a breakdown of funding for each community government in the territory:

Community	Operations and Maintenance Funding	Water and Sewer Funding	Community Public Infrastructure Funding	Canada Community Building Fund	Total Community Government Funding
Aklavik	1,890	701	977	355	3,923
Behchokò	2,548	1,348	1,285	726	5,907
Colville Lake	873	479	713	90	2,155
Dettah	714	242	736	90	1,782
Enterprise	854	274	674	90	1,892
Fort Good Hope	1,773	799	944	328	3,844
Fort Liard	1,629	779	933	314	3,655
Fort McPherson	1,913	1,213	1,104	453	4,683
Fort Providence	1,552	649	953	330	3,484
Fort Resolution	1,192	678	889	101	2,860
Fort Simpson	2,032	1,346	1,333	653	5,364
Fort Smith	2,408	671	1,656	1,014	5,749
Gamètì	1,260	469	777	90	2,596
Hay River	2,485	1,163	2,100	1,560	7,308
Inuvik	2,888	1,506	2,170	1,543	8,107

Community	Operations and Maintenance Funding	Water and Sewer Funding	Community Public Infrastructure Funding	Canada Community Building Fund	Total Community Government Funding
Jean Marie River	643	576	673	90	1,982
Kakisa	559	272	639	90	1,560
K'atl'odeeche	833	403	765	90	2,091
Łutselk'e	949	535	818	225	2,527
Nahanni Butte	680	597	700	90	2,067
Norman Wells	1,257	1,067	1,430	716	4,470
Paulatuk	1,730	405	810	229	3,174
Sachs Harbour	1,611	391	773	224	2,999
Sambaa K'e	646	508	685	90	1,929
Tsiigehtchic	1,478	485	740	90	2,793
Tuktoyaktuk	2,095	782	1,094	424	4,395
Tulita	1,757	739	873	284	3,653
Ulukhaktok	1,905	646	905	298	3,754
Wekweètì	1,142	427	717	178	2,464
Whatì	1,763	779	895	284	3,721
Wrigley	700	528	726	90	2,044
Yellowknife	8,284	503	4,486	5,926	19,199
Total	54,043	21,960	34,973	17,155	128,131

*Funding of \$3.699 million is provided separately to the Délı̄ne Got'ı̄ne 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 having significant impacts in 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 numbers and severity of wildfires. In the past 5 years the NWT experienced two unprecedented flood seasons causing widespread damage in 2021 and 2022, followed by the 2023 wildfire season, which was the territory's most severe wildfire season on record, and resulted in the evacuation of 12 communities and approximately 67% of NWT residents.

The NWT Emergency Plan was updated in 2024 based on lessons learned from recent significant events. Updates include language revisions to better reflect the purpose of the Plan and clarifying roles and responsibilities for Local Authorities as lead for emergency management and response coordination, as well as how Indigenous governments, non-government organizations, and the GNWT can support. The updated Evacuation and Hosting Guidelines Annex now provides detailed information on the specific types of costs that community governments can claim for reimbursement from the GNWT during emergencies. This includes both response and hosting expenses, ensuring that community governments have a clear framework to follow when seeking financial assistance from the GNWT. The Emergency Communications Protocol Annex was revised to better articulate the GNWT's approach to emergency-related communications and outlines the tactics that will be used to communicate emergency related information to the public.

As emergency events are increasing in severity and intensity, MACA has implemented changes within its EMO. MACA has pulled the EMO out of the Public Safety Division to create the Emergency Management Division and has reconfigured staffing resources to ensure an indeterminate Manager of Disaster Mitigation and Recovery. Additionally, MACA has increased EMO staffing resources by one with the creation of an Emergency Exercise and Training Coordinator. Collectively, the Emergency Management program area now has 11 indeterminate positions (six at Headquarters and one in each of MACA's five regions). The reconfiguration to create a Manager of Mitigation and Recovery and the creation of the Emergency Exercise and Training Coordinator position have enhanced EMO capacity to support community governments in their emergency prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

Business Licence E-Services

To better facilitate business operations outside major centres, MACA is introducing a new online e-Services system for business licensing. This new system is faster and more convenient than ever. Customers will be able to both apply for and pay for a business licence online, enhancing the customer experience. This move will modernize the way services are delivered, using data and technology to provide another online service that puts customers first. The new e-Service system went live in July 2024 and is available for all residents seeking business licences.

By purchasing a business licence online, customers will also receive convenient renewal reminders by email.

Please note that this new system is only applicable to businesses that operate in an area not governed by a municipal business licensing by-law. Check with your local government or the MACA website for more information.

Community Government Learning and Development Name Change

The School of Community Government has transitioned from relying solely on traditional classroom delivery to embracing multiple methods of learning, including self-directed online courses, virtual classrooms, coaching, mentoring, case studies, work exchange, discussion forums, videos, reading, and other adult education practices. To reflect this transition, the division's name was changed to Community Government Learning and Development (CGLD).

The division had traditionally sought to fulfill its mandate of enhancing the competencies and capacity of community government elected officials and staff by delivering courses taught in a classroom setting. External factors, particularly the global pandemic, challenged this approach.

Except for the Advancing Local Government Administrators Program (ALGAP), the CGLD focuses almost exclusively on training. While training delivered through formal programs can address skills gaps or re-training needs, it does not address all learning needs of someone new to a job. The CGLD has adopted a 70/20/10 approach, which focuses on learning in the context of the workplace. Seventy percent of what an employee needs to know they learn on the job by doing, 20% is learned through mentoring and coaching and 10% through formal courses. The 70/20/10 approach recognizes employee learning and enhanced performance through these three primary methods.

Updates to Existing Programs, Services and Initiatives

Community Governance

Community Land Use Planning

MACA continues to provide support to community governments with the review, administration, and implementation of their land management tools. To support this, the Department is developing a Community Planning Framework. The Framework is intended to provide a platform to promote the territorial community land use planning system, emerging practices in community planning, and the role of community planners. The Framework will also provide tools to aid the development of community land use plans for designated authorities, and community plans, zoning bylaws, and area development plan bylaws for community governments to support land use and development for safe, resilient, sustainable, and healthy communities for residents.

Development of the Framework incorporated input from the NWTAC and practising NWT professional planners that work with community governments in reviewing their land use planning tools. To support the community planning review process, the Framework will include a series of guides on: Climate Change, Accessibility and Age Friendly, Civic Addressing, Archeological Site Management, Aboriginal Consultation and Engagement, Land Development and Capital Planning, and Land Transfer Readiness. MACA anticipates providing the Framework to community governments in winter 2025.

Transfer of Lands

MACA continues to work with community governments that have submitted land applications to the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) to acquire land tenure upon which community public infrastructure is located and for future growth areas. MACA is currently working with: Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, and Fort Providence. Completion of land transfers is tracked by ECC for the primary applicant.

MACA is making progress towards finalizing an information sharing agreement with ECC and the Department of Finance (FIN), in compliance with the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, to formalize an efficient method of

information sharing related to public land tenure, property assessment and property taxation, and the collection of related fees. It will also enable the sharing of information to facilitate the review of property assessment, improvements, and assessed ownership for the purpose of taxation.

Community Government Learning and Development

Community Government Learning and Development (CGLD) Strategic Plan

MACA currently provides learning solutions to address specific learning needs identified by community governments in governance, public safety, recreation, public works, finance and administration, and management and supervision. CGLD is transitioning from a heavy reliance on traditional classroom course delivery to embracing multiple modes of learning that include online courses (self-directed and instructor-led), workshops, webinars, strategic planning, conferences, and customized workplace learning solutions.

CGLD updated the Basic Emergency Management online course, which is now available to community governments through online learning. CGLD continues to develop workplace essential skills (soft skills) for community government staff, also available through online learning.

- CGLD is using learning needs assessments to identify skills gaps and develop learning solutions to address them. Upcoming initiatives include:
 - The development of a competency-based occupational standard for certification of Water Treatment Plant Operators to increase the number of operators who will qualify for certification.
 - The development and delivery of a firefighter training curriculum to increase access to training for small community fire departments.
 - Updating and delivering climate change adaptation training to community governments through online learning.

Advancing Local Government Administrators Program (ALGAP) Policy

The ALGAP policy was amended in June 2023 to improve flexibility for community governments and program applicants in accessing funding for on-the-job and post-secondary training and professional development. The program can fund a learner up to \$30,000 annually.

Community Operations

Hazardous Waste Removal

MACA has partnered with 27 communities across the five regions to successfully access funding from the federal government to advance the clean-up of hazardous waste stockpiles and scrap metals. In addition, implementing a clean-up clean-start program is one of the key actions listed in the NWT Waste Resources Management Strategy. Work began in 2023, removing over 600,000 kilograms from 8 communities - Behchokò, Fort Providence, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Ulukhaktok, Norman Wells, and Tulita.

In 2024, work was completed in another 12 communities - Hay River, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, Paulatuk, Tuktoyaktuk, Gameti, Wekweètì, Whatì, Fort Simpson, Kakisa, Enterprise, and Samba K'e - removing another 415,000 kilograms of hazardous waste. The remaining seven communities are planned for 2025.

As this clean-up work is completed, MACA will follow up with the community governments to make operational improvements to prevent future stockpiles and reduce waste. These improvements include more frequent compaction, which saves space, reduces fire risk, helps manage bear attractants and decreases wind-blown debris. Other management practices such as better segregation and setting regular removal schedules prevent stockpiles from reoccurring. This partnership has made a significant difference at community government solid waste sites.

Community Government Funding Policy Review

MACA updated the following policies in October 2023: Operations and Maintenance Funding (O&M), Water and Waste Services Funding (WWS) and Community Public Infrastructure Funding (CPI). MACA has shared information on the revised allocation model for community funding with community governments and at council orientation sessions, including the changes and impacts to each community government. The implementation of changes in funding levels are anticipated to commence in April 2025 and MACA will be working with each community government to support them to make any changes to budgets or operations. Any increases or decreases will be implemented over a three-year transition period.

The funding policies were updated to improve transparency, fairness and equity on how MACA distributes its funding by basing allocations on typical costs that all community governments face. There will be some impacts to community governments, especially in smaller communities, where the analysis has shown that

many have been receiving a higher proportion of funding than mid-size and larger communities for over 10 years. In some cases, community governments have been receiving more than 100% of their total costs.

The amendments are not intended to close any gap in funding, as the calculations are based on standard services and costs, and community governments must make their own decisions about what services they provide.

Water Treatment Plant Construction

With support from the Department of Infrastructure, MACA is providing technical and project management support to the Hamlets of Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour and Fort Providence for the construction of their water treatment plants. All three community governments are also leveraging federal funding programs to complete their projects. This project allows the community governments to complete complex water plant upgrades and includes on-site training for their water plant operators.

The Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk's water plant arrived in the community in September 2024 and final commissioning is anticipated in January 2025 Sachs Harbour's plant is in the design phase, with construction and shipping to the community being expected in 2025. Fort Providence's project is expected to begin procurement during the winter 2024-2025.

Aerial photo of Tuktoyaktuk's new water treatment plant in blue beside the current plant.



Emergency Management Organization

MACA did not wait for the recommendations from the 2023 Emergency Response After-Action Review (AAR) led by the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs (EIA) to begin making improvements to the emergency management system.

MACA is undertaking a review of the GNWT Disaster Assistance Policy and Disaster Assistance Funding Policy, as well as its Standard Operating Procedures for recovery, to ensure consistency with anticipated updates to the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA). The changes to the DFAA are anticipated to be in place in April 2025, and any updates to the GNWT policies and procedures will be made once that information is public, in time for full implementation by early 2026.

Based on findings of the 2023 Emergency Response AAR led by EIA, MACA will and consider potential requirements for changes to the *Emergency Management Act* and Regulations.

MACA continues to work on the identification and training of surge staff across GNWT departments should there be a need for increased staffing capacity during an emergency event. This work will be supported by a newly created Emergency Exercise and Training Coordinator Position.

MACA supports community governments to improve emergency management capacity through various tools including:

- Community emergency planning and tabletop exercise workshops to assist community governments in developing, updating, and validating their Community Emergency Plan (CEP);
- A CEP template: a self-directed CEP development and update tool to assist community governments in developing or updating their CEPs annually;
- An EMO Portal for community governments to access tools and templates to assist with community emergency management programs;
- A Community Emergency Management video series to educate community emergency management officials on basic emergency management and the NWT emergency management system;
- The Incident Command System (ICS) 100 online course to help community governments and LEMO members better understand how to use the ICS as an emergency response system;

- Support to community governments with public alerting through use of the territorial public alerting system NWT Alert;
- Support to community governments as emergency management leads throughout emergency response and recovery where capacity has been exceeded and a request for assistance is received; and
- An Evacuee Registration Portal tool is available to support community governments with evacuee registration both prior to and in the event of an evacuation.

Public Safety

Office of the Fire Marshal

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) continues to advance work to develop and review various processes to inform and improve service standards in accordance with the authorities provided under the *Fire Prevention Act* (FPA). The addition of a new Assistant Fire Marshal will provide the necessary regulatory expertise to work with building owners in addressing complex inspections and compliance matters. The OFM continues to work with community governments on fire related matters and provides ongoing support through MACA's Community Fire Protection program. As part of this community support, the OFM, in close collaboration with CGLD, has been a key contributor in developing a revised Defensive Fire training program, which was piloted with community Fire Chiefs in September 2024.

NWT 9-1-1

The NWT 9-1-1 program was intended to be cost neutral for the GNWT, funded by a levy on all phone lines across the NWT. The levy was originally set at \$1.70 per month and was fixed for three years. Since the program launched in 2019, the revenue from this fee has not covered the funded or actual expenses of the program. In order to keep the program cost neutral, the *NWT 9-1-1 Regulations* were updated to increase the 9-1-1 cost recovery fee charged on all phone lines from \$1.70 per month to \$3.00 per month. The fee increase will come into effect January 1, 2025.

In 2023-24, MACA completed a comprehensive funding review of NWT 9-1-1 operations and developed a Program Evaluation Framework. Following the review, an additional dispatch position was created. Having another dispatch position is expected to lower overtime expenses and reduce staff burnout.

Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue (GAHR)

Five community governments - Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, and Inuvik - receive funding under the GAHR Funding Policy for the incremental cost of extending existing services to territorial highways outside of community boundaries. Current MACA provides \$185,000 in GAHR funding, which amounts to \$37,000 per participating community government to provide this service. The majority of the funding is used for training and equipment.

Currently, no GNWT department is mandated to provide ambulance services and there is no regulatory framework or funding in place in the NWT for such a service. MACA and the Department of Health and Social Services are continuing work together to develop a recommended approach to provision of ground ambulance services in the NWT.

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 these activities are not governed by a local by-law.

MACA is committed to ensuring the fees for various Consumer Affairs-related licences are adequate to cover the cost of administering these programs, and regular fee increases are intended to keep pace with inflation. Fees are scheduled to increase on April 1, 2025 in alignment with changes to the consumer-price index since the last fee increase.

Sport Recreation and Youth

Active Living Framework

MACA is striving, in collaboration with its partners, to provide every resident of the NWT with access to opportunities for physical activity, and sport and recreation. In October 2023, MACA released the NWT Active Living Framework, or the Framework (previously referred to as the Framework for Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation, or SPAR). The Framework is intended to guide the allocation of revenues from the Western Canada Lottery Program through the Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation (PASR) Fund, as well as to inform MACA policy and funding decisions related to active living.

MACA has established an Implementation Advisory Committee which includes representatives from the Indigenous Sports Circle NWT, NWT Recreation and Parks Association, Sport North Federation (SNF), and the Mackenzie Recreation Association. Implementation of the Framework will include all organizations receiving funding agreements under the PASR Fund. Organizations are aware that their 2023-2026 agreements will require alignment with the Framework and accompanying action planning and evaluation framework.

Once implemented, MACA intends to review all sport and recreation programming using the Framework, including the ways in which MACA can work with the sport and recreation sector to ensure that programs meet their objectives.

Prevention of Harassment, Abuse and Discrimination in Sport (NWT Safe Sport Framework)

At the end of 2023-24, MACA finalized an agreement with ALIAS to provide an independent third-party mechanism for managing reports of maltreatment in sport for Major Sport Organizations and Territorial Sport Organizations.

MACA is reviewing the NWT Safe Sport Policy, Safe Sport Implementation Guide, and Policy 101 resources with Sport Law Group and ALIAS. MACA is investigating a partnership with SNF to create and host an online NWT Safe Sport website as a hub for information, resources, and the online maltreatment reporting portal. Implementation will require organizations to adopt and implement Safe Sport policies and plans as a condition for receiving MACA funding through the Physical Activity, Sport, and Recreation Fund starting in April 2026.

Community Based Joint Use Agreements

The Guidebook to Building a Joint Use Agreement and Joint Use Committees was developed and shared with community governments and NWT education authorities as a pathway to greater access to infrastructure and space for enhanced sport and recreation programming.

Joint Use Agreements govern the shared usage of community infrastructure, including community recreation facilities and school infrastructure. These agreements offer many benefits for shared space, including:

- Clearly define the responsibilities of the user groups;
- Address specific and relevant issues;
- Facilitate positive relationships between all user groups;
- Through cooperative effort benefit the community as a whole; and

- Maximize the facility usage by all community groups.

MACA Regional Recreation Coordinators are available to assist community governments in setting up joint use agreements.

NWT Youth Ambassadors Program

MACA is facilitating the Youth Ambassadors Program at the 2025 Canada Summer Games (CSG). The call for applications was released in September 2024 for Youth Ambassadors in 2025-26. Applications closed on December 13, 2024, with a mandatory training event planned in Yellowknife scheduled for February 2025. Those that successfully complete the training will be invited to attend the 2025 CSG in St. John's, Newfoundland in August 2025.

Legislative Work

Fire Prevention Act

MACA is advancing the *Plan Review Appeal Board Regulations*, which will bring recent amendments to the *Fire Prevention Act* fully into force. These regulations will establish a Plan Review Appeal Board to create a more authoritative plan review process that will include a formal avenue of appeal.

MACA also implemented regulations to adopt the 2020 National Building Code and 2020 National Fire Code. The Codes were developed by the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes. Numerous changes have been incorporated to better reflect current requirements.

MACA Statutes Amendment Act

MACA will be introducing a Bill in the 20th Assembly to amend the *Fire Prevention Act*, *NWT 9-1-1 Act* and the *Western Canada Lottery Act* to modify the reporting times in each of those Acts to be more in line with the operational realities of validating the data required to go into them.

Real Estate Agents Licensing Act

MACA has begun work to amend the *Real Estate Agent Licensing Act* using the results of engagement and research completed in the 19th Assembly. Amendments to the Act are anticipated to be completed in the 20th Assembly.

Other Legislative Reviews

In addition, the Department intends to conduct other legislative reviews, including the *Emergency Management Act*, *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*, and exploring territorial gaming legislation. MACA will also be assisting other GNWT departments on the review of the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* and the creation of a territorial building standards framework.

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 27 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

The NWT Water Stewardship Strategy was developed in collaboration with water partners to help ensure that the waters of the NWT will remain clean, abundant and productive for all time. MACA continues to contribute to the actions under the Strategy. MACA ensures drinking water quality data and standard operating procedures for residential tank cleaning are available to the public online, provides hands-on training and certification learning supports to water treatment plant operators, and provides support to community governments to reduce the environmental risk of hazardous waste at municipal landfills, as well as to make improvements to waste management practices.

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. Thirteen action items have been completed, with 10 incorporated into MACA's regular business practice, such as ongoing community emergency planning workshops and tabletop exercises. The last action item is a study of community infrastructure at risk from climate change. This work is ongoing, and the report is expected by March 2025.

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 CGLD Division.

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