



## Contributions for Community Organized Searches

### 1. Statement of Policy

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs may provide contributions to support community organized searches for missing persons and/or recovery operations.

### 2. Principles

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will adhere to the following principles when implementing this policy:

- (1) local knowledge is highly important in search and rescue, and community governments should be supported in their efforts to integrate local knowledge into searches; and
- (2) community organized searches should not replace public searches organized by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or federal government agencies, but may precede or follow them.

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all Northwest Territories community governments.

### 4. Definitions

The following terms apply to this policy:

Public Search – A search for a missing person(s) organized and conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Parks Canada (within a national park), or another federal agency.

Contribution - A conditional transfer payment made to a recipient subject to an audit at a later date for which the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will receive no goods or services in return.

Community Organized Search – A search for missing person(s) organized and conducted by a community government prior to, or following, a public search. Community organized searches may include recovery operations.

Private Search - A search for a missing person(s) conducted by individuals or groups of friends and family members, performed without the benefit of government assistance.



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

Recovery Operation - A community organized search where the primary or expected goal is the recovery of human remains.

### 5. 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 805, 810 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 the Director responsible or to Regional Superintendents:

- (i) approve a community organized search upon the request of the community government;
- (ii) approve contributions to a community government to offset costs associated with a community organized search to a maximum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00); and
- (iii) where necessary and upon the authority of the Comptroller General under Section 98(1) of the *Financial Administration Act*, issue an advance payment for the expenditure of search related funds.

## 6. Provisions

### (1) Eligibility

- (a) When a community government determines that circumstances warrant a search for a missing person or persons or a recovery operation prior to the commencement of or within two years of the conclusion of a public search, the Deputy Minister may provide a contribution to support the community organized search when:
  - (i) The community has consulted with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and have determined that a public search is not currently underway; and
  - (ii) The community government makes an official request to the Deputy Minister to approve a community organized search.
- (b) Where there is no recognized community government, the Deputy Minister may provide a contribution to an appropriate group or organization.





## Contributions for Community Organized Searches

### Criteria

- (a) The Deputy Minister may approve search-related expenditures and shall determine reasonable costs associated with conducting a community organized search.
- (b) Eligible expenditures may include; aircraft charter costs, the purchase of groceries, fuel, lubricants and minor machine parts.
- (c) The following costs are not eligible: wages, loss of income and equipment rental, and repair of equipment to its pre-search condition.
- (d) Where unusual circumstances warrant special consideration, the Deputy Minister may deem excluded items to be eligible expenditures.
- (e) Expenditures made during public or private searches shall not be eligible for financial assistance under this Policy.

### (3) Financial Conditions

At the conclusion of a community organized search, the community government shall:

- (a) Submit a summary of expenditures with appropriate substantiation and a report on search-related activities to the Deputy Minister for reimbursement of actual eligible expenses to a maximum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); and
- (b) Where an advance was issued, pursuant to Section 98(3) of the *Financial Administration Act*, repay any unused portion of the advance payment issued in support of the search.

## 7. Review and Appeal

- (1) Requests should be made in writing to the Deputy Minister prior to the commencement of a community organized search. Requests made by telephone or other means must be verified in writing as soon as time permits.
- (2) Applications will be reviewed by the Deputy Minister on a case-by-case basis.



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- (3) There is no applicable appeal mechanism to the decisions made under this policy.

### 8. 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.

### 9. 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 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.

Caroline Cochrane

Minister

Date

