



MACA UPDATE

December 2017

Government of
Northwest Territories

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Approved Financial Budget and Information	4
Operations and Maintenance Funding.....	5
Water & Sewer Services Funding.....	6
Community Public Infrastructure Funding.....	7
Gas Tax Funding.....	8
New Programs, Services and Initiatives.....	9
Aboriginal Consultation	9
9-1-1.....	10
Ground Ambulance Review	10
New E-Learning Opportunities.....	10
Strategic Planning and Workshop Facilitation.....	11
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan	11
Updates to Existing Programs, Services and Initiatives	12
Community Fire Protection Assessments and Action Plans	12
Community Planning.....	12
Municipal Funding.....	12
Asset Management Strategy for NWT Community Governments	13
Accountability Framework.....	13
New Building Canada Plan – Small Communities Fund.....	14
Phase 1: Investing in Canada Plan)	14
2018 Arctic Winter Games.....	15
Policy and Legislation.....	16
<i>Civil Emergency Measures Act (CEMA)</i>	16
<i>Fire Prevention Act (FPA)</i>	16
<i>Western Canada Lotteries Act</i>	16
<i>Cities, Towns, and Villages Act - Amendments</i>	16
Cannabis	17
Access to Information Protection of Privacy (ATIPP).....	17
Contact Information	18
Dehcho Region	18
Inuvik Region.....	18
North Slave Region.....	18
Sahtu Region	18
South Slave Region.....	18

Introduction

Every year, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) publishes and distributes the MACA Update to community governments. The 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. Please note that the funding projections included in this document are subject to approval by the Legislative Assembly.

The information contained in this document can be very useful for community governments, especially in those cases where the fiscal calendars of the GNWT and the community government are different. Therefore, MACA strives to include as much information as possible to assist community governments with their planning.

The information provided in the MACA Update also includes funding projections, new and existing programs, services and initiatives, and information on MACA policies and legislation that have recently been changed or are currently under review. Over the past year, the results from the report of the Office of the Auditor General gave MACA the opportunity to refocus our efforts to improve our service and support to Community Governments. The Action Plan created by our department creates a clear path going forward to meet our goal of strong partnerships that create healthy vibrant communities.

As Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, I look forward to continuing the ongoing positive working relationship between MACA and communities and addressing the challenges and opportunities community governments face now and in the future. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) committed to a new mandate, which describes the strategic direction that will be taken to obtain the 18th Legislative Assembly's established priorities.

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

Caroline Cochrane
Minister of Municipal and
Community Affairs

Approved Financial Budget and Information

MACA adheres to the provisions of the Community Government Funding Policy, an Executive Council policy, to allocate funding to community governments for operations and maintenance, water and sewer services, and community public infrastructure.

In support of the 18th Legislative Assembly's priority to build stronger relationships with community governments and stakeholders, MACA has committed to developing a strategy that will close the gap in funding levels to meet municipal core needs. The Funding Review recommended a needs-based approach for all of its core funding programs.

In addition to the funding described above, MACA also annually provides community governments with funding to support specific costs:

- **Seniors/Disabled Property Tax Rebate** – support for rebates to ratepayers who are senior citizens or disabled.
- **Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes** – provides a grant-in-lieu of property taxes for GNWT infrastructure located within cities, towns and villages.
- **Property Tax Revenue Grant Program** – provides a grant to most non-tax-based community governments equivalent to the amount of property taxes actually paid by residents in the prior taxation year.

In addition to the above programs, MACA administers the Gas Tax Agreement (GTA), the Provincial Territorial Infrastructure Component (PTIC), the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund and the Public Transit Fund on behalf of the Government of Canada. The PTIC includes the Small Communities Fund.

Operations and Maintenance Funding

COMMUNITY	2017-18 Actuals (000's)	2018-19 Budgeted (000's)
* All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.		
Aklavik	1,660	1,691
Behchoko	2,115	2,212
Colville Lake	828	828
Dettah	583	602
Enterprise	827	827
Fort Good Hope	1,560	1,592
Fort Liard	1,365	1,413
Fort McPherson	1,631	1,678
Fort Providence	1,370	1,400
Fort Resolution	1,039	1,039
Fort Simpson	1,658	1,736
Fort Smith	1,979	2,068
Gameti	1,221	1,221
Hay River	2,124	2,179
Hay River Reserve	706	727
Inuvik	2,581	2,610
Jean Marie River	562	574
Kakisa	467	480
Lutselk'e	798	817
Nahanni Butte	602	614
Norman Wells	1,171	1,171
Paulatuk	1,679	1,679
Sachs Harbour	1,532	1,538
Trout Lake	591	596
Tsiigehtchic	1,439	1,439
Tuktoyaktuk	1,806	1,843
Tulita	1,668	1,668
Ulukhaktok	1,698	1,727
Wekweeti	1,068	1,084
Whati	1,568	1,582
Wrigley	654	654
Yellowknife	7,753	7,814
TOTAL	48,303	49,103

* Please note that as per the Deline Self Government Agreement, the Deline Got'ine Government will receive \$2,933,000 in block funding, which would be representative of funding provided for O&M, W&S, and CPI funds typically provided to the community government by MACA. The 2018-2019 calculation will be made in accordance with the Deline Self Government Agreement.

Water & Sewer Services Funding

COMMUNITY	2017-18 Actuals (000's)	2018-19 Budgeted (000's)
* All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.		
Aklavik	630	634
Behchokò	1,196	1,217
Colville Lake	390	407
Dettah	233	233
Enterprise	220	227
Fort Liard	696	707
Fort McPherson	1,022	1,056
Fort Providence	578	584
Fort Resolution	615	619
Fort Simpson	1,170	1,205
Fort Smith	522	546
Gamètì	389	397
Hay River	992	1,021
Inuvik	1,228	1,276
Jean Marie River	504	516
Kakisa	226	231
K'asho Got'ine (Fort Good Hope)	684	703
Kátl'odeeche (Hay River Reserve)	336	348
Łutsel K'e	464	475
Nahanni Butte	516	531
Norman Wells	876	913
Paulatuk	351	351
Sachs Harbour	339	345
Trout Lake	439	450
Tsiigehtchic	436	442
Tuktoyaktuk	707	712
Tulita	632	651
Ulukhaktok	600	600
Wekweètì	334	352
Whatì	677	695
Wrigley	454	467
Yellowknife	281	326
TOTAL	18,737	19,237

Community Public Infrastructure Funding

COMMUNITY	2017-18 Actuals (000's)	2018-19 Budgeted (000's)
* All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.		
Aklavik	823	823
Behchokò	1,036	1,036
Colville Lake	675	675
Dettah	708	708
Enterprise	646	646
Fort Liard	815	815
Fort McPherson	864	864
Fort Providence	866	866
Fort Resolution	799	799
Fort Simpson	943	943
Fort Smith	1,114	1,114
Gamètì	735	735
Hay River	1,260	1,260
Inuvik	1,231	1,231
Jean Marie River	640	640
Kakisa	620	620
K'asho Got'ine (Fort Good Hope)	805	805
Kátl'odeeche (Hay River Reserve)	736	736
Lutsel K'e	768	768
Nahanni Butte	665	665
Norman Wells	869	869
Paulatuk	740	740
Sachs Harbour	668	668
Trout Lake	646	646
Tsiigehtchic	696	696
Tuktoyaktuk	899	899
Tulita	789	789
Ulukhaktok	772	772
Wekweètì	675	675
Whatì	788	788
Wrigley	692	692
Yellowknife	2,210	2,210
TOTAL	27,193	27,193

Gas Tax Funding

COMMUNITY	2017-18 Actuals (000's)	2018-19 Budgeted (000's)
* All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.		
Aklavik	324	333
Behchoko	666	682
Colville Lake	75	80
Deline	276	279
Dettah	75	80
Enterprise	75	80
Fort Good Hope	298	306
Fort Liard	293	298
Fort McPherson	396	415
Fort Providence	322	324
Fort Resolution	75	80
Fort Simpson	538	574
Fort Smith	863	913
Gameti	75	80
Hay River	1,305	1,397
Hay River Reserve	75	80
Inuvik	1,264	1,359
Jean Marie River	75	80
Kakisa	75	80
Lutselk'e	225	225
Nahanni Butte	75	80
Norman Wells	543	606
Paulatuk	219	221
Sachs Harbour	198	206
Trout Lake	75	80
Tsiigehtchic	75	80
Tuktoyaktuk	386	398
Tulita	274	274
Ulukhaktok	272	280
Wekweeti	178	178
Whati	265	266
Wrigley	75	80
Yellowknife	5,273	5,511
Total	15,278	16,005

New Programs, Services and Initiatives

Aboriginal Consultation:

The Government of the Northwest Territories has a legal and constitutional duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous governments and organizations whenever it considers carrying out a government action that has the potential to adversely impact asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' (MACA) duty to consult is triggered when the Minister makes a decision related to statutory approvals or actions based on requests from communities. For example, such statutory approvals or actions can include:

The variation of community boundaries under territorial municipal legislation and relevant policies; and,

The approval of community plans under section 5 of the *Community Planning and Development Act*, SNWT 2011, c 22

The duty to consult may also extend to infrastructure projects, in particular those funded with federal infrastructure dollars, or those projects which are new and which may impact traditional use of the land (for example new roads and solid waste sites outside of municipal boundaries).

When a community requests a statutory approval or action from the Minister of MACA, the department must do a pre-consultation assessment, on a case-by-case or project-by-project basis, to determine if the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate is triggered. If the GNWT's duty to consult is triggered, MACA may request that communities, as the proponent, assist the department in meeting its duty by assigning procedural aspects of the consultation process, which involves engagement with potentially adversely impacted Indigenous governments and organizations.

MACA is working to determine the triggers for the duty to consult related to statutory approvals and refine how it works with communities to ensure the GNWT's duty to consult prior to making decisions is done in a meaningful and sound manner and maintains the honour of the Crown. In the meantime, MACA encourages communities to contact MACA as early as possible when these types of actions, approvals, or infrastructure projects are contemplated in order to work with the community to determine the best path forward.

9-1-1

9-1-1 is the three-digit telephone number in North America that facilitates the reporting of an emergency requiring response by a public safety agency such as search and rescue, police, firefighting or ambulance services. The NWT 9-1-1 program will integrate and/or connect citizens to pre-existing NWT services, beyond basic police, fire and ambulance services, such as suicide crisis intervention, Kids Help Phone, NWT Help Line, wildfire reporting, and Spill Report Line.

NWT 9-1-1 will manage and integrate the NWT Public Alerting System (including AMBER alerts) into daily operations, providing citizens with critical information on emergencies in real time so they can take action to protect themselves, their loved ones and their property.

MACA will be releasing the NWT 9-1-1 Strategic Plan – Implementation 2018 to 2020 early in 2018. The intent is to have 9-1-1 ready for full implementation during 2019-2020. Much of the work in 2018-2019 will be focused on; developing legislation, obtaining CRTC approval, developing the NWT 9-1-1 program and working with community governments to prepare dial-plans to enable NWT 9-1-1 to connect callers with the appropriate community based emergency services.

Ground Ambulance Review

The GNWT is committed to working with key stakeholders to develop an effective ground ambulance and highway rescue response capacity for the NWT. Work is currently underway to establish a common vision for ground ambulance and highway rescue services in the NWT, including an action plan to guide system maintenance and development. Essential job descriptions and council self-assessment tools are also being developed. This work will identify what services the NWT needs now and in the future, and what resources will be necessary to progress towards a common goal. Please keep in mind that a fully integrated system of ground ambulance and highway rescue services takes years to develop and our current fiscal environment will play a large part in deciding priority actions. The current project will be completed by March 2018, and it will result in ongoing work with stakeholders to monitor progress and evaluate results and future needs as the system evolves.

New E-Learning Opportunities

MACA's School of Community Government has expanded its ways of delivery of training and learning opportunities. Now, in addition to face-to-face training courses, community governments can choose from among several distance learning options to find the one that best suits their eLearning needs: all without leaving their home community. For example, the School now offers scheduled courses with live internet-based instruction and self-directed assignments, as well as shorter self-paced, self-directed modules. Participants can access these learning opportunities at their desk through the internet browser on their computer. Also, video conferences are now possible with the new facilities at MACA's HQ and Regional Offices and brief but timely presentations are offered through regular Webinars in MACA's Webinar Series on Thursday mornings. Accessing learning in the communities has never been easier! The School of Community Government's eLearning opportunities are another way the Department is working to build capable and effective community governments.

Strategic Planning and Workshop Facilitation

The Department's School of Community Government is working on the development of Strategic Planning resources and a workshop designed to use with community governments. The plan includes training Department staff to be better able to assist communities with the facilitation of community strategic planning workshops.

With the support of an Advisory Committee, a workshop model has been designed, facilitation materials developed and a training session for potential facilitators was held November 15-16, 2017. A fillable template planning document, which provides key sections and a layout for the completion of a strategic plan, is being developed. Then, through the workshop, MACA will be able to use the template to support the completion of a strategic plan that reflects the input from the community governments workshop. This tool and workshop format will be available to all community governments. The Department also intends to use capacity building funds under the Gas Tax Agreement to hire a master facilitator in this area to help refine tools and build the Department's capacity by engaging in a number of community strategic planning projects.

The Department, through its new cadre of facilitators, is available to assist communities with the facilitation of Strategic Planning sessions and work planning sessions. For further information please contact your Regional Superintendent or contact Sharon Morrison at Sharon.Morrison@gov.nt.ca

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan

In March 2017, the federal government announced Phase II of its new long-term infrastructure plan, the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. Phase II of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan includes \$571 million over eleven years in infrastructure funding for the NWT (which includes funding for both Territorial and community based infrastructure initiatives). The funding will flow through five main streams: Public Transit; Green Infrastructure; Social Infrastructure; Trade and Transportation; and Rural and Northern Communities.

The Government of Canada has indicated that Phase II funding will be delivered through bilateral agreements between provincial/territorial governments and Infrastructure Canada, with the first year of the program being 2018/19. Discussions between Infrastructure Canada and provincial/territorial officials on the main elements of the individual funding programs are currently underway. The anticipated date for the signing of the bilateral agreements is March 31, 2018.

As details and implementation of programs are understood, MACA will share additional information with the plan for implementation of Phase II funding with community governments in 2018/19. In addition, MACA will focus on assisting community governments with the completion of the Clean Water Wastewater Fund projects under Phase I of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan prior to commencement of projects under Phase II.

There are also a series of other national programs such as the Smart Cities Challenge that MACA is working with Government of Canada officials on. MACA will provide more information on these programs as it is made available by the various federal government departments.

Updates to Existing Programs, Services and Initiatives

Community Fire Protection Assessments and Action Plans

In 2016, fire protection partners produced a Community Fire Protection Video Presentation to help provide community governments with a good understanding of the critical elements of the fire service, and to guide efforts towards achieving community fire protection goals and outcomes. The video highlights some of the advantages that can be achieved by having a well-organized, managed, and trained fire service in the community and includes recommendations on fire protection measures, best practices, regulations, and available support for establishing, maintaining, and strengthening a community's fire service. Along with the Video Presentation, MACA has developed a Fire Department Assessment Tool which provides community leaders an efficient means to assess their fire department's current capacity, identify any critical gaps, and determine resource needs. Information gathered from the assessment helps communities develop a detailed action plan towards a sustainable and desired level of service. Assessment items in the tool are directly linked to key performance indicators in MACA's Accountability Framework for Community Governments. Ultimately, the tool helps community governments maintain a regular system of inspection and evaluation of their fire service.

Community Planning

NWT community governments have the primary responsibility for planning and regulating the use and development of land within their community boundaries. A community plan provides a policy framework that guides the physical development of a municipality, taking into account sustainability, the environment, and the economic, social and cultural development of the community.

The MACA Community Planning Division provides advice to NWT community governments and the Department regarding land use planning and land development in NWT communities. The Division supports the department with the administration of the Community Planning and Development Act and provides advice and expertise on the application of the legislation. The Division supports community governments to develop community land use plans, and zoning bylaws. The Division can also assist communities with the coordination of land development activities through their capital planning process to help make land available for the construction of affordable housing and to support community governments in dealing with derelict properties in their community.

Municipal Funding

In 2014, MACA completed a review of the department's four core funding formulae. These are: Operations and Maintenance Funding (O&M), Water and Sewer Services Funding (W&S), Community Public Infrastructure Funding (CPI) and Gas Tax Funding. This review identified a significant funding gap. In 2017-18 the gap is \$32.5 million: \$5 million in O&M and \$4.8 million in W&S and \$22.4 million in capital funding. This represents a reduction in the funding gap of \$6.5 million since 2014.

For 2017-18, MACA has received an increase in funding for a single-year in O&M (\$528,000) and W&S (\$601,000) to decrease the funding gap in those two areas. The Department will work within the GNWT fiscal framework to apply for annual increases to continue to close the gap. The

department is planning to update the municipal funding calculation in 2018-2019. This will update the needs analysis for all funding streams. It will also provide MACA with current data to renew efforts to secure additional resources for infrastructure funding. The updated analysis will reflect the impact of community investments (through CPI and other own source-revenues) as well as the Phase 1 federal funding and Small Communities Fund projects.

Asset Management Strategy for NWT Community Governments

The 18th Legislative Assembly has mandated MACA to continue to pursue new federal funding for the enhancement of community government infrastructure by implementing an asset management framework through the Gas Tax Agreement. The framework is intended to ensure that the lifespan of CPI is extended and new infrastructure is delivered in a manner that takes into account new building technologies that assist in climate change adaptation and efficiencies. In order to meet these mandated objectives, MACA is currently collaborating with the NWTAC, LGANT, and community governments on the development and implementation of an Asset Management Strategy for NWT community governments.

In the fall of 2016, MACA began implementing the maintenance management phase of the Strategy. MACA has been working with the asset management software team, as well as the pilot communities selected to be a part of the first phase of implementation throughout 2017-2018, to collect asset data and prepare for implementation. The first of the pilot communities will go live with the asset management software in early 2018. MACA supported the initial cost of the software purchase and will support initial training costs. The plan includes repeating this process in the remaining communities over the next few years.

For community governments not interested in this technology, asset management software will not be mandatory. MACA will also work to support a low-tech option for community governments that do not feel they have the need or capacity for a computer based system. Through either option, asset management is a key indicator in the community accountability framework.

Accountability Framework

The Accountability Framework (AF) provides an assessment tool for community governments using a range of key indicators that represent core areas of community government operations determined to be critical to their success. Use of the AF will help to increase transparency in the management of public funds and provide a focus for MACA engagement with community governments.

In the past, the use of the electronic tool was successful and benefitted both community governments and MACA. Moving forward, MACA has undertaken efforts to improve the Framework.

A comprehensive review of the Framework has been initiated, including the community government self-assessment survey, associated handbook, and the procedures MACA follows in order to validate community government responses. A survey tool and handbook have been developed to reflect the relationship between MACA and designated authorities in order to enhance the relevance of the Framework to First Nations that deliver municipal services to their communities. The review and development of these tools is intended to support a better understanding of the indicators within the Framework, as well as the manner in which survey responses are validated and evaluated, and the manner in which MACA may support community

governments and designated authorities based on the outcome of the survey. MACA also intends to improve the timeliness of reports by improving the interface of the survey and handbook, in order to reduce the administrative burden on community governments and designated authorities. MACA has engaged the Local Government Administrators' of the Northwest Territories (LGANT) in order to seek feedback and input that will improve the Framework, and will engage the Northwest Territories Association of Communities for the same purpose. The revised Framework will be designed to enhance support of timely reports and the development of work plans to address identified challenges or deficiencies.

These types of tools allow MACA to do a better job of engaging with community governments and designated authorities and supporting not only their successful governance and administration, but helping to address and plan for their capacity needs as well. MACA is very pleased with what the AF tool has done in terms of allowing the Department to build baseline information on the status of community governments and designated authorities, and then to engage with community governments and designated authorities based on their own unique needs. The Department looks forward to continued delivery of the tool and ongoing enhancements to make it as useful as possible to community governments and to the Department in future.

New Building Canada Plan – Small Communities Fund

In 2014, the Government of Canada announced a new suite of infrastructure programs, called the New Building Canada Plan (NBCP). This suite of programs included a permanent Gas Tax Fund, a new Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component which includes the Small Communities Fund (SCF), as well as numerous other components for major infrastructure initiatives.

The Small Communities Fund program under the NBCP is an application-based program that is available to community governments and designated authorities in the NWT. In spring 2015, MACA advised the community governments of their SCF allocation, which can be used to support up to 75% of the cost of an infrastructure project eligible under the NBCP.

MACA held four calls for applications for SCF projects between May 2015 and September 2016. All thirty-three community governments have received approval from the federal government for their SCF project.

It is important to note that all Small Communities Fund projects must be substantially complete by December 31, 2022 and final audits and paperwork submitted by the NWT to Canada by March 31, 2024.

Phase 1: Investing in Canada Plan

In 2016, the federal government announced Phase I of its new long-term infrastructure plan, which included three main funding streams – Public Transit (PTF), Green Infrastructure and Social Infrastructure. Phase I of the Green Infrastructure stream included the Clean Water Wastewater Fund (CWWF). The NWT received funding for both CWWF and PTF as part of the Phase 1 federal funding announcements.

The CWWF provides for infrastructure investments in new or the rehabilitation of water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure, as well as providing opportunities to fund the planning and design of future facilities. It is a cost-share program with the community government providing at least 25% of the project costs from their own funds. The funding under the CWWF is provided on

a reimbursement basis. Once community governments have a project approved and have incurred eligible expenses, they must submit quarterly claims to MACA for their project. MACA reviews the claims, provides reimbursement to the community government for all eligible costs, then submits the claims to the Government of Canada for reimbursement to the GNWT.

Phase I of the CWWF included \$51.7 million in federal funding to projects in the NWT. CWWF funding was allocated to NWT community governments through a competitive, application-based process with a one-time call for applications in August 2016. The criteria used to review the projects included project eligibility, project incrementally, demonstrated ability of the community government to cost share the project, and the project's impact on the infrastructure deficit in the community.

Community governments with an approved CWWF project have until March 31, 2019 to substantially complete their CWWF project. A request for one year extension to the project completion deadline can be made to the Government of Canada; however, all requests must include substantiation for the requested extension.

As noted above, there was also an allocation to the NWT for Public Transit Funding (PTF). This funding, in the amount of \$320,000, was restricted to the City of Yellowknife by the federal funding guidelines. The City of Yellowknife has until March 31, 2018 substantial complete their PTF project. However, a request for an extension to the project deadline has been made to the Government of Canada.

2018 Arctic Winter Games

The 2018 Arctic Winter Games are being held in the South Slave communities of Hay River and Fort Smith in March 2018. Support for these games is also being received from other South Slave communities. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is providing support to the Host Society and the Towns of Hay River and Fort Smith.

One area of support is through the Youth Ambassador program. There are nearly 30 youth participating in the 2017-2018 NWT Youth Ambassador Program at the 2018 Arctic Winter Games. These 33 Youth Ambassadors participated in a training session held in November 2017 in Yellowknife. Training includes a series of workshops designed to provide life skills, work skills, media and Arctic Winter Games orientation information that will prepare the youth for their volunteer assignments at the games.

We look forward to seeing representatives from communities across the NWT at the Arctic Winter Games.

Policy and Legislation

Civil Emergency Measures Act (CEMA)

MACA is in the process of developing a draft bill to replace the Civil Emergency Measures Act. This new statute, to be introduced in 2018, will reflect the NWT's operating environment and will allow the GNWT and community governments to respond effectively to disaster situations. In anticipation of the new statute, MACA is also updating the NWT Emergency Plan and is considering the development of regulations and standard operating procedures to operationalize the new statute and form a more comprehensive framework for emergency management.

Fire Prevention Act (FPA)

MACA is reviewing the legislative framework that governs structural fire prevention in the NWT. This legislative framework relates to the investigation and reporting of structural fires, regulates fire hazards, and allows for the adoption of codes and standards for the prevention and extinguishment of structural fires. The legislative framework is made up of the *Fire Prevention Act (FPA or Act)*, as well as the regulations established under it, which are the Fire Prevention Regulations, the Fireworks Regulations, and the Propane Cylinder Storage Regulations.

The first phase of the stakeholder engagement is now complete. The next step is to complete an analysis of available options and solutions. It is anticipated that there will be one more round of stakeholder engagement. This feedback will assist MACA in better understanding the issues, challenges, and opportunities with respect to the *FPA* and its Regulations.

Western Canada Lotteries Act

Bill 1, the *Western Canada Lottery Act*, received first reading in the Legislative Assembly on October 18 and second reading on October 20. The Bill will now proceed to the Standing Committee on Government Operations for review. The Bill repeals the existing *Western Canada Lottery Act*. The Bill brings the operation of the Western Canada Lottery program within the GNWT, ensuring that lottery proceeds are protected from taxation and remain available to fund sport, recreation and physical activity programs in the NWT.

Cities, Towns, and Villages Act - Amendments

MACA has taken the last several months to engage with stakeholders on amendments to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act that would permit the six tax-based municipalities to:

- provide loans, tied to property taxes, for resident-driven energy efficiency measures, using a modified local improvement charge process; and
- establish municipal hotel levies through the creation of local bylaws.

The feedback MACA received during this process will help us to propose and develop amendments to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act that will respond to the needs of individual communities. We anticipate bringing forward amendments for consideration in 2018.

Cannabis

Last spring, the Government of Canada introduced the proposed Cannabis Act and made a public commitment to legalize cannabis across Canada by July 2018. The Government of the Northwest Territories is tasked with developing and implementing territorial legislation that will establish measures to control the distribution and retail of cannabis, the minimum age for purchase and consumption, public smoking of cannabis and other issues. The GNWT is taking all the necessary steps to ensure effective measures are in place to protect the health and safety of the people and communities in the NWT. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will draw on resources from other departments in order to ensure that community governments are supported as they navigate the changes related to the legalization of cannabis and how these changes will impact them. The GNWT is planning a presentation at the NWTAC AGM on issues that may be of interest to communities in regards to the drafting of cannabis legislation

Access to Information Protection of Privacy (ATIPP)

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of the NWT has recommended, supported by the Standing Committee on Government Operations (SCOGO) that the GNWT make every effort to ensure municipalities are covered under some form of access to information and protection of privacy legislation. MACA acknowledges the importance of this issue and is working with the Department of Justice to move it forward as a matter for consideration during the 18th Assembly. MACA will be engaging with communities in 2018-2019 on the proposed amendments to this legislation and bringing forward information for consideration and feedback.

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