

**GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO MOTION
15-17 (5): PUBLIC ACCESS TO AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS**

Motion

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) take the steps necessary to ensure widespread access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs);

AND FURTHER, that the Government work with the Heart and Stroke Foundation (HSF), the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC), the Northwest Territories (NWT) Fire Marshall's Office and the NWT Fire Chiefs, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to ensure access to defibrillators across the NWT by designating locations where AEDs must be made available, and require mandatory registration of all installed AEDs;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government develop protocols to ensure the monitoring and maintenance of all defibrillators in NWT communities;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government make funding available to NWT communities for training of staff in public buildings where defibrillators are placed;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the GNWT provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

GNWT Response

The GNWT completed an environmental scan including inter-jurisdictional research concerning potential AED programming. Results indicate there are two prevalent models in Canada involving legislation and/or a formal public access defibrillation program. A common success factor for each involves strong partnerships.

Given the current fiscal climate, the GNWT and its partners will work together to access an existing program to achieve desired results. In 2013, the federal government committed \$10 million in funding for a four-year initiative to place AEDs in mass assembly facilities, including training on how to use them in an emergency. Through the national application-based program, the GNWT will work with the NWT Fire Chief's Association, the NWTAC and the HSF to accomplish the following:

- Acquiring AEDs for public buildings in northern communities;
- Registering AEDs with local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers;
- Communicating this information to the public;

- Training for users; and
- Distributing guidelines concerning monitoring and maintenance of AEDs.

MACA's School of Community Government is delivering first responder training to help build capacity of community volunteers and staff. The Department will work with HSF to ensure curriculum includes adequate content for AED use and maintenance.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, through its occupational health and safety initiatives and its Safe and Caring Schools Initiative, is examining options concerning AEDs in schools.