

## NWTAC Adopted Resolutions | 2010

<b>NWT Association of Communities 2010 Adopted Resolutions Summary</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Category</b>
2010-01	NWT Anti-poverty Strategy	A
2010-02	Hotel room levy	A
2010-03	Use of communications devices while driving	A
2010-04	Supplementary Health Benefits	A
2010-05	Proposed routes for Taltson Hydro Expansion transmission lines	B
2010-06	NTPC Auditor General Review and Operational Review	A
2010-07	Ground Ambulance	A
2010-08	Updated Building Codes	A
2010-09	Community consultation on any proposed changes to Electricity delivery	A
2010-10	Conflict of Interest Act	A
2010-11	Information Communications Technology (ICT) Infrastructure for NWT Communities	A
2010-12	Commissioner's Land within Block Land Transfer Areas	A

### **Categorization of Resolutions**

The NWTAC Resolution Committee is responsible for categorizing resolutions into the following categories:

#### **CATEGORY A**

##### **Territorial Wide Municipal Issues**

This category will contain resolutions on issues that are of a direct or indirect concern to all territorial Communities.

#### **CATEGORY B**

##### **Issues which Pertain to Regional Concerns Only or Are Not Within Municipal Jurisdiction**

This category will contain resolutions, which are of a regional concern only or are not within municipal jurisdiction. No action is taken on Category B resolutions.

#### **CATEGORY C**

##### **Matters Dealt with by the NWTAC in the Previous Three Years**

This category will contain resolutions relating to specific matters, which have already been considered by the NWT Association of Communities within the previous three years. These resolutions will be received for information only.

**Number: 2010-01**

Category – A

## **NWT Anti-Poverty Strategy**

**WHEREAS** 20 per cent of all NWT households have annual incomes below \$30,000, and 40 per cent of households with a senior have incomes below \$30,000; and,

**WHEREAS** the NWT has the highest percentage of households in Canada with houses in need of major repairs; and,

**WHEREAS** the GNWT has no official definition of poverty; and,

**WHEREAS** six provinces have adopted anti-poverty strategies, two more jurisdictions are preparing theirs and the House of Commons recently passed a motion calling on the federal government to "develop an immediate plan for the elimination of poverty"; and,

**WHEREAS** more than a dozen NWT agencies, NGOs and municipal governments recently came together to tell the GNWT it's time to focus on the roots of poverty and combat its effects with a common approach; and,

**WHEREAS** a strategy to eliminate poverty in the NWT would affirm that every person has the right to a standard of living adequate for the well-being of their families and themselves; and

**WHEREAS** the social conditions indicative of poverty such as rates of family violence, substance abuse, illiteracy, crime and incarceration, inadequacy of nutrition, premature death and low educational attainment are consistently among the highest in the country and must be addressed with a unified approach;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NWTAC urges the GNWT to proceed to create an integrated, fully resourced and cross-government strategy for eliminating poverty in the NWT, on the basis of full public consultations, and before the 2011 Territorial election.

**Number: 2010-02**

Category – A

### **Hotel Room Levy**

**WHEREAS** NWT municipalities, hotel associations, and other representative organizations do not currently have the ability to charge a hotel room levy; and,

**WHEREAS** the revenue from a hotel room levy would be used to fund tourism marketing and development initiatives; and,

**WHEREAS** NWT municipalities and other local authorities have the mechanisms and the expertise to administer a hotel room levy; and,

**WHEREAS** there is widespread public acceptance of hotel room levies across North America and offshore; and

**WHEREAS** the NWT tourism industry is underfunded relative to other Canadian jurisdictions; and,

**WHEREAS** tourism is the largest renewable resource-based industry in the NWT, contributing \$130 million to the territorial economy in 2009,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** territorial legislation be established to provide NWT municipalities, hotel associations and/or similar organizations the authority to impose hotel room levies;

**AND FURTHER THAT** said territorial legislation provide NWT municipalities, hotel associations, and/or similar organization the responsibility to administer and allocate the revenues collected to fund tourism marketing and development initiatives within their respective jurisdictions.

**Number: 2010-03**

Category – A

### **Use of communication devices while driving**

**WHEREAS** the dangers of distracted driving are becoming better understood by experts and by the general public; and,

**WHEREAS** distracted driving has a social, physical and financial impact on the citizens of the Northwest Territories; and,

**WHEREAS** evidence from a convergence of research has shown that driver distraction, of all types, is associated with approximately 25% of crashes; and,

**WHEREAS** drivers using cell phones and hand-held devices are four times more likely to be involved in a collision; and,

**WHEREAS** seven provinces have passed legislation to restrict the use of cell phones and hand held devices while driving; and,

**WHEREAS** in November 2009 the NWT Legislative Assembly defeated a motion banning the use of hand held devices while driving in the NWT; and,

**WHEREAS** a number of other municipalities across Canada have supported the enactment of distracted driving legislation; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NWT Association of Communities urge the Members of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly to move forward with legislation prohibiting the use of cell phones and hand held communications devices, excluding two-way radios, while operating a motor vehicle, with exemption provided for police and emergency services.

**Number: 2010-04**

Category – A

## **Supplemental Health Benefits**

**WHEREAS** the Government of the Northwest Territories has proposed that the provisions of the Supplementary Health Benefits – Seniors Program, the Extended Health Benefits – Specified Chronic Conditions Program and the Extended Health Benefits Program – Indigent, be combined in a new program to be known as the Supplementary Health Benefits Program; and,

**WHEREAS** the said Supplementary Health Benefits Program will require that claimants make co-payments for services such as prescription drugs, medical equipment and supplies and basic dental care, up to 60 percent of the costs of those services depending on family incomes; and,

**WHEREAS** said co-payments represent the possibility of significant financial hardship for seniors and people with chronic illnesses residing in various NWT communities; and,

**WHEREAS** said co-payments amount to a tax on the sick and the elderly instead of sharing the cost equitably among all residents of NWT through the territorial component of the graduated income tax; and,

**WHEREAS** said co-payments combined with the high cost of living will make it less affordable for these people to continue to reside in their communities in the NWT; and,

**WHEREAS** the Government of the Northwest Territories is seeking public comment and suggestions regarding the said new Program;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NWTAC urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to implement universal supplemental health benefits coverage for NWT residents funded out of revenues from progressive taxation and not from co-payments, and that a drug purchasing program to decrease the cost of pharmaceuticals be implemented.

**Number: 2010-05**

Category – B

## **Proposed routes for Taltson Hydro Expansion transmission lines**

**WHEREAS** the Taltson hydroelectric expansion project, currently in environmental review, proposes providing electricity to the diamond mines via a transmission line to the east side of Great Slave Lake; and,

**WHEREAS** restricting a transmission line to the east side of Great Slave Lake may serve the project partners, but not adequately consider public interests that could accrue to residents from an alternative routing 'across the lake' or 'west side'; and,

**WHEREAS** a west-side routing would tie in the diesel communities of Kakisa and Fort Providence, cross the bridge designed to accommodate transmission lines, and link the Snare and Taltson hydro systems with the opportunity to have renewable energy for Avalon secondary processing and the Nico, Tyhee and Avalon mines, and a shorter route from Snare to the diamond mines and/or an option to export electricity south; and,

**WHEREAS** Behchoko and Yellowknife would be on an expanded hydro grid and off diesel completely providing a diversified market of hydro customers insulated from the boom and bust of being committed to just one major customer; and,

**WHEREAS** the NWT Hydro Corporation strategic plan promises a "feasibility analysis and design of a potential electrical grid for the NWT."; and,

**WHEREAS** piecemeal expansion without strategic vision is not in the public interest, especially with recent Biomass Alternate Strategies being studied by the GNWT;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NWTAC strongly urge the GNWT, as a shareholder, to require a much more thorough consideration of all alternative routes identified with a view toward a more sustainable future than the current proposal provides.

**Number: 2010-06**

Category – A

**NT Power Corporation Auditor General Review and Operational Review**

**WHEREAS** there needs to be accountability with respect to NTPC and their customers; and,

**WHEREAS** there is a very limited opportunity for recourse for consumers; and,

**WHEREAS** the reviews that have been undertaken to date have not dealt with operations and financial management; and,

**WHEREAS** there has been numerous requests for both a review of operations and an auditor general review; and,

**WHEREAS** the Auditor General's Office is responsible for completing fiscal reviews of the NWT; and,

**WHEREAS** the Auditor General's Office has completed reviews of other similar organizations such as the Housing Corporation and Workers Safety and Compensation Committee;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** a comprehensive operational review of NTPC be undertaken by an experienced consultant;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the NWTAC reiterates its request for a comprehensive review of NTPC by the Auditor General.



**Number: 2010-07**

Category – A

### **Ground Ambulance**

**WHEREAS** the GNWT has provided a small one time contribution to each community for the provision of ground ambulance service on the adjacent GNWT highways; and,

**WHEREAS** there are considerably more costs both from a capital and operating perspective associated with provision of ground ambulance services than the contribution made by the GNWT; and,

**WHEREAS** the formalized response requirement that will be necessitated by the proposed agreements will increase liability, equipment and training requirements and perhaps require additional volunteers; and,

**WHEREAS** many communities are like Inuvik and do not provide ambulance services even within town boundaries;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the GNWT re-evaluate the Ground Ambulance Program currently being discussed and provide appropriate levels of capital and operating funding to support their proposed program.

**Number: 2010-08**

Category – A

### **Updated Building Codes**

**WHEREAS** NWT Communities are assuming responsibility of Capital Planning within their municipal boundaries; and,

**WHEREAS** many NWT Communities are developing infrastructure but are experiencing difficulties meeting building codes due to the lack of relevant guidelines;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NWTAC urge the GNWT and the Office of the Fire Marshalls to ensure that communities are updated on changes to existing regulations;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the NWTAC work with the GNWT and the Office of the Fire Marshalls to ensure guidelines are updated and made available to all communities.

**Number: 2010-09**

Category – A

**Community consultation on any proposed changes to Electricity delivery**

**WHEREAS** residents of the Northwest Territories are an important stakeholder with regards to how electricity is supplied across the Territory; and,

**WHEREAS** elected officials within communities represent residents at a local level to ensure that their issues and concerns are accounted for especially when decisions are being made which will have a direct or indirect affect on their livelihood;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NWTAC urge the NT Hydro Corporation, the NT Power Corporation, the GNWT and all other suppliers of electricity within NWT communities to consult with Local Governments on major projects and/or regulatory changes that will have a direct or indirect affect on residents within the NWT.

**Number: 2010-10**

Category – A

### **Conflict of Interest Act**

**WHEREAS** the *Charter Communities Act*, the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, and the *Hamlets Act* defines the duties of council members; and,

**WHEREAS** one of these duties is “to participate generally in developing and evaluating the policies, plans and programs of the {charter community / municipal corporation / hamlet}”; and,

**WHEREAS** a number of plans and programs requiring evaluation by council members involve the Government of the Northwest Territories; and,

**WHEREAS** the Government of the Northwest Territories is the single largest employer in the Northwest Territories; and,

**WHEREAS** there is a potential for a significant number of council members to be employees of Government of the Northwest; and,

**WHEREAS** the *Conflict of Interest Act*, particularly Sec. 1(3)(b) may reduce the ability of council members to fulfill their duties as defined by the *Charter Communities Act*, the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, and the *Hamlets Act*; and,

**WHEREAS** there is a need to balance the intent of the *Conflict of Interest Act* with the ability of council members to act in the best interest of their community;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NWTAC urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to review and amend the *Conflict of Interest Act* respecting the employer/employee relationship as it applies to employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories who sit as members of council.

**Number: 2010-11**

Category – A

## **Information Communications Technology (ICT) Infrastructure for NWT Communities**

**WHEREAS** the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is implementing a new online browser-based Capital Planning Tool; and,

**WHEREAS** each NWT Community will be required to integrate this tool to ensure Capital Plans are updated to comply with current MACA requirements; and,

**WHEREAS** there is a digital divide between NWT Communities and their southern counterparts; and,

**WHEREAS** many NWT Communities do not have the adequate ICT Infrastructure and training to provide for reliable and efficient utilization of online browser-based applications;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NWTAC urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to ensure that NWT Communities have the necessary ICT Infrastructure and training in order to comply with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs Capital Planning Tool requirement;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the NWTAC work with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to develop off-line options for utilizing the Capital Planning Tool until such time as the ICT Infrastructure and training in NWT Communities is adequate.

**Number: 2010-12**

Category – A

### **Commissioner's Land within Block Land Transfer Areas**

**WHEREAS** the response to Resolution 2009-12 Review of and Amendment of the Commissioner's Land Act from the GNWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) that as a matter of policy, MACA would consult with community governments on all dispositions of Commissioner's Land located within municipal boundaries and where they exist in Block Land Transfer Areas ; and,

**WHEREAS** there was an instance where the affected Municipal Government was not made aware that such an application had been filed with MACA for lands within the Block Transfer Area until nine months after the fact; and,

**WHEREAS** the affected Municipal Government was then given 30 days to respond in writing outlining any questions or concerns; and,

**WHEREAS** if the application was approved by MACA in its current format, it would effectively land lock the Community;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NWTAC urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to freeze the disposition of Commissioner's Land within the Block Land Transfer Areas outside Municipal Boundaries until such time as the comprehensive review of the Commissioner's Land Act has been completed by MACA.