



Yellowknife CHAMBER

Hon. Robert C. McLeod
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO BOX 1320
Yellowknife, NT
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April 22, 2016

RE: MACA Community Infrastructure Funding

Dear Mr. McLeod,

Municipal infrastructure is essential to increasing the economic capacity of the Northwest Territories. As our infrastructure ages, the cost to make necessary repairs will only grow. Chronic under investment by both federal and territorial levels of Government threaten to place a financial burden on Yellowknife and other communities, while constraining future development.

The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce urges the GNWT to take the fiscally responsible path forward and invest now in the territory's communities. We propose that the GNWT take immediate action to enact the following recommendations put forward by the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC):

- Increase the overall amount of funding provided to community governments, based on demonstrated need;
- Modernize the community government funding formulas, based on recommendations from the 2014 funding review undertaken by MACA with support from the NWTAC;
- Commit to indexing community government funding, as has been done with Federal Gas Tax funding; and
- Continue to build and support community government capacity to ensure communities are resilient, vibrant, safe, and attractive places to live.

If fully implemented, Yellowknife would receive an additional \$7 million in formula funding – funding that is urgently needed as the City continues to service almost half of the population of the NWT. We understand that the GNWT is in a challenging fiscal position, however, infrastructure investment is critical for the long-term economic success of the Northwest Territories.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Renee Comeau
President, Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

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