



**Government of the Northwest Territories Response to
Committee Report 9-18(2): Report on the Review of the 2016 Report of the
Auditor General of Canada on Support to Communities for
Municipal Services in the Northwest Territories – Municipal and Community Affairs**

Background

The Standing Committee on Government Operations (SCOGO) presented their Committee Report “Report on the Review of the 2016 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support to Communities for Municipal Services in the Northwest Territories” on March 7, 2017. This report contains seven recommendations for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) which address the overall services provided by MACA to community governments to support the delivery of essential services for NWT residents.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Government Operations endorses the 13 recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General in its report and recommends that the Department of MACA take steps necessary to ensure that all recommendations made are implemented in a timely manner.

GNWT Response

The Department of MACA has finalized an Action Plan which will act as a guide for the department as steps are taken to implement the OAG’s 13 recommendation in a timely manner.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that, in future, any GNWT department being audited provide the Standing Committee with a copy of its action or implementation plan at the earliest possible opportunity and no later than three business days prior to the Public Review of the Auditor General’s report consistent with the Process Convention on Communications between Cabinet Ministers, Standing Committees and Regular Members.

GNWT Response

Agreed.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that any GNWT department, selected in future for an audit, provide the Standing Committee on Government Operations with a copy of its action or implementation plan in draft format and, further that the document not be finalized until the Department has had an opportunity to consider the recommendations made as a result of the Standing Committee's review.

GNWT Response

Agreed.

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department consult with the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories (LGANT) and the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities (NWTAC) on the proposed actions contained in the Action Plan before finalizing it.

GNWT Response

MACA has consulted with LGANT, NWTAC, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), in order to finalize the Action Plan. These three partner organizations have expressed support for the actions and timelines included in the plan.

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of MACA include indicators in its action plan which measure progress in implementing identified actions as a means of achieving improvements in essential service delivery at the community level.

GNWT Response

MACA has developed and included performance indicators for each priority action in order to facilitate the measurement of progress in achieving improvement in essential service delivery at the community level.

Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Government Operations strongly recommends that the Department of MACA simplify its approach in responding to the Auditor General's recommendations at paragraphs 109 and 112, such that the proposed actions are responsive to the purpose and intent of each recommendation;

And further that the Department subsequently adjust its 2019-2020 target date in identified under Priority Action 109.6 to allow for a more timely response.

GNWT Response

MACA has reviewed the action items included under recommendations 109 and 112 with our partners (NWTAC, LGANT and INAC) and has determined that the proposed actions are appropriate and consistent with the specific OAG recommendations to strengthening contribution agreements with designated authorities.

During this engagement with our partners, the possibility of adjusting the timelines included for priority action 109.6 was considered. Through this consultation it has been determined that an earlier target date would not be feasible and the target date for completion remains 2019-2020.