



September 19, 2017

Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Attn: Minister Caroline Cochrane

Re: Governance Training & Elections

Dear Minister Cochrane;

On behalf of the NWT Association of Communities, I wanted to express my excitement about the latest partnership opportunity that we are undertaking with Municipal and Community Affairs to support good governance in the NWT. Through a collaborative effort between our two organizations, we are going to create a portal where all of the resources we have to support good governance will be easily accessible to community governments from one central location. We expect this will include:

- The videos, advertisements and posters that NWTAC has created to encourage residents in the NWT to participate in local community councils and to get out the vote;
- Materials that MACA has to train and explain to candidates and elections staff how orderly elections are operated in the NWT; including access to all forms and processes that residents should be aware of in this regard;
- Links to all of the training and information that NWTAC and MACA have available to strengthen good governance by community governments.

NWT residents have always had the opportunity to access information from both of our organizations, but they will soon have the ability to access this information through one web portal. This will also help to reinforce our partnership and strengthen messaging to all community governments.

This is especially important when it comes to elections and being able to support having the correct information available for each type of election taking place at the local level. As Minister, I am certain that you are aware that many of our communities are unique and have their own priorities when it comes to self-government and building councils that reflect local priorities and capacity.

We are aware that there has recently been interest expressed by NWT Elections to administer community government elections in the NWT. The NWTAC is opposed to such an idea because it has been advanced without any consultation with community governments, and more importantly because it is against the premise of the New Deal and building local capacity and autonomy within our NWT communities. Further Municipal and Community Affairs' understanding of communities means we get quality and measured support during community elections.

In closing, I want to once again appreciate the work that you and your staff do to partner with us on a wide range of initiatives and capacity building opportunities to benefit all communities. Our partnership is the envy of our sister organizations across the country and we use every opportunity available to us to promote what we are able to accomplish together.

Yours sincerely;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ch Furlong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Charles Furlong
President
NWT Association of Communities