



Yellowknife CHAMBER

YELLOWKNIFE (April 29, 2016) – The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce is joining the NWT Association of Communities and the City of Yellowknife in a lobbying effort to increase community infrastructure funding and to modernize community government funding models.

“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,” said Renee Comeau, President of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce. “We’ve urged the GNWT to invest now in the territory’s communities and asked that they take immediate action to enact the recommendations put forward by the Northwest Territories Association of Communities.”

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.

“The City of Yellowknife is pleased to join the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce and the NWTAC in voicing support of the Government of the Northwest Territories implementing funding changes that directly impact the delivery of services to our residents. Yellowknife is home to close to 20,000 residents, representing almost half of the NWT population. The City looks forward to meaningful results and enhanced funding for core services for communities” said City of Yellowknife Mayor, Mark Heyck.

This infrastructure funding is essential for Yellowknife – but also for other communities across the NWT.

“The NWTAC is pleased to see the support of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce for fair community funding. Community governments provide essential services like clean drinking water, sanitation, local infrastructure, and recreation programs, and they need the resources required to deliver these services. Every year, Northwest Territories communities are under-funded by 37%, and it is heartening to see local organizations speaking out about this critical shortfall on behalf of their communities. The NWTAC remains optimistic that the GNWT will follow through on its commitment to communities as outlined in the Mandate of the 18th Legislative Assembly, and support community governments in the territory.”

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