



May 30, 2023

Janet Brewster  
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**Re: Question 425-6(2): Municipal Governance**

Dear MLA Brewster,

I want to thank you for the questions asked in the House on May 24, 2023. Municipal governance and building community capacity are priorities for the Department of Community and Government Services (CGS), so I am happy to highlight the work being done in this area. In addition to sharing a copy of the response to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM) resolutions provided to NAM on January 26, 2023 (attached), I would like to outline key activities underway between the department and NAM.

**Legislation**

The Hamlets Act and the Cities, Towns and Villages Act are two separate pieces of legislation that assign the powers to municipal councils. The department is aware that these two pieces of legislation are due for formal review to inform amendments. This will not be a small task and will require extensive consultation with municipalities and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to get right. As the legislative priorities have been set for the term of this government, it is not likely that proposed amendments can be brought back to this house in the next two years. However, feedback from key stakeholders has already been received and collected which will assist the department in developing a consultation plan in the future.

As noted in the response I provided to you in the House, we will continue to work with municipalities to ensure they are able to work effectively within the current legislative regime.



## **Elections and Council Orientation**

Under the Community Development Fund, the department has funded NAM to develop resources to encourage Nunavummiut to become engaged in municipal council and elections. Specifically, NAM developed two campaigns that are to be rolled out in June of 2023. The two campaigns are: 1) Importance of Voting in Nunavut, and 2) Empower Nunavut: Shaping Your Community's Future.

In addition to these campaigns to engage Nunavummiut, CGS officials have begun discussions with NAM to develop a comprehensive council orientation to be delivered to the newly elected mayors and councils after the elections in October 2023.

## **Building Relationships with municipalities**

Over the past few years, public health restrictions have changed how the department and municipalities work together. The department is committed to building on the innovative measures developed during the pandemic and building on these important relationships. In April of this year, the Community Infrastructure Division hosted a meeting with Senior/Chief Administrative Officers (SAOs and CAOs) to re-establish partnerships and provide an opportunity to connect on programs and services being offered through both the Department and other key stakeholders. We look forward to building our relationships with our municipal partners.

## **Community Resiliency- Critical Infrastructure**

The Department recognises the important of creating emergency preparedness plans to support community resiliency. Although the department already assists in the development of community *all hazards* plans, CGS is partnering with NAM to assess critical infrastructure in communities. This initiative will utilize a standardized framework for assessing risks and enhancing community preparedness related to high risk scenarios by working with community members to develop a detailed response plan.

## **Municipal Organization Operating Funds (MOOF)**

NAM is a significant partner in building community capacity and strengthening the resiliency of municipalities. The department recognizes the importance in ensuring effective resourcing to support the capacity of NAM to meet the needs of their



membership. For this reason, the department has increased funding provided to NAM for the 2023/2024 fiscal year to \$400,000.

Sincerely,



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Hon. David Joanasie  
Minister, Community and Government Services

Cc: Kyle Seeley, Deputy Minister, Community and Government Services  
Jessica Young, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government

Appendix: January 26, 2023 Letter from Minister Joanasie re: NAM 2022 Conference Resolutions











The Municipalities have been receiving annual increases each year since f/y 2019/20 due to utility rate increases. See table below (Table 1 Municipal Funding Program Increases).

**Table 1 – Municipal Funding Program Increases**

Municipal Funding Program	Main Estimates	Main Estimates	Main Estimates	Main Estimates
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
	<b>45,451,000</b>	<b>47,180,000</b>	<b>48,329,345</b>	<b>49,003,000</b>

AGM 22-11: Supply of Granular Material

My department recognizes the importance of having a full supply of granular material available in each municipality, to develop and maintain municipal roads networks, and develop land for new infrastructure and housing initiatives. Ensuring a means to produce quality granular material that support communities is a challenge shared by local and territorial governments. CGS is committed to working with other departments to develop a coordinated plan to support community needs.

In the 2023/24 budget, the GN approved \$5M for providing granular crushing equipment to municipalities through the Granular Crushing Equipment Fund, with a total anticipated allocation of \$15M over the next five years.

CGS has reached out to all communities to better understand the granular programs in each community including, stockpiles, equipment, and the estimated life of the granular source. The department is presently analyzing prior approaches to granular production in the territory, gathering information from peer groups and plans to administer supplemental surveying and pursue meaningful engagement with each municipality to inform policy and program development. CGS is currently developing the program to support this fund and anticipates consulting with municipalities in February 2023.

AGM 22-12: Search and Rescue

Search and Rescue is critical to support Nunavummiut the desires of Nunavummiut to travel and hunt across traditional lands and waters. Nunavut Emergency Management (NEM) is currently reviewing the Community Based Search and Rescue Contributions Policy (Policy) and would like to engage and consult with NAM to identify potential amendments that would better serve the needs of Search and Rescue (SAR) groups across the territory.





































