

- 1. Currently, the GNWT does not provide any funding for the Yellowknife Street Outreach program. Through your leadership, would you work with the City to co-fund the program, so that it can be expanded and improved?**

In the beginning of the Street outreach programming the GNWT was a contributor to this service. Addictions, mental health and homelessness are not only on the shoulders of the City of Yellowknife, but this also affects all northerners and as such I will support and advocate for more funding allocated to this project, more review at how it can be improved.

- 2. The GNWT's recent "A Way Home – A comprehensive strategy to address homelessness in the NWT" has many great initiatives, including:**

- **setting up Regional Partnership tables;**
- **establishing long-term funding options to improve operator sustainability starting with zero-based budgeting to help identify and address funding gaps and accurately determine the cost of addressing homelessness through shelter operation in the NWT; and**
- **increasing GNWT funding for transitional housing programs to improve community-driven solutions to address local needs; and more.**

Will you ensure these actions are implemented and funded?

It is a priority of mine to address the full circle that is homelessness. Addictions, mental health, residential school trauma, for the first, second and third generations, all contribute to this severe issue. A way home is a starting point for what is needed to aid our people, bringing more on the ground workers to the table, Indigenous healing and medicine as well as bridging the gap for funding. Investing in our people is fundamental in our success.

- 3. In Eugene, Oregon, there is a program called CAHOOTS – which is a two person team consisting of a medic and a crisis worker who have training and experience in the mental health field. They do patrols and respond to calls through 911, and have the tools for a non-violent resolution of crisis situations. There are also many similar models across Canada where a police officer and a social worker respond to calls – including the Yukon's program called "Car 867".**

To implement a program like this in Yellowknife, the GNWT must participate as it is responsible for public health, operates 911, and holds the RCMP contract. If elected, would you fund and implement a program like CAHOOTS or Car 867?

I believe that our RCMP resources are being misused. Many situations do not require RCMP but rather a deescalating approach thus those at risk are given the help they require. If elected, within my platform for Indigenous wellness, I would seek to fund opportunities such as these, once again, investing in our people for positive outcomes is critical.

4. What actions and programs established so far do you think are working, and what needs to be done differently to address these issues of homelessness, addictions and mental health? How would you prioritize or sequence the actions you feel are needed, and how would you balance these with other GNWT priorities?

The GNWT needs to reassess how the healthcare system addresses social issues. When discussing the homelessness, addiction and mental health of a people who are majority Indigenous clientele we need to have Indigenous partners at the table to address the remedies.

We need a facility that allows for our vulnerable to get sober for them to qualify for rehabilitation, when they return, they need to be in a recovery center where there are supports, 24/7. Access to adult education, counselling, training, and skill building, learning a new way of living is hard and the vulnerable need guidance to succeed.

More Indigenous organizations should be at the table when discussing the healing of Indigenous people.

Economy

1. What is your overall vision for economic development in the NWT?

To begin with, our primary focus should be on establishing economic stability. The NWT has faced significant challenges in the past half decade, including the impact of COVID-19 and the wildfires. It is crucial that we prioritize stability before embarking on any growth initiative to ensure long term sustainability. Our small business sector is particularly vulnerable and requires immediate support, incentives, and faster correspondence to alleviate the immense pressure they are currently facing.

Furthermore, it is essential to invest in retaining our workforce. As the mining industry experiences a slowdown, it becomes imperative to diversify our recourse and avoid over reliance on a single industry. Instead, we should explore multiple avenues for growth. I strongly advocate for the exploration of minerals but also alternative sectors such as tourism and solar energy in the North. By retraining our people to seize upcoming opportunities in these fields, we can foster a more resilient and diverse economy.

2. What actions or investments would you take to strengthen and diversify the economy?

As about I indicated that I would like to see the NWT expand its exploration in Solar Energy, which will also alleviate the pressures on power but this would also be an opportunity to collaborate with existing industries to buy into this partnership, but to also expand into our tourism industry and mineral prospecting.

3. With the Giant Mine remediation beginning, what actions or investments would you take to maximize the economic benefits remaining in the north?

Retraining of our present workforce so that we can endeavour to retain northerners.

Emergency Management

1. What actions will you take or lobby for to ensure that communities are adequately prepared for future emergencies?

One of my priorities is to ensure a fulsome 3rd party review on the wildfire evacuation. It is important for Northerners to know that their government has their best interest. I will also lobby for all the communities to be at the table in discussing the emergency action plan. Yellowknife is the hub of the NWT and when Yellowknife shut down the communities were abandoned, they were unable to access food, essential services, transportation and so much more.

2. All NWT Community Wildfire Protection Plans will be five years old or older in 2024. Will you commit to funding, or advocating for funding, updates to these plans for any community that requests one?

Having access to an up-to-date Wildfire Protection Plan is at the forefront of all our minds. As remoteness is a concern, I will advocate for more funding to update these plans.

Legislation

1. Do you support prioritizing these legislative reviews?

Yes, I support these legislative reviews, I would pledge to aid the City of Yellowknife in modernizing and creating legislation to allow the NWT to function effectively.

2. If you support prioritizing this legislation, will you work with City Council to advocate for change within this legislation?

Yes, as I know the issues City Council has been battling, I will, in partnership with the Council, work to change this legislation.

3. Is there other Legislation that you will be looking to review or create, and why?

I would be looking to review the NWT education reform. As a parent the education that my children receive is important and important for all northerners. We have seen a reduction in graduation rates, which means we have fewer kids heading off to post secondary or trade school. Our youth of today will be our leaders of tomorrow, devoting time into the educational programming we offer will be fruitful for the North's future.