



1. Statement of Policy

The Government of the Northwest Territories will establish a department called the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, under the direction of a Minister.

Mandate

The Minister and the Department are responsible for the development and maintenance of community governments, responsive and responsible to the residents, with sufficient legal authority and resources to carry out community responsibilities, to provide their public programs and services essential to good community life and to deal effectively with other governments and organizations. The Minister and Department are also responsible for protecting the interests of consumers.

2. Principles

The Government of the Northwest Territories will adhere to the following principles when implementing this Policy:

- (1) Community governments should function as separate, distinct governments responsible for the provision of municipal programs and services.
- (2) Community governments should exercise authority and assume responsibility for Government of the Northwest Territories programs and services appropriate for community-level delivery.
- (3) Community governments should have sufficient authorities and resources to undertake the responsibilities assigned to them in territorial legislation and policy.
- (4) Community government should provide essential municipal services on an equitable basis and should ensure safe, healthy, and attractive environments for all residents.
- (5) Actions should be taken and safeguards should be established to protect the public interest respecting consumer services.



3. Scope

This Policy applies to all employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

4. Definitions

The following terms apply to this Policy:

Community Government - a municipal corporation or, in the absence of a municipal corporation, a community governing authority recognized by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs as the prime public authority responsible for the provision of municipal services.

Municipal Corporation - a corporation established under or continued by the *Charter Communities Act*, the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, the *Hamlets Act* or the *Settlements Act*.

Municipal Programs and Services - those programs and services which are normally provided by community governments, including the provision of water; collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and garbage; fire protection; road maintenance; recreation; by-law enforcement; land use control and community planning. This may also include land administration, borrowing and the collection of property taxes.

5. Authority and Accountability

(1) General

This Policy is issued under the authority of the Executive Council. The authority to make exceptions and approve revisions to this Policy rests with the Executive Council. Authority and accountability is further defined as follows:

(a) Minister

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (the Minister) is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this Policy.



(b) **Deputy Minister**

The Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (the Deputy Minister) is accountable to the Minister and responsible to the Minister for the administration of this Policy.

(2) **Specific**

(a) **Executive Council**

The Executive Council may approve a change to the mandate of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

(b) **Minister**

The Minister is:

- (i) responsible for carrying out the mandate of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and shall preside over the operation of the department; and
- (ii) authorized to carry out the duties in this directive in a manner that the Minister deems appropriate for the efficient and effective fulfilment of the department's mandate.

(c) **Deputy Minister**

The Deputy Minister is:

- (i) responsible for the administration of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs including the management, planning and other support functions necessary to further the department's mandate; and
- (ii) accountable to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for the proper conduct of the business of the department.



6. Provisions

(1) Mandate Establishment

Pursuant to the Government Organization Policy, the mandate, including the authority, responsibilities and functions of the Minister and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, is established in this Policy Directive.

(2) Duties of the Minister

The Minister shall develop and carry out programs and services in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs as may be appropriate to fulfil the mandate of the Minister and the Department.

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs shall have charge of, and be responsible for:

- (a) Promoting political development at the local level so that community governments will become more self-reliant in dealing with community issues.
- (b) Maintaining a legislative and funding base to foster the development of community governments.
- (c) Promoting the physical development of infrastructure lying within the jurisdiction of a community government in a manner responsive to community needs and priorities by encouraging effective community and land use planning, by coordinating the organized construction and delivery of community infrastructure, and by promoting the protection of community residents and infrastructure.
- (d) Promoting the social well-being of communities by providing recreation and sport opportunities to residents.
- (e) Ensuring that adequate, territorial-wide legislative, administrative and financial standards for municipal program and service delivery are developed and maintained.



- (f) Promoting emergency planning and co-ordinating the government's response to emergencies.
- (g) Promoting and enforcing fire safety standards.
- (h) Regulating services available to consumers, including gaming and real estate.

(3) Administration

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs shall be administered in such a manner as to ensure that Government requirements and the requirements as expressed in statutes, acts, agreements, regulations, polices and directives are satisfied.

7. Prerogative of the Executive Council

Nothing in this Policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Council to make decisions or take action respecting the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs outside the provisions of this Policy.



Premier and Chairman of the
Executive Council