



BACKGROUND

The combination of the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) and the Gas Tax Initiative allows for the development of a long term plan to address Nunavut's community infrastructure needs.

MRIF

Infrastructure Canada has announced \$16 million for Nunavut over the next five years for municipal infrastructure projects. This amount will be matched 50/50 by the Government of Nunavut. The MRIF funding will be combined with Government of Nunavut capital funding for municipal projects such as recreation facilities, hamlet offices and halls, access roads, tourism facilities, mobile equipment. MRIF identified projects must be municipal infrastructure meeting cultural, recreational, tourism, environmental energy improvement and local road needs.

GAS TAX INITIATIVE

The Gas Tax Initiative will provide \$37.5 million over the first five year with ongoing funding of \$15 million annually thereafter. Non-tax based communities will be required to collaborate with the Government of Nunavut to develop a long-term plan for this funding whereas Iqaluit, the only tax-based community, will receive a percentage of the funds for use.

The Government of Nunavut will not be required to match this funding. Akin to MRIF, the Gas Tax initiative must be used for environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure projects. The Government of Nunavut has targeted three critical community infrastructure projects:

Water

The water supply to Nunavut's communities by and large remains problem free. However, Nunavut's rapidly growing population is putting increased stress on existing water storage and delivery systems. MRIF funding will allow for the expansion of new 'low technology' treatment systems as well as a new distribution system for larger communities.

Sewage

There are significant problems with mechanical treatment plants in most Baffin and some Kitikmeot communities. This funding will allow for engineered lagoons and wetlands in addition to improved mechanical treatment plants.

Solid Waste

There are several considerations that require funding, including: granular to cover the waste, the location and fencing of waste sites, the clean-up of old sites and the use of mobile equipment for efficient operations. Funding will also be used for pilot projects for alternative disposal systems such as incineration and recycling.

NCIAC

The Government of Nunavut has established the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee (NCIAC) to determine the long term infrastructure plan and requirements for communities across Nunavut. The committee includes representatives from Department of Community and Government Services, Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM), Department of Finance and other GN departments when required.

The committee's main goal is to develop ranking criteria and priority listing for projects under GTI/MRIF. NCIAC will in turn make recommendations to the Minister of Community and Government Services on funding criteria and priorities for the GTI/MRIF and other capital funds and initiatives. This will require the NCIAC to work closely with communities to develop a consultation process to keep communities informed of upcoming projects and initiatives.

The NCIAC will draw upon the advice and services of a Technical Planning Secretariat to establish criteria and priorities for GTI/MRIF funding.

Technical Planning Secretariat (TPS)/Technical Resource Group (TRG)

A TPS is required to research and develop the most feasible and sustainable models for Nunavut's water, sewage and solid waste treatment. TPS/TRG will work closely with NAM to develop community capacity to manage water, sewage and solid waste systems.