



Northwest Territories Tourism Member Resolutions

Northwest Territories Tourism members address their concerns by adopting resolutions during the Annual General Meeting. Once presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting and adopted as a resolution, resolutions become the official position of Northwest Territories Tourism. Adopted resolutions are sent to the Government of the Northwest Territories or to other applicable Government/Agencies for consideration and response. The resolutions are discussed as agenda items during meetings of the Board of Directors to ensure these items remain priority and progress on these issues is advanced among other items.

Category A – 2019 AGM Resolutions

Resolutions were approved at the 2019 Annual General Meeting held in Yellowknife, NT on November

Motion 2019-11-06-AGM-07

CONSIDER CHANGES TO NWT TOURISM BOARD STRUCTURE

BE IT RESOLVED that in 2020, the Board of Directors establish the Constitution, By-Laws & Policy Committee and task the Committee to examine options for restructuring the board or the way the election and appointments are made to see whether there is a better way to strengthen industry experience in appointed positions and achieve balance of sectors and regions on the board overall in how all board positions are filled; and

That the Board of Directors review the options presented by the Constitution, By-Laws & Policy Committee and then report back to the membership on this review, bringing forward any proposed changes in the Constitution and By-Laws for discussion and debate at the 2020 AGM.

Status: OPEN

The emergence of COVID-19 in March 2020 resulted in the top priority for the CEO and Chair being advocacy for industry relief and recover measures. There was no capacity in 2020 to undertake work with the Committee to examine options. This will be revisited by the newly elected board after November 2020.

Category A – 2019 Resolutions

Resolutions approved at the 2019 Annual General Meeting held in Yellowknife on November 6th

Motion 2019-11-06-AGM-08

HIGHER PRIORITY ON VISITOR SERVICES IN THE CAPITAL CITY

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Yellowknife, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and their partners place a high priority on the establishment of a Yellowknife-based Visitor Centre which, through their collaborative efforts with NWT Tourism, showcases, in addition to the local attractions, NWT-wide tourism opportunities, encouraging visitors to return, and venture further than the capital city.

Status: OPEN

NWT Tourism wrote the City of Yellowknife in November 2019 and met with City representatives regarding this issue and other tourism issues a number of times in 2020. With border closures and travel advisories issued in March due to COVID-19, the Yellowknife Visitor Center, which was operating out of the City of Yellowknife basement boardroom, was closed to the public. NWT Tourism's CEO met with the City of Yellowknife's Senior Administrative Officer in August to discuss the importance of preparing for the reopening of tourism by having a place and plan for a showcase visitor Center for the NWT's capital city. NWT Tourism has committed to working with the City of Yellowknife and GNWT ITI to help make a new capital city visitor centre a showcase of the entire NWT by contributing video, photo and other marketing contributions. NWT Tourism is also advocating to the federal government to assist the GNWT and the City of Yellowknife in establishing a new capital city Visitor Center that showcases the entire NWT, as part of a recovery plan for tourism.

Category A – 2019 Resolutions

Resolutions approved at the 2019 Annual General Meeting held in Yellowknife on November 6th

Motion 2019-11-06-AGM-09

REDUCING LAND LEASE COST INCREASES ON OUTFITTERS WITH OUTPOST CABINS

BE IT RESOLVED that NWT Tourism advocate on behalf of Outfitters with the GNWT Department of Lands and the Department of Industry Tourism & Investment for a land lease solution that enables the Outfitter's Outpost cabins to be listed on base/main camp(s) lease(s), and that single outpost cabins can be constructed by outfitters without the requirement for a lease, in recognition that these outpost leases were required by GNWT as the means to track cabins which have been put in place for safety and convenience of Outfitters and their guests, and that the cabins have minimal impact on the lands, and have minimal occupancy.

Status: OPEN

In January 2020, NWT Tourism raised this issue with the Minister of Lands in writing. A meeting was held with GNWT Lands staff in January to discuss the issue and NWT Tourism provided a suggested solution which was to tie outpost camps to the main leases and reduce the fee on satellite leases to a nominal fee, while leaving the main lease at the existing rate. In February, NWT Tourism received a letter from Minister Shane Thompson (GNWT Lands) advising that over the next 18 to 24 months the GNWT would be operationalizing the new Act and at that time the Department of Lands would look at how pricing for leases are set in situations like the one affecting Outfitters and their Outpost Camps. The Minister advised that NWT Tourism would be engaged when GNWT Lands began to move forward with operationalizing the Act. When COVID-19 emerged, NWT Tourism advocated for a number of reliefs from GNWT for the industry, including the immediate need to waive land lease fees, given tourism operators could not generate any revenue due to border closures. On May 11, 2020 GNWT announced that they would waive land rent/lease fees for 2020 and would issue refunds to those that had already paid. NWT Tourism met again in September with the Department of Lands, advocating for resolution and raising the importance of reducing costs for tourism operators to assist in rapid recovery of the industry as borders begin to open again.

Category A – 2019 Resolutions

Resolutions approved at the 2019 Annual General Meeting held in Yellowknife on November 6th

MOTION 2019-11-016-AGM-10

REGULATION OF SHORT-TERM RENTALS IN YELLOWKNIFE

BE IT RESOLVED that the city of Yellowknife be formally requested to develop and enforce Bylaws for the regulation and inspection of short-term rental accommodation addressing the unlevel playing field for accommodation providers in the capital city; and

That these Bylaws ensure short-term rental accommodation and bed and breakfast providers are paying their fair share of business license fees and taxes and are meeting established health and safety requirements that protect travelers, property owners, and the reputation of the destination.

Status: OPEN

In November 2019, NWT Tourism wrote to the City of Yellowknife raising concerns of our membership on the Short-term Rental Issue and met in follow up with senior managers to discuss concerns. In January 2020, NWT Tourism filed a written submission regarding the City's proposed amendments By-Law No. 3451, a by-law to regulate Short Term Accommodations, and the CEO also made a public presentation to City Council. Following the public consultation on the proposed amendment, City Council instructed the City administration to summarize public concerns and to come forward with a way to address those concerns in the proposed by-laws. It was anticipated that when this was brought back to the Governance & Priorities Committee (GPC) meeting, that the City Council would then instruct City Administration on what they wanted to see in terms of amendments, if any, to the three by-laws (zoning, business license and fees and charges by-laws.) With COVID-19 impacting the city of Yellowknife and their need to respond to the pandemic, this issue has not advanced.

In August NWT Tourism followed up with the City of Yellowknife to raise concerns about the continued operation of close to 160 accommodations operating in Yellowknife, many of which are unlicensed and all of which are cutting into the business of licensed Bed and Breakfast operators and hotels, which are paying business licenses and are operating and being checked for operating safely in a COVID-19 pandemic.

Category A – 2019 Resolutions

Resolutions approved at the 2019 Annual General Meeting held in Yellowknife on November 6th

MOTION 2019-11-06-11

INCREASED PROMOTION OF GENUINE INDIGENOUS TOUR OPERATORS

BE IT RESOLVED that there should be increased investments made by the GNWT to support promotion by NWT Tourism of Indigenous tour operators who offer authentic/genuine Indigenous experiences and who are 100% Indigenous owned, and there should be a mechanism established by the GNWT in issuing tour operators licenses that authenticates that business is 100% Indigenous owned, and NWT Tourism should then identify that business as such in its marketing .

Status: **CLOSED**

Shortly after NWTT's 2019 AGM, ITAC announced at its AGM that it would be authenticating Indigenous Tourism experiences for its membership and those experiences would be featured on its new "Destination Indigenous" website where tourism promotion and sales of authentic Canadian Indigenous experiences and operators could be found. Members of ITAC, who meet ITAC's national criteria are eligible for promotion by ITAC on its marketing platforms and are also able to access ITAC funding for product development, training and marketing. These federal supports for NWT Indigenous operators are in addition to the funding offered by GNWT and Cannon to all NWT tourism operators.

NWT Tourism and GNWT have an MOU with the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada that establishes how the three parties work together to grow Indigenous Tourism through training, product development and marketing. Both GNWT and NWTT respect ITAC's national standards for Indigenous tourism and defer to ITAC's process for determining which indigenous experiences are part of their Canadian collection for Destination Indigenous, which is a marketing platform to showcase authentic Canadian Indigenous experiences and tourism operators. ITAC's criteria requires 51% Indigenous ownership. ITAC has federally funded digital platforms and programs for the marketing of Canadian Indigenous Tourism experiences.

To build on the work being done by ITAC, and on the commitments in our MOU, NWT Tourism undertook web enhancements to the SpectacularNWT site in 2020 to better showcase authentic Indigenous and/or cultural experiences. A new landing page for Indigenous experiences has been created and members of NWTT, who are also members of ITAC, are now featured when a website visitor to SpectacularNWT does a search using key words that related to finding authentic NWT Indigenous experiences. NWTT also continued its work in 2020 to advance video production for content to showcase Indigenous experiences offered by its members, who are also members of ITAC.

The GNWT will be tabling its Tourism 2025 Plan in the near future. NWTT has provided input into this plan, including sharing the priorities of our membership and the importance of continuing to work together to develop and promote authentic cultural experiences provided in communities and by NWT licensed Indigenous tourism operators.