



Northwest Territories Tourism 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 – New (2016) Resolutions

The following resolutions were approved at the 2016 Annual General Meeting held in Yellowknife, NT on November 1, 2016.

Whereas the cost of air transportation into and within the Northwest Territories is a significant barrier to visitation and the proposed additional levy on passengers using the Yellowknife airport will further exacerbate this problem,

Be it resolved that the Department of Transportation Government of the Northwest Territories withdraw the proposed airport improvement fee; and that NWT Tourism actively lobby the federal government to respond to the recommendations in the Emerson Report that the federal government increase investment in infrastructure expenditure for the Yellowknife airport, to ensure the Yellowknife airport is successfully positioned to compete in the global tourism industry and so that the regulatory requirements of the federal department of transportation are adequately funded.

Furthermore, should GNWT implement any increased costs, that there be a mechanism in place to protect tourism operators that have already sold packages for the coming season to avoid the negative financial impact on these important tourism businesses.

STATUS: CLOSED

In 2016, NWT Tourism met on three occasions with the Department of Transport to discuss concerns about the proposed airport fees in Yellowknife. NWT Tourism arranged a meeting with the Department of Transportation with along with the Yellowknife Hotel Association, the NWT Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Air Transport Association to discuss the proposal and concerns.

NWT Tourism's Chairman Don Morin, Board Member Mike Olson and Executive Director Cathie Bolstad appeared before the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment to oppose the rate increase on December 7, 2016. The rate increase was also opposed by the Northern Air Transport Association, but it was supported by the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce.

NWT Tourism discussed serious concerns about implementing the rate increase in February 2017, given significant aurora sales would have been made on international markets and operators would be left on the hook for these costs due to packages for winter 2017 having already been sold on international markets with the travel trade.

The increase to airport fees was approved in the legislative assembly on March 9, 2017, however the proposed implementation for February 2017 was delayed until July 1, 2017. The new fees are now in effect.

[Motion 11-01-2016-AGM-07] UNLICENSED ACCOMMODATIONS

Whereas unlicensed accommodations pose a threat to visitors using these services and operate at an unfair advantage to licensed accommodations;

Be it resolved that municipalities and government agencies that license and regulate accommodations enforce the existing regulations that apply to unlicensed accommodations to ensure the safety of the travelling public and the good reputation of the NWT tourism sector.

Status: CLOSED

In 2017, NWT Tourism met with the City of Yellowknife to outline concerns about the requirement for a level playing field for those providing accommodations in the city and advocated that the City enforce its own by-law with respect to the operation of unlicensed accommodations. NWTT also met with GNWT to determine who the licensing body was for jurisdictions outside of Yellowknife.

In Q1 2017 a discussion was held with GNWT regarding listings for licensed and unlicensed accommodations with a request to GNWT for assistance in determining which accommodations were unlicensed. A decision was made by GNWT and NWTT's Board that no unlicensed accommodations would be listed on the Spectacular NWT website going forward and that no unlicensed accommodations would be included in the future marketing material, including the annual Explorer's Guide.

By June 2017, all unlicensed accommodations had been removed from the *Spectacular NWT* website based on information provided by GNWT that confirmed all licensed accommodations in the territory. A process to update this information as part of producing the annual Explorer's Guide is now in place.

In August 2017, NWTT met with the City of Yellowknife Senior Administrative Officer to discuss concerns about the need for a level playing field in the accommodations sector, and discussed the importance of ensuring all accommodations are paying appropriate taxes, levies and ultimately the Destination Marketing Fee, if the DMF goes ahead. NWTT also highlighted that with legislation in place for a DMF, Air BnB would enter into an agreement to collect the taxes and levies on behalf of municipalities, and that this should be pursued once legislation was in place for a DMF. NWTT continues to encourage municipalities to enforce its by-laws for licensed accommodations.

[Motion 11-01- 2016-AGM-08] BIG GAME OUTFITTING – NORTH SLAVE REGION

Whereas currently there are inactive big game outfitting licenses in the North Slave region and there is demand for big game species other than barren-ground caribou;

Be it resolved that Environment and Natural Resources open new, or reallocate inactive, big game outfitting licenses that allow outfitting for species other than barren-ground caribou in the North Slave region.

Status: CLOSED

Copies of all 2016 resolutions were provided to GNWT, following the AGM in November 2016. In early February, NWT Tourism followed up with a letter to Minister Robert C. MacLeod specific to this resolution, seeking an opportunity to discuss this resolution.

A meeting was held with the Deputy Minister of ENR in June 2017 to discuss a number of matters related to the ENR portfolio, including this matter. During the meeting, GNWT confirmed that no new outfitting licenses would be issued in the North Slave region as this would require studies to demonstrate populations can sustain additional hunts and no studies were planned at this time. It was also noted that any study that concluded there is an ability to open up to more hunting would require GNWT to offer the first right for Aboriginal subsistence hunting and that any other opportunities would first have to go through Section 35 consultation to ensure no violation of Section 35 rights to harvest by Aboriginal peoples.

GNWT also clarified that in the past there had been an operator in the North Slave Region who pursued an arrangement with a First Nation, but the mistake made was that the operator and First Nation were trying to make an arrangement around tags that had been issued to an Aboriginal Government for subsistence hunting, and that these tags are not transferable for outfitted hunting.

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Category B – Resolutions

Contain resolutions relating to specific matters, which have already been considered by NWTT within the previous five years and have not yet been closed or completed.

Motion 11-05-2015-AGM-08

GRIZZLY BEAR ENCOUNTERS

BE IT RESOLVED that given the increase in violent encounters between people and grizzly bears in the Mackenzie Mountains NWTT encourage ENR to conduct a population survey of the mountain grizzly bear populations in the Mackenzie Mountains with the intent of opening a well-managed grizzly bear sport hunting harvest or employing other wildlife management techniques to address the problem. ENR is further encouraged to conduct population surveys of other grizzly bear populations in the NWT.

Status: CLOSED

The GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources confirmed in June 2017 that they were commencing a Hair Snagging DNA program in the Mile 222 area and that the study was to determine whether there is an abundance of grizzly bear in the area. GNWT also advised that once results were produced in the form of a report, any changes to available hunts would be subject to Aboriginal subsistence rights and consultation showing additional sports hunting could take place and that this would take some time.

Motion 11-05-2015-AGM-12

BLACK BEAR INCIDENT RESPONSE

BE IT RESOLVED that given the high incidence of black bear and people encounters in the NWT and that it is the responsibility of ENR to respond to incidents with wildlife, that ENR respond to bear incidents in a timely manner to ensure the safety of people.

Status: CLOSED

A letter was sent in December 2015 by the Chairperson of NWT Tourism to the GNWT regarding this resolution. As noted regarding Resolution 11-05-2015-AGM -08, a meeting was held in June 2016 with the Director of Wildlife, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Wildlife Biologist for Carnivores/Furbearers. NWTT identified for GNWT where this concern is coming from (area surrounding Yellowknife) and has suggested that a review of incidents reported in the area be reviewed by GNWT to determine what opportunities there may be for improved response time, strengthened reporting to the public regarding risks and risk mitigations GNWT ENR also provided a clarification on its response to nuisance Bears, general sightings, non-offending activity near human frequented areas and handling of reports related to Property Damage/nuisance bears. . Late in 2016 GNWT ENR provided an update on incidents reported in the area where the concern had been raised (North Slave region) and advised that all incidents reported had been responded to appropriately and in accordance with their protocols.

Motion 11-20-2014-AGM-17

ABORIGINAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTED DIRECTORS

WHEREAS NWT TOURISM has established appointed positions on its board for Aboriginal Governments as a means to ensure Aboriginal tourism is as an integral part of our industry organization;

WHEREAS NWT TOURISM does not pay honorariums for Board members as board appointments are considered voluntary;

WHEREAS ABORIGINAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTED DIRECTORS are sometimes disadvantaged in that they need to take leave without pay to attend a board meeting and this can create a financial disincentive to participate in the Board and this can be a barrier to active participation on the Board by some Aboriginal Government appointed directors;

BE IT RESOLVED that NWT Tourism and the Government of the Northwest Territories should work together to find a way for appointed directors from the Aboriginal governments to receive honorariums from their governments to increase their participation on the NWT Tourism Board.

Status: CLOSED

Correspondence, meetings and discussions were held with GNWT in 2015 and 2016 about opportunities in ITI programs to fund Aboriginal Governments to pay honoraria to their appointed board members on NWT Tourism. None of the funding programs available include the ability for payment of honoraria. NWT Tourism continued to work with Aboriginal Governments to ensure board positions were filled and throughout 2016/17 except for two vacancies occurring late in 2017 due to changes within the Aboriginal Governments themselves and the availability of their appointees.

WHEREAS small tourism operators who are not operating remote lodges and who are not special events promoters would like to offer alcohol as part of their packaged tour experiences without having to obtain multiple liquor licenses;

WHEREAS the current liquor regulations require a licensed tour operator who wants to provide alcohol in a small craft boat to obtain a Class C mobile license and if that same operator wants to also incorporate the provision of alcohol to its clients as part of a tourism experience that is not part of a small craft boat experience, then a separate Class D Liquor license is required and if that same operator wants to undertake special events in order to put together unique tourism experiences, a Class 1 Special Event License is required;

WHEREAS tourism operators offering a tourism experience that may include both land based and water based activity have attempted to obtain the multiple liquor licenses that are required to conduct their tourism businesses and yet when applying for any of these licenses, the structure of the tourism operators' businesses do not fit the requirements that enable them to obtain any of these licenses and they are being advised to set up new businesses in order to qualify;

WHEREAS tourism operators have a limited season in which to generate revenues for their businesses and have domestic and international clients whose expectations include the ability to have access to alcohol as part of their tourism experience and operators want to have control over this experience for safety reasons;

BE IT RESOLVED that NWT Tourism meet with the NWT Liquor Board and advocate for changes to the regulations that make it possible for small tourism operators to incorporate the serving of alcohol as part of a tourism experience or event without having to reorganize their business structures, without having to obtain multiple liquor licenses and without the requirement that they establish themselves as special events organizations or remote lodge establishments.

Status: ONGOING

Since writing to the GNWT in 2014 about this issue, NWT Tourism has been actively engaged in a number of discussions with GNWT ITI and the liquor board itself about the frustrations of licensed tourism operators who have been unable to access the licenses outlined in the Liquor Act.

In 2016 and 2017 dialogue with GNWT on this issue grew to include concern about the ability of fishing lodges to obtain liquor licenses and/or renewals and NWT Tourism

provided input into the review of policy related to this issue. NWTT has been in dialogue with the NWT Chamber of Commerce and with MLA's to ensure understanding of tourism industry concerns as MLA's address in the legislative assembly, and to ensure louder lobby voice on issues that affect more than just tourism operators.

A letter to the Minister responsible for the Liquor Board was sent in late 2017, encouraging a review of how the act is being administered by the Liquor Board with the view to ensuring tourism is supported and tourism operators running small businesses can provide alcoholic beverages to their guests as part of the services they are offering.

Motion 03-11-2011 AGM-10: ESTABLISH A ONE DAY FISHING LICENSE

WHEREAS a motion was made to reopen a resolution that was passed during the 2007 NWTT Annual General Meeting to establish a one-day fishing license; and

WHEREAS the current cost of a fishing license in the Northwest Territories is a minimum of \$30.00 for non-residents and \$15.00 for Canadian residents for a three-day license; and

WHEREAS the current cost of a fishing license deters business and leisure travelers to book short 4-6 hour fishing trips. They are not interested in purchasing the minimum three (3) day fishing license; and

WHEREAS it is extremely important, especially for the business and leisure travelers who are booking short 4-6 hours fishing trips, to have a one day fishing license. This would encourage more visitors to book short fishing trips with tour operators;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Northwest Territories Tourism lobby all agencies involved in determining the fishing licenses for the Northwest Territories and request that they implement a one-day fishing license.

Status: ONGOING

2017: In September 2017, DFO confirmed with GNWT and NWT Tourism that the User Fee Act was replaced in the spring of 2017 with the Service Fees Act. The impact of this regulatory change was that the regulatory amendment proposal to move this forward would no longer be subject to a Parliamentary Review Process and that this project had now moved forward as a priority for DFO. While this is good news, this still means the movement forward will take approximately 18 to 24 months. The Engagement Plan submitted by GNWT ENR to DFO in April 2017 is now in discussion between NWT Tourism, GNWT, DFO and all parties are working together toward a

timeline that sees consultation on the proposed changes taking place in early 2018. As the timeline is confirmed between GNWT and DFO, NWTT will update members and will keep the fishing sector informed.

2016: NWTT held a teleconference with DFO and GNWT ENR to obtain clarity on the way forward, timeline and what is required by GNWT and/or DFO to move this forward. DFO advised that GNWT's submission was incomplete and that DFO was unable to advance this file to Treasury Board until GNWT ENR met the requirements. Agreed next steps were that DFO was to send GNWT ENR a note regarding what specifically DFO needed for the submission to be deemed completed. GNWT ENR was then to submit the application and confirm with NWTT when submitted and accepted by DFO. Once determined complete by DFO, DFO was to advise GNWT and NWTT of the timeline to advance the proposal through the User Fee Act Process. Multiple follow ups were made by NWTT in 2016 and there has been no response from GNWT. There appears to be no mandate or at DFO to move this forward. It is clear from discussions with DFO that advancing this will require federal consultation, given this involves the User Fee Act. In September, the Chairman wrote a letter to GNWT Minister of ENR and NWT Tourism is awaiting response to that letter. GNWT ITI continues to advocate within GNWT to move this forward and has included the requirement for a one-day fishing license in its recently approved Tourism 2020 Plan as a target to support visitor attraction and experience program targets.

2015 Update: In April 2015, NWTT met with representatives of ENR to discuss status of the communications plan which is required under the User Fee Act process to be implemented by GNWT regarding the proposed rate changes. GNWT advised they had identified a communications approach and method that would include a poster to be provided to NWT Tourism Information Centers, municipalities, fishing license vendors and fishing lodges, print advertisements in NWT Tourism publications, territorial and regional newspapers and magazines and a letter sent to all NWT Tourism operators, fishing lodge owners and fishing tour operators, along with information on their website. GNWT ENR was not able to confirm when the communication plan would be developed and implemented, and how a timeline for this would fit into the User Act Fee process and timelines for approval.

2015: NWTT followed up with GNWT ENR who advised that they have submitted their communications plan requirements to DFO, but they are now waiting for DFO to confirm the way forward. NWTT remains concerned that this will not have advanced at all by the time there is a federal election and that this will fall off the DFO work plan. It does not appear that advancing this change in licenses is a priority for GNWT or DFO. In September 2015 NWT Tourism wrote to DFO to seek clarification on where this is at. At the time of writing this report for the 2015 AGM, DFO had responded to suggest a meeting between NWTT, ENR and DFO be scheduled.

2014 Update: Further discussions were held with GNWT and DFO regarding proposed changes to the NWT sport fishing licenses. In March 2014, Fisheries and Oceans received confirmation from GNWT ENR regarding GNWT's proposed amendments to the Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations. For clarity, Fisheries and Oceans manages the fisheries in NWT, however, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been delegated the administrative and regulatory mandate for the sport fishery since a 1976 Order in Council.

GNWT ENR submitted its proposed changes to the regulations to DFO prior to March 31, 2014 to ensure that these changes were put into DFO's 2014/15 work plan. The rates proposed by GNWT were as noted below.

	NWT Resident		Canadian Resident			Non-Resident		
	Seasonal	Temporary	Seasonal	Temporary	Days	Seasonal	Temporary	Days
Current NWT Sport Fishing Fees	\$10.00	N/A	\$20.00	\$15.00	3	\$40.00	\$30.00	3
Proposed NWT Sport Fishing Fees	\$20.00	N/A	\$40.00	\$10.00 \$30.00	1 3	\$60.00	\$10.00 \$30.00	1 3

Since the submission by GNWT ENR to DFO, DFO has advised ENR that because the proposed changes include increases to sport fishing licence fees and the creation of a 1-day sport fishing licence, this proposal will not only go through the regular 18 month to 2 year regulatory process, because the rate increases proposed by GNWT trigger requirements under the User Fee Act. NWT Tourism was made aware of this in November. The User Fee Act is a very comprehensive parliamentary process that follows a step by step approach, so NWT Tourism is now being advised by GNWT ENR that the timeline for the new one-day rate to be approved is difficult to predict. DFO has posted these proposed amendments on its Regulatory Forward Plan, which is a requirement of the Cabinet Directive on Regulatory Management.

GNWT ENR has advised NWT Tourism that they have reviewed and approved the wording of this posting. DFO is currently working with Treasury Board to determine the exact requirements for a process under the User Fee Act. A draft cost-benefit analysis has been completed along with other required forms. A large part of the User Fee Act process will include a public information campaign with stakeholders that may be impacted by the proposed fee changes. This campaign is the responsibility of the Government of NWT and while GNWT ENR says this is now the next step in the process, no timeline on this has been communicated to NWT Tourism. DFO is currently working with ENR to develop a public education plan to move this file forward. ENR and DFO meet monthly to discuss this file so that it continues to move forward.

NWT Tourism has been in dialogue regularly with GNWT ENR and periodically with to review progress on this file, but notes that with a federal election ahead, any proposed changes to federal legislation can fall off the table depending on election results.

2013 Update: NWTT met with GNWT ENR Deputy Minister Ernie Campbell to discuss proposed changes in the Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations. GNWT ENR was in support of a one-day fishing license at \$10.00 per person for both Canadian Resident and Non-Resident. GNWT ENR was also proposing the doubling of all fishing fees. NWTT informed ENR that fishing sector has been in a steady decline and encouraged ENR to reconsider rate increases. These discussions resulted in GNWT ENR moving forward with a proposed \$60.00 fee for Non-Resident instead of GNWT ENR's proposed \$80.00. In 2013, NWT Tourism anticipated that the new fees would be enacted as early as the 2014-15 fishing season and reported this at the Annual General Meeting in Hay River.