

Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations Five-Year Capital Plan (2021/22 to 2025/26)

Introduction

Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations (Department) is focused on supporting healthy, safe and sustainable Indigenous communities. The Northern Affairs Branch (NAB) supports and facilitates the provision of municipal programming, services and infrastructure in 48 designated communities and settlements in Manitoba as defined by The Northern Affairs Act.

NAB is responsible for capital programming; providing municipal infrastructure and equipment in Northern Affairs (NA) communities. NAB offers consulting services and support for capital project planning, administration, and delivery at the community level.

The Department's Five-Year Capital Plan prioritizes community infrastructure projects based on compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, importance and urgency of the project, health and safety of community members and employees, and demonstrated community need from community management plans, capital plans, and infrastructure audits.

In 2017/18, the Department's capital program was suspended pending a review to address prior years' underspending compared to budget. This pause in capital spending contributed to a backlog in NA Communities' infrastructure projects. In 2019/20 the Department transitioned to using the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB) for project management services to provide enhanced capacity to deliver water and wastewater capital projects. A centralized delivery model has been employed to ensure successful delivery of capital projects not directly managed by communities. The Department works closely with Central Capital Services, including MWSB, and is actively engaged in discussions with Manitoba Infrastructure regarding management of infrastructure projects in northern Manitoba.

Capital Grants is the principal funding source for capital projects, however a number of other funding sources can be used to augment the grant funding allocation.

Capital Plan Funding Sources

Capital Grants

Funding support for critical repairs, upgrades, and replacement of public infrastructure is primarily provided through Capital Grants to the NA communities. The Department received a Capital Grants allocation of \$3.797M in 2020/21. This Capital Plan assumes the annual funding level for Capital Grants remains the same every year. Projects identified under these grant investments represent key water and wastewater infrastructure projects, prioritized due to regulatory and legislative requirements.

Other Funding Sources

In addition to Capital Grants, the Department has various funding sources that can be used to fund capital projects in NA communities. The projects identified in this section of the plan represent priority water and wastewater facility upgrades and critical community road work. Following is a summary of other potential funding sources:

Gas Tax Fund (GTF)

The Canada-Manitoba Gas Tax Agreement provides federal gas tax revenues annually to the Department to build and revitalize public infrastructure in NA communities.

Municipal Relations Infrastructure Allocation (MRIA)

The Department receives \$203.5K annually from Manitoba Municipal Relations (2019/20 to 2023/24) to support critical infrastructure needs in NA communities. The Department has designated this funding toward critical road repairs and upgrades. Specific communities are identified in early spring each year.

Property Tax Enhancement Fund (PTEF)

The Department receives revenue through property taxes paid outside NA communities but within the unorganized territory in northern Manitoba. These taxes make up the PTEF and are used for various expenses, including capital projects.

Moving Forward

The Department recognizes the value in capital investments to extend the useful life of essential public infrastructure and decrease operating and maintenance costs. NAB continues to develop a more sustainable capital program that will provide communities with appropriately designed and well built infrastructure to support communities' social and economic needs. NAB also continues to work with the communities to ensure effective and efficient operating and maintenance of assets to minimize the requirement for significant repairs and upgrades.

Various capital-focussed working groups have been established over the last several months. Continued active involvement with these groups and ongoing collaboration with stakeholders including NA communities, FN communities, federal departments, provincial departments, and the Northern Association of Community Council will ensure capital project delivery stays on track, and will maximize cost-effective infrastructure projects.

**INR 5-Year Capital Plan
Other Sources (excluding Capital Grants)**

Project	Estimated Cost	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
Barrows WTP Upgrades - critical equipment, pumps, filters	\$50.0	\$50.0				
Island Lake WTP Upgrades - UV	\$50.0	\$50.0				
Moose Lake WTP Groundwater Chlorination	\$200.0	\$200.0				
Multiple Communities Backup Generators (12 WTP)	\$4,445.0	\$325.0	\$316.5	\$387.7	\$463.8	\$152.0
Thicket Portage Lagoon	\$4,000.0	\$170.0	\$2,000.0			
Multiple Communities Road Upgrades and Repairs		\$203.5	\$203.5	\$203.5		
Gods Lake Narrows WTP Ozone	\$200.0	\$200.0				
Gods Lake Narrows intake line WTP	\$55.0	\$55.0				
Cormorant North WTP Upgrade	\$200.0		\$200.0			
	\$9,200.0	\$1,253.5	\$2,720.0	\$591.2	\$463.8	\$152.0