

**Caroline Wawzonek – MLA candidate for Yellowknife South
Responses to the SPCA questionnaire**

1. The NWT is in second last place regarding Animal Protection Laws. Animal abuse and neglect continues throughout the Territory with few charges and even less convictions. How will you promote and work toward better animal rights in the Territory?

I was surprised to discover that the NWT does not have a general law for the protection of animals beyond the very specific “Dog Act” that applies only to dogs. It appears that the *Dog Act* has not been substantively reviewed or revised since 2011, other than minor corrections in 2012 and 2013.

I believe it is time to review this legislation and consider, among other things, expanding inclusion to other animals. A review should include meaningful engagement from the public and stakeholders, such as the SPCA.

2. Northern Communities are continually asking the NWT SPCA for help regarding animal care, supplying pet food and removal of unwanted or nuisance dogs. It is important to the health and safety of their neighbourhoods. The NWT SPCA helps members and community governments by sending pet food as well as removing dogs from their community. The alternative is starvation and shootings as a means of control. Will you support the NWT SPCA and advocate for Annual Core Funding from the GNWT so the organization can continue its many programs and necessary services to assist NWT Communities?

I will be a strong voice advocating to support a vibrant and stable non-profit sector.

I have been involved with many non-profit organizations advocating on their behalf for community programs and services across sectors from early childhood education to business growth to seniors. I have been part of non-profits as they work to fulfill public functions including acting as an accountability mechanism by advocating for and following up on promises for action as well as by providing community programs and services.

Knowing first-hand the work done in the non-profit sector, I support increasing financial resources for NGO core funding operations. To be clear, I envision something that goes beyond the NGO Stabilization Fund which is short term and still largely project-oriented. I believe we should identify funding options that will allow NGOs, particularly those delivering community programs or services, to save time and effort on administration, including lengthy grant or funding applications, and focus instead on delivery programs and services in our communities.

3. Most Northern Communities have limited access to vet care. It is a major reason for the over population and the suffering of thousands of dogs in the North. Communities continue to ask the NWT SPCA to visit their community with the mobile spay and neuter clinics. Will you support funding for the NWT SPCA to increase the number of animal health and wellness clinics in the NWT communities? What steps will you take to ensure this Government support?

Given the need and demand for these programs across the NWT, I believe the GNWT should take a leading role looking for or creating ways to coordinate and promote partnership with local municipal and Indigenous Governments across regions in the NWT to support animal health and wellness clinics.