

**NWT SPCA QUESTIONS FOR MLA CANDIDATES**  
**Gaeleen MacPherson – MLA Candidate, Yellowknife South**

- 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 would advocate working with stakeholders, such as the NWT SPCA, to understand where we are falling short and make a plan for how we can make changes in the laws and the way we handle animal abuse, with a view to taking action on items that may be the “low hanging fruit” so that progress is made while we work on the items that will take longer, such as changes to law.

- 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 would advocate for working on finding a solution to the funding issue, yes. There is currently a shortfall of municipal funding in general, so it would need to be determined where this funding comes from – would it be new funding in addition to the funding that would be provided to close existing gaps in the various municipalities, or would it come out of the funding intended to close those gaps? It is critical that we find a way to earmark this funding, but also important to ensure that we are clear on where the funding is coming from and whom (municipality or SPCA) it is going to.

- 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?**

As a dog lover myself and someone whose family has been fortunate to get a fantastic dog from the NWT SPCA, I absolutely agree that this work is much needed and necessary. My response to this would be the same as my response to the second question above though. We would need to prioritize what is

needed and what funding we can earmark to get things going. Let's focus on getting some funding started, build up the programs, and make the case for additional funding as programming and services are broadened and the benefits of the work are seen.