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- 1. All Canadian provinces and territories have agreed to increase participation in sport by 10% by 2020. What is the most effective way for this territory to make that happen?** *Many northern youth and adults don't participate in organized sport because of poverty, lack of facilities or limited support. Just having a responsible adult drive them to the arena makes a difference. Sport in the NWT is primarily based on the high performance models used at Canada Games and Arctic Winter Games. We often see the same athletes year after year at these events and most are from the larger centres. The NWT Winter Games was a pilot project that was effective at increasing participation by those who don't join organized sports and are from small settlements. 8 youth from each of our 33 communities were selected by their community to attend. It wasn't based on athletic experience or excellence. It was based on attitude, school attendance and interest. As a result about 300 children came together to try a range of sports and meet other NWT youth. Many of those children had such positive experiences they tried out for the AWG the next season. Yet the NWT Games was only repeated a handful of times and then dropped. As a territory we spend millions on the Arctic Winter Games. As we discovered when the South Slave hosted the 2018 AWG's much of this fund goes to the entertainment, travel and accommodation for the VIP's and not the athletes. Perhaps it is time to reconsider how the Territorial funding is allocated.*
- 2. Access, affordability and availability of sport and recreation programs and facilities are vital to our communities. Where does the improvement of this fit into your priorities for the next 4 years?** *See response to Question 1.*
- 3. Will you work with your fellow members of the Legislative Assembly to create awareness of the issues facing sport in the NWT and address the needs of our organizations? A lot is expected of sport without it ever being a priority issue for Territorial government. How do you propose to change this?**

Some of the organizations including Sport North have to also change with the times. We are still managing sport the same way we did in 1970. The entire territorial sport model is a dinosaur. For example, in Fort Smith, the community built an Olympic style rubber track. It is the only one of its kind in northern Canada. We attended a meeting of the NWT Track and Field Association and assumed they'd be enthusiastic about the competitive and training opportunities for athletes particularly those training for Canada and Western Games. A group did come and train on a couple of occasions from Hay River. NWT Track and Field did not, and has not shown any interest in having the event take place in any other community other than Hay River. I think it is time for a revitalization of the entire sport and recreation system in the NWT. A successful example is NWT Biathlon. The sport leaders in that organization encouraged interested locations to build their own biathlon ranges and trails. NWT Biathlon did not do it for them. They provided expertise and advice. It was up to the communities to find the support and sponsorship. Now there are three well used and professional biathlon facilities in the NWT. More than the Yukon. At the same time a coach was hired to travel to any small settlement where there was interest in the sport. The Association purchased rifles and

targets for the travelling sessions. The only criteria was the community itself had to do the organizing and fundraising. As a result 23 communities were introduced to the sport of snowshoe biathlon and leaders in each location were identified and trained. It is an example of inclusion and increasing sport participation. Some do it for only one season. Others have gone on the medal at the AWG's or compete at the Olympics.

4. **Research has shown that the rates of obesity and illness, particularly in children, continue to rise at alarming rates. The cost of delivering healthcare in this Territory has become almost all consuming to the Territorial budget. How would you incorporate sport and physical activity into a preventative approach and policy on wellness?** *First task is to encourage youth, adults and seniors to feel welcome and included. In many locations that doesn't happen unless a person is a high performance athlete. We need to make sure everyone feels that they belong and are welcome. I refer to the response to Question #1.*
5. **While our Sport Volunteers are the pillar of all sport matters in the NWT; their efforts go unappreciated and undervalued. Do you have any plans to change the way that volunteers are overlooked in their roles and in what ways do you plan to recognize them if selected?** *Fort Smith is fortunate to have a rich pool of skilled and enthusiastic volunteers and impressive facilities built with local support. As a community we pay attention to the people who have made a difference and that is perhaps because in small towns volunteers are more visible and appreciated. As a Territory we need to reach out and do more to uncover and recognize outstanding volunteers. Often we only recognize the medalists and superstars but there are so many others that deserve a pat on the back.*