



APR 21 2017

HONOURABLE ROBERT R. MCLEOD
MINISTER OF EXECUTIVE AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories

I am writing to confirm your mandate as Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, and chair of the Priorities and Planning Committee of Cabinet.

Together, Cabinet is responsible for implementing the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories in order to advance the priorities set by all Members of the 18th Legislative Assembly. The people of the Northwest Territories have entrusted all of us to manage effectively, prudently, and responsibly over the next four years. It is my expectation that you will do your part to achieve the Legislative Assembly's vision of a healthy, just, sustainable and prosperous territory.

There are both challenges and opportunities ahead of us. In order to grow the NWT economy, we must stimulate economic growth, respond to the effects of climate change, and confront the rising cost of living. At the same time, we must continue to provide quality programs and services to residents. We know that in order to sustainably grow our economy we need to increase the territorial population, attract investment, settle outstanding land, resource, and self-government agreements, and address the ongoing impacts of colonialism and residential schools.

These pressures exist at a time when our fiscal situation requires a strong commitment to prudence and strong financial management. Difficult decisions will be required to ensure fiscal balance and future prosperity. More than ever, we must ensure our actions are responsible and transparent.

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We are well-positioned, in this post-devolution environment, to leverage our good working relationships and partnerships with other levels of government to our mutual benefit. Indeed, many of the Mandate objectives, such as adapting to climate change, lowering the cost of living, and investing in strategic infrastructure and renewable and alternative energy solutions are aligned with the priorities of other governments, including the Government of Canada.

People want a government that is more open and transparent, and which is clearly open to input from them. They also want their government to take the interests of all residents, in communities both big and small and in every region, into account. Meaningful dialogue and engagement with the residents of the NWT must be an ongoing priority for all Ministers.

The Guiding Principles of consensus government set out expectations for all Members, as well as the relationship between Cabinet and Regular Members. I expect Ministers to respect and act within the provisions of the Process Conventions governing Cabinet's communications, consultation and relationship with Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly, Caucus and Regular Members. Our consensus government depends upon our collective commitment to working effectively together for the public good, in all that we do.

In addition to collaboration with Standing Committees, I expect Ministers will work closely and effectively with each other, to ensure that all pertinent, cross-departmental perspectives are considered when solutions to complex issues are developed. Ministers should use the appropriate Committee of Cabinet to advance Mandate commitments.


Your Deputy Minister is accountable for assisting you to fulfill the responsibilities of your portfolio and the specific Mandate objectives for which you are accountable. You can rely upon your Deputy Minister to advise you on process and policy, and to bring forward comprehensive options and advice for your consideration, but it is your responsibility to provide clear direction to your Deputy Minister, including your expectations with respect to cross-departmental collaboration.

In addition to meeting the provisions of your department's Establishment Policy, you are accountable for the specific Mandate commitments listed in the attachment to this mandate letter. Although they are not all included in the attachment, it is understood that you will continue to be accountable for the entire scope of programs, services and operations for the portfolio(s) you hold.

As Minister, you must exercise the utmost compliance with the *Conflict of Interest Act*, the *Financial Administration Act*, and the policies and procedures of the Financial Management Board. The role of Minister demands the highest ethical standards and must bear the closest scrutiny. Your actions will be the basis on which this Government is measured for its commitment to ethical conduct, openness and transparency.

Our Cabinet has broad experience, fresh ideas, diverse backgrounds, and a shared commitment to respectful relationships and transparency- qualities that will generate innovative solutions to complex problems. I have full confidence that our collective capacity will result in good governance, programs and services that improve the lives of residents, stronger relationships with Canada and provinces and territories, NWT Aboriginal and municipal governments, and strategic investments that enable the prosperity of future generations and make the Northwest Territories an attractive place to live and work.

I look forward to working with you to realize our commitments. The future of the global economy, and what this will mean for the Northwest Territories, remains uncertain. However, I am certain that with a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility, thoughtful deliberation, respectful engagement and a willingness to innovate, we can achieve our vision of social progress, environmental sustainability and economic development built on a foundation of strong consensus government.



Robert R. McLeod
Premier

Attachment

Minister of the Executive and Indigenous Affairs

- Support Net Metering through clear policy direction to the Public Utilities Board (PUB) to provide certainty to allow customers to recover their investments in renewable energy.
- Maximize citizens' ability to access government by using consistent approaches to social media, visual identity, and overall communications.
- Improve public visibility and accessibility of Cabinet by organizing Cabinet meetings in each region of the NWT, holding selected Committee-of-Cabinet meetings in public, and meeting with standing committees in public more frequently.
- Improve opportunities for meaningful public input into government decision making by improving access to government public engagement initiatives and reporting on how public views have shaped government decisions.
- Enhance collaboration between Cabinet and Regular Members by exploring more options to formally work together, and strengthening processes for consistently sharing and tracking information provided to standing committees.
- Develop and implement an effective communications plan to make residents aware of the mechanisms available to appeal government decisions.
- Do a better job of making our residents, particularly those in smaller communities, aware of available government programs and services, and how to access them, through Single Window Service Centres and our Government Service Officers.
- In collaboration with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, improve gender equity in appointments to territorial boards and agencies.
- Support the growth of Aboriginal business development corporations and the capacity of Aboriginal governments, through the completion and implementation of memoranda of understanding that reflect the economic opportunity objectives found in modern land claims.
- In collaboration with the Department of Finance, collaborate with our partners in Yukon and Nunavut, and work with the Government of Canada to increase the federal Northern Residents' Tax Deduction by at least 33 per cent, indexed to inflation.

- Collaborate with our partners in Yukon and Nunavut, and work with the Government of Canada to increase federal investment in Nutrition North by at least \$40 million over four years and seek improvements to the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the overall federal program.
- Consistent with the policy of Respect, Recognition & Responsibility, invite any regional or community Aboriginal governments that are not yet a party to one, to strengthen their intergovernmental relations with the GNWT through the negotiation of an intergovernmental memorandum-of-understanding.
- Work to resolve outstanding land, resource and self-government agreements with the Akaitcho, Dehcho, NWT Métis Nation, Acho Dene Koe and the Government of Canada during the term of our government, and advocate that particular focus in our negotiations be placed on land quantum.
- Continue to support the Intergovernmental Council towards implementation of the vision of cooperative and collaborative management of lands and resources, as set out in the Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement.
- Seek to establish a joint committee between Cabinet Ministers and Regular Members to share information and discuss approaches on the advancement of land, resource, and self-government agreements, as well as initiatives to enhance relationships with Aboriginal governments.
- Work with Aboriginal governments to jointly develop their human resource capacity, for example, by participating in and evaluating the existing pilot project with the Gwich'in Tribal Council.
- In collaboration with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, pursue an agreement with the federal government on the management of offshore resources.
- Support the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that fall within the jurisdiction of the territorial government, especially related to violence against indigenous women and girls.
- In collaboration with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women:
 - support and participate in a National Round Table and National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, in collaboration with families, Aboriginal governments, the federal government, and other organizations
 - support the delivery of workshops that help to get women into politics
 - support a communications campaign to increase the participation of women in politics

In addition to the Mandate objectives listed above, you are also accountable for:

- Supporting the efforts of our government to build and maintain respectful government-to-government relations by implementing the government-wide Aboriginal government engagement strategy.
- Supporting the efforts of our government to advance the federal engagement strategy.