



APR 25 2018

HONOURABLE ROBERT C. MCLEOD  
DEPUTY PREMIER  
MINISTER OF FINANCE  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES POWER CORPORATION

**Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories (Revised)**

In light of the changes to Cabinet announced on April 4, 2018, I am writing to confirm your mandate as Minister of Finance and Chair of the Financial Management Board, and Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. In addition to your formal portfolios, you will also be Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, chair of the Economy and Environment Committee-of-Cabinet, and vice-chair of the Priorities and Planning and Energy and Climate Change Committees-of-Cabinet. You will also continue in the role of Deputy Premier.

As the Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, you will liaise with the Chair of the Board of Directors on matters pertaining to your role, as described in the relevant legislation establishing this Crown Corporation.

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

We face both challenges and opportunities for the remainder of the term of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. 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.

.../2

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 continue to ensure our actions are responsible and transparent.

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 Revised Mandate objectives, such as adapting to climate change, lowering the cost of living, and investing in strategic infrastructure, renewable and alternative energy solutions and the knowledge economy are aligned with the priorities of other governments, including the Government of Canada.

Making the most of these advantages and achieving meaningful long-term change for the people of the Northwest Territories will require a disciplined and strategic approach to our relations with other governments, including the Government of Canada. To ensure that NWT priorities and needs are fully understood and factored into decisions and policies at the federal level, it will be important for all Ministers to speak clearly and consistently about the GNWT's priorities in all their dealings with their federal counterparts and avoid being diverted to initiatives and subjects of lower priority to our government. Maintaining a similar clarity in our interactions with our provincial and territorial counterparts, as well as Indigenous leaders, will further help improve awareness and understanding of GNWT priorities as outlined in our Federal Engagement Strategy.

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 continue to 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.

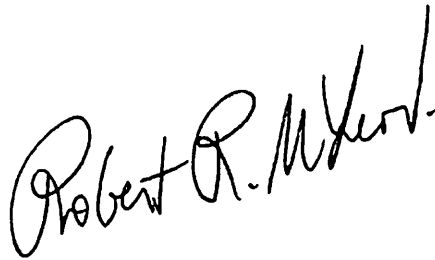
Your Deputy Ministers are accountable for assisting you to fulfill the responsibilities of your portfolios and the specific Mandate objectives for which you are accountable. You can continue to rely upon your Deputy Ministers to advise you on process and policy, and to bring forward comprehensive options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

In addition to meeting the provisions of your Departments' Establishment Policy, you are accountable for the specific Mandate commitments listed in the attachments 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 portfolios you hold.

As Minister, you must continue to 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, 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 Indigenous 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 for the remainder of the term of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to realize our commitments. While the future of the global economy and what this will mean for the Northwest Territories remains uncertain, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert R. McLeod". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert R. McLeod  
Premier

Attachments

## **Mandate of the Minister of Finance**

- Continue to implement the government's Hard-to-Recruit initiative to link regional job vacancies with potential employees and on-the-job training for residents
- Reduce taxes on small businesses
- In collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resource, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and the Department of Lands, in order to advance the territorial vision of land and resource management in accordance with the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, evolve our legislative, regulatory, and policy systems by reviewing and developing amendments to the Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act in light of devolution to ensure a defined revenue stream and stronger public governance
- In collaboration with the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, continue to collaborate with our partners in Yukon and Nunavut and work with the Government of Canada to increase the federal Northern Resident's Tax Deduction by at least 33 per cent, indexed to inflation
- Participate in all Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) proceedings that effect the north to ensure competitive and affordable broadband and telecommunication services for NWT residents
- In collaboration with the Department of Justice, improve access to information and the protection of privacy by continuing to safeguard and improve the security and integrity of the information entrusted to government on behalf of residents, businesses and visitors
- Improve collaboration for easier access to government programs and services online, including by:
  - aligning territorial approaches with pan-Canadian efforts to establish and use digital identities for online government
  - creating a single integrated online portal for residents and businesses to securely transact with government
  - participating in national surveys to assess both resident and business satisfaction with government service delivery

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
- Ensuring the Government adheres to the Fiscal Responsibility Policy in order to provide the fiscal capacity that would allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to make the necessary investments required to support the Mandate but not compromising its long-term fiscal sustainability
- Continue to promote the P3 Policy as a viable financing option that may allow for key strategic infrastructure investments to support growing and diversifying the economy
- Maintaining the GNWT's Aa1 (stable) credit rating
- Review and modernize the *Public Service Act*
- Make progress in key areas related to human resource management, with a particular emphasis on health, wellness and safety of employees, diversity and staff development
- Review and modernize the legislative and policy frameworks affecting human resources management as appropriate
- In collaboration with residents, Aboriginal governments, community governments and other stakeholders, develop and implement the policy, program and legislative regimes necessary to support the legalization of cannabis in the Northwest Territories

## **Mandate of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources**

- Develop and foster the knowledge economy by:
  - Building upon the research vision developed in the GNWT Knowledge Agenda: Northern Research for Northern Priorities, and other strategic instruments, to support the generation of knowledge (e.g. traditional and local knowledge and western science) and innovation to enhance decision making and sustainable economic opportunities
  - Collaborating with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to research the feasibility of creating a Northern Centre of Excellence to promote and support research, innovation, and use of traditional Indigenous knowledge, and foster partnerships with universities, governments and other organizations
- Through agreements with communities, help establish and/or expand self-sufficient businesses that sell products from renewable resource harvesting
- Build partnerships to expand resources available for community-based traditional economy programs, which could be used to support, amongst other things, local operators, culturally-based tourism, and the conservation economy
- Use the Land Use and Sustainability Framework to clearly and transparently:
  - Finalize and implement the Conservation Action Plan in order to finalize existing candidate protected areas
  - Establish Thaidene Nene Park
  - Continue to implement the Water Stewardship Strategy action plan
  - Collaborate with the Department of Lands and the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs to develop an integrated comprehensive approach to the management of contaminated sites including prioritizing, sharing of responsibility in collaboration with other governments, monitoring, and a sound financial security system to prevent public liabilities
- Advance the territorial vision of land and resource management in accordance with the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, and our legislative, regulatory, and policy systems by:
  - Developing protected areas legislation and collaborating with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment to develop and propose amendments to the *Territorial Parks Act*

- Developing and proposing amendments to the *Waters Act*
- Developing and proposing amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act* (including the development of air quality regulations)
- Developing and proposing amendments to the *Forest Management and Protection Act*
- Develop a strategy to manage the resources and potential economic and environmental benefits derived from household, commercial, and industrial garbage from private sector sources and in our municipalities
- Continue to implement the Traditional Knowledge Policy and Framework across the GNWT, while working with Aboriginal governments to develop an action plan to improve the inclusion of traditional knowledge in program development, implementation and decision making
- Support the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) that supports the regulatory process and builds community capacity related to environmental monitoring, and respond to recommendations in the Northwest Territories Environmental Audit for improved environmental management.
- Negotiate with Yukon, Nunavut, and Saskatchewan towards the completion of transboundary water agreements
- Develop a territorial climate change strategy that takes into account northern energy demands and the cost of living, while reflecting international and national commitments to lower greenhouse gas emissions, exploring options for carbon pricing systems, and capturing local alternatives such as biomass, wind, geothermal and solar
- Finalize, in conjunction with Aboriginal governments, co-management partners and traditional user groups, a culturally appropriate, made in the north, hunter education program for delivery in all communities of the NWT
- Develop and implement a multi-year management strategy for barren-ground caribou in the Northwest Territories
- Develop a range plan for boreal caribou in the Northwest Territories
- Develop species-specific wildlife management strategies for the three wood bison herds and continue to monitor the populations of muskox, and moose
- Develop country food programming to promote opportunities for the consumption of foods such as fish, wildlife, berries, and mushrooms



- In collaboration with the Department of Infrastructure, expand and improve access to incentives for residents to invest in energy-efficient products, help businesses, condominiums, and cooperatives invest in energy conservation and efficiency, and support residents and communities so that they can make investments into renewable energies, such as solar
- Finalize a strategic plan to enhance existing programming and build new partnership initiatives to support healthy and sustainable traditional lifestyles
- Consult with Aboriginal governments to complete the next phase of regulation making under the *Wildlife Act*
- Finalize community wildland fire protection plans, and develop and propose amendments to modernize forest protection legislation

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
- Amending the *Environmental Rights Act*
- Updating the NWT science agenda and developing a science strategy