



NOV - 7 2016

HONOURABLE GLEN ABERNETHY
GOVERNMENT HOUSE LEADER
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION
COMMISSION
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR SENIORS
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories

I am writing to confirm your mandate as Minister of Health and Social Services. In addition to your formal portfolio, you will also be Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, for Seniors, for Persons with Disabilities, and for the Public Utilities Board; you will also chair the Community Wellness and Safety Committee of Cabinet. In this latter capacity, you will ensure coordination and collaboration between departments on key policy initiatives relating to these responsibilities. You have also been appointed Government House Leader.

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.

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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.

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 Ministers are 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 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.

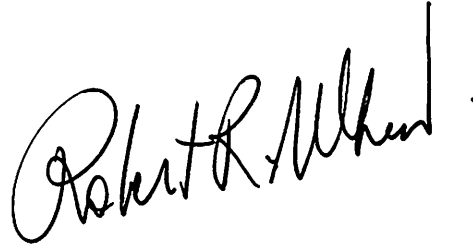
In addition to meeting the provisions of your departments' Establishment Policy, you are accountable for the specific Mandate commitments listed in the attachments to this mandate letter. Although they are not all included in the attachment, it is understood that you will continue to be accountable for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

As Minister, you must 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.

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 vertical stroke at the end.

Robert R. McLeod
Premier

Attachment

Minister of Health and Social Services

- Enhance access to culturally-appropriate programs and services, and develop a comprehensive mental health and addictions framework that:
 - prioritizes improvements to outpatient mental health services, with a particular focus on youth mental health services in schools and the broader community
 - addresses gaps in integrated community-based services
 - evaluates our land-based addictions healing programs
 - models a mobile addictions treatment team
 - enhances treatment options at local and regional levels, including aftercare
 - compiles baseline data so that government can be better held to account for the performance of mental health and addictions services
- Continue implementing the Building Stronger Families action plan to transform child and family services by:
 - auditing to ensure compliance with the *Child and Family Services Act*
 - implementing a standardized approach to assessing children's immediate safety needs and future risk of harm
 - developing caseload and workload measures for child protection in order to monitor and track the resources that are required to ensure compliance with *the Child and Family Services Act*
 - reviewing the standards and delivery methods of the Healthy Family Program to determine whether there are more effective ways to reach families-at-risk
- Continue to support at-risk children and families through preventative and collaborative approaches, including:
 - introducing a risk assessment tool to enable child protection workers to support families more effectively
 - ensuring services for children in care focus not just on safety, but also on stability and child development
 - improving the coordination, delivery and effectiveness of family services through an integrated care model
 - improving system supports for Aboriginal children and families including improving the cultural competence of service providers
- In collaboration with the Department of Justice, strengthen initiatives and partnerships to prevent and reduce family violence by:

- supporting five family violence shelters across the NWT, including support for the overall capacity of the people who work in these shelters
- providing funding to develop family violence protocols and response teams in regions with no shelters
- supporting programming for children who have witnessed violence
- continuing to implement 'What Will it Take?', the social marketing campaign on family violence
- In collaboration with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, implement the Right from the Start Framework to improve early childhood development by:
 - improving access to and outcomes of early intervention services for children 0-5 by looking at the results of evaluating NWT rehabilitation services and by continuing pilot projects in the Dehcho, Tłı̨chǫ, and Beaufort Delta regions, along with territorial program design
 - collaborating with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to support parents with programs and supports to help ensure their children have a strong foundation
 - improving oral health and developmental outcomes for children aged 0-5
 - developing options to enhance access to birthing services and pre- and post-natal care, including development of a territorial midwifery model
 - reviewing the standards and delivery methods of the Healthy Family Program to determine whether there are more effective ways to reach families-at-risk
 - enhancing access to early intervention services for children 0-5
 - supporting community wellness initiatives with early childhood development funding and subject matter expertise
- Reduce the burden of chronic disease by promoting healthy lifestyles and improving screening and management, with specific focus on:
 - promoting healthy eating in NWT communities through a variety of programs including Healthy Family Collective Kitchens and Drop the Pop
 - hosting Healthy Living Fairs in communities
 - increasing awareness and availability of smoking cessation aids
 - standardizing access to cancer screening across the NWT
 - developing improved supports for patients and families battling cancer

- giving health care providers tools and training to support patients and families in the management of chronic disease such as diabetes
- developing and proposing updated tobacco control legislation
- Continue integration of the health and social services system to improve care for our people, by clarifying timelines, appointing people to Regional Wellness Councils and the NWT Health and Social Services Leadership Council, finalizing roles and responsibilities, and ensure seamless service delivery for all residents during the transition
- Ensure effective supports and programs are in place for persons with disabilities by preparing an accessible inventory of the GNWT supports systems that already exist, and then by responding to previous evaluations of government supports
- Support elders to live in their own homes for as long as possible and ensure adequate supports are available for those who can no longer do so, by:
 - completing a review of existing programs in order to project, over a 20-year period, policy and financial needs
 - developing updated capital projections for long-term care and dementia beds
 - developing financing options for long-term care facilities
 - proposing a regulatory framework for long-term care
 - developing and implementing an action plan for enhanced home and community care services
 - developing and implementing an action plan for expanded palliative care services
- Continue to work collaboratively to eliminate poverty in the NWT by funding community-based partners, convening meetings of stakeholders, finalizing indicators that allow performance to be assessed, and developing additional options for action
- Reduce poverty in the NWT by implementing the GNWT commitments in the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, continuing to work with our partners to advance the plan and supporting communities' priorities for wellness
- Provide funding to Aboriginal community governments and work with communities to develop wellness plans that meet local needs and priorities

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