



NOV - 7 2016

HONOURABLE LOUIS SEBERT  
MINISTER OF JUSTICE  
MINISTER OF LANDS  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES POWER  
CORPORATION  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

**Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories**

I am writing to confirm your mandate as Minister of Justice and Minister of Lands. In addition to your formal portfolios, you will also be Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Minister Responsible of Public Engagement and Transparency, and chair the Governance Committee of Cabinet. In this capacity, you will ensure coordination and collaboration between departments on key policy initiatives relating to these responsibilities.

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 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.

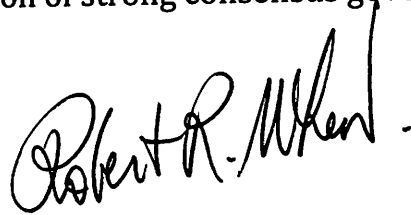
In addition to meeting the provisions of your departments' Establishment Policy, you are accountable for the specific Mandate commitments listed in the attachments to this mandate letter. Although they are not all included in the attachment, it is understood that you will continue to be accountable for 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, 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 prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert R. McLeod  
Premier

Attachments

## **Minister of Justice**

- Take into account mental health and addictions, and look at innovative ways to prevent and reduce crime such as integrated case management, wellness courts, domestic violence treatment options courts, and culturally appropriate correctional programs
- Explore options for expanding beyond Yellowknife, the Mediation and Parenting after Separation and Divorce Program
- In collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services, strengthen initiatives and partnerships to prevent and reduce family violence by:
  - examining the feasibility of expanding the Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court beyond Yellowknife and Hay River
  - providing training, public information and outreach on the protections provided under the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*
- Support the RCMP and communities in their efforts to strengthen partnerships to prevent and respond to violence by supporting the development of policing action plans in each community in accordance with each community's priorities
- Seek to improve access to justice in the NWT, by expanding community legal outreach programs, making family law duty counsel services available to assist self-represented family members on first appearance in family court, and expanding public education on programs and services so that people know what help is out there and how to access it
- Improve our social response to crime reduction by examining and analyzing social indicators, conducting research on what works to reduce crime, and identifying any gaps in territorial programming
- Support the RCMP and communities in their efforts to develop policing action plans in each community that reflect local priorities, including issues relating to youth
- Improve access to information and the protection of privacy by:
  - Developing and proposing amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPP Act)*
  - Creating a GNWT privacy framework and management programs, so that the privacy protections in the ATIPP Act are administered consistently and fairly

- Ensuring online training is available on access to information and protection of privacy requirements for GNWT employees as well as employees of territorial public bodies

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

## **Mandate of the Minister of Lands**

- In collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, use the Land Use and Sustainability Framework to clearly and transparently:
  - create a defined set of collective land use and sustainability objectives
  - develop a method for integrating our land use and sustainability objectives into GNWT decision processes
  - develop an approach to monitor and evaluate the degree to which GNWT decisions are contributing to our collective objectives
  - complete land use plans for all areas, including unsettled areas
  - implement the agreed upon governance structure for land use planning in the Wek'eezhii Management Area
  - finalize the Recreational Land Management Framework, and the plan for the Yellowknife Periphery Area
  - 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 and proposing amendments to the *NWT Lands Act*
  - developing and proposing amendments to the *Commissioner's Land Act*
  - collaborating with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Invest and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to develop and propose amendments to the *Territorial Parks Act*
- Ensure that residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in the assessment of potential benefits and risks associated with resource development, including hydraulic fracturing

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

- Coordinating the GNWT participation in Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Review processes
- Supporting the efforts of the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations to lead the GNWT's participation in the Intergovernmental Council established pursuant to the Devolution Final Agreement

- 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



## **Minister Responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency**

- Establish an Open Government Policy through public consultation and stakeholder engagement to provide a policy basis for a Government of the Northwest Territories approach
- Publish an Open and Accountable Government/Cabinet Manual document explaining the foundations and functions of consensus government
- Advance the principles of open data, and expand the volume and accessibility of open data from the territorial government
- Enhance awareness about how to access GNWT programs and services
- Enhance awareness about how to serve on territorial boards and agencies
- Promote gender equity on territorial boards and agencies
- Identify standards for public engagement by the Government of the Northwest Territories, including awareness, reporting, and data
- Promote awareness about information on government accountability, and enhancing the understanding and use of that information
- Support the review of the ATIPP Act and the implementation of the GNWT Privacy Framework
- Develop legislation within two years to establish an independent parliamentary Office of the Ombudsman