



SEP 16 2020

HONOURABLE PAULIE CHINNA  
MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NWT HOUSING  
CORPORATION  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR HOMELESSNESS

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

I am writing to confirm your mandate as Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Minister Responsible for Youth, Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation and Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board.

Consensus government in the Northwest Territories depends on a collective commitment by all Members of the Legislative Assembly to work together, within their respective roles, openly and cooperatively. As Premier, I have committed to improving and enhancing the relationship among Cabinet and Regular Members. I expect all Ministers to make effective and regular dialogue with Members an ongoing priority and to work closely and respectfully with Standing Committees at every appropriate opportunity.

Cabinet must work as a cohesive team given the collective nature of Cabinet decision making, recognizing that many of the issues we will be tackling do not exist in silos. Ministers should use the appropriate Committee-of-Cabinet to advance commitments and develop coordinated proposals for Cabinet's consideration. We must conduct ourselves with professionalism and integrity, and maintain confidentiality on all matters related to Cabinet and Cabinet related meetings, discussions and proceedings.

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As Cabinet Ministers, we have the collective responsibility to advance the priorities of the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly by implementing the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, tabled on February 7, 2020. In addition to carrying out all of the duties associated with the portfolios you hold and meeting the provisions of your Department's Establishment Policy, you are accountable for fulfilling the specific Mandate commitments listed in the attachment to this letter and for tracking and reporting on your progress.

As a Cabinet, we have agreed that our decisions will reflect the Guiding Principles we tabled on December 10, 2019. These principles should guide us and our departments in both our assessment of issues and our decision-making. We must lead with courage and compassion in the best interests of the people of the Northwest Territories.

A productive partnership between Indigenous governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories is fundamental to the success of our Mandate and the future prosperity of our territory. The decisions we make as Cabinet should always reflect our commitment to reconciliation and the affirmation and advancement of Indigenous rights and self-determination. I expect every Minister to foster constructive and respectful government-to-government relationships with our Indigenous partners and to seek ways to advance reconciliation, recognize and affirm Aboriginal rights, and support expanded program and service delivery by Indigenous governments.

Successfully achieving our Mandate commitments will also require a close working partnership with community and municipal governments across the territory. Ministers must also build effective working relationships with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts to foster the strategic government-to-government relationships required to fulfill our shared goals and to leverage support for Northern priorities.

The people of the Northwest Territories want accountable government that is open, transparent and reflective of their interests, in keeping with the principles of our Open Government Policy. I expect the fulfillment of every Minister's mandate to be carried out in meaningful dialogue with all residents and stakeholders, including GNWT staff, the broad business community, and investors. You must also uphold the principles of open, transparent, and evidence-based decisions, solution-oriented service delivery and effective public awareness of government operations and decision-making.

Economic uncertainty, increasing impacts and awareness of climate change and complex social needs create significant challenges for the Government of the Northwest Territories. While decisive action is required, our fiscal situation calls for prudent, publicly accountable financial management. Difficult decisions will be required on the part of all elected leaders to meet the best interests of residents while ensuring fiscal balance and maintaining future resources. This requires careful financial decision making to support meaningful and effective investments in jobs, in people and in communities across the NWT.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed not only the NWT, but the entire world. Cabinet and Departments reacted quickly to put essential supports in place. Work will need to continue to support NWT residents and businesses as the NWT faces potential future waves of the pandemic, but also moves towards social and economic recovery. Ministers will need to work collaboratively with MLAs and each other to determine how best to provide supports while being mindful of the need to fulfill the GNWT's mandate.

We also must acknowledge the reality that the Northwest Territories is not immune to systemic racism and systemic discrimination. Unconscious bias and discrimination hinder our ability to fully embrace the vibrant diversity of the Northwest Territories, advance our collective priorities, and achieve inclusion and cooperation. It is critical to address the ongoing legacies of colonialism and the devastating impacts it has had on Indigenous people's culture, language, education and health.

As Minister, I expect you to support the GNWT in its efforts to build a territory where all persons, including Indigenous people and people of all racial backgrounds, have an equal opportunity to succeed, as well as advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice.

As Minister you must exercise utmost compliance with the *Conflict of Interest Act*, the *Financial Administration Act*, the Respectful Workplace Policy and all other policies and procedures of the Financial Management Board and of Executive Council (Cabinet).

The role of Minister demands the highest ethical standards and bears the closest scrutiny. Your actions will be the basis on which this Government is measured for its ethical and respectful conduct, professionalism and impartiality.

Your Deputy Minister is responsible for assisting you to fulfill the responsibilities of your portfolios and the specific Mandate objectives for which you are accountable. You can rely on your Deputy Minister and other skilled public servants as key sources of advice on process and policy and to bring forward comprehensive options for your consideration. You are, however, responsible for providing clear direction to your Deputy, including your expectations for interdepartmental and intergovernmental collaboration.

Our Cabinet brings together diverse backgrounds, fresh perspectives, and a shared dedication to the people of the Northwest Territories. I am certain that, working together with our colleagues in the Legislative Assembly and our Indigenous and other government partners, we will develop innovative solutions to the complex and long-standing issues Northerners face, ensuring a bright future for the Northwest Territories well beyond our own four year terms.

I am honoured and excited to be working with you to achieve this.

  
Caroline Cochrane  
Premier

Attachment

## **Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs**

As Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, you are responsible for the development and maintenance of community governments, responsive and responsible to the residents, with sufficient legal authority and resources to carry out community responsibilities, to provide their public programs and services essential to good community life and to deal effectively with other governments and organizations. You are also responsible for protecting the interests of consumers. To achieve these goals your Department engages in a broad range of activities that you continue to be accountable for.

In addition to the Departmental goals, you will undertake the following to support the achievement of the Government's Mandate:

- Lead our government's efforts to reduce the municipal funding gap by:
  - Reducing the funding gap by \$5 million through increased GNWT funding; Refining the current funding model to ensure continued fairness and transparency; and
  - Providing communities new opportunities to raise additional revenue and reduce or stabilize the cost of delivering core programs and services.
- Support the Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs to lead our government's efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by:
  - Identifying, prioritizing and strengthening key actions to further implement UNDRIP.
- Support the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Minister of Infrastructure and Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs to lead efforts to strengthen our government's leadership and authority on climate change.
- Support the Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs to lead our government's efforts to increase regional decision-making authority by:
  - Ensuring that GNWT decision-making reflects the full understanding of communities and regions.

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

- Implement the Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Framework;

- Create and initiate an implementation plan for the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* as it applies to community governments;
- Lead the establishment of a territorial Youth Council;
- Reorganize and streamline the Sport, Recreation and Youth reporting relationships; and,
- Develop a five-year NWT Youth Strategy.

Responsibility for Emergency Management Operations (EMO) related to the COVID-19 pandemic will remain with Premier Cochrane through a delegation under the Emergency Management Act. All other non-COVID EMO operations will remain with the Minister of MACA.

### **Minister Responsible for Youth**

As Minister Responsible for Youth, you are responsible for providing a cross governmental perspective on issues related to youth; and acting as an advocate within the GNWT for children and youth.

### **Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation**

As Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) you are responsible for providing social and market housing programs and services including subsidized rental and homeownership programs (including purchase and repairs), and unsubsidized rental housing in rural and remote communities. To achieve these goals the NWT HC engages in a broad range of activities that you continue to be accountable for.

In addition to the NWT HC's goals, you will undertake the following to support the achievement of the Government's Mandate:

- Increase the number of affordable homes (100 units) and reduce core housing need by:
  - Increasing the stock of quality, energy-efficient and affordable housing, especially for vulnerable persons; and
  - Transitioning individuals and families to home ownership.

- Lead, with the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, government efforts to enable seniors to age in place with dignity by:
  - Increasing supports for seniors to stay in their homes and communities; and
  - Funding actions that enhance inclusion, safety and removal of community level barriers to aging in place.
- Support the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment to increase employment in small communities by:
  - Increasing seasonal, part-time, and full-time employment in small communities by amending policies to allow appropriate home business opportunities; and
  - Supporting small communities to develop skilled tradespeople.
- Support the Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs to lead our government's efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by:
  - Identifying, prioritizing and strengthening key actions to further implement UNDRIP.
- Support the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Minister of Infrastructure and Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs to lead efforts to strengthen our government's leadership and authority on climate change.
- Support the Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs to lead our government's efforts to increase regional decision-making authority by:
  - Ensuring that GNWT decision-making reflects the full understanding of communities and regions.

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

- Engage your federal counterpart in the housing priorities of the GNWT by:
  - Forming partnerships to address key housing areas such as homeownership, apprenticeship and skills training, and supportive housing.

- Support the housing aspirations of Indigenous governments by:
  - Engaging and supporting Indigenous leaders in discussions with the federal government and hosting a Northern Housing Forum; and
  - Building the housing capacity of Indigenous governments through the hosting of a Northern Housing Forum.

### **Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board**

As Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board you are responsible for the regulation of public utilities in the Northwest Territories.

### **Minister Responsible for Homelessness**

As Minister Responsible for Homelessness, you will continue to advocate for northern solutions to homelessness by:

- Supporting the development of program approaches to address high demand for single person households, including those that are for homeless individuals;
- Reviewing the GNWT's homelessness supports and making recommendations that improve policy and program consistency between departments;
- Support Indigenous and local governments' initiatives to address homelessness; and
- Developing a GNWT Homelessness Strategy that provides improved structure and policy consistency regarding homelessness programming across GNWT Departments.