



APR 25 2018

HONOURABLE LOUIS SEBERT
MINISTER OF JUSTICE
MINISTER OF LANDS
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

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 Justice and Minister of Lands. In addition to your formal portfolios, you will also continue to be Minister Responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency. You will also continue to serve as vice-chair of the Economy and Environment Committee-of-Cabinet.

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 18th 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 18th 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.

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.

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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 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.

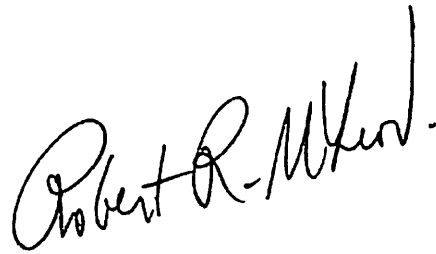
In addition to meeting the provisions of your Departments' Establishment Policy, you are accountable for the specific Mandate commitments listed in the attachments to this mandate letter. Although they are not all included in the attachment, it is understood that you will continue to be accountable for 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 18th 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 prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Robert R. McLeod
Premier

Attachments

Mandate of the Minister of Justice

- Taking into account mental health and addictions, continue to 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
- 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
- Strengthen initiatives and partnerships to prevent and reduce family violence, by:
 - Continuing the support for a healing program for men who use violence in intimate relationships such as the Wek'eahkaa A New Day Healing Program
 - Continuing to provide training, public information and outreach on the protections provided under the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*
- Continuing to 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
- 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
- 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
 - Continuing to provide online training on access to information and protection of privacy requirements for GNWT employees as well as employees of territorial public bodies
- In collaboration with the Minister Responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency and the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, develop legislation to establish an independent parliamentary office of the ombudsman

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 Industry, Tourism and Investment, ensure that residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in the assessment of potential benefits and risks associated with resource development, including hydraulic fracturing
- 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'èezhii Management Area
 - Finalize the Recreational Leasing Management Framework, and the plan for the Yellowknife Periphery Area
 - Collaborate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources 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 and proposing amendments to the *Northwest Territories Lands Act*
 - Developing and proposing amendments to the *Commissioner's Land Act*
- Work to improve the NWT integrated resource management regime to ensure the regime reflects NWT interests and priorities
- In collaboration with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, work with community governments to find solutions to land tenure issues which present barriers to community planning

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 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 Responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency

- In collaboration with the Department of Justice, improve access to information and the protection of privacy, by:
 - Supporting the development and proposal of amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (ATIPP Act)
 - Supporting the creation of a GNWT privacy framework and management programs, so that the privacy protections in the ATIPP Act are administered consistently and fairly
 - Supporting the continued provision of online training on access to information and protection of privacy requirements for GNWT employees as well as employees of territorial public bodies
- In collaboration with the Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs,
 - Establish an Open Government Policy through public consultation and stakeholder engagement to provide a policy basis for a GNWT approach
 - 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
 - Support the development and implementation of an effective communications plan to make residents aware of the mechanisms available to appeal government decisions
 - Develop legislation to establish an independent parliamentary Office of the Ombudsman

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

- Promoting awareness about information on government accountability, and enhancing the understanding and use of that information
- 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