



October 10, 2019

John Streicker  
Minister of Community Services  
Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate  
Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation  
Minister responsible for the Yukon Cannabis Corporation  
Minister responsible for the Yukon Lottery Commission

Dear Minister Streicker:

Our government is now in its third year of building a prosperous Yukon with strong environmental stewardship and supporting the wellbeing of Yukon people and their families.

I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to our collective work of serving Yukoners and making their lives better.

As we enter the latter half of our mandate, this letter is to provide you with guidance in building on our achievements to date and implementing our commitments to Yukoners.

In coming into office, we were clear on our priorities. Our government has advanced collaborative and integrated care in the territory through initiatives such as the mental wellness hubs across the territory. Partnerships with schools, parents, educators and First Nations are stronger. The first university north of 60 is taking shape, increasing the opportunities for a range of post-secondary options for Yukon students closer to home. More lots and affordable housing solutions are available to meet an increased demand for places to live. We remain committed to building on this progress to help Yukoners lead healthy, productive lives and to support vibrant, sustainable communities throughout the territory.

Yukon's economy is flourishing. The largest gold mine in Yukon's history is beginning production and other mining projects are advancing. The number of visitors to our territory is growing; and there is a clear plan to build a vibrant, sustainable tourism industry over the next decade. Dynamic new start-up companies are expanding our knowledge sector. We will continue to work with these and other industries and Yukon businesses to ensure they have the supports, infrastructure and certainty they need to grow. At the same time, we will continue to take steps to ensure our economic goals are integrated with a commitment to environmental sustainability.

Clearly, the impacts of climate change represent the biggest challenge of our generation. The North is warming at a faster rate than the rest of Canada. It is time for governments to take definite actions. Our work on establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets and putting in place concrete measures to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change will be integrated with our efforts to build a green economy and an energy sector with a growing focus on renewable sources.

In making these and other commitments to Yukoners, we will continue to deliver results and report back to citizens. Our government has released two performance plans on our progress to date. These reports included performance measures and we are strengthening these measures by developing indicators of community wellbeing that reflect Yukon circumstances.

We have always recognized that what matters to people is not just what we do but how we do it. We promised to be open and transparent and listen to what Yukoners had to say. We have engaged Yukoners on what is important to them and what solutions they favoured – whether implementing the legalization of cannabis in the territory, designing Yukon's carbon rebate program or planning the future of our health care system or our parks and campgrounds. We have had, and will continue to have, conversations in communities across the territory because we believe local issues are best addressed through local solutions.

We will continue our positive approach to working with our government counterparts, whether these are First Nations and municipal governments here in Yukon or our governmental partners across the country and beyond. Through this approach, we have achieved progress on issues that are important to Yukoners and Yukon businesses. This includes securing significant flexibility in federal infrastructure programs that allows us to tailor projects to fit the territory's needs. We have transformed our relationship with Yukon's First Nations and will advance solutions to mutual interests through respectful, ongoing collaboration as partners. Reconciliation is, and will continue to be, an ongoing priority of our government.

As a ministerial team, we have provided leadership for a one-government approach working for the betterment of Yukon. In furthering our positive, respectful relationships with deputy ministers and the public service, we are fostering a culture of collaboration and cooperation across departments. This is critical to ensuring government policies, programs, services and practices are grounded in a strong appreciation of the needs of citizens and communities and are adaptable to changing circumstances. It means there is shared purpose in our collective work and a common understanding of the implications of decisions before they are taken. The non-partisan advice and expertise of our dedicated public service remain key to our collective responsibility to reach fair, evidence-based and balanced decisions.

We have made fiscally sound decisions when it comes to government priorities and budgeting. With the advice of our public service, we have increased our ability to forecast our budgetary needs more effectively, understanding that Yukoners expect to see what we plan to spend in a year in the main budget estimates tabled each spring.

The work of the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel will continue to inform decisions to increase the efficiency of government operations and to ensure taxpayers get value for the services they receive. Our ongoing commitment is to make balanced, well-considered decisions about government spending to support meaningful and effective investments in jobs, in people and in communities across the territory.

Vibrant, healthy, sustainable communities are fundamental to Yukon's future. As the Minister of Community Services, your principal responsibility is to work in partnership with communities, including municipal governments, to support their development and the creation of sustainable economies. Listening to and responding to the interests and aspirations of all communities, including the Francophone community, supports our government's commitment to enabling local solutions to local problems.

As Minister of Community Services, your role is to work with Yukon communities to:

- Support Yukon's efforts to mitigate and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change through actions such as:
  - developing wildfire protection plans for Yukon communities and continuing to reduce forest fuel to decrease forest fire risk
  - Supporting energy efficient retrofits, green energy production and take actions to improving building resiliency
  - Exploring low-carbon building technologies suitable for the North
  - Promoting the use of public transit and active transportation
  - Working generally with municipalities and all communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Make strategic investments in community infrastructure that address the long-term needs of Yukon communities
- Work with Yukon communities to implement an effective territory-wide system for waste management with improved diversion and recycling
- Work with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, First Nations and municipalities to make lots available for Yukoners and create opportunities for private sector land development
- Complete and implement midwifery regulations
- Develop legislation to provide public sector employers and employees with a new pension plan option
- Develop unpaid leave options to support victims of domestic violence
- Work with the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Highways and Public Works to reduce red tape and regulatory impediments for businesses and societies

As the Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Cannabis Corporation, you are to:

- Modernize the Liquor Act and Regulations to improve consumer access, foster local economic opportunities and support better compliance, balanced with actions to promote social responsibility
- Close the government physical cannabis store and leave the retail market to the private sector
- Work with the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Health and Social Services to develop Yukon rules for the safe distribution and sale of edible cannabis products based on federal regulations

Under your leadership of the French Language Services Directorate, there has been significant progress in increasing services to Yukon's Francophone community. You are expected to continue work to enhance and expand existing services based on discussions with the community on its priorities.

In my first letter to you as Minister, I set out my expectations with respect to the principle of ministerial accountability and the responsibilities you have to work in the public interest. This included the obligation to meet the highest standards of ethical behaviour. These expectations remain unchanged.

As Premier, I appreciate the strong sense of purpose and the diligence you have brought to your ministerial duties over the past two years. You have my continued support – and gratitude – as we work together to fulfil our commitments to Yukoners.

I know I can count on you to work with courage and compassion in meeting our ongoing responsibility to the people we serve and building a better Yukon for all.

Sincerely



Sandy Silver  
Premier