



July 5, 2021

Nils Clarke
Minister of the Environment
Minister of Highways and Public Works

Dear Minister Clarke,

As we enter our second mandate, we are building on a solid foundation to move the Yukon forward, working with the people of the territory to make their lives better.

As a government, we have a responsibility to provide strong, stable leadership as we continue to respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19. We have led the nation with our response and will continue to support families, individuals and businesses as we emerge from the pandemic. This past year has been incredibly challenging for the public service, and they have helped us deliver unprecedented outcomes that have kept Yukoners safe.

Maintaining strong working relationships with Yukon First Nations for the benefit of all Yukoners is a hallmark of our government. In keeping with our commitment to reconciliation and honoring the spirit and intent of the Final and Self-Government Agreements, we are fully committed to working with First Nation governments to create a brighter future for the territory. We will continue our government's work to fulfill the commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and to implement *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy*.

As a government, we will refine our approach to engaging with the Government of Canada. This will allow us to have consistent, coordinated messaging to maximize outcomes and deliver on our commitments.

During our previous mandate, two foundational strategies were developed that will guide the mandate of this government: *Our Clean Future* and *Putting People First*. These are the anchors of our government and will provide the basis for the direction of our decisions.

Our Clean Future is the Yukon's blueprint to address the climate crisis while building a resilient and sustainable future for our territory. Our government will lead by example as we implement this territory wide strategy together with our partners. We will reduce greenhouses gas emissions and our dependence on fossil fuels, while protecting the Yukon's environment and fostering the green economy. Addressing the climate crisis requires a culture shift – both for Yukon society and within

the Yukon Government. Decisions and actions flowing from *Our Clean Future* must be taken with urgency, to reflect the current climate emergency.

Putting People First is more than a title of the report on transforming the Yukon's healthcare system. It is a guiding principle as we overhaul policies, through a people-centered approach. Yukoners deserve a healthcare system that provides wraparound supports at all ages, for all needs, and this is what we will continue to work towards.

As you know, our Liberal government has entered into a Confidence and Supply Agreement. This agreement enables us to provide Yukoners with a strong, stable government working in their best interest.

You are expected to conduct meaningful consultation as defined in the agreement, and achieve the commitments we have made to Yukoners. This consultation and information sharing is to be coordinated through the Confidence and Supply Agreement Secretariat.

As Minister of Environment you are to:

- Play a leadership role in ensuring that the commitments under *Our Clean Future* are realized, including supporting the development of the *Clean Energy Act* that will legislate the Yukon's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target at 45 percent lower by 2030 when compared to 2010. This will be led by the Department of Energy Mines and Resources with support from the Department of Environment.
- Begin work to consolidate elements of the Climate Change Secretariat with the Energy Solutions Centre within the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources with a goal of aligning climate change solutions and initiatives.
- Complete a territory-wide risk assessment to prioritize climate change adaptation actions, as recommended by the Office of the Auditor General.
- Implement the Parks Strategy.
- Begin the process of creating McIntyre Creek Park, working with the City of Whitehorse, affected First Nations, Yukon University and local stakeholders.
- Complete the Yukon's Wetland policy by May 2022.
- Increase support for wildlife surveys and data collection to ensure that decision-making is done with the most up-to-date information.
- Complete the Dawson Land Use Plan and advance the planning process for other regions to ensure proactive engagement on this file. This will be led by the Department of Energy Mines and Resources in close collaboration with the Department of Environment and the Executive Council Office.
- Work with local stakeholders to plan the creation of recreational infrastructure such as trails for both motorized and non-motorized vehicles. This will be led by the Department of Energy Mines and Resources with support from the departments of Tourism and Culture and Environment.

- Work with partners to refine internal processes to ensure participation in the assessment and regulatory regime is effectively managed. This will be led by the Executive Council Office with support from the Department of Energy Mines and Resources and the Department of Environment.

As Minister of Highways and Public Works, you are to:

- Have a leadership role in ensuring that the commitments under *Our Clean Future* are realized, including:
 - Incorporating active transportation in the design of highways and other Government of Yukon transportation infrastructure near communities.
 - Conducting climate risk assessments of all major transportation infrastructure projects above \$10 million that are built or funded by the Government of Yukon.
 - Incorporating greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency into the process for identifying and prioritizing Government of Yukon building retrofits and new construction projects.
- Continue to work with stakeholders to ensure their concerns and perspectives are heard in implementing the First Nations procurement policy.
- Modernize the *Motor Vehicles Act* to improve road safety for all users.
- In continuing to modernize Yukon's procurement processes, consider new and innovative procurement methods to maximize local business expertise and skill, and support sustainability.
- Continue to work with Yukon First Nations to realize the Yukon Resource Gateway project.
- Begin the process of relocating the Grader Station in the Marwell area, working with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- Continue work to advance the Dempster Fibre Line, which will benefit communities in the Yukon and NWT by providing a backup telecommunications line in the event of a service disruption.
- Continue to modernize the Yukon's digital infrastructure and human resources policies to allow greater mobility for Yukoners in both the public and private sector, to work from all communities in the Yukon. This will be led by the Department of Highways and Public Works with support from the Public Service Commission.
- Maximize local food purchases through government procurement, by establishing an internal task team to consider this challenge. This will be led by the Department of Energy Mines and Resources with support from the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- Continue to build new schools across the territory, which reflect modern learning practices, including in Burwash Landing and Whistle Bend. This will be led by the Department of Education with support from the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- Create an Information Technology Strategy for Yukon Government, that is focused on integration, collaboration and leveraging existing platforms.

You have a responsibility as a Minister to work with your colleagues to be open, transparent and accountable in making decisions. While each of you have individual departmental priorities, decisions must be made that prioritize the collective benefit for Yukoners. In your work as a member of Cabinet, you have a responsibility for ensuring decisions are made in the best interest of all Yukoners. In making these decisions, care should be put into targeting spending to the highest priorities while ensuring value for taxpayers' dollars.

Fulfilling your duties requires you to have an effective and respectful working relationship with your Deputy Ministers and departments, recognizing the important role of the public service in informing effective decisions.

These letters lay out a vision for our new mandate. In order to achieve these goals, you are expected to monitor implementation through reporting and tracking.

As a Minister, you are expected to empower collaboration across government departments, supporting working together towards a common goal of improving Yukoners' lives. Our commitment to good governance also requires positive, productive working relationships with other governments, communities, stakeholders and citizens.

You are to work in a spirit of cooperation with all MLAs, upholding your responsibility to be accountable to the Legislative Assembly. This includes understanding that all MLAs have good ideas that deserve true consideration.

I expect you to consistently meet your public responsibilities with personal and professional integrity. You are to respect the letter and spirit of the conflict of interest rules for Ministers and to actively seek, and abide by, guidance from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

I appreciate your taking on new Ministerial responsibilities and committing to the hard work ahead with a strong sense of purpose and a deep commitment to improving the lives of Yukoners. I look forward to our work together to serve the people of the Yukon each and every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sandy Silver', written in a cursive style.

Sandy Silver
Premier