



October 10, 2019

Sandy Silver  
Premier  
Minister of the Executive Council Office  
Minister of Finance

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.

As Premier, I am proud of the dedication and commitment our team has brought to its collective work of serving Yukoners and making their lives better.

In coming into office, our government was clear on its priorities. It 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.

As Minister responsible for Aboriginal and intergovernmental relations, I am proud of the positive approach we have taken to working with our government counterparts – First Nations here in Yukon and 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 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.

As Minister of Finance, I have a particular responsibility to ensure we make 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.

With respect to my portfolios, I will focus on the following goals for the remainder of the mandate.

As Minister responsible for the Executive Council Office, I will:

- Work with Yukon First Nations and our sister territories on a pan-northern statement to inform federal action on the changing context in the North, including the disproportionate impacts of climate change on northern regions
- Establish a youth panel on climate change to advise the government
- Work with the Ministers of Environment and Economic Development to establish and implement a co-lab as an open and creative process in which people work together to generate practical solutions related to economic and environmental sustainability
- In collaboration with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, work with partners to ensure Yukon's environmental and socio-economic assessment regulatory regime effectively address concerns related to development projects without unnecessary duplication
- Work with Yukon First Nations to advance the government's understanding and respectful use of traditional knowledge in its actions and decision making
- Support the positive development of Yukon youth through the use of development assets grounded in research on child and adolescent development, risk prevention and resiliency
- Work with the other parties in the Yukon Legislative Assembly to have an independent, non-partisan commission examine and develop options on electoral reform
- Develop legislation to establish fixed election dates for Yukon
- Refine the government's performance plans through corporate strategic planning and the further development of performance indicators tailored to Yukon's circumstances

As Minister of Finance, I will:

- Expand the Small Business Investment Tax Credit
- Develop other tax measures to support Yukon businesses
- Complete the work on the carbon rebate for municipalities and First Nations and work with the federal government to ensure the Output-Based Pricing System provides an appropriate mechanism for carbon rebates to major mines in Yukon
- Strengthen the capacity to support the effective evaluation of government programs and policies

In the mandate letters I issued in 2017, I set out my expectations with respect to the principle of ministerial accountability and the responsibility of Ministers to work in the public interest. This includes the obligation to meet the highest standards of ethical behaviour. I expect no less from myself.

As Premier, I appreciate the strong sense of purpose and diligence our team has brought to their ministerial duties over the past two years. They have my continued support – and gratitude – as we work together to fulfil our promises to Yukoners.

As I have asked of other members of Cabinet, I am committed to working every day with courage and compassion to meet our ongoing responsibility to the people we serve and building a better Yukon for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Sandy Silver', written over the printed name.

Sandy Silver  
Premier