



March 2, 2023

Tracy-Anne McPhee
Attorney General and Minister of Justice
Minister of Health and Social Services

Dear Minister McPhee:

Thank you for renewing your commitment to the people of the Yukon by continuing in the roles of *Attorney General*, *Minister of Justice* and *Minister of Health and Social Services*. Your dedication and effort have made it possible for our government to make significant improvements in the lives of Yukoners.

We have achieved many of the commitments made to Yukoners in the 2021 election and we remain focused on advancing many more that are underway through the second half of our mandate. Looking forward, we will continue to prioritize improvements to our health and education systems, increase access to housing, and support a sustainable economic future that benefits all Yukoners.

The territory is facing many challenges that come with a changing global economic reality as we transition through the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our government remained steadfast in our responsibility to balance the health and wellbeing of Yukoners with the need to keep our economy going. In doing so, the Yukon's economy has remained strong, and our population has continued to grow. Going forward, our cabinet will make decisions to implement policies that ensure the private sector is supported – you are the backbone of our community and vital to growing a strong, resilient economy for the benefit of all Yukoners.

Our team has consistently demonstrated our commitment to working collectively with Yukon First Nations. As we mark the 50th Anniversary of *Together Today for our Children Tomorrow*, we will continue to prioritize our efforts to see true reconciliation upheld through our work. We honour the spirit and intent of self-governing agreements and respect First Nation governments as partners in our work. Working in collaboration has been key to ensuring the initiatives we are undertaking to serve Yukoners are

benefitting everyone in the territory. Fulfilling the commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and implementing *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-spirit+ People Strategy* are important as we strive to heal and move forward together as a territory. Our work on reconciliation has established the Yukon as leaders in our nation. We will continue to work respectfully with First Nations understanding that Yukon's self government agreements are for all Yukoners.

We will continue to implement the foundational strategies that were developed by our government in consultation with Yukoners. Our team recognizes that many of our friends, family and neighbours are facing a variety of challenges – whether it be loss in our community, struggles with mental health or their own personal struggles. We will work alongside the public service to undertake our work with the upmost empathy and compassion in our daily interactions with the public. In declaring a Substance Use Health Emergency, our government acknowledged that there are many in the Yukon who are struggling and in need of support. We have committed to working closely with our partners to advance a range of treatment, harm reduction, prevention, and awareness initiatives in response to the emergency. The health and wellness of Yukoners is key to the success of our territory. The *Putting People First* plan is shaping our government's transformation of the Yukon's health and social services system. It is the road map we are following to build a people-centred healthcare system that provides wraparound supports for all Yukoners.

Our Clean Future is the blueprint that is guiding the Yukon's approach to addressing climate change. Through partnerships and collaboration, we will ensure the work of our government contemplates the goals laid out in this strategy: reducing greenhouse gas emissions; ensuring Yukoners have access to reliable, affordable, and renewable energy; adapting to the impacts of climate change; and building a green economy. The work that we are undertaking is no small feat and is not to be left to one department to execute alone. We will work collectively as a government to ensure the priorities we have laid out are implemented effectively using a common-sense approach.

Our Liberal government has renewed a Confidence and Supply Agreement which is allowing this team to lead the territory through these challenging times. We are committed to upholding the agreement and to continue working together on shared priorities that will benefit the Yukon.

As the Minister of Health and Social Services, you will lead the transformation of Yukon's healthcare system and continue to guide the delivery and development of the programs and services required to support Yukoners. To achieve this, you will:

- Continue to advance the legislation required to create an integrated health authority to improve coordinated care between hospital care, long-term care, home care, and social services.
- Respond to the Substance Use Health Emergency by taking innovative and bold actions, including prevention and harm reduction efforts and the implementation of collaborative programming with partner governments and organizations.
- Continue work to connect every Yukoner to a primary care provider by accelerating efforts to recruit and retain healthcare professionals.
- Support the expansion of existing health care services.
- Continue to work with the Department of Community Services on the review of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and the *Public Health and Safety Act* to help prepare the Yukon to address future emergencies.
- Continue to support First Nation partners with funding to develop and implement rural, on-the-land mental health and substance use treatment options for Yukoners.
- Complete the construction of a mental wellness unit at the Whitehorse General Hospital in partnership with the Yukon Hospital Corporation.
- Continue to support the implementation of the bilingual health centre to improve care for the Yukon's francophone population. This will be led by the Department of Health and Social Services with support from the French Language Services Directorate.
- Make access to fertility treatments more affordable for Yukoners.
- Continue efforts to revise the *Health Professions Act* to improve how we regulate healthcare professionals. This will be led by the Department of Community Services with support from the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Continue to expand the services of Yukon's Sexualized Assault Response Team to Yukon communities beyond Whitehorse. This will be led by the Department of Justice with support from the Women and Gender Equity Directorate and the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Work with the Department of Justice to modernize the *Vital Statistics Act* to reflect Yukon families and ensure Yukon legislation is inclusive.

The Yukon continues to show strong population growth. This has created an ongoing and increasing demand for housing across the Yukon. The Yukon Housing Corporation in partnership with the Departments of Energy, Mines, and Resources; Community Services; and Health and Social Services will lead our government's effort to increase the supply of housing stock with a focus on supporting the most vulnerable and improving affordability. In your role, you will support this work by:

- Implementing the work plan created in partnership with the Yukon Housing Corporation to respond to the recommendations of the 2022 Office of the Auditor General of Canada Report on Yukon Housing.
- Developing the Yukon's rapid response to homelessness strategy while continuing to implement integrated housing with supports in partnership with the Yukon Housing Corporation.
- Promote initiatives which meet the supportive housing and temporary shelter needs of vulnerable Yukoners.
- Exploring and supporting new approaches to address the ongoing need for housing options in the territory.
- Continuing to implement the Aging in Place Action Plan, to ensure that Yukoners can access supports in their communities, and enable seniors and elders to live safe, independent, and comfortable lives for as long as possible.

As Minister of Justice, you are to continue modernizing legislation to better reflect the realities of the Yukon by

- Ensuring the legislative agenda reflects the need for modern legislation with political priorities and commitments made to Yukoners while taking into consideration the capacity of the legislative counsel office.
- Continuing to implement the principles of restorative justice to inform service delivery, better support community-designed and community-led initiatives and increase engagement and partnerships with First Nations.
- Continue to expand the services of Yukon's Sexualized Assault Response Team to Yukon communities beyond Whitehorse. This will be led by the Department of Justice with support from the Women and Gender Equity Directorate and the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Enhance the Community Safety Planning Program to ensure consistent funding to community safety planning across the Yukon and explore how this approach might apply to urban neighbourhoods in Whitehorse.
- Advance the development of successor resource legislation in partnership with Yukon First Nations governments and in consultation with industry and stakeholders with a goal of modernizing Yukon's land management regime and

mineral resource sector while considering the recommendations from the Mineral Development Strategy. This work will be led by the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources with support from the Department of Justice.

- Work with the Department of Health and Social Services to modernize the *Vital Statistics Act* to reflect Yukon families and ensure Yukon legislation is inclusive.

As a Cabinet, we are expected to serve all Yukoners with empathy and transparency. Yukoners expect their elected officials to work together and so it is expected that they will remain at the centre of our work. We will foster a respectful, inclusive, collaborative working relationship within our government and with the many stakeholders, partner governments and organizations who advocate on behalf of Yukoners. We will support the public service with the understanding that the work they do is vital and important.

As your Premier, I support and encourage you to take bold, decisive action to support all Yukoners as we work collectively to build a strong future for generations to come in the Yukon.

Thank you for bringing your full focus to this work and for dedicating your efforts to upholding the commitments we made to Yukoners.

I look forward to what we will achieve in the remainder of our mandate.

Sincerely,



Ranj Pillai
Premier