



March 2, 2023

Nils Clarke
Minister of Environment
Minister of Highways and Public Works

Dear Minister Clarke:

Thank you for renewing your commitment to the people of the Yukon by continuing in the role of *Minister of the Environment* and *Minister of Highways and Public Works*. 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 Minister of Environment, you are to:

- Champion governments' efforts to respond to climate change by continuing to implement the actions outlined in *Our Clean Future*. This will be co-led by the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources and the Department of Environment.
- Support the increased production of high quality, local food products and the increase in demand for Yukon meat products by increasing local government procurement opportunities. This work will be done in collaboration with the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources.
- Advance land use planning by completing the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, beginning planning work in other regions, and ensuring proactive engagement continues for successive plans. 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.
- Complete the establishment of the McIntyre Creek Park, working with the Government of Canada, City of Whitehorse, affected First Nations, Yukon University and local stakeholders.
- Continue to implement the *Parks Strategy* while seeking additional opportunities to enhance recreation opportunities across the territory for Yukoners.
- Begin implementation of *A policy for the stewardship of Yukon's wetlands*.
- Conduct wildlife surveys and data collection to ensure our government has the most up-to-date information to support decision making.
- Work with Yukon First Nations, the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and stakeholders to continue to ensure all Yukoners are provided opportunities to sustainably harvest fish and game while looking for new opportunities for Yukon hunters to pursue activities across the Yukon.
- Work with partners to protect salmon stocks.
- Continue work on species at risk legislation to ensure Yukon's wildlife and animal population are adequately protected.
- Advance early work to determine the process for relocating the Whitehorse Grader Station with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, including the identification of a location and a review and initiation of the remediation work required. This work will be led by the Department of Highways and Public Works with support from the Department of Environment.
- Work with partners to streamline 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:

- Ensure that all infrastructure projects align with the commitments made under *Our Clean Future*.
- Continue to advance the new the *Motor Vehicles Act* to improve road safety for all users.
- Continue to modernize Yukon's procurement processes by:
 - Working with First Nations and stakeholders to ensure the First Nations Procurement Policy is providing the intended benefits and meets the original intent.
 - Considering new and innovative procurement methods to maximize the opportunities for our local business expertise and skill, in support of long-term sustainable economic growth.
- Work with Yukon First Nations and industry to advance the projects supported through the Yukon Resource Gateway Program.
- Advance early work alongside Kwanlin Dün First Nation to determine the process for relocating the Whitehorse Grader Station, including the identification of a location and a review and initiation of the remediation work required. This work will be led by the Department of Highways and Public Works with support from the Department of Environment.
- Complete the Dempster Fibre Project to ensure this critical backup telecommunications line is available for the benefit of communities in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in the event of service disruption.
- Continue to lead the government's Five-Year Capital planning process.
- Continue to work with the Public Service Commission to support public service employees in rural Yukon communities and provide greater mobility for Yukoners in the public and private sector by continuing to modernize the Yukon's digital infrastructure in all communities.
- Improve access to education for all Yukoners by building new, modern learning facilities, including the completion of the new school in Whistle Bend, the construction of Kêts'ádań Kù in Burwash Landing, and a new Whitehorse elementary school. This will be led by the Department of Education with support from the Department of Highways and Public Works.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Pillai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a distinct "Pillai" following.

Ranj Pillai
Premier