



March 2, 2023

Richard Mostyn

Minister of Community Services

Minister responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board

Dear Minister Mostyn:

Thank you for renewing your commitment to the people of the Yukon by continuing in the roles of *Minister of Community Services* and the *Minister responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board*. 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 Community Services, you will:

- Work with First Nation and Municipal governments to maximize the federal dollars needed to continue to build infrastructure that aligns with the Yukon's priorities.
- Continue to work with the Department of Health and Social 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 efforts to revise the *Health Professions Act* to improve how we regulate healthcare service professionals. This will be led by the Department of Community Services with support from the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Increase support for seniors' active living with community partners.
- Implement the Better Buildings Loan Program for residential and commercial energy efficiency retrofits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the territory.
- Work with all levels of government, including First Nations and municipalities, to understand future sport infrastructure needs and look at opportunities to partner as our population continues to grow.
- Work with the City of Whitehorse on transit and active transportation option improvements.

Climate change is increasing the likelihood of emergencies including severe forest fires and floods. Taking action to reduce the risk of these events, and being prepared if they do happen, is critical. There are several commitments in *Our Clean Future* that focus on ensuring the Yukon's communities are resilient and prepared for these events, many of which have already been completed or are underway. In your role, you will:

- Continue to support climate change resiliency plans in all communities.
- Increase Yukon communities' resilience to wildland fire by focusing on prevention strategies for each community. This will be achieved by working with all Yukon First Nations to ensure their participation in preventing and fighting wildland fires and working to create leadership opportunities and capacity development within those important programs for Yukon First Nations youth.
- Ensure infrastructure projects are considered through a climate lens.
- Expand monitoring networks and improve modelling tools to generate reliable daily flood forecasts and relevant warnings for all at-risk Yukon communities.
- Continue to communicate the importance of emergency preparedness to Yukoners.

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:

- Developing new land parcels and lots.
- Exploring and supporting new approaches to address the ongoing need for housing options in the territory.
- Creating opportunities for public private partnerships in land development.

As Minister responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, you are to:

- Continue to protect workers by implementing the new *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act*.

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