



March 2, 2023

Sandy Silver
Minister of Finance
Minister of the Public Service Commission
Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation
Minister responsible for the Yukon Lotteries Commission

Dear Minister Silver:

Thank you for renewing your commitment to the people of the Yukon by accepting the roles of *Minister of the Public Service Commission*; *Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation*; and *Minister responsible for the Yukon Lottery Commission* and for continuing in your role of *Minister of Finance*. 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 Finance, you must keep Yukoners at the heart of all financial decisions, both in how it relates to them today and how it sets the territory up for the future. In your work, you will:

- Maintain strong working relationships with the federal government on shared priorities, and work collaboratively with departments to ensure the Yukon is strategic in its federal financial engagements. This will be led by the Executive Council Office with support from the Department of Finance.
- Revisit the 2017 Yukon Financial Advisory Panel Final Report to review their recommendations to continue government's work to maintain a healthy financial position.
- Make access to fertility treatments more affordable for Yukoners.
- Research potential models to establish a made in Yukon carbon credit program. This work will be led by the Executive Council Office with support from the Departments of Finance and Energy, Mines, and Resources.
- Identify financial tools that will support and enhance investment into the Yukon's rental housing market.
- Continue working on a framework to support the effective evaluation of government programs and policies, with a particular focus on ensuring there are baseline evaluation strategies incorporated into new programs.

As the Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission, you are to work towards achieving a representative public service that meets the challenges of the modern workplace by:

- Continuing to implement guiding documents including *Breaking Trail Together: an inclusive Yukon Public Service* and the *People Plan*. This includes:
 - Implementing an in-depth operational plan to assist this work.
 - Supporting government to live up to the obligations under Chapter 22 of the Final Agreements with Yukon First Nations ensuring we have a representative public service in the Yukon.
 - Providing temporary assignments between governments both in Whitehorse and in our rural communities to assist with capacity building.
- Negotiate a new collective agreement with the Yukon Employees' Union.
- Continue the implementation of Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis (GIDA) on key initiatives across government by providing training, research support and analysis. The Women and Gender Equity Directorate will lead this file with support from the Public Service Commission.

- Continue to work with the Department of Highways and Public Works 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.

As Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Lotteries Commission, you will:

- Continue to ensure that regulations under the *Liquor Act* balance the needs of businesses and communities.
- Continue to advocate for a federal review of cannabis packaging to ensure that they are environmentally friendly while still maintaining safety standards.

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