



July 5, 2021

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

Dear Minister McPhee,

As we enter our second mandate, we are building on a solid foundation to move the Yukon forward, working with the people of the territory to make their lives better.

As a government, we have a responsibility to provide strong, stable leadership as we continue to respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19. We have led the nation with our response and will continue to support families, individuals and businesses as we emerge from the pandemic. This past year has been incredibly challenging for the public service, and they have helped us deliver unprecedented outcomes that have kept Yukoners safe.

Maintaining strong working relationships with Yukon First Nations for the benefit of all Yukoners is a hallmark of our government. In keeping with our commitment to reconciliation and honoring the spirit and intent of the Final and Self-Government Agreements, we are fully committed to working with First Nation governments to create a brighter future for the territory. We will continue our government's work to fulfill the commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and to implement *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy*.

As a government, we will refine our approach to engaging with the Government of Canada. This will allow us to have consistent, coordinated messaging to maximize outcomes and deliver on our commitments.

During our previous mandate, two foundational strategies were developed that will guide the mandate of this government: *Our Clean Future* and *Putting People First*. These are the anchors of our government and will provide the basis for the direction of our decisions.

*Our Clean Future* is the Yukon's blueprint to address the climate crisis while building a resilient and sustainable future for our territory. Our government will lead by example as we implement this territory wide strategy together with our partners. We will reduce greenhouses gas emissions and our dependence on fossil fuels, while protecting the Yukon's environment and fostering the green economy. Addressing the climate crisis requires a culture shift – both for Yukon society and within

the Yukon Government. Decisions and actions flowing from *Our Clean Future* must be taken with urgency, to reflect the current climate emergency.

*Putting People First* is more than a title of the report on transforming the Yukon's healthcare system. It is a guiding principle as we overhaul policies, through a people-centered approach. Yukoners deserve a healthcare system that provides wraparound supports at all ages, for all needs, and this is what we will continue to work towards.

As you know, our Liberal government has entered into a Confidence and Supply Agreement. This agreement enables us to provide Yukoners with a strong, stable government working in their best interest.

You are expected to conduct meaningful consultation as defined in the agreement, and achieve the commitments we have made to Yukoners. This consultation and information sharing is to be coordinated through the Confidence and Supply Agreement Secretariat.

Our government is committed to creating a health care system that puts Yukoners at the centre of all services. As the Minister of Health and Social Services, you have a leadership role in improving health outcomes for Yukoners and reducing inequities. Your mandate will be guided by the *Putting People First* report. In this role, you are to:

- Immediately create an implementation framework with clear guidelines for the *Putting People First* report.
- Initiate the creation of an integrated health authority to improve coordinated care between hospital care, long-term care, home and social services.
- Create a new Care Coordination and Medical Travel Unit to streamline care across programs and providers.
- Explore physician payment models with the Yukon Medical Association that reflect modern realities.
- Hire additional nurse practitioners where needed to increase access to primary health care providers in Yukon communities.
- Open a 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.
- Integrate midwifery fully into Yukon's health care system.
- In response to the challenges faced by the COVID-19 pandemic, review the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and the *Public Health and Safety Act* to better equip the Yukon to address future emergencies. This will be jointly led by the Department of Community Services and the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Support Yukoners in making a reproductive care plan with physician input, including subsidies for birth control and fertility treatments.
- Subsidize the cost of period products for Yukoners in need.
- Work with partners to develop a rural, on-the-land mental health and substance treatment centre and programs.

- Complete the construction of a secure medical unit at the Whitehorse General Hospital.
- Work in cooperation and partnership with Yukon First Nations to realize changes stemming from the *Child and Family Services Act Review*, with a goal of enhancing opportunities and outcomes for all children, youth and families.
- Begin work 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.
- Continue to implement the *Aging in Place Action Plan*, to ensure Yukoners can access supports in their communities, and enable seniors and elders to live safe, independent and comfortable lives for as long as possible. This will be led by the Department of Health and Social Services with support from the Yukon Housing Corporation.
- Build and operate the next Housing First project in Watson Lake. This will be led by the Yukon Housing Corporation with support from the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Expand the services of Yukon's Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART), 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.
- Amend the *Vital Statistics Act* to reflect modern Yukon families.

As Minister of Justice, you are to:

- Work with client departments to set a balanced legislative agenda that considers political priorities and legislative drafting capacity, and recognizes the importance of the timely creation of regulations to support new legislation.
- Implement the principles of restorative justice to inform service delivery, better support community-designed and community-led initiatives, and increase engagement with First Nations.
- Improve services and support through systemic reform for victims of sexualized assault. This includes expanding the services of Yukon's Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART) 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 activities across the Yukon, and investigate how this approach might apply to urban neighbourhoods in Whitehorse.
- Establish a program to provide supportive community housing to Justice-involved women that will be gender-responsive, culturally sensitive and trauma informed. This will be led by the Department of Justice with support from the Women and Gender Equity Directorate.

- Working with Yukon First Nations governments, industry and stakeholders, develop successor resource legislation with a goal of modernizing Yukon's mineral resource sector. This will be led by the Department of Energy Mines and Resources with support from the Department of Justice.
- Continue to modernize the Yukon Land Titles Registry system, which will improve the quality of service to national standards while also maintaining the Land Titles Office's current high level of accuracy and certainty in title.

You have a responsibility as a Minister to work with your colleagues to be open, transparent and accountable in making decisions. While each of you have individual departmental priorities, decisions must be made that prioritize the collective benefit for Yukoners. In your work as a member of Cabinet, you have a responsibility for ensuring decisions are made in the best interest of all Yukoners. In making these decisions, care should be put into targeting spending to the highest priorities while ensuring value for taxpayers' dollars.

Fulfilling your duties requires you to have an effective and respectful working relationship with your Deputy Ministers and departments, recognizing the important role of the public service in informing effective decisions.

These letters lay out a vision for our new mandate. In order to achieve these goals, you are expected to monitor implementation through reporting and tracking.

As a Minister, you are expected to empower collaboration across government departments, supporting working together towards a common goal of improving Yukoners' lives. Our commitment to good governance also requires positive, productive working relationships with other governments, communities, stakeholders and citizens.

You are to work in a spirit of cooperation with all MLAs, upholding your responsibility to be accountable to the Legislative Assembly. This includes understanding that all MLAs have good ideas that deserve true consideration.

I expect you to consistently meet your public responsibilities with personal and professional integrity. You are to respect the letter and spirit of the conflict of interest rules for Ministers and to actively seek, and abide by, guidance from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

I appreciate your taking on new Ministerial responsibilities and committing to the hard work ahead with a strong sense of purpose and a deep commitment to improving the lives of Yukoners. I look forward to our work together to serve the people of the Yukon each and every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a smaller 'S' and a flourish.

Sandy Silver  
Premier