



October 10, 2019

Jeanie Dendys
Minister of Tourism and Culture
Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate
Minister responsible for the Yukon Worker's Compensation Health and Safety Board

Dear Minister Dendys:

Our government is now in its third year of building a prosperous Yukon with strong environmental stewardship and supporting the wellbeing of Yukon people and their families.

I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to our collective work of serving Yukoners and making their lives better.

As we enter the latter half of our mandate, this letter is to provide you with guidance in building on our achievements to date and implementing our commitments to Yukoners.

In coming into office, we were clear on our priorities. Our government has advanced collaborative and integrated care in the territory through initiatives such as the mental wellness hubs across the territory. Partnerships with schools, parents, educators and First Nations are stronger. The first university north of 60 is taking shape, increasing the opportunities for a range of post-secondary options for Yukon students closer to home. More lots and affordable housing solutions are available to meet an increased demand for places to live. We remain committed to building on this progress to help Yukoners lead healthy, productive lives and to support vibrant, sustainable communities throughout the territory.

Yukon's economy is flourishing. The largest gold mine in Yukon's history is beginning production and other mining projects are advancing. The number of visitors to our territory is growing; and there is a clear plan to build a vibrant, sustainable tourism industry over the next decade. Dynamic new start-up companies are expanding our knowledge sector. We will continue to work with these and other industries and Yukon businesses to ensure they have the supports, infrastructure and certainty they need to grow. At the same time, we will continue to take steps to ensure our economic goals are integrated with a commitment to environmental sustainability.

Clearly, the impacts of climate change represent the biggest challenge of our generation. The North is warming at a faster rate than the rest of Canada. It is time for governments to take definite actions. Our work on establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets and putting in place concrete measures to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change will be integrated with our efforts to build a green economy and an energy sector with a growing focus on renewable sources.

In making these and other commitments to Yukoners, we will continue to deliver results and report back to citizens. Our government has released two performance plans on our progress to date. These reports included performance measures and we are strengthening these measures by developing indicators of community wellbeing that reflect Yukon circumstances.

We have always recognized that what matters to people is not just what we do but how we do it. We promised to be open and transparent and listen to what Yukoners had to say. We have engaged Yukoners on what is important to them and what solutions they favoured – whether implementing the legalization of cannabis in the territory, designing Yukon’s carbon rebate program or planning the future of our health care system or our parks and campgrounds. We have had, and will continue to have, conversations in communities across the territory because we believe local issues are best addressed through local solutions.

We will continue our positive approach to working with our government counterparts, whether these are First Nations and municipal governments here in Yukon or our governmental partners across the country and beyond. Through this approach, we have achieved progress on issues that are important to Yukoners and Yukon businesses. This includes securing significant flexibility in federal infrastructure programs that allows us to tailor projects to fit the territory’s needs. We have transformed our relationship with Yukon’s First Nations and will advance solutions to mutual interests through respectful, ongoing collaboration as partners. Reconciliation is, and will continue to be, an ongoing priority of our government.

As a ministerial team, we have provided leadership for a one-government approach working for the betterment of Yukon. In furthering our positive, respectful relationships with deputy ministers and the public service, we are fostering a culture of collaboration and cooperation across departments. This is critical to ensuring government policies, programs, services and practices are grounded in a strong appreciation of the needs of citizens and communities and are adaptable to changing circumstances. It means there is shared purpose in our collective work and a common understanding of the implications of decisions before they are taken. The non-partisan advice and expertise of our dedicated public service remain key to our collective responsibility to reach fair, evidence-based and balanced decisions.

We have made fiscally sound decisions when it comes to government priorities and budgeting. With the advice of our public service, we have increased our ability to forecast our budgetary needs more effectively, understanding that Yukoners expect to see what we plan to spend in a year in the main budget estimates tabled each spring.

The work of the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel will continue to inform decisions to increase the efficiency of government operations and to ensure taxpayers get value for the services they receive. Our ongoing commitment is to make balanced, well-considered decisions about government spending to support meaningful and effective investments in jobs, in people and in communities across the territory.

The completion of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy is a major achievement, reaching beyond government actions to involving Yukoners throughout the territory in developing a stronger, more vibrant tourism sector over the next decade.

In building on this and your other achievements as the Minister of Tourism and Culture, you are expected to work with community partners and your colleagues over the remainder of our mandate to:

- Implement the seven priority action plans of the Tourism Development Strategy in keeping with the strategy's vision, goals and values
- Develop a strategy that supports Yukon's creative and cultural industries and enhances their role in our economic future
- Provide leadership to the work of the Yukon Forum in developing a clear process for managing territory's cultural heritage, including archaeological and paleontological discoveries, cultural artifacts and the stewardship of heritage and historic sites
- Plan a heritage resource centre for the conservation and protection of Yukon's archaeological, paleontological and cultural artifacts

Yukon played an exceptional role in its participation in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Now that the inquiry has issued its calls for justice, our government will respond in a manner that changes the story for Indigenous women and girls in Yukon and supports families in their healing journey. As the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, you are to take a leadership role in working with the Yukon Advisory Council and with the Ministers of Justice and Health and Social Services to develop a comprehensive Yukon action plan that addresses the calls for justice.

In the past three years, our government has made several changes to legislation, policies and practices to support a diverse, inclusive society that promotes LGBTQ2S+ rights, equality and freedom from discrimination. As the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, you are to take a leadership role working with your ministerial colleagues on continued efforts to realize these goals based on the government's consultation with the LGBTQS+ community. This includes:

- Developing legislation that bans conversion therapy
- Developing a Government of Yukon action plan to improve LGBTQ2S+ inclusion with respect to the government's role as both a service provider and employer

In addition, in your role as the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, you are expected to:

- Complete the implementation of the Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART) and take other actions to improve services for victims of violence and sexualized assault, in collaboration with the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Health and Social Services
- Enhance the use of gender inclusive diversity analysis in developing government policies, programs and services

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

- Develop legislation that amalgamates the *Workers' Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* in one modern, comprehensive statute providing for safe workplaces and a fair system of compensation in the event of workplace injuries
- Develop regulations to support the prevention of psychological injuries in the workplace

In my first letter to you as Minister, I set out my expectations with respect to the principle of ministerial accountability and the responsibilities you have to work in the public interest. This included the obligation to meet the highest standards of ethical behaviour. These expectations remain unchanged.

As Premier, I appreciate the strong sense of purpose and the diligence you have brought to your ministerial duties over the past two years. You have my continued support – and gratitude – as we work together to fulfil our commitments to Yukoners.

I know I can count on you to work with courage and compassion in meeting our ongoing responsibility to the people we serve and building a better Yukon for all.

Sincerely,



Sandy Silver
Premier