



July 5, 2021

Jeanie McLean
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for the Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Dear Minister McLean,

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.

As the Minister of Education, you will work to create successful learning outcomes for all Yukon learners by:

- Implementing the Yukon's universal early learning childcare program and begin work to review the Yukon's *Childcare Act*.
- Improving educational programs, services and outcomes for Yukon students, in collaboration with First Nations and educational partners. This includes:
 - Implementing recommendations from the review of inclusive and special education to ensure that all Yukon students are fully supported.
 - Developing and implementing a student outcomes strategy.
- Continuing to build new schools across the territory, which reflect modern learning practices, including in Burwash Landing and Whistle Bend. This will be led by the Department of Education with support from the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- Beginning the planning process for the next elementary school to be replaced in Whitehorse, in consultation with stakeholders.
- Working with communities and stakeholders to develop and implement school safety transportation plans.
- Working with Yukon University to support their new science building, ensuring that the demand for early childhood educators and licensed practical nursing is met.
- Working with Yukon University to investigate the feasibility of a varsity sports program. This will be led by the Department of Education with support from the Department of Economic Development.
- Working with partners to develop a First Nation School Board Framework Agreement and support the creation of a First Nation School Board.

The work of the Women's Directorate spans beyond advocating for the well-being of women. Therefore, the name of the Women's Directorate will change to the "Women and Gender Equity

Directorate” as a reflection of the important work that has been done in advocating for Yukoners of all genders and sexual orientations, and to continue this work going forward.

As the Minister responsible for the Women and Gender Equity Directorate, you will:

- Work across government departments to implement *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy*. The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is the lead on this file.
- Release the Yukon Government’s LGBTQ2S+ Action Plan to ensure programs and services are LGBTQ2S+ inclusive and responsive, including a specific commitment to working with Queer Yukon to establish a Yukon Pride Centre.
- 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.
- Lead 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 Executive Council Office and the Public Service Commission.
- 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.

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, appearing to be 'S. Silver', written in a cursive style.

Sandy Silver
Premier