



July 5, 2021

Ranj Pillai
Minister of Economic Development
Minister of Tourism and Culture
Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation
Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation
Minister responsible for the Yukon Lottery Commission

Dear Minister Pillai,

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 Economic Development, you are to advance opportunities for innovation and economic diversification by:

- Developing an innovation strategy to create opportunities for local entrepreneurs.
- Establishing an Innovation Commission to attract new technology start-ups and grow the Yukon's digital ecosystem.
- Fostering the growth of the Yukon's film industry. This will be led by the Department of Economic Development with support from the Department of Tourism and Culture.
- Introducing a new immigration strategy to support workforce requirements of business and industry.
- 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 and stakeholders to investigate the feasibility of commercial and passenger rail in the Yukon.
- Creating a Mineral Exploration Fund to support junior mining companies operating in the Yukon. This will be led by the Department of Economic Development with support from the Department of Energy Mines and Resources.
- Investigating, in partnership with the private sector, the potential to develop a flexible fieldhouse complex for athletes and large public conferences and events. This will be led by the Department of Economic Development with support from the Department of Community Services.
- Working with the non-profit sector to ensure that this important industry is able to recover from COVID-19 by enhancing opportunities for collaboration and shared services. This will be led by the Department of Economic Development with support from the Department of Community Services.

As the Minister of Tourism & Culture, you are to advance and advocate for these important sectors by:

- Implementing The Great Yukon Summer campaign throughout the summer of 2021 to ensure that Yukoners can explore our beautiful territory, and support tourism operators to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continuing to implement the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy including working with the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board, developing Indigenous tourism and supporting sustainable tourism.
- Releasing and implementing the Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy.
- Supporting industry adoption of the World Travel and Tourism Safe Travel protocols.
- Working with local stakeholders to plan the creation of recreational infrastructure such as trails for both motorized and non-motorized vehicles. This will be led by the Department of Energy Mines and Resources with support from the departments of Tourism and Culture and Environment.
- Continuing to work closely with Yukon First Nations governments, municipalities and communities to support the research, preservation, interpretation and assessment of our historic places.
- Continuing to work to establish a heritage resource centre for the conservation and protection of Yukon's archaeological, paleontological and cultural artifacts.
- Fostering the growth of the Yukon's film industry. This will be led by the Department of Economic Development with support from the Department of Tourism and Culture.

The Yukon is facing an acute housing shortage. As Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, you are tasked with leading the response to this important issue. It will not be easily solved – it requires a whole of government approach, across the housing spectrum. You will work with stakeholders across the territory to increase lot availability; address homelessness; and support renters, landlords and homeowners to ensure that more housing is available to Yukoners of all means.

You are to respond to the significant need for housing across the spectrum by:

- Increasing housing stock across the territory, developing new land parcels and lots, and enabling innovative approaches to address the acute need for increased housing options in the territory. This will be led by the Yukon Housing Corporation with support from the departments of Community Services and Energy, Mines and Resources. This includes:
 - Releasing the 5th and Rogers land parcel to the private sector for future housing development.
 - Supporting the establishment of community land trusts in the Yukon.
- Developing new, and continuing existing, incentives for construction of affordable housing.
- Building and operating 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.

- In partnership with First Nation governments and development corporations, developing and maintaining Yukon government staff housing in rural communities.
- Continuing to implement the Aging in Place Action Plan, to ensure that Yukoners can access supports in their communities, and enable seniors and elders to live safe, independent and comfortable lives for as long as possible.

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

- Ensure that regulations under the *Liquor Act* balance the needs of businesses and communities.
- Enable cannabis e-commerce for private retailers.
- Advocate for a federal review of cannabis packaging to ensure that they are environmentally friendly while still maintaining safety standards.

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 final flourish.

Sandy Silver
Premier