



October 10, 2019

Richard Mostyn  
Minister of Highways and Public Works  
Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission

Dear Minister Mostyn:

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.

As the Minister of Highways and Public Works, your overarching priority is to ensure government investments in transportation and other infrastructure support economic activity and diversification and advance our commitment to environmental stewardship. This responsibility carries with it an obligation to ensuring the five-year capital plan and the government's procurement practices are effective tools in providing ongoing opportunities for Yukon businesses to benefit from government spending. You are also to continue efforts to give Yukoners across the territory better access to government services and more transparent government information.

In your capacity as Minister of Highways and Public Works, you are to:

- Support Yukon efforts to mitigate and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change through such actions as:
  - Promoting green choices in procurement
  - Exploring low-carbon building technologies suitable for the North
  - Retrofitting government buildings
  - Electrifying the government fleet
  - Expanding the use of video and teleconferencing systems within the government
  - Support the Installation of electric vehicle charging stations across Yukon and exploring options with neighbouring jurisdictions for stations on connecting highways
- Invest in modern airport infrastructure by working with industry and other stakeholders to implement the FlightPath strategy and the *Public Airports Act*
- Improve Yukon's highway system through various projects including improvements to the Klondike Highway, completion of the Nares Bridge in Carcross and work on the Teslin bridge
- Work with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in advancing Yukon Resource Gateway projects
- Work with the State of Alaska and others on renewing Shakwak funding for upgrading the North Alaska Highway
- Develop a new Motor Vehicles Act providing a legislative regime that enhances public safety on Yukon roads and highways
- Advance the Dempster Fibre project and support other initiatives to improve Yukon's telecommunication infrastructure and services
- Complete a procurement policy specifically aimed at enhancing business opportunities for First Nations
- Develop regulations leading to the effective implementation of the new *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
- Increase online services for the Yukon public
- Work with the Ministers of Economic Development and Community Services to reduce red tape and regulatory impediments

As the Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission, you are responsible for supporting a professional, merit-based public service that is engaged in effectively meeting its responsibilities to the Yukon public.

In building on the achievements to date, you are to provide the leadership necessary to:

- Implement the three-year People Plan to guide the development of a modern public service that can respond to the challenges of a changing workforce
- Implement the Representative Public Service Plan, called Breaking Trail Together, to develop an inclusive Yukon public service that supports the government's overall goal of reconciliation
- Working with the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, implement a fair approach to staff housing that includes opportunities for private sector housing development

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