



March 2, 2023

John Streicker

Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Minister of Tourism and Culture

Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation

Minister responsible for the Yukon Energy Corporation

Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate

Dear Minister Streicker:

Thank you for renewing your commitment to the people of the Yukon by continuing in the roles of *Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources*; *Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation*; *Minister responsible for the Yukon Energy Corporation*; and *Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate* and for taking on the new role of *Minister of Tourism and Culture*. Your dedication and effort have made it possible for our government to make significant improvements in the lives of Yukoners.

We have achieved many of the commitments made to Yukoners in the 2021 election and we remain focused on advancing many more that are underway through the second half of our mandate. Looking forward, we will continue to prioritize improvements to our health and education systems, increase access to housing, and support a sustainable economic future that benefits all Yukoners.

The territory is facing many challenges that come with a changing global economic reality as we transition through the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our government remained steadfast in our responsibility to balance the health and wellbeing of Yukoners with the need to keep our economy going. In doing so, the Yukon's economy has remained strong, and our population has continued to grow. Going forward, our cabinet will make decisions to implement policies that ensure the private sector is supported – you are the backbone of our community and vital to growing a strong, resilient economy for the benefit of all Yukoners.

Our team has consistently demonstrated our commitment to working collectively with Yukon First Nations. As we mark the 50th Anniversary of *Together Today for our*

Children Tomorrow, we will continue to prioritize our efforts to see true reconciliation upheld through our work. We honour the spirit and intent of self-governing agreements and respect First Nation governments as partners in our work. Working in collaboration has been key to ensuring the initiatives we are undertaking to serve Yukoners are benefitting everyone in the territory. Fulfilling the commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and implementing *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-spirit+ People Strategy* are important as we strive to heal and move forward together as a territory. Our work on reconciliation has established the Yukon as leaders in our nation. We will continue to work respectfully with First Nations understanding that Yukon's self government agreements are for all Yukoners.

We will continue to implement the foundational strategies that were developed by our government in consultation with Yukoners. Our team recognizes that many of our friends, family and neighbours are facing a variety of challenges – whether it be loss in our community, struggles with mental health or their own personal struggles. We will work alongside the public service to undertake our work with the upmost empathy and compassion in our daily interactions with the public. In declaring a Substance Use Health Emergency, our government acknowledged that there are many in the Yukon who are struggling and in need of support. We have committed to working closely with our partners to advance a range of treatment, harm reduction, prevention, and awareness initiatives in response to the emergency. The health and wellness of Yukoners is key to the success of our territory. The *Putting People First* plan is shaping our government's transformation of the Yukon's health and social services system. It is the road map we are following to build a people-centred healthcare system that provides wraparound supports for all Yukoners.

Our Clean Future is the blueprint that is guiding the Yukon's approach to addressing climate change. Through partnerships and collaboration, we will ensure the work of our government contemplates the goals laid out in this strategy: reducing greenhouse gas emissions; ensuring Yukoners have access to reliable, affordable, and renewable energy; adapting to the impacts of climate change; and building a green economy. The work that we are undertaking is no small feat and is not to be left to one department to execute alone. We will work collectively as a government to ensure the priorities we have laid out are implemented effectively using a common-sense approach.

Our Liberal government has renewed a Confidence and Supply Agreement which is allowing this team to lead the territory through these challenging times. We are

committed to upholding the agreement and to continue working together on shared priorities that will benefit the Yukon.

As Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources you are to:

- Champion governments' efforts to respond to climate change by continuing to implement the actions outlined in *Our Clean Future*. This will be co-led by the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources with support from the Department of Environment. Some of the priorities in your work should include:
 - Working with industry and stakeholders to develop a framework for mining intensity targets that includes programs to support the Yukon's mining sector to sustainably and competitively produce the materials needed for the global green economy.
 - Identify regulatory improvements in the *Forest Resources Act* to support the growth of Yukon's forestry and biomass industry.
 - Making the necessary amendments to the *Clean Energy Act* and developing the accompanying regulations to:
 - Establish a renewable electricity generation standard.
 - Regulate renewable fuels.
 - Supporting the development of legislation to regulate geothermal energy development in the Yukon.
 - Continuing to support the increased production and procurement of high quality, local food products and the increase in demand for Yukon meat products. Your work should incorporate the guidance of *Cultivating our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy* and supported by the Department of Highways and Public Works.
 - Working with the public utilities and the private sector to further encourage and enable the Yukon's transition to electric vehicles.
- Advance the development of successor resource legislation in partnership with Yukon First Nations governments and in consultation with industry and stakeholders with a goal of modernizing Yukon's land management regime and mineral resource sector while considering the recommendations from the Mineral Development Strategy. This work will be led by the Department of Energy Mines and Resources with support from the Department of Justice.
- Work with Natural Resources Canada on the implementation of Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and consider other made in Yukon solutions to expediting the development of the Yukon's critical mineral inventory. This will be led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources with support from the Executive Council Office, Department of Economic Development, and the Yukon Development Corporation.

- Begin implementation of *A Policy for the stewardship of Yukon's wetlands*.
- Work with partners to streamline internal processes to ensure participation in the assessment and regulatory regime is effectively managed. This will be led by the Executive Council Office with support from the Department of Energy Mines and Resources and the Department of Environment.
- Ensure the lines of communication between the Yukon Water Board and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources as the two key regulators are coordinated in a way that reduces redundancy and duplication in the process while also respecting each other's jurisdiction. This will be led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources with support from the Executive Council Office.
- Advance land use planning by completing the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, beginning planning work in other regions, and ensuring proactive engagement continues for successive plans. This will be led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in close collaboration with the Department of Environment and the Executive Council Office.
- Research potential models to establish a made in Yukon carbon credit program. This work will be led by the Executive Council Office with support from the Department of Finance and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The Yukon continues to show strong population growth. This has created an ongoing and increasing demand for housing across the Yukon. The Yukon Housing Corporation in partnership with the Departments of Energy, Mines, and Resources; Community Services; and Health and Social Services will lead our government's effort to increase the supply of housing stock with a focus on supporting the most vulnerable and improving affordability. In your role, you will support this work by:

- Developing new land parcels and lots.
- Exploring and supporting new approaches to address the ongoing need for housing options in the territory.
- Releasing the 5th and Rogers land parcel to the private sector for future housing development.
- Supporting the community land trust to advance their project in Whitehorse.
- Creating opportunities for public private partnerships in land development.

The Yukon's tourism industry is a driving factor in our strong economy. The culture of this territory and its history are an integral aspect of what makes the Yukon such an amazing place to live. As the Minister of Tourism and Culture, you are to:

- Continue working in collaboration with the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board to implement the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy.

- Collaborate with industry partners with a focus on:
 - Developing a tourism product inventory.
 - Developing indigenous tourism products.
 - Recruiting and training staff.
- Stimulate destination development with an emphasis on expanding visitor infrastructure including:
 - A new convention centre located in Whitehorse.
 - The establishment of tourism corridors.
 - New and improved accommodation and lodge networks.
 - Increased tourism capacity in Yukon communities.
- Support the research, preservation, interpretation, and assessment of our historic places by working closely with Yukon First Nations governments, municipalities, and communities.
- Continue to advance the establishment of a heritage resource centre for the conservation and protection of Yukon's archaeological, paleontological, and cultural artifacts.
- Finalize and implement the new Cultural Centres and Museums policy to ensure these important facilities are supported into the future.
- Continue to implement *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries* to support the growth and development of the creative and cultural industries in the Yukon.

As the Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation, you will implement the 10-year renewable electricity plan and continue investing in renewable projects with First Nation and community partners. Your work will be to:

- Ensure Yukoners have access to reliable, affordable, and renewable energy.
- Continue to advance the Atlin hydropower project.
- Begin the initial work on a grid connection project with British Columbia by:
 - Engaging with First Nations
 - Updating the previous cost estimates and early engineering work.
 - Exploring business models, partnership opportunities and financing strategies.
- Work with Natural Resources Canada on the implementation of Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and consider other made in Yukon solutions to expediting the development of the Yukon's critical mineral inventory. This will be led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources with support from the Executive Council Office, Department of Economic Development, and the Yukon Development Corporation.

As Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate, you will support the Yukon's Francophone community by:

- Continuing to support the implementation of the 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.
- Implement the new strategic framework to guide investments in services for the community in the coming years.
- Work with the Department of Economic Development to support Francophone Immigration.

As a Cabinet, we are expected to serve all Yukoners with empathy and transparency. Yukoners expect their elected officials to work together and so it is expected that they will remain at the centre of our work. We will foster a respectful, inclusive, collaborative working relationship within our government and with the many stakeholders, partner governments and organizations who advocate on behalf of Yukoners. We will support the public service with the understanding that the work they do is vital and important.

As your Premier, I support and encourage you to take bold, decisive action to support all Yukoners as we work collectively to build a strong future for generations to come in the Yukon.

Thank you for bringing your full focus to this work and for dedicating your efforts to upholding the commitments we made to Yukoners.

I look forward to what we will achieve in the remainder of our mandate.

Sincerely,



Ranj Pillai
Premier