



March 2, 2023

Ranj Pillai
Premier
Minister of the Executive Council Office
Minister of Economic Development
Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation

I am excited to renew my commitment to the people of the Yukon by accepting the role of *Premier, Minister of the Executive Council Office, Minister of Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation*. I am dedicated to working on behalf of all Yukoners and supporting my team so they can be successful in their portfolios.

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 the Executive Council Office, I will:

- Lead our government's work to continue to advance the Yukon Forum, building on the strong foundation of trust that we have built.

- 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.
- Support the work of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) Oversight Group to proceed with recommending amendments to YESAA that support a more streamlined assessment process.
- Work collaboratively with the Yukon Water Board to:
 - 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.
 - Establish a full-time chair position and ensure the organization is sufficiently resourced.
 - Consider policy and guidance options to increase efficiency and predictability in the regulation of water in the territory.
- Establish a Yukon Arctic Security Advisory Council to advance the Yukon's knowledge and vision for the future of our territory.
- Advance land use planning by completing the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan and look at options to begin planning work in other regions to ensure 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.
- 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.
- Research potential models to establish a made in Yukon carbon credit program. This work will be led by the Executive Council with support from the Departments of Finance and Energy, Mines, and Resources.
- Work with the private sector and stakeholders to identify challenges in government processes and establish a business navigation system.
- Maintain strong working relationships with the federal government on shared priorities, and work collaboratively with departments to ensure the Yukon is strategic in its federal financial engagements. This will be led by the Executive Council Office with support from the Department of Finance.

As the Minister of Economic Development, I will advance opportunities for innovation, diversification, and growth of a strong, resilient economy by:

- Completing a Yukon Innovation Strategy that will guide our work in creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs.
- Addressing labour challenges facing the private sector, and our healthcare and education systems by:
 - Introducing a new immigration strategy
 - Working with the French Language Services Directorate to support Francophone Immigration.
 - Beginning consultation on a new labour market strategy.
 - Working in partnership with other levels of government and Yukon University to identify opportunities to streamline and support recognition of foreign credentials.
- Continuing to investigate the feasibility of commercial and passenger rail in the Yukon.
- Ensuring the Port of Skagway remains accessible as an export option for the Yukon mining industry.

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

- Implementing the work plan created in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services to respond to the recommendations of the 2022 Office of the Auditor General of Canada Report on Yukon Housing.
- Developing the Yukon's rapid response to homelessness strategy while continuing to implement integrated housing with supports in partnership with Health and Social Services.
- 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 its project in Whitehorse.
- Creating opportunities for public private partnerships in land development.

- Developing and maintaining Yukon government staff housing in rural communities in partnership with First Nation governments and development corporations.
- Continuing to explore innovative approaches to modernize Community Housing, such as broadening mixed income housing while carrying out due diligence on cost efficiencies of the Yukon Housing Corporation's housing stock.
- 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 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