

NDP Response: Premier Cochrane

Caroline Cochrane
Premier of The Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
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Dear Premier Cochrane,

Thank you for your letter dated September 2, 2021 outlining the priorities of the Northwest Territories (NWT) in the 44th Parliament. On behalf of the NDP, we are glad to outline how New Democrat government and the Northwest Territories would cooperate to support the people in your communities.

Northern, rural and remote communities need a government that listens to their needs and recognizes the contributions that they make to the economic well-being of the entire country. New Democrats not only want to make life easier for people in the NWT, but we want to work together to ensure people are getting the services they need while reducing the cost of living. We know that communities are best-suited to serve their needs, and require the fiscal flexibility make investments for their own betterment.

Canada's New Democrats are committed to co-develop and implement federal government's *Arctic and Northern Policy Framework*. While the federal obligation involves multiple jurisdictions, the key role of NWT and your government needs to be part of that Framework and funding. We will support the economic and social self-reliance of NWT communities by addressing the massive infrastructure deficit in the North, including transportation, housing and energy resources. We are committed to closing the education gap by investing in *Shannen's Dream* and reducing the barriers that people have in getting a post-secondary education.

When it comes to resource extraction and economic development, we know that we must develop these resources in a sustainable way. While we strive for a zero-emissions economy, this won't happen overnight and we'll need resources to build the technology that we need. Communities must be at the heart and have a seat at the table during any part of the planning process. We will replace mere consultation with a standard of free, prior and informed consent for Indigenous communities affected by government policies.

Northern communities have been seeing the effects of climate change long before the rest of Canada, and those affects are having a serious impact on Northern livelihoods. Any solutions to helping communities adapt to and mitigate against climate change must empower that community and create good jobs. New Democrats have laid out a bold climate change plan, which will invest in climate infrastructure, renewable energy, and in helping workers and communities as we build a more sustainable economy together.

In partnership with Indigenous peoples, a New Democrat government will fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. We will work with Indigenous peoples to co-develop a National Action Plan for Reconciliation, drawing directly from the Calls to Action and the Declaration to ensure that Canada's laws, policies, and practices are consistent with Canada's human rights

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commitments – including cultural rights, land rights, and rights to self-determination and self-government.

Through legislation, we will establish a National Council for Reconciliation to provide oversight and accountability for this process, reporting regularly to Parliament and Canadians. And we will work in partnership with Indigenous women, the families of the missing and murdered, and communities to implement the Calls for Justice set out in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Thank you again for your letter. New Democrats look forward to working with you in the 44th Parliament.

Sincerely,
The NDP Team