



THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CHRONO

HONOURABLE ROBERT C. MCLEOD  
MINISTER OF LANDS  
MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HOUSING CORPORATION  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR HOMELESSNESS

JUL 14 2014

**Portfolio Mandate Confirmation**

I am writing to provide updated mandates for the Municipal and Community Affairs and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation portfolios as well as for the Department of Lands. These mandates may be amended as circumstances require. You are also the Minister Responsible for Youth and the Minister Responsible for Homelessness.

In addition to the portfolios listed above, you serve as Chair of the Infrastructure Committee-of-Cabinet mandated to coordinate the GNWT's approach to infrastructure planning and acquisition.

The Government of the Northwest Territories assumed new responsibilities for an already well-developed environmental protection and regulatory system as part of devolution. As a Responsible Minister you will play a key role in carrying out these new responsibilities.

It is critical that as Cabinet, we continue to carry out the responsibilities that have been entrusted to us in a manner that will bear the closest possible scrutiny. As we make important and sometimes difficult decisions to advance the Goals and Priorities of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, Cabinet solidarity remains essential. As a Cabinet Minister, you are responsible and accountable for the decisions taken by Cabinet as a whole.

Our government's commitment to accountability and transparency remains and as such I will be publicly releasing all updates to mandates.

I thank you for your leadership and hard work and I look forward to continuing to work with you, our Cabinet colleagues and all members of the Legislative Assembly to do our very best for the people of the Northwest Territories.

Robert R. McLeod

**Attachments**

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## **Minister of Lands**

- Lead the implementation of the Land Use and Sustainability Framework in working with partners including Aboriginal governments and communities.
- Work with other departments to develop policy and procedures to clarify roles, responsibilities, accountabilities, and processes of interactions between the newly created Department of Lands, other GNWT departments, and external governments and agencies.
- Ensure successful transition to post-devolution roles, including new decision-making authorities and responsibilities for land, water and resource management.
- Ensure coordinated and integrated decision-making for devolved responsibilities for the management of lands, resources and rights with respect to water.
- Align federal and territorial legislative and policy bases for managing and administering public lands of the NWT.
- Review of the Recreational Leasing Policy Framework.
- Coordinate the GNWT participation in Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Review processes.
- Lead the GNWT's efforts to work with the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the federal government, and the public to provide direction and approval in the five-year review of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan.
- Lead the GNWT's efforts to work with the Dehcho First Nation, the federal government, and the public to finalize an interim land use plan for the Dehcho region.
- Lead GNWT efforts to support and advance land use planning processes in the unsettled areas of the NWT.
- Lead GNWT participation in the Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA) Process for the proposed Thaidene Nene National Park, working collaboratively with other GNWT departments, Parks Canada, and affected Aboriginal groups and communities.
- Ensure an effective and efficient inspections and enforcement system consistent with the *Territorial Lands Act*, the *Waters Act*, the *MVRMA*, and the Inspections Risk Management Framework.
- Support the efforts of the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations to lead GNWT's participation in the Intergovernmental Council established pursuant to the Devolution Final Agreement.

- Consistent with the newly enacted *Surface Rights Board Act*, establish the Board's business operations and appointment of qualified members with a strong knowledge of the NWT.
- Establish a Liabilities and Financial Assurances unit to strengthen and modernize the management of environmental liabilities while protecting the public interest.
- Support the efforts of our government to build and maintain respectful government-to-government relations by implementing the government-wide Aboriginal government engagement strategy.
- Support the efforts of our government to advance the Federal Engagement Strategy.
- Work with Education Culture and Employment, Environment and Natural Resources, Industry Tourism and Investment and the Aurora Research Institute to establish a Western Arctic Centre for Geomatics in Inuvik with a core objective to establish Inuvik as a remote sensing centre of excellence in the Canadian Arctic.
- Work with Managing This Land Ministers to implement Northern Lands, Northern Leadership: the GNWT Land Use Sustainability Framework.

## **Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs**

- Build capacity of community governments to be able to meet their administrative and management responsibilities.
- Work with Social Envelope Ministers, communities and non-governmental organizations to review the delivery system to support sport, recreation and physical activity programs to increase overall health and wellness of NWT residents.
- Support the efforts of our government to transition to post-devolution roles, including new decision-making authorities and responsibilities for land, water and resource management.
- Undertake a review of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Fire Prevention Act* to ensure that communities have the appropriate legislation, training and support to respond to community emergencies.
- Implement an accountability framework for community governments.
- Administer the revised Gas Tax Funding Agreement to support municipal infrastructure priorities.
- Finalize and implement recommendations for the Municipal Funding Policy Review.
- To continue to provide access to national/regional sporting activities and opportunities for youth.
- Support the efforts of our government to advance the Federal Engagement Strategy.

## **Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation**

- Continue to implement and monitor changes to housing programs recommended in *Building for the Future: Northern Solutions for Northern Housing*.
- Continue to implement and monitor the revised fair and sustainable public housing rent scale that addresses the disincentive to work.
- Take steps to address declining CMHC funding for operating social housing.
- Make the collection of rent and mortgage arrears a priority in support of sustaining housing programs for NWT residents.
- Develop and implement an approach to improve housing service at a community level, including examining the relationship between the NWTHC and Local Housing Organizations (LHOs).
- Continue to put higher density housing and energy efficient housing in small communities.
- Coordinate with other departments to work with communities and other partners to ensure land is available for housing.
- Work with other Social Envelope Ministers to implement and monitor the Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- Work with Social Envelope Ministers to strengthen the GNWT's supports along the housing continuum including emergency shelters, transitional housing and approach to homelessness in all communities.
- Support the efforts of our government to transition to post-devolution roles, including new decision-making authorities and responsibilities for land, water and resource management.
- As Co-chair of Federal/Provincial/Territorial (F/P/T) Housing Forum, work with other provinces and territories to engage the federal government on the need for ongoing federal investment in housing, based on need as opposed to per capita.
- Support the efforts of our government to advance the Federal Engagement Strategy.