



THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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JUL 14 2014

**HONOURABLE GLEN ABERNETHY
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR SENIORS
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Portfolio Mandate Confirmation

I am writing to provide an updated mandate for the Health and Social Services portfolio. This mandate may be continue to be amended as circumstances require. You are also the Minister Responsible for Seniors and the Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities.

In addition to the portfolios listed above, you continue to serve as Chair of the Social Envelope Committee-of-Cabinet, mandated to advance a coordinated interdepartmental perspective on programs and services related to the physical, mental and social well-being of NWT residents.

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 17th 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 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

Attachment

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Minister of Health and Social Services

- Implement the strategic priorities outlined in Building on Our Foundation 2011-2016: A Strategic Plan for NWT Health and Social Services System, with particular emphasis on the following:
 - Reform governance of the health and social services system and improve measurement and accountability within the system,
 - Continue to improve the availability and effectiveness of mental health and addictions treatment services in the Northwest Territories,
 - Building on the existing service delivery model, continue to enhance access to services through use of technology and expanded scopes of practice, including expansion of midwifery services,
 - Develop a Pharmaceutical Strategy for the NWT, resulting in more cost-effective acquisition of drugs,
 - Work with communities to support initiatives that promote increased understanding of the role of prevention in health and wellness, including completion of a cancer strategy.
- Continue to advance the potential for increased efficiencies through implementation of shared and collaborative services within the health and social services system, with a focus on IS/IT and finance/procurement.
- Work with other Social Envelope Ministers to implement and monitor the NWT Anti-Poverty strategy and GNWT Action Plan.
- Continue to promote improvements in Aboriginal health by building on community wellness plans, supporting communities to implement prevention and promotion initiatives, and promoting on-the-land healing and cultural competency.
- Together with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, implement and monitor the comprehensive Early Childhood Development Framework.
- 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.
- Support the efforts of our government to advance the federal engagement strategy.