



June 12, 2024

HONOURABLE R.J. SIMPSON
PREMIER
MINISTER OF EXECUTIVE AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
MINISTER OF JUSTICE
GOVERNMENT HOUSE LEADER

Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories

As Premier, I will hold myself to the same standards that I have outlined for Ministers.

Cooperation and collaboration will be an integral feature of this government. I commit to encourage and support the strengthening relationships and information sharing between GNWT departments. Government's role is to serve its residents, and strong interdepartmental relationships will support the efficient and effective delivery of programs and services for our residents.

As Premier, I recognize the paramount importance of ensuring that our government consistently delivers sound, stable, and efficient programs that directly address the needs of residents. The efficient and effective delivery of government programs and services must remain at the forefront of this government's agenda. I will prioritize responsiveness to the evolving needs of our citizens, ensuring that every initiative is executed with precision and accountability. By upholding these standards, we not only demonstrate our commitment to good governance, but also cultivate a culture of trust and reliability within our communities.

As Chair of the Governance and Indigenous Affairs Committee-of-Cabinet, I will ensure cooperation between Ministers and departments on key initiatives relating to advancing Indigenous reconciliation in partnership with Indigenous governments and the federal government, advancing Aboriginal Rights negotiations, and advancing overall progress in addressing the Priorities of the 20th Legislative Assembly and the Mandate of this government.

Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

As Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, I will provide leadership and direct my department to carry out its Mandate as set out in the *Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs Establishment Policy*. I will ensure that mutually respectful intergovernmental relationships between the GNWT and Indigenous, provincial, territorial, national, and international governments are established and maintained. I will also provide leadership in the negotiation and implementation of land, resources and self-government agreements that address Aboriginal rights in the Northwest Territories.

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In addition to the Departmental goals, I will undertake the following to support the achievement of the Government's Mandate:

- Advance reconciliation and good governance by:
 - Working across government and collaborating with Indigenous governments to co-develop the Action Plan that is required by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act* (UNDRPIA);
 - Working with Indigenous governments to identify and confirm shared priorities for engagement with the federal government;
 - Leading GNWT efforts to support NGOs to secure sustainable, multi-year funding by providing support and guidance in funding submissions to the Federal Government, private industry, and charitable organizations; and,
 - Reducing silos or barriers between departments and agencies and working with departments to align strategies and actions plans across government.
- Improve the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing options in the NWT by addressing homelessness through the following actions:
 - Working with partners to ensure accurate data is available to support actions to address homelessness;
 - Establishing a continuous mechanism to allow for ongoing and accurate decision making related to services and supports for homelessness;
 - Establishing inter-agency tables to coordinate information sharing and service delivery related to homelessness;
 - Implementing *A Way Home: A Comprehensive Strategy to Address Homelessness in the Northwest Territories*; and,
 - Supporting other departments and agencies to attract federal funding opportunities in support of homelessness and the northern housing continuum.
- Strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, support the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT by:
 - Implementing the provisions of Land Claim and Self-Government agreements, thereby providing certainty to land ownership and the regulatory process;
 - Bringing federal and Indigenous government partners together to advance collaboration related to major infrastructure projects;
 - Working with other departments and governments to ensure the Economic Measures provisions of finalized Land Claim Agreements are implemented; and,
 - Working across GNWT departments to identify the regionally-specific issues that are impacting land availability.

- Strengthen preventative measures, public awareness and improve access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate health care by:
 - Supporting the Department of Health Social Services and Council of Leaders in working with the federal government to renew the approach to Non-Insured Health Benefits; and,
 - Working with Indigenous governments to advocate for the federal government to expand Non-Insured Health Benefits coverage to include Métis.
- Prevent, interrupt, and address the effects of trauma by:
 - Supporting the ongoing review of GNWT legislation through the UNDRIPIA working group;
 - Implementing Integrated Services with a focus on homelessness and working with partners to co-develop approaches to achieve integrated and person-centered services; and,
 - Facilitating the provision of federal Women and Gender Equality Canada funding to GNWT departments to support actions aligned with the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence.
- Enhance the safety of residents and communities by:
 - Coordinating the Wildfire Evacuation After Action Review 2023 Fire Season;
 - Confirming an intergovernmental communication approach to emergencies with Indigenous governments; and,
 - Advocating for a new approach to federal investment in major infrastructure projects in the Northwest Territories.
- Promote the safety of residents and communities in the NWT by:
 - Identifying barriers to accessing services that address root causes of crime;
 - Identifying resources required to support reintegration efforts and crime prevention; and,
 - Providing One Window Service Centers with resources and support to enhance public education and awareness.

In addition to the Mandate objectives listed above, I am also accountable for:

- Working to strengthen the Council of Leaders and bilateral tables with Indigenous governments to enhance collaboration and co-development work in areas of shared priority;
- Leading GNWT efforts to streamline access and administration of funding intended for Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations;
- Working with the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and with Indigenous governments to identify and address barriers to full participation in the responsible development of mineral and petroleum resources;
- Advancing the Integrated Service Delivery policy initiative;
- Ensuring departments work in a collaborative and coordinated fashion when developing advancing initiatives that impact areas across multiple departments or sectors;

- Ensuring departments are coordinated and strategic in their approach to engaging with federal departments and agencies when seeking policy and financial support from federal departments.
- Leading the review and update of the Negotiated Contracts Policy with the support of the Minister of Finance; and,
- Supporting the Minister of Finance in the development and implementation of the Indigenous Procurement Policy.

Minister of Justice

As Minister of Justice, I will be responsible for directing my department to carry out its Mandate as set out in the *Department of Justice Establishment Policy*, which includes carrying out the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories, including policing and corrections, in a manner which respects community and Indigenous values and encourages communities to assume increasing responsibilities. I will ensure that the government's administration of public affairs accords with the law. By virtue of my office, I will also be the Attorney General for the Northwest Territories, entrusted with the powers and charged with the duties specified in the *Department of Justice Act*.

In addition to the Departmental goals, I will undertake the following to support the achievement of the Government's Mandate:

- Advance reconciliation and good governance by:
 - Assessing legislative initiatives for consistency with UNDRIPIA; and,
 - Responding to access to information requests in a timely manner.
- Prevent, interrupt and address the effects of trauma by:
 - Providing corrections programming that supports offender rehabilitation and reintegration back into their home communities;
 - Developing a treatment program approval policy for offenders to attend approved treatment programs prior to sentencing; and,
 - Supporting communities to deliver community-led approaches to men's healing programming as a preventative approach to address family, intimate partner, and gender-based violence through the Men's Healing Fund.
- Promote the safety of residents and communities in the NWT by:
 - Supporting the establishment of a new Territorial Crime Reduction Unit within the RCMP "G" Division to disrupt illicit drug supply and enhance enforcement targeting criminal networks, and leveraging existing partnerships with the RCMP to provide opportunities for training, awareness and information sharing on the impact of illicit drugs;
 - Developing legislation to address illegal activities, including Safer Communities and Neighborhoods, Civil Forfeiture, and Trespass legislation;

- Developing enhanced guidance and tools for GNWT departments and agencies to enable efficient information sharing with law enforcement; and,
- Directing funding to community-based crime prevention and interventions targeting youth and young men.

In addition to the Mandate objectives listed above, I am also accountable for:

- Continuing the courts modernization project to streamline processes for the public and Court Services;
- Working with the Minister of Health and Social Services to develop options for integrating health and social services professionals in frontline policing responses for individuals in crisis; and,
- Working with the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment and with the Governments of Yukon and Nunavut, to secure support from the Federal Government for a North of Sixty Mineral Exploration Tax Credit.

Government House Leader

As Government House Leader, I am responsible for coordinating the conduct of government business in the Legislative Assembly and for the development of the government's overall legislative agenda. I will also provide regular updates to Caucus on the government's intended house business and legislative plans.

In addition to the Mandate objectives listed above, I am also accountable for:

- Applying the Macroeconomic Policy Framework to legislative proposals, bills, and proposed regulations as necessary to ensure that decisions consider important economic implications.



R.J. Simpson
Premier