



May 20, 2021

MR. RYLUND JOHNSON  
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE NORTH

**Oral Question 616-19(2)**  
**Government of the Northwest Territories Open Government Portal**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on March 1, 2021 regarding development and launch of an Open Government (Open Data) portal. During our exchange, I committed to providing an updated timeline on the portal and details around the data that would initially populate it. I also committed to providing a briefing to Standing Committee at their convenience.

The Open Data portal is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) overall approach to implementing the *Open Government Policy*. This approach also includes improving how Northwest Territories (NWT) resident's access government information and services (Open Information), and strengthening the way we engage with residents and other stakeholders to improve government decision-making.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) within the Department of Finance continues to act as the lead for the development and launch of an Open Data portal. I am pleased to advise you that interdepartmental work is underway to develop an Open Data Framework, adopt an Open Data License, develop a metadata standard, and explore a technical solution for the portal. Our intention is to launch the Open Data portal once these foundational framework pieces are in place, which we anticipate being early 2022.

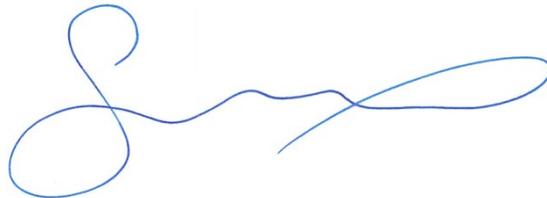
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Initial categories of data to be reviewed for release on the Open Data portal may include:

- Procurement related data
- Biological and wildlife data
- Climate research data
- GIS data
- Financial reporting data
- Public health data
- Land lease data

Throughout the Open Data portal development and implementation process, it will be essential to balance the principles of Open Government with our government's responsibility to safeguard our residents' privacy and security, to protect the security of proprietary information, as well as uphold legislated and legal restrictions on data sharing.

I look forward to keeping all Members apprised of our progress on this important initiative.



Caroline Wawzonek  
Minister of Finance

c. A/Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Coordinator