



May 27, 2021

MS. CAITLIN CLEVELAND  
MLA, KAM LAKE**Oral Question 671-19(2) Public Service Supporting Northern Businesses**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on March 12, 2021 regarding the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) working interdepartmentally to identify where business opportunity is lacking and to strategically offer business supports in those areas. During our exchange, I committed to providing a whole-of-government response on what is being done to ensure Northerners benefit from procurement.

One of our government's guiding principles is to ensure that the expenditure of public funds maximizes economic benefits to Northerners and supports Northern business. This is consistent with our longstanding commitment to support Northwest Territories (NWT) businesses and grow a strong, diversified economy. We put that commitment into practice through the Business Incentive Policy (BIP) and Northern Manufactured Products Policy (NMPP), which help ensure government purchases are made from or through NWT-owned businesses wherever possible, and to leverage this investment back into our economy. Work is underway with NWT businesses to identify ways in which our government's procurement policies and practices can be strengthened to better serve their needs.

The GNWT captures data about northern spending, job creation, and how Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) investments is being utilized. Additionally, efforts are underway to increase awareness of GNWT contracting opportunities. One way our government is doing this is through workshops with business owners and business operators in the NWT, which provide attendees with tips on how to successfully do business with the government using the GNWT Contract Event Opportunities Website and the BIP. The workshops also provide attendees with an open forum to share their suggestions on how to improve the public procurement process.

Thank you.



Caroline Wawzonek  
Minister of Finance

c. A/Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive