



February 18, 2019

Stacey Hassard, Chair  
Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Dear Mr. Hassard:

**Re: Status update to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts – February 6, 2019**

Please find below a status update requested by the committee to inform the report being prepared following the public hearing on the *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Yukon Legislative Assembly – 2017: Climate Change in Yukon*, which was held on February 14, 2018.

**1. Differentiating between targets and commitments**

Included in the suite of actions to help achieve the objectives in the new climate change, energy and green economy strategy will be targets and commitments. While these actions (which may be referred to as commitments) are still under development, it is still anticipated that they will be defined through setting clear milestones and completion dates, and accompanied by anticipated levels of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reductions, where appropriate.

In addition, targets will be established as a tool to complement the work used to track emissions and report on performance.

**2. Timelines for departmental commitments**

As one of the partners in the development of the new climate change, energy and green economy strategy, Yukon government is working across its departments to identify departmental commitments. Timelines for these commitments will follow the development of the strategy. A draft of the new climate change, energy and green economy strategy is anticipated for public reviewed in late 2019.

**3. The framework for the new strategy on climate change**

The objectives of the new strategy include supporting clean, secure and sustainable energy, reducing GHG emissions, ensuring Yukon is resilient to the impacts of climate change, and fostering new economic opportunities. It will include actions to help achieve

those objectives. While actions are still under development, it is still anticipated that they will be supported by clear milestones and completion dates, anticipated levels of greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and reporting systems to enable clear accounting of progress.

Progress to-date on the development of the new strategy:

- In 2017, a total of 31 governments and organizations such as Yukon First Nation, transboundary and municipal governments, as well as the Association of Yukon Communities and the Council of Yukon First Nations, were invited to participate in the development of the strategy. Two face-to-face meetings were held with the partner group, first in February 2018 to launch the project and again in April 2018 to discuss and plan the public engagement.
- In fall 2018, 20 public engagement events on climate change, energy and green economy were held in 12 Yukon communities and Inuvik to gather initial input into priorities and actions important to Yukoners. Approximately 300 people participated in the meetings and 28 of the 31 municipal and Indigenous governments that were invited to partner in the strategy initiative participated in the planning and/or delivery of these events. We received 481 responses to our online survey and the project team met with 22 stakeholder groups including industry associations, businesses, energy organizations, environmental non-government organizations, and others. We anticipate releasing a 'What We Heard' document in late Spring.
- We met again with the partner group on February 12 and 13, 2019 to discuss the initial input into the strategy, identify gaps, and to collaboratively identify a process for defining priorities and drafting the strategy.

#### **4. Which department is taking the lead**

The Government of Yukon is working collaboratively with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups, and Yukon municipalities to develop a new climate change, energy and green economy strategy. On the Yukon government side, this initiative is being co-lead by the departments of Environment, Energy Mines and Resources, and Economic Development.

Sincerely,



John L. Bailey, PhD  
Deputy Minister of Environment