



APR 02 2019

MR. KEVIN O'REILLY
MLA, FRAME LAKE

Oral Question 647-18(3): Developing a Knowledge Economy

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on March 5, 2019 regarding the discussion paper prepared by Hotì ts'eeda on *Developing a Sustainable Knowledge Economy in the Northwest Territories*.

I was pleased to see recognition of on-the-land programs and traditional knowledge as components of the Knowledge Economy, given the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (ENR) newly established On the Land Unit and work on developing land-based programming.

I can confirm that ENR staff have had previous discussions on this topic, reviewed the finalized document and welcomes the research and analysis conducted by Dr. Irlbacher-Fox. This document will be useful in our collaborative work on the Knowledge Economy with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), led by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI).

As you know, in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, ENR and ECE are leading a feasibility study to assess institutional models to advance the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) research priorities, grounded in the GNWT Knowledge Agenda.

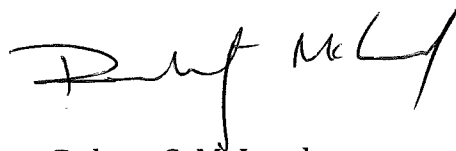
The discussion paper identifies a number of areas for consideration in the feasibility study, including:

- Recognizing that multiple research entities/organizations contribute to research as a critical sector of a strong Knowledge Economy;
- Positioning NWT communities as leaders in their own research, driven by northern priorities and self-determination;
- Supporting the role of research in the economies of small communities;
- Highlighting particular areas of priority research for investment;
- Developing current and future performance indicators and tracking mechanisms for the NWT Knowledge Economy;

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- Developing and/or updating legislation, policies and processes to enable research, growth and innovation;
- Examining the role a polytechnic could play in supporting research across NWT organizations;
- Considering protection, gathering, use and dissemination of traditional knowledge; and,
- Recognizing the importance of articulating a common vision for advancing the Knowledge Economy.

ENR considers the document to be a valuable resource moving forward and welcomes ongoing and future collaboration with our non-government research partners.



Robert C. McLeod
Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs
Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources