

**Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 19-18 (3): Report on the Review of the 2017-2018 Public Accounts**

**Background**

The Comptroller General and his staff were pleased to have the opportunity to review the Government's 2017-2018 Public Accounts with the Standing Committee on Government Operations on April 11, 2019.

In response to the report on the review of the 2017-2018 Public Accounts that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 65 2019, I provide the following responses to the Committee's recommendations contained within:

**Recommendation 1**

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Finance annually table a consolidated budget that shows anticipated revenues and expenditures for the larger government reporting entity, consistent with the information that will be reported at fiscal year-end in Section I of the Public Accounts: Consolidated Financial Statements.

*GNWT Response*

The Department of Finance will prepare a consolidated budget for the government reporting entity annually commencing in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

**Recommendation 2**

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Finance undertake an analysis of best practices for public governments with respect to public financial reporting and table its findings in the 19th Legislative Assembly prior to the review of the 2018-2019 Public Accounts. Committee further recommends that this report identify how the findings will inform any future changes to be made by the GNWT with respect to its public financial reporting.

### *GNWT Response*

The Department of Finance will perform a review of best practices for public governments with respect to financial reporting and include any planned future changes to be made to the GNWT public reporting. Through the annual public accounts review process, the Department of Finance will work with Committee on the status of the review and any planned changes.

### Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Finance provide the Standing Committee with the opportunity to review and provide comment on the platform and content used for the public closure of contaminated sites prior to the finalization of this work.

### *GNWT Response*

The Department of Finance is committed to improving the public disclosure of contaminated sites. Through the annual public accounts review process, the Department of Finance will work with other GNWT Departments and the Standing Committee to ensure an appropriate level of disclosure for NWT residents.

### Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response to this report within 120 days.

### *GNWT Response*

The Department of Finance will respond to this report within 120 days.