

Government of
Northwest Territories

September 25, 2023

KATRINA NOKLEBY
MLA, GREAT SLAVE**Oral Question 1541-19(2) Government of the Northwest Territories Committed to United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation**

This letter is a follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on May 30, 2023, regarding the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and making policies and programs consistent with the UN Declaration before 2025. I appreciate your concerns and the opportunity to address them.

Regarding the timeline for UN Declaration implementation, I understand the urgency to make tangible progress. The GNWT is committed to co-developing, with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, an UN Declaration Action Plan, which will serve as a guide to the implementation of the UN Declaration in the Northwest Territories. While the Action Plan is projected to be completed within two years, this timeline does not preclude the GNWT from taking immediate action. The GNWT may take action prior to the completion of the UN Declaration Action Plan, however, that work would occur in cooperation with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations.

The GNWT takes the implementation of the UN Declaration seriously. This is a fundamental commitment to the principles of self-determination, equality, and respect for the rights and cultures of Indigenous peoples. We recognize that the path to reconciliation is ongoing and requires sustained effort, dialogue, and collaboration.

Once again, I appreciate your questions and your commitment to ensuring that the voices of Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations are heard.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline Cochrane".

Caroline Cochrane
Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs