

**THE HONOURABLE ROBERT C. MCLEOD
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

**OPENING REMARKS TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIORITIES AND PLANNING
FISCAL FRAMEWORK AND BUSINESS PLAN OVERVIEW
NOVEMBER 16, 2017**

Thank you for the opportunity to meet today to start the review of the 2018-19 Business Plans of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

With me today are David Stewart, Deputy Minister of Finance and Secretary to the Financial Management Board and Sandy Kalgutkar, Deputy Secretary to the Financial Management Board. Robert Collinson, my Ministerial Special Advisor, is also in attendance.

As Members are aware, the first portion of today's meeting is a public meeting. For those that may not be aware, preparing a budget for the GNWT is much different than what would be the case in southern provinces. In our consensus style of government, there are business plans prepared each year that outline the initiatives and activities for each department. These business plans are reviewed by Standing Committees and the government typically receives considerable feedback from Regular Members. From the business plan review, the budget for 2018-19, along with the Main Estimates, are then prepared for tabling and consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

In southern jurisdictions the government's budget documents are typically quite secret and Regular Members would not know the contents of the budget prior to tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

This year, to begin the process of reviewing the Business Plans we have added this portion of our meeting to help set context and an overview of the budgeting process before we get into the details of the 2018-19 Business Plans.

With the Chair's approval, I would like to ask the Deputy Minister to take us through a short presentation, after which I will answer any questions Members may have.