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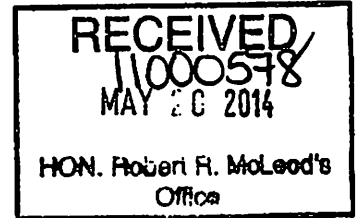
PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

MAY 16 2014

Dear Premier:

Thank you for your letter of March 14, 2014, in which you request an extension of the term of the 17th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Let me begin by remarking on the historic transfer just completed between our two governments. The devolution of land and resource management to the Northwest Territories represents significant change that could not have been accomplished without considerable efforts on both sides.

With respect to the request made by a motion of your Assembly, the Northwest Territories should have the tools which are available to other provinces and territories to avoid the likely conflict of timing of your Territorial election and the next Canadian general election. Therefore, with legislation recently adopted by Manitoba and Saskatchewan in mind, our government will propose to Parliament legislation that will permit a postponement of the upcoming Territorial election, within the limits established by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, should a federal election overlap with the Territorial election next year.

As we look ahead, post-devolution, I am confident that our two governments will continue to work together to advance the priorities of the residents of the Northwest Territories and all Canadians.

The Honourable Robert R. McLeod
Premier of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Legislative Assembly Building
2nd Floor
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
X1A 2L9

I am forwarding a copy of our exchange of correspondence to the Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development; the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment; and the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of the Canada Economic Development Agency for the Regions of Quebec, for their information.

Yours sincerely,