

Business Advisory Council Press Release

June 10, 2020

The Northwest Territories Business Advisory Council (the Advisory Council) has been established to provide Executive Council advice on how to mitigate the impacts of restrictions put in place as a result of COVID-19 and the development of an economic recovery plan.

The Advisory Council is made up of the following volunteers:

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| Paul Gruner, Co-Chair Det'on Cho Management LP | Jenni Bruce, Co-Chair NWT Chamber of Commerce, Midwest Property Management |
| Kyle Wright, Norman Wells & District Chamber of Commerce, Northridge Contracting | Tim Syer, Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, Lawson Lundell |
| Pat Rowe, Fort Simpson Chamber of Commerce, P.R. Contracting Ltd. | Linda Martin, Thebacha Chamber of Commerce, Thebacha Business Development Services |
| Sean Crowell, NWT Manufacturing Association, Canarctic Graphics | Denny Rodgers, Delta North Alliance, Beaufort Delta, Inuvialuit Development Corporation |
| Duc Trinh, NWT & Nunavut Construction Association, DT Electric | James Thorbourne, Delta North Alliance, Beaufort Delta, Gwich'in Development Corp. |
| Sara Brown, NWT Association of Municipalities | Gary Vivian, NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, Aurora Geoscience |
| Darrell Beaulieu, NWT Indigenous Leaders Economic Coalition, Denendeh Investments Inc. | Harold Grinde, NWT Tourism, Gana River Outfitters |
| Donna Lee DeMarcke, Hay River Chamber of Commerce, Aurora Ford Hay River | Trevor Wever, Northern Air Transport Association, Air Tindi |
| Kevin Hodgins, NAPEG (NWT and Nunavut Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists) and ACEC-NT (Association of Consulting Engineering Companies Northwest Territories), Stantec | |

The Advisory Council has met and is developing a list of priorities and recommendations on short-term and longer-term initiatives to assist the business community in building an economy stronger than before COVID-19.

We look forward to working with the GNWT to ensure prosperity. We encourage the Government of the Northwest Territories to take a balanced and inclusive approach to easing restrictions and take into consideration people's health and the value that Northern and Indigenous businesses bring to the NWT.

The Advisory Council recommends strong political leadership as any reopening plan will involve taking bold and calculated risks for social and economic recovery. Our goal is to emerge stronger than when we entered the unfortunate lockdown of our businesses and borders, affecting industry.

We are encouraged by the desire of the Government of Northwest Territories to engage the business community on a path forward. The Advisory Council is committed to the development and refinement of recommendations and the proposal of practical solutions that are in the best interest of the business community for the Executive Council to consider.

Any media enquiries can be referred to:

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