



January 19, 2018

Draft Climate Change Strategic Framework Feedback,
GNWT – Environment and Natural Resources,
PO Box 1320,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Draft Climate Change Strategic Framework

The Council of Canadians is dedicated to social and environmental justice and a healthy democracy. The NWT Chapter of this national organizations strives for these same goals in our work with other non-government organizations, Indigenous governments and NGOs, and citizens.

Climate change is a social and environmental justice issue as is evidenced by the inordinately greater impacts on marginalized and poor populations and fragile ecosystems. The NWT has more than our fair share of both. Our territory like our neighbours around the circumpolar world are experiencing the effects of climate change at a greater and more rapid rate than those south of 60. We need a very bold and aggressive strategy to manage and mitigate the impacts of climate change (see *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly – 2017: Climate Change in the Northwest Territories*). While the draft *Climate Change Strategic Framework Northwest Territories 2018-2030* is a first step, it is not the framework that will serve the NWT in the immediate and longer-term. Specifically,

- It lacks an appreciation of the urgent need for action, including innovation and new ideas to cope with the growing onslaught of challenges facing the North.
- It ignores solid research that shows the NWT can be using 100% renewable energy by 2050. <https://anotheralt.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/100-renewable-energy-report-nwt-final.pdf>
- It fails to embrace the growing number of community-based innovations that seek sustainable local economies and manage and mitigate climate change impacts. <http://ecologynorth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Final-Report-Building-Localized-Economies-Ecology-North.pdf>
- It neglects climate change adaptations and mitigations being introduced throughout the circumpolar north on such issues as wildfires, food security, transportation, and energy.
- It does not set departmental responsibilities, budgets, deliverables, and timelines for achievement of meaningful reduction of greenhouse gas. Further, it fails to provide Environment and Natural Resources with the government-wide authority that the Auditor

General identified is required for the Department and the GNWT to fulfill its climate change mandate.

The Auditor General of Canada is clear that the GNWT has utterly failed in its commitments to address climate change including making any progress on the reduction of greenhouse gas production. The seriousness of the threat of climate change to planetary ecological health and the security and prosperity of the NWT cannot be understated. Urgent, aggressive action is needed, starting with a detailed and costed plan specifying outputs and accountabilities.

We trust that you will briefly and effectively revisit the draft *Climate Change Strategic Framework* so it serves northerners and our environment. More importantly however, after what will now be four years of planning, it is critical that the GNWT expedite the action plan and immediate investment in mitigations in recognition of the urgency of the threats of climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lois Little', written in a cursive style.

Lois Little,
Co-Chair,
NWT Chapter Council of Canadians