

JUL 29 2014

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JUL 17 2014

Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts
Women's Lawyers Forum
Canadian Bar Association – NT Branch
PO BOX 1985
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P5

Dear Ms. Keenan Bengts:

Thank you for your June 12, 2014 letter on behalf of the Women's Lawyers Forum of the Northwest Territories Branch of the Canadian Bar Association about the Women's Parliament. I appreciate your interest in the important issue of the underrepresentation of women in politics in the Northwest Territories (NWT). We are glad to have the Women's Lawyers Forum as a partner in working together to remove the barriers women face in making the decision to run for office.

I appreciate your organization's perspectives on the idea of a Women's Parliament. This is an idea that continues to be discussed by Members of the Legislative Assembly, with the intention that any initiative put forward would be effective in increasing the number of women running for political office in the NWT. It should be noted, however, that a Women's Parliament would be only one component of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT's) efforts to increase the political representation of women. For example, leading up to the 2011 territorial election, the NWT Status of Women's Council engaged in a number of activities to encourage women to run, including running a campaign camp and sending information packages to women about getting involved in the political process. The GNWT is currently working with the NWT Status of Women Council on a number of initiatives leading up to the 2015 election.

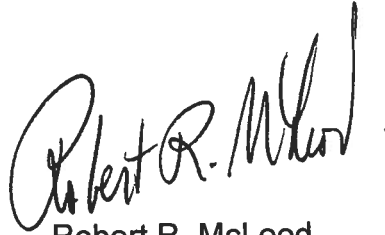
Your letter indicates that your organization has a number of good ideas to increase gender equality in our Legislature. I will ask Gail Cyr, in the Women's Advisory

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Office, to contact with you to discuss these potential measures and identify any areas where we can work together toward our common goal of increasing women's representation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. McLeod". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert R. McLeod

c. Mr. Gary Bohnet
Principal Secretary

Mr. Martin Goldney, Deputy Minister
Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

Ms. Gail Cyr, Special Advisor
Women's Advisory Office