

FOR RELEASE
October 3, 2017

Premier in Ottawa to present Yukon priorities at national meetings

Premier Sandy Silver is in Ottawa to raise important Yukon issues in meetings with the Prime Minister, Federal Ministers, Premiers and national Indigenous organization leaders.

Today, a meeting with the Prime Minister, Premiers and leaders of national Indigenous organizations will include a discussion on economic growth. Following that, Premier Silver will participate in a meeting with other Premiers and the Prime Minister regarding the issues facing Canada's economy, including Canada-US relations and the North American Free Trade Agreement, proposed federal changes to small business taxation and the federal legalization of cannabis.

Premier Silver will also attend a Council of the Federation meeting to continue discussions of shared priorities with Canada's premiers.

This morning, Premier Silver spoke directly with federal Finance Minister, Bill Morneau, and presented the concerns of Yukon business owners. He relayed their request for a longer consultation on the potential impacts of the suggested small business tax changes. Premier Silver also expressed the need for transition provisions.

Morneau joined the First Ministers' Meeting this afternoon and is expected to share more information about adjustments to the proposed tax changes.

Yesterday, Premier Silver met with Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett to discuss shared northern issues, such as Bill C-17 and Arctic Strategy. Premier Silver also met with Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna to discuss carbon pricing and climate change.

The Premier will return to the fall sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly on October 4.

Quotes

"It is important to ensure that the priorities of Yukoners are represented and heard at the national table. While the timing of these meeting is not ideal, it is my responsibility to collaborate with Canada's leaders to support economic growth at home and across the country. Discussions with my colleagues on a national level are integral to Yukon's success.

"I was pleased to have this morning's opportunity to speak with Minister Morneau. The Yukon business community shared their concerns with me directly and I relayed them to the Minister. He was receptive of the information and I look forward to hearing more from him at our afternoon meeting."

–Premier Sandy Silver

Quick facts

- The Prime Minister and Premiers will meet Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Natan Obed and Métis National Council President Clément Chartier.
- The agenda for the meeting of Prime Minister and Premiers on October 3 includes guest speakers Governor of the Bank of Canada Stephen Poloz and Chief Statistician of Canada Anil Arora.
- There will be a media conference following the meeting of the Prime Minister and Premiers (First Ministers' Meeting) at 4:30 p.m., eastern daylight time (12:15 p.m. Pacific daylight time).
- The Council of the Federation comprises all 13 provincial and territorial premiers and enables premiers to work collaboratively.
- The fall sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly begins on October 3 at 1 p.m.

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