



May 15, 2020

Mr. Tim Syer
President
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce
21 4802 50TH AVENUE
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1C4

executivedirector@ykchamber.com

Dear Mr. Syer:

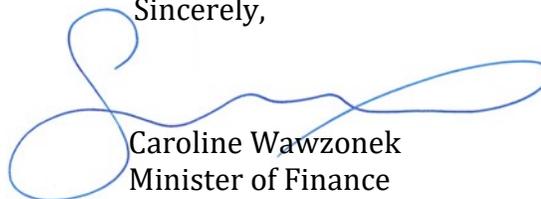
Northwest Territories Wage Top-Up Program

On May 12, 2020 I announced a 16-week program starting April 1, 2020 to top up the wages for employees who earn less than \$18 per hour from April 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

This program also requires a partnership with employers who have employees that are currently making less than \$18 per hour. We are asking that these employers provide the names, hourly wage rates, and hours worked of these employees, as well as to top-up their wages once the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) provides these employers the funding to do so. This funding will include the employer's share of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Employment Insurance (EI) contributions, as well as a \$50 per employee administrative fee.

Through this program, the Government and employers can together direct money into the hands of low-wage employees, many of whom have remained in front-line work throughout the uncertainties of the pandemic. This increase would result in a level of income that research shows tends to result in higher levels of direct inputs to the local economy; in other words the program will give a financial boost to a segment of wage earners who tend to spend more of their income in the local economy with benefits to the NWT economy as a whole. We are asking for the Chamber's help to notify their members of the program. Businesses can find out more, and apply, at <https://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/en/services/nwt-wage-top-program>.

Sincerely,



Caroline Wawzonek
Minister of Finance

- c. Honourable Caroline Cochrane, Premier
- Honourable Katrina Nokleby, Minister, Industry, Tourism, and Investment
- Ms. Shaleen Woodward, Principal Secretary
- Mr. Martin Goldney, Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs
- Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar, Secretary of the Financial Management Board/Deputy Minister of Finance
- Ms. Pamela Strand, Deputy Minister, Industry, Tourism and Investments