



**The Honourable Margaret Thom  
Commissioner of the Northwest Territories**

It is with profound shock, immense sadness and heart break that I offer my sincere condolences to everyone affected by this tragic loss of lives in Fort Smith plane crash. There is no greater tragedy than the sudden and inexplicable loss of loved ones who by their very existence brought unconditional love, comfort and support to everyone in their lives.

I feel deeply for the families, friends, co-workers and the community of Fort Smith who today are experiencing the first terrible days of shock and grief. I will continue to have you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Air travel is a way of life across our beautiful North. We rely on the experience and bravery of the men and women who fly us to the most remote parts of the NWT. Whether it be for work or to visit loved ones. Without these brave men and women our strong family and community bonds that we cherish would be difficult to maintain.

As Northerners, we are resilient and there is little we cannot achieve when we come together. From emergency responders to the sharing of comfort and support the community of Fort Smith is demonstrating at this very moment. This is the true spirit of Northerners during a very difficult time. I express heartfelt gratefulness and appreciation to all for the heroic efforts in this tragedy.

I am deeply moved and saddened yet feel very proud of the people of Fort Smith and all of the Northwest Territories who are sharing and feeling this profound loss and can still offer tremendous ways of support, love and comfort.

May the Creator guide and bless us as we process our shock and grief during this very difficult time.

**Commissioner Thom**