



March 13, 2017

Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington, North Tower
Gatineau, Québec K1A 0H4

Dear Minister Bennett:

Re: **Bill C-17**

As you are aware, last April the Government of Yukon, self-governing Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada committed to repeal contentious amendments to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA)*.

Self-governing Yukon First Nations were opposed to the following amendments made by the previous federal government:

- setting time limits for assessments;
- exempting a project from reassessment when an authorization is renewed or amended unless there has been a significant change to the project;
- establishing the ability for the federal minister to provide policy direction to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB); and,
- establishing the ability to delegate the federal minister's powers, duties or functions under YESAA to the territorial government.

Repeal of these amendments and addressing industry concerns through collaborative framework is critical to re-establishing confidence in the development assessment process in Yukon and to honouring the intent of Final and Self-Government Agreements.

We were pleased to see Bill C-17, which removes these contentious clauses, introduced in the House of Commons on June 8, 2016.

Our governments and organizations confirm our support for the repeal of these amendments. It is our understanding that Bill C-17 will be brought forward in the House for second reading on March 22, 2017. The Government of Yukon, self-governing Yukon First Nations, Council of Yukon First Nations and the Yukon Chamber of Mines look forward to seeing Bill C-17 passed, without change, as soon as possible.

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Your support for the passage of Bill C-17 assures us that the Government of Canada is genuinely committed to reset the relationship between Canada, Yukon and Yukon First Nations.

We look forward to the support of the House in moving this bill through so that the Yukon economy can benefit from the certainty established by the Final and Self-Government Agreements in Yukon.

Sincerely,



Sandy Silver
Premier
Yukon Government



Peter Johnston
Grand Chief
Council of Yukon First Nations



Mike Burke
President
Yukon Chamber of Mines