



**Societies Act and regulations  
Issues for Public Engagement  
Oct. 12 - Dec. 14, 2017**

In early October 2017, the Corporate Affairs Branch met with a cross-section of societies currently registered in Yukon. This provided us with a common understanding of some of the front line challenges associated with the current legislation.

Some of the feedback on these issues is outlined below. We invite all interested societies and members of the public to share your experience with these issues as we move towards modernizing the legislation to streamline processes, while maintaining transparency and accountability.

<b><u>BYLAWS:</u></b>
The current legal requirement that the Registrar review and approve all new and amended bylaws is onerous and time-consuming. This, along with the requirement that the bylaws be reviewed for clarity, compliance with the Criminal Code, human rights law and common law, can result in significant delays.
<b><u>FINANCIAL REVIEW:</u></b>
Larger societies feel the requirement for their financial statements to be reviewed once every five years is complicated and expensive.
<b><u>ANNUAL REPORTING:</u></b>
Volunteers feel that the financial accounting and legal reporting requirements are unnecessary 'red tape'. They have expressed concern that the current reporting structure is complicated and time-consuming and that there isn't enough training or time between fiscal year-end and the annual general meetings.
<b><u>CHAPTERS, BRANCHES OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:</u></b>
Local chapters and branches expressed concern that it is unrealistic to provide separate bylaws, while also having to follow their organization's national or international bylaws.
<b><u>DISSOLVING SOCIETIES</u></b>
Organizations planning to dissolve find there is a lack of statutory process to guide the liquidating of assets and how to deal with all outstanding debts.
<b><u>EXTRA-TERRITORIAL SOCIETIES:</u></b>
Organizations expressed concern that there are too many differences between requirements of home jurisdictions and Yukon, specifically, with respect to bylaws and periodic reporting requirements.
<b><u>DISPUTE RESOLUTION:</u></b>
There is general concern that the process for resolving disputes and addressing issues within societies is inefficient.