

Getting started

Your hopes and expectations

Thank you for sharing your time and insight. We would like to start with an important question to help us understand what brought you here today.

What are your hopes and expectations for this conversation about modernizing the *Societies Act* to better meet present and future needs of all Yukoners?

Background #1

What this conversation is about and why it matters

What is this conversation about?

- There are more than 700 societies in Yukon contributing to the quality of life we enjoy. (Thank you for the work you do!)
- **The Government of Yukon would like to modernize the regulatory structure in which societies exist to better meet present and future needs.**
- Clear rules, accountability and transparency are key to serving the public interest and to empower societies to better assume accountability and better serve public interests.
- We also recognize there are concerns around:
 - Government review of bylaws, annual and financial reports, and forms;
 - Forming and winding up of societies;
 - Complaint mechanisms; and
 - Alignment of local branch societies' bylaws with that of out-of-territory head offices.
- This conversation is not about finances or funding. (We know that is important too however, this conversation is focussed on the regulatory structure).

Why does this conversation matter?

- **Good legislation is important because it supports:**
 - Accountability
 - Transparency
 - Legal credibility
 - Public and society safeguard
 - Framework to become a society
 - Enabling through certification
- **Streamlined processes are important because it supports:**
 - Effective and efficient implementation of legislation
 - Reduced burden on societies so they can focus on their core mandate

Background #2

What we already heard, our request, and our commitment

What we already heard

- Earlier this fall, we met with a cross-section of societies to understand the challenges associated with the current legislation
- The following discussion stations are what we believe to be the main themes (if there are others, please let us know!)

What we are asking

- How can we improve the existing *Societies Act*, regulations, and implementation?
- Do you have any ideas, and what do you think about some of the ideas and options we have identified?
- How can we better streamline processes, while maintaining transparency and accountability?

Our commitment to you

- Sharing your experience will help us better understand society's' overall needs and concerns as we move towards modernizing this legislation.
- We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how your input influenced any decisions.

Conversation #1

Bylaws

Issue

- 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.

Ideas

- Like in BC, should we abolish the regulator's review requirement, provided that the board of directors ensure that bylaws comply with statutory requirements?
 - This model would put the onus for compliance with legislation on the society and perhaps require sign-off from a lawyer.

What do you think? Do you have any other ideas?

Conversation #2

Financial Review

Issue

- Many societies feel the requirement for their financial statements to be reviewed once every five years is complicated and expensive.

Ideas

- All societies must be not-for-profit organizations, and are accountable to their members for how their income and assets are managed. Financial reporting will always be required. Do you have any suggestions on how to meet this need for transparency and accountability, and not over-burden societies?
- For example, should we explore the option of catering for different types of societies and perhaps tailor the financial reporting and reviewing requirements to match the type and size of society? The financial documentation could perhaps be required to be filed either at the society's records office or with the regulator, but the onus remains on the society to ensure financial records are kept in accordance with legislative requirements and to be presented upon request.

What do you think? Do you have any other ideas?

Conversation #3

Annual Reporting

Issue

- Many 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.

Ideas

- Generally, how can processes be simplified while still meeting the needs for transparency and accountability?

What do you think? Do you have any ideas?

Conversation #4

Chapters, Branches of National and International Organizations

Issue

- Some 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.

Ideas

- Should we explore avoiding duplication in legislative regulatory requirements between home jurisdiction and Yukon? How?
- For example, would it be easier if we simply incorporate the home jurisdiction's requirements from a timing perspective, provided that the home jurisdiction has the same requirements?

What do you think? Do you have any other ideas?

Conversation #5

Extra-Territorial Societies

Issue

- 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.

Ideas

- Should we explore avoiding duplication in legislative regulatory requirements between home jurisdiction and Yukon? How?
- For example, would it again be easier if we simply incorporate the home jurisdiction's requirements from a timing perspective, provided that the home jurisdiction has the same requirements?

What do you think? Do you have any other ideas?

Conversation #6

Dissolving Societies

Issue

- 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.

Ideas

- How can legislation require clear process for greater legal certainty in an efficient way?

What do you think? Do you have any ideas?

Conversation #7

Dispute Resolution

Issue

- There is general concern that the process for resolving disputes and addressing issues within societies is inefficient.

Ideas

- The existing regime can force the regulator to be a party to legal disputes that don't otherwise involve YG as the regulator. Should disputes between stakeholders be resolved as between them only, or in court, if necessary?

What do you think? Do you have any other ideas?

Conversation #8

Streamlined processes

Issue

- We know some processes are inefficient and could be better streamlined while still meeting the needs to be transparent and accountable.

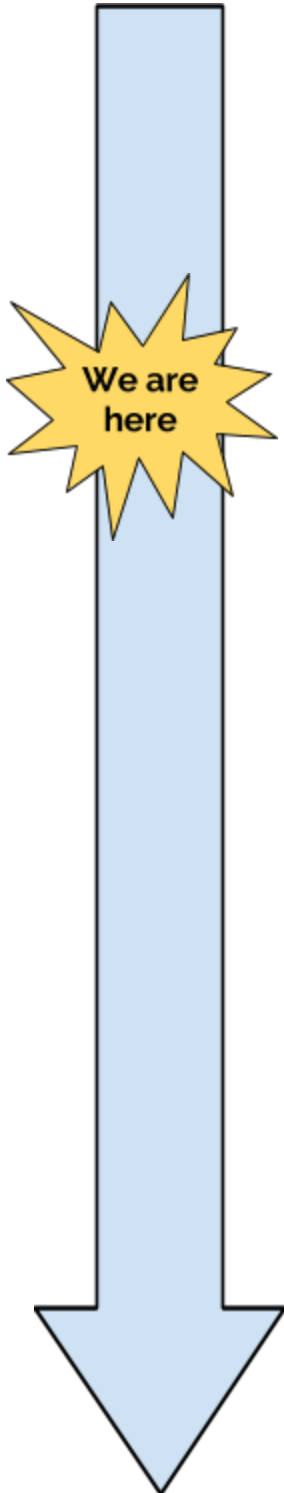
What are your ideas to better streamline the administrative process?

Conversation #9

Did we miss anything?

Is there anything else we should know to help modernizing the *Societies Act* to better meet present and future needs of all Yukoners?

Next steps



Early information gathering

Phase 1: Key stakeholder engagement

"What are your ideas and considerations?"

Share "What we heard in Phase 1" report

Develop draft legislation

Phase 2: Key stakeholder engagement

● **Share "How we used your input" report**

● "Here is the draft, are we on track?"

Prepare draft legislation for introduction