



## TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

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November 25, 2021

Honourable Richard Mostyn  
Minister of Community Services  
PO Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 2C6

Emailed: Richard.Mostyn@yukon.ca

### Re: Better Buildings Program

To Minister Mostyn,

Thank you for taking the time to join our Town Council meeting and answering questions that we had about the Better Buildings Program. Our Council believes that it is an extremely beneficial program that will help the Yukon government meet greenhouse gas emission benchmarks, while also increasing property values, and help Yukoners keep more money in their pockets.

As we brought up in our meeting, our Council has some concerns with the way in which the Yukon government is deploying the program. Although we understand that this is a time sensitive matter and a top priority for your government, we do not understand the urgency to get this passed through the legislation now. We feel that there is a lot of pressure being put onto the municipalities, with limited information on administration of the program and a very short time frame to make an informed decision.

Some of the concerns voiced last night include, the administration burden being downloaded to the municipalities, the current lien process and cost of recovering funds from defaulted homeowners, the timeline it may take between having an assessment done and funds being advanced, a limited number of energy assessors in the territory, access barriers for lower income households, and the lack of a refined process in place at this stage.

We feel that the Better Buildings Program has the potential to be an amazing program, but we would like to see more due diligence done before it is passed. We are struggling to understand why a working group has not already been formed, and why there are still so many unanswered questions about the inner workings of the program implementation and administration.

Town of Watson Lake is in support of the Better Buildings Program but is not in support of it being put forward in the legislature on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Our Council would like to see it be brought forward at the 2022 spring sitting, and in the meantime, would like to see energy assessments start, and the program be refined with a well thought out and deliverable strategy in place. We believe that the additional six months to work through the deliverables will allow for a more successful program in the long run.

The Town of Watson Lake would like to continue to be involved in the regulatory process and hope to have a seat on the working group being formed. We truly hope that the program moves ahead, we would just like to see the Yukon government take a step back to make sure it is done judiciously.

Sincerely,

Mayor and Council  
Town of Watson Lake

Cc:

Kate White, Leader of the Yukon NDP  
Currie Dixon, Leader of the Yukon Party