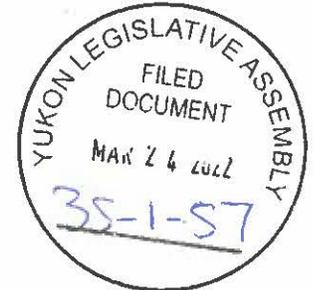


Council of Yukon First Nations

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March 17, 2022

Honourable Tracy McPhee
Minister of Health and Social Services
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6



Re: Bill No. 11, Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act

Dear Minister McPhee,

As you know, the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), Yukon First Nations (YFN) and Government of Yukon have worked effectively in a government-to-government partnership over the past two years to review and develop proposed amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act*.

As part of this work, our officials reviewed the 2018 advisory committee's report entitled *Embracing the Children of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, which was developed after extensive public engagement, including meetings with YFN and stakeholders. This report informed the development of the proposed amendments that are set out in *Bill No. 11, Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*. The Legislative Assembly approved first reading of Bill 11 on March 9, 2022. CYFN supports the enactment of Bill 11.

The Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office advised CYFN by email message on March 11, 2022, that she is recommending a package of revisions to Bill 11 be tabled in the Legislative Assembly to compliment Bill No.11. While CYFN appreciates the matters raised by the Child and Youth Advocate, we are concerned that these proposed revisions would only serve to delay the timely enactment of Bill 11. CYFN and YFN would have to undertake additional reviews and analysis of the proposed revisions since there was no consultation or engagement with the CYFN or YFN during the development of the Child and Youth Advocate's proposed revisions. Therefore, we do not support any such revision to Bill 11.

CYFN is prepared to commit to work with the Child and Youth Advocate and Government of Yukon to review the issues raised in the proposed revisions and, where appropriate, implement them in policies and procedures and identify future changes to the Act. We look forward to establishing a relationship with the Child and Youth Advocate to work collaboratively with respect to matters that affect Indigenous children.

In closing, we urge the Government of Yukon to prioritize the enactment of Bill 11 without delay. Bill 11 will bring substantive changes to the application and implementation of the Act that benefit Yukon First Nations children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Peter Johnston', written in a cursive style.

Peter Johnston
Grand Chief

cc. Yukon First Nations
Honourable Jeremy Harper, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Honourable Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition
Honourable Kate White, Leader of the Third Party
Yukon Child and Youth Advocate