



October 17, 2022



Open Letter to Nils Clarke, Minister of Environment

Dear Minister Nils Clarke, we are aware that the Yukon Government has recently tabled a new Animal Protection Act. We do have concerns about this Bill. We were consulted in 2019 in regards to the Animal Control and Protection Agenda changes being presented at that time. The Yukon Dog Musher's Association along with numerous other mushers and members of the public attended a single meeting (Burns Road Govt' building) with policy maker Drew Macneil who was presenting and collecting information on behalf of the government. The YDMA as well as most attending the meeting expressed strong opposition to most of what was presented. Later in the year the Yukon Government put forward a survey to the general public which was in the form of numerous "multiple choice" questions. This flawed survey resulted in the attached "APC what we heard report" which was produced shortly thereafter. Needless to say the meetings which took place on Burns Road had little to no bearing in the subsequent report, however the clearly flawed and agenda driven survey that followed was sure to glean what was needed in order to produce the biased report. We have heard nothing from government since on this issue.

At this point, it is alarming that the government did nothing to address our concerns which were tabled at this meeting. Although the government was able to say that they consulted with stakeholders their views were totally ignored in the subsequent "what we heard" report. The historical and cultural significance of dog mushing in the Yukon and the North including Alaska and the N.W.T. cannot be understated. It is for certain that this animal control and protection agenda is not coming from those familiar with the northern lifestyle and with our interests at heart. Many of our members who actively train and race sled dogs locally also own and operate tourism businesses, this new Act could potentially greatly affect them.

Please Do not proceed with any legislation. Please consult in a fair and transparent manner with the stakeholders before proceeding any further with this.

I thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely

Mandy

Vice President

Yukon Dog Musher's Association

cc John Streicker, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

cc Currie Dixon, Yukon Party Leader

cc Kate White, NDP leader

cc Brad Cathers MLA for Lake Laberge

cc Wade Ischenko MLA for Kluane

cc Geraldine Van Bibber

cc Emily Tredger

cc Jackie Jacobson MLA for Nunakput