



COMMUNITY OF SILVER CITY

Milepost 1054 Alaska Highway

Silver City, Yukon, Y0B 1H0

September 14, 2023

PREMIER RANJ PILLAI

2071 2nd Ave., Whitehorse, YT., Y1A 1B2

Re: Proposed Closure of Silver City Transfer Station

Premier Pillai,

We, the residents of Silver City and the surrounding area, are writing to you today in the hope that you may find time to personally consider our situation here and move towards a reconsideration of your government's ill advised determination to shut down our deeply needed transfer station, and thereby avoid doing grievous damage to our community.

It's painful to recount, but the Minister of Community Services has stubbornly and consistently refused to engage with us on this issue. At the one meeting he attended, in Destruction Bay, he opened the meeting by announcing that he was NOT there to discuss that issue, so vital to us all, but was there merely as part of "a previously planned tour of the communities". It was a very well attended gathering and everyone who was there can testify to the fact that he responded to our concerns in an arrogant and condescending manner with a demeanor wholly inappropriate for a public servant. Sad to say, he was dismissive and disrespectful towards the assembled community members.

Your desk, as the saying goes, is "where the buck stops", and bears the ultimate responsibility for the impact of government decisions on the people of the Yukon. Thus, it is directly to you that we now appeal.

We have heard a lot of nebulous justifications wrapped around phrases such as "global warming concerns" and "modernization", issues which carry no rational, direct bearing on our predicament here. For a decision which will do no less than devastate our community, we deserve to be provided with some concrete and practical reasoning. What we have not heard is even one good, intelligible reason for the govt. to harm us in this way. If you are aware of such a reason, please convey it to us.

We are a growing community, with new residents coming in and new businesses taking shape. Year by year, tourism is constantly on the increase. Please tell us ... How can our government aggressively promote tourism on the one hand, while, on the other hand, dismantling the infrastructure which rural residents desperately need in order to cope with expanding tourism??

It should be self evident that the Govt. of Yukon should not be in the business of pulling the rug out from under such places and thus strangling fledgeling communities in their infancy. Astonishingly, this policy is redolent of a callous disdain towards rural residents. Is our govt. simply unaware of what life is like outside of the city limits of Whitehorse? To us, it comes across as outright hostility towards our way of life.

Government handouts we've received begin by saying that the closing of rural transfer stations will "save taxpayers money and reduce emissions". Both assertions are demonstrably untrue. It is

inarguable that requiring our residents to drive hundreds of km. Several times a week will both greatly increase overall emissions and incur thousands of dollars in additional expenses for taxpayers here.

At this time we will not go into listing all the reasons why this policy is a disastrously counterproductive mistake. Suffice it to say, the reasons are there, and they are good, sensible reasons. They have been communicated over and over, to government representatives and in the media. Constantly having to reiterate our case is tiresome; we would rather be focussing our attentions elsewhere. The thing is; We love this community and will not give up defending it's viability.

Of course, government is not expected to be infallible. Mistakes are made. However, one hallmark of good government is that when mistakes are made they can be recognized, retracted and reworked, in order to better serve the public interest.





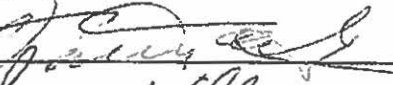


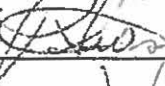

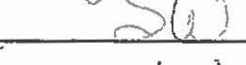
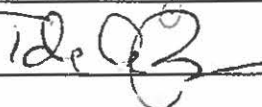
The mission statement of the ruling Liberal Party states that it is dedicated "creating a Yukon in which all have a voice, a place, and a chance for something better" We hope that you can live up to those words.

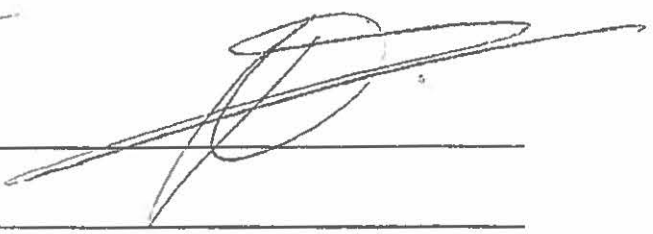
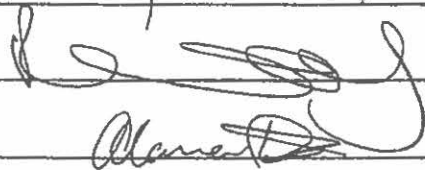


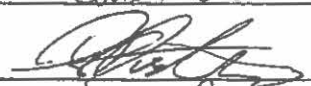
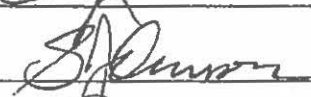

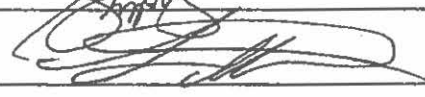

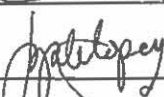


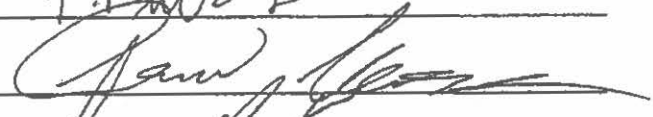
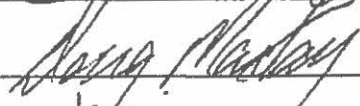
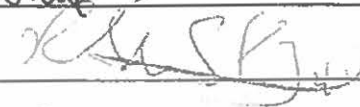

Although you inherited this policy, you now own it. Your government's desire to shut down the rural transfer stations has deeply alienated and enraged inhabitants of vast swaths of the Yukon beyond Whitehorse. You should be concerned about this.





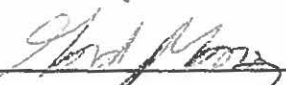
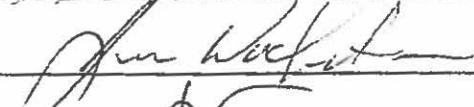

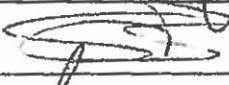
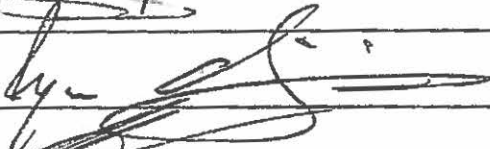


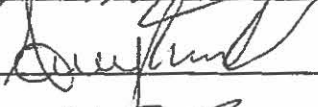
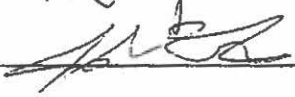
In the past we sent letters and petitions to your predecessor. Not one was ever answered. We hope that you will not remain similiarly silent. We respectfully await your response ...






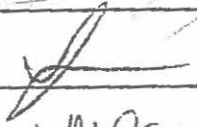

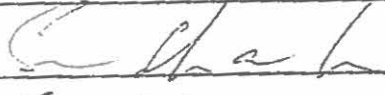
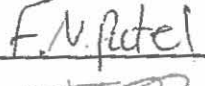




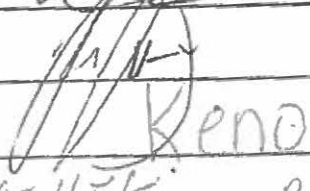
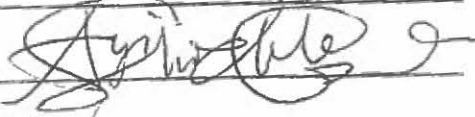
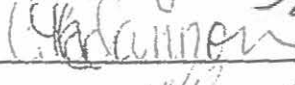
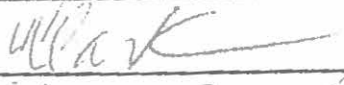



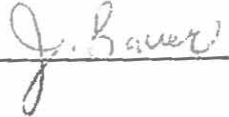
SIGNED BELOW BY THE RESIDENTS OF SILVER CITY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA,

CC: cascade district
corporate website.

| SIGNATURE | PRINTED NAME |
|---|--|
| 1.  | TRACY HARBURT |
| 2.  | Luc Pinard |
| 3.  | Emily Schneider |
| 4.  | JAMES GIBSON |
| 5.  | DAVID E. CARTIER, SR. |
| 6.  | Sian Williams |
| 7.  | Suzanne Tremblay |
| 8.  | Pauly Sias |
| 9.  | JP Pinard |
| 10.  | Sally Wright |
| 11. Tracy de la Barre |  |

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|
| 12. | ROBERT VAN KESMADE |  |
| 13. | SPENCER SLOTT BERRY | |
| 14. | ROBERT VAN KESMADE |  |
| 15. | Alanna Dickson |  |
| 16. | Mitchell Kebab |  |
| 17. | Sarah Bowler | Sarah Bowler |
| 18. | Russell Dickson |  |
| 19. | Charles Eickland Jr. C.E. | |
| 20. | GEORGIE JOHNSON |  |
| 21. | Casselyne Jane dela Cruz |  |
| 22. | Lenida Alattini |  |
| 23. | Charles Eickland Sr. | |
| 24. | DANIEL STEPHENSON |  |
| 25. | Zandra Lynn Lopez |  |
| 26. | Connie Wilson |  |
| 27. | C. Bradley | C. Bradley |
| 28. | Pascale Dubois |  |
| 29. | D MORSS |  |
| 30. | DOUG MACKAY |  |
| 31. | Alyssa White | A White |
| 32. | CHIANNHA SKOOKUM |  |
| 33. | Hazel Skookum |  |

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|--|
| 34. | Adrian Wirth |  |
| 35. | Jolanda Benjamin | Jolanda Benjamin |
| 36. | Owen Miller | Owen Miller |
| 37. | Mike GREEN |  |
| 38. | Josue Lopez |  |
| 39. | Brenda Guthrie | Brenda Guthrie |
| 40. | Alex Guthrie | Alex Guthrie |
| 41. | Kate Guthrie | Kate Guthrie |
| 42. | Marissa Mills |  |
| 43. | Brenda Carson | Brenda Carson |
| 44. | Cecile R Cox | Cecile Cox |
| 45. | Victor Gauthier | BB Victor Gauthier |
| 46. | GORD MOORE |  |
| 47. | Jane Woolverton |  |
| 48. | Uigana Williams |  |
| 49. | Steven Billers |  |
| 50. | Byron Oziewicz |  |
| 51. | Will Honeyman |  |
| 52. | Linda Lewis | L.L. |
| 53. | S.R. Nottingham |  |
| 54. | Amy Smarch |  |
| 55. | John Baker II |  |

- 56. Dennis Guthrie 
- 57. Suzanne Flumet 
- 58. Costland Flumet 
- 59. Charles Henning 
- 60. Helen Henning 
- 61. John Jones 
- 62. Mary Anne Carroll 
- 63. Sam Johnson Jr 
- 64. Feni Patel 
- 65. Jason Benjamin 
- 66. Harry Habang 
- 67. Lucy-Anne Cannon 
- 68. Ron Butler 
- 69. Amber Smith 
- 70. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ JONO OSTASHEK BURWASH
- 71. Freidageil Ameshia Dela Cruz 
- 72. Catherine MacKinnon 
- 73. Charlotte Clark 
- 74. Marya Reed 
- 75. Denise Trotter 
- 76. Marguerite Richard 
- 77. Julie Bauer 

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 78. | Dirk | Dirk Rentmeister |
| Sept 14/23 | Bruce Williams | Bruce Williams |
| 79. | Tracy Neal | Tracy Neal |
| 80. | Tracy Neal | Tracy Neal |
| 81. | Toshie Coontier | Toshie Coontier |
| 82. | Carla Nevin | Carla Nevin |
| 83. | Gurpreet Rai | GURPREET RAI (YUKON LAKE CABINS) |
| 84. | Satnam Rai | SATNAM RAI (YUKON LAKE CABINS) |
| 85. | Percy Allen | Percy Allen |
| 86. | Julie McCarty | JULIE MCCARTY |
| 87. | Christina Penn | Christina Penn |
| 88. | Elena Martoso Alvarez | Elena Martoso Alvarez |
| 89. | Doriana Urcaino | DORIANA URCAINO |
| 90. | Russell Nelson | Russell Nelson |
| 91. | Vicky Maynes | Vicky Maynes |
| 92. | Alan Warberger | Burwash Landing |
| 93. | "BURWASH LANDING" | "BURWASH LANDING" |
| 94. | Kara Andre | Burwash Landing |
| 95. | Lenida Alotini | Burwash Landing |
| 96. | Nadia | Burwash Landing |
| 97. | | Burwash Landing |
| 98. | Silvere Capet | Silvere Capet |
| 99. | | Burwash Landing |
| 100. | Sylvia Ostashek | Burwash Landing |
| 101. | Kenny Joe | Haines Junction |

102- TRIXIE DELA CRUZ

~~TRIXIE DELA CRUZ~~

103- Annette Eickland

~~Annette Eickland~~

104- ~~[Signature]~~ Cary Jamieson

105- ~~[Signature]~~ Tina Chambers

106- ~~[Signature]~~ Edwin R Dodd Burwash

107- ~~[Signature]~~ Bertha Davis Burwash

108- ~~[Signature]~~ Daryn Stinson Burwash

109- Madison Allen Madison Allen

110- Arzell Allen Arzell Allen

111- ~~[Signature]~~ Mings Reid

112- TALIS Allen TALIS Allen

113- Jamie Allen Jamie Allen

114- ~~[Signature]~~ Barbara Allen

115- James Allen JAMES ALLEN

116- ~~[Signature]~~ Marcus Sparvier

117- ~~[Signature]~~ Marsha Sparvier

118- Jocelyn Kinney Jocelyn Kinney

119- ~~[Signature]~~ LORRAINE ALLEN

- 120- Audrey Brown Audrey Brown
121- ~~Vlad Truta~~ Vlad Truta
122- Jennie Stevens Franke THRONES
123- Cecile Cook Desiree Cook
124- Zahra Weston Zahra Leslie
125- Tiana Jones Tiana Jones
126- Jenilee Cook ~~Jenilee Cook~~
127- Dawn Kinney Dawn Kinney
128- Virginia Allen VIRGINIA ALLEN
129- Michael Bradach Michael Bradach
130- Wheeler Kinney Wheeler Kinney

LIST OF INCLUDED ATTACHMENTS

1. A SHORT LIST (summary) OF COMMUNITY OBJECTIONS
2. TRANSCRIPT OF LOCAL COMMENTS MADE TO YESAB REGARDING
THE YG PLAN FOR TRANSFER STATION CLOSURE (Please read these as they will
provide a greater understanding of our community's concerns on this issue)
3. LETTER FROM A PREVIOUS MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
REGARDING A PAST INITIATIVE AIMED AT CLOSING OUR FACILITY (WHAT HAS
CHANGED???)

A SHORT LIST OF REASONS WHY THE SILVER CITY TRANSFER STATION SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED

1. **A DIRECT AND UNDUE HARDSHIP WILL BE IMPOSED ON LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TOURISM BUSINESSES.** An approximately 120 km. rd. trip will be required to reach the nearest landfill, an expensive and time consuming prospect. While some residents may be able to get by doing this weekly, tourism operators will need to make the journey, at a minimum, every couple days.
2. **GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS WILL BE INCREASED.** Obviously, having many vehicles on the road, hauling trash, as opposed to one truck making a weekly or semi-monthly run, will greatly increase vehicle emissions. Yes, the government might be directly producing lower emissions, but it will be causing a much greater amount of emissions overall.
3. **AN INCREASED RISK OF HARMFUL WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS WILL OCCUR.** Silver City lies within an area containing one of the largest bear populations in North America. If residents are forced to store trash around their homes for even short periods, bears will inevitably be attracted, creating dangerous situations for both humans and bears. Silver City is directly across the lake from Kluane National Park, which has a mandate for the protection of wildlife. Bears which wander regularly in and out of the park may become habituated to attempting to feed on waste, and will end up being killed. Currently, the bear proof electric fence around our clean, well cared for transfer station prevents this from happening.
4. **TRASH WILL INCREASE IN PLACES WHERE IT SHOULDN'T BE.** Unfortunately, illegal dumping will eventually occur, as not everyone will be willing or able to regularly make the long and expensive journey to distant landfills. This is what happened before we had a transfer station and it will inevitably happen again, if the transfer station is gone.
5. **FIRE DANGER WILL INCREASE.** Private Burn barrels will start to be used, increasing the risk of wildfire in an area already at high risk for fires.

Public Comment period is currently closed for this project.

Kluane First Nation

[2023-0059-0092](#) 📅 August 29, 2023

2023-0059-0093

Sylvia Ostashek

[2023-0059-0091](#) 📅 August 28, 2023

I am opposed to the closures of the transfer stations at Canyon Creek & Silver City and the implementation of tipping fees to use Landfills in communities across the Yukon.

People in Silver City & Canyon Creek pay taxes, but for what? What services do their property taxes currently provide for them? How is removing a transfer station going to improve the quality of life for people in these areas. For residents of Silver City they are being pushed into approximately 120km round trip to remove their refuse. They live in a bear corridor, it is not safe to store their garbage on their property until the next time they need to travel to Haines Junction for something or make a special trip just to dispose of the waste. Have you ever driven 60km after a child has been sick in your vehicle from motion sickness? Not a lot of fun, this is what you are asking these people to do with their garbage. Of course many people drive trucks, so they can place the garbage in the box...wait, aren't we being encouraged to drive smaller electric vehicles that don't leave as large of a footprint as the fossil fuel sucking trucks many people drive now. Now you are asking people to drive 60km in their enclosed car/SUV with waste in the trunk, which is not sealed & allows odors in the vehicle. Over time is this not a health issue? A safety issue? Breathing in mold & other odors for that long cannot be good for

a healthy young person, let alone a child or an elder. Where will all of this waste end up? Littering our rural highways! Who will end up cleaning it up? How much does it really cost for the Yukon Government dump truck on its way to Haines Junction, Destruction Bay and Beaver Creek to turn off at Canyon Creek or Silver City and empty the dumpsters at the transfer stations into their truck and continue on? Allot less than it will cost one Silver City resident in a year to drive to Haines Junction to dispose of their waste.

Tipping fees at Haines Junction, Destruction Bay & Beaver Creek, what will happen with this money? Will it actually go back into the Landfills in these areas to help offset costs? Total revenue if every single person in Burwash Landing & Destruction Bay (as per the 2021 census between the 2 communities 104 people) were to dump their garbage weekly, (this number includes EACH family member paying & bring their own bag of garbage to the landfill each week would be \$27,040.00 annually. Not much in the grand scheme of things when we already pay property taxes for very minimal services in our communities. Beaver Creek has an even smaller population. Will this cost be enough to cover the upgrades required at the current landfill offices to safely store money there? What about finding employees that can be bonded to look after the money? In these communities it is hard enough to find workers, now something else for them to deal with....yelling and blame because of tipping fees. All this will do is create hard feelings with community members toward those with the contracts for the landfill & make it harder to find staff. Many people cannot afford to pay or will refuse to pay meaning more garbage on our highways, bins at pullouts being stuffed to overflowing, or backyard burning. Is it really worth it for less than \$30,000 per year before expenses?

Yukon Lake Cabins

[2023-0059-0090](#) 📅 August 08, 2023

Project activities at Silvercity, YT.

The very first line states 20 users, that is absolutely incorrect information. The mines in the area use the facility, universities research center uses it(which has more than 2 people at any given time in the summers), Icefield discovery uses it (which does glacier viewing tour and provides the service to more than 20 people in the summer), there is another cabin rental business in silver city(I know that they have several guests) , We are open summer and winter(tourism business) that hosts up-to 20 people in a group at any given time (international and local guests) There is James Allen's guided tourism business (Shakat Tun Wilderness Camp). We have German, Japanese, Swiss, USA, UK, Spanish, French and Canadian groups (each with minimum of 15 people) come and use our facility. We are disappointed to know that YG has decided to make the decision without doing more research on how many people use this facility and how it is going to impact the bear population and pollution. We are on the border of Kluane national park that protects the wildlife and not get them killed due to human mistake of taking the Garbage transfer station away. We would like this project to be reconsidered to help the environment and wildlife, and protect the Kluane National Park.

Wind Heat North Inc.

2023-0059-0089 📅 August 03, 2023

To Whom it may Concern,

Wind Heat North opposes the closure request by the Yukon Territorial Government to close the waste transfer station at Silver Creek.

I have lived, worked, researched and played on our property at Silver Creek since 1989. My first cabin is actually on the original dumpsite the US Army created in 1942 when they built the Alaska Highway. That fact illustrates that every community deserves a place to safely dispose of garbage, even the US Army recognized this.

We have spent our careers making sure we've dealt with our waste responsibly. When you live amongst wild animals you must share, care and respect them. Proper waste management is our duty when we have the privilege of living in such a beautiful place.

When I first started working for the Arctic Institute of North America in 1985, the dump was an open pit just off the Airport Access Road and it was my job to regularly burn. Sounds like fun, but it was a disgusting practice and many grizzly bears died, garbage carpeted the forest due to the relentless winds of the area and who knows how many toxic airborne pollutants were released each time the dump was burned.

Moving the dump from the Airport Access road to the Silver City gravel pit was widely supported by local residents and businesses at the time. A big burn barrel was set up at first. The burn barrel was eventually removed and an electric fence installed. This resulted in greatly reduced smells, fewer wildlife encounters, better wildfire safety, and less wind blown litter.

Over the years the Silver City Dump has turned into a Waste Transfer Station with an electric fence and large bins for disposal. The Waste Transfer system, as it stands right now, is cost effective, clean, supported and maintained by the residents.

The proposed closure would increase residents dumping garbage by other means and as many others have commented, it would be detrimental to the land, water and air in the area.

Climate Change is pushing our community members to invest in Renewable Energy Systems and now with Starlink many residents can live low carbon and don't have to leave to work year-round. Closing down the only YG facility that serves the whole community with a low carbon solution for waste does not bode well for "Our Clean Future".

We are very concerned with the total lack of meaningful local community consultation on the impact of the proposed closure of this facility. Local consultation has not taken place and suggested alternatives to full closure have not been considered by government to date. We are a community and we share information, and what we have learned is that the Yukon Government is acting in bad faith.

We agree with many of the comments of concern already posted here and we would like the opportunity to discuss further through meaningful community consultation.

Thank you for receiving our concerns on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Sally Wright & JP Pinard

Wind Heat North Inc.

MLA

2023-0059-0088 📅 August 03, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 17, 2023

Statement from Kluane MLA Wade Istchenko on Rural Landfill

"I continue to hear from rural Yukoners upset at being ignored by this Liberal government.

"Yukon residents continue to express frustration that the plan to close Solid Waste Management Facilities in Beaver Creek, Destruction Bay, Silver City, Canyon Creek, and Champagne has been adopted without adequate public consultation in the communities where people will be most impacted by the decision.

Yukon Environment and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB) submission Project #2023-0059 is currently open for public comment until the end of July, but residents have been requesting government organized public consultation in these communities for years. The Minister of Community Services continues to refuse to work with residents for a solution that will work for everyone listen. These communities have been clear; this plan will fail them.

I have written to the Minister of Environment, whose department is the decision body on the landfills submission, to request that the department not issue a decision document on the YESAB recommendation until in-person public consultations have taken place in the affected communities.

My constituents and the Kluane First Nation believe they should be consulted further and are requesting public meetings before any decisions are made on these solid waste facilities – they want to be heard. They would prefer these consultations are done prior to completion of the YESAB process.

I would note that this past spring, I attended a community meeting discussing the Champagne solid waste facility; it was informative and attendees had the opportunity to provide input before changes were made. As the Yukon government can provide this meeting for the users of the Champagne facility, it would be unfair to not offer public meetings for the users of the other waste facilities included in the application.

On behalf of rural Yukoners concerned about cuts to their services, will the government please do the right thing and organize public consultation meetings in the communities facing changes to their landfill services? The Liberal plan should reflect the needs of the community and understand the impacts government decision-making has on residents.

Shakat Tun Wilderness Camp

2023-0059-0086 📅 July 28, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I oppose the closure request by the Yukon Territorial Government to close the dump station at Silver Creek.

I have a cabin on Christmas Bay and a new business called Shakat Tun Adventures. The closure would put hardships on my family and my business. It would be very costly to haul our garbage to the Haines Junction dumpsite.

In this day and age, where the world is trying to reduce global warming, the users of that dump station would be increasing global warming by burning more fossil fuel to travel to Haines Junction by vehicle every day.

The dump station has reduced garbage burning and garbage refuse in the Silver Creek area. If the dump were to close I see an increase people trying to get rid of the garbage by other means that would be detrimental to the land, water and air in the area.

Thank you for taking my request on this important issue.

Handwritten comment attached.

2023-0059-0087

Allen family

2023-0059-0084 📅 July 28, 2023

To whom it may concern,

We the Allen Family oppose the closure request of the YTG to close the dump station at Silver Creek. Our family have grown up at the Silver Creek area. Our parents Jack and Bessie Allen took us out on the trapline when we were growing up. Before the dump site was established we saw garbage being dumped in the bush in the area.

Our family has built cabins at Silver Creek and Christmas Bay. We have family gatherings at Christmas and Easter Holidays and also spend weekends at our cabins.

The removal of the dump station would create hardship to our families. Our family uses this dump station on a regular basis and we oppose closure of this site.

Signatures:

Lorraine Allen

Virginia Allen

James Allen

Percy Allen

Also:

Jocelyn Kinney

Wes Kinney

Jennilee Cook

Desiree Cook

Handwritten comment attached.

2023-0059-0085

Yukon NDP

[2023-0059-0082](#) 📅 July 28, 2023

Attached is a letter from Kate White, Leader of the Yukon NDP highlighting concerns about the lack of community consultation.

2023-0059-0083

Kluane First Nation

[2023-0059-0080](#) 📅 July 27, 2023

2023-0059-0081

Kluane First Nation

[2023-0059-0078](#) 📅 July 27, 2023

2023-0059-0079

Environment and Climate Change Canada

[2023-0059-0076](#) 📅 July 27, 2023

2023-0059-0077

Kluane Lake Research Station

[2023-0059-0074](#) 📅 July 27, 2023

Attached is letter from KLRs Management.

2023-0059-0075

Anonymous User

[2023-0059-0073](#) 📅 July 27, 2023

I support the majority of comments that have been provided.

Without material consultation with the residents of ALL these communities, there should be no consideration of dump closures or implementation of tipping fees.

Close the facilities means garbage being dumped in the bush off the side of rural roads. Residents storing more garbage at home/work will lead to increased Human/Wildlife conflicts at residences and business.

Ensure garbage transfer bins in the smaller communities (Silver City, Canyon Creek) in a fenced-in environment, then provide access to registered residents.

Anonymous User

[2023-0059-0072](#) 📅 July 26, 2023

We don't have 350+ people that reside in Beaver Creek. We have maybe 80 residents all year around. Why charge the same fees as in the city? We struggle to get our garbage to the dump now, let alone be able to pay to throw it away. People in rural communities are unable to find enough employment to provide for themselves, now we have to worry about dumping fees, as well. Where is all this money going to come from, because unless your on Social Assistance, it is an every day struggle for survival in our own communities. Adding more bills to our lives without any way to make the money for it is inhumane. If the Government wants to charge us for our garbage, they should at least lower the prices for each community and up minimum wage to reflect on the community size. Not Government Summer based statistics.

Association of Yukon Communities

2023-0059-0070 📅 July 26, 2023

Attached is a letter from the President of the Association of Yukon Communities.

2023-0059-0071

Talbot Arm Motel and Kluane Lake Lodge

2023-0059-0069 📅 July 26, 2023

Bottom line, YESAB should not consider this application from YTG as they are making it in bad faith. Everyone's comments are totally fair in my opinion, however, what we all have in common is wanting YTG to back off, consult with us and don't try to sneak around even though they are fully aware of our outrage. Richard Mostyn is all proud of having signed agreements with Teslin, Watson Lake and recently Carmacks. I know he did not consult with any of the unincorporated surrounding communities.

First, I would like to educate the out of touch Yukon Government. There are way more than 20 people using the Silver City transfer station and about 100 users in Beaver Creek and not 354.

Richard Mostyn has been repeating for years that communities who are represented by the Association of Yukon Communities AYC have been consulted and that he is responding to their pleading for him to solve the problems with "dump shopping". We have repeatedly asked him to tell us which community it was? With an amazing lack of accountability, he refuses to tell us. We know it is not Haines Junction. Silver City, Canyon, Champagne, Destruction Bay, Burwash, 1118 and Beaver Creek are unincorporated communities and are not represented by AYC and not consulted in any decisions made. I have a letter from the AYC President Ted Laking confirming that any consultations between YG and AYC did not include any of the unincorporated Yukon Communities. Contrary to what YTG would like for people to believe, they have never consulted with us at all. Richard Mostyn came to Destruction Bay once to tell us "there will be no consultation". In attendance at that meeting were more than 30 KLR residents. Our MLA and the Yukon Party Leader were also here to show their support. Richard Mostyn was here with 3 other YTG employees. In addition to "there will be no consultation", we were told that YTG had to control the garbage, stop dump shopping, protect the environment, close the free stores as "it's all junk in there", introduce tipping fees etc. Richard Mostyn and the other employees never gave us the justification for any of it. We brought forward easy and cost effective ways of solving these problems such as issuing permits for local residents in the Kluane Lake Region to use the dump in Destruction bay to control and stop dump shopping as this is a manned facility. We suggested adding a gate and lock to the Silver City transfer station and let local users manage it on our own at no cost to YTG. These were common sense, environmentally friendly and cost efficient solutions. YTG representatives led by Richard Mostyn refused to listen and work with us. We, KLR residents, in a petition signed by over 110 residents asked Richard Mostyn to work with us and we tried to make him understand how disruptive his ideas were for us in our daily lives, or we asked him to resign as we believe he should be working with and for us. He ignored and dismissed our petition and used it as a political stunt in the newspaper saying the leader of the Yukon Party asked him to resign. That was not true.

The steel bins that the garbage goes in prevent, by keeping the garbage contained, from contaminating the ground. Richard Mostyn is saying that we are wrong by thinking that but he will not provide proof to us that in fact that is a pollution problem. If this method of disposing of garbage is so bad, why did YTG approve Nickel Shaw, mining/exploration, to have the exact same electric fencing and steel bin set up to dispose of their garbage at their Quill Creek site? I have pictures.

As Bruce Williams stated in his comments. Adding the transfer station at Silver City and I am suspecting all other transfer stations throughout the Yukon, was YTG's solution to stop people from accumulating garbage, burning garbage and shooting nuisance bears as a result. That has proven to be a good solution to a bad problem. Now YTG is wanting to take away the solution and this will, no doubt, bring back the problem.

Recently a Yukon man was charged around \$500 000.00 for improper storing of garbage and endangering wildlife and previously Conservation Officers had to shoot 3 bears as a result. By forcing Yukon residents to accumulate garbage on their properties again, will YTG take liability when Conservation Officers are forced to shoot an increased amount of nuisance bears? Has anyone consulted with the Conservation Officers? Has anyone consulted with the Parks Canada Officers? Will YTG be liable when our children, grandchildren and pets start encountering habituated bears and other wild animals?

At the Talbot Arm, we collect 2 to 4 42 x 48 tourism produced garbage bags per day from May to September and at least 2 of those bags off season. I buy the garbage bags, pay the staff to maintain the garbage bins and we clean up the ditches. All this garbage is not local garbage. It is generated by tourists. Does YTG think that I will continue to collect all this garbage if I have to pay to dispose of it? I will not. Where is all this garbage going to end up?

I have spoken to several employees of the Dept of Environment, Parks Canada and Tourism and everyone agrees that it is a bad idea to force people to accumulate and store garbage anywhere in the Yukon but especially in the Kluane Lake Region where there is a huge bear population. We, as a community, tried to ask Ranj Pilai when he was Minister of Tourism, his stand on the impact on tourism but he chose to ignore our request and the Minister of Environment also did not respond. We wrote to the Premier Sandy Silver, he did not respond instead forwarded our letter to Richard Mostyn for response. No accountability...shameful!!!!

YTG has already proven that they are not accountable to rural Yukon and will not honour the:

2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement, the government did commit to: "6.D Consult with communities to determine household waste disposal options in Keno, Johnson's Crossing, Silver City and Braeburn."

• Consulted with the community, as committed in the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement; and • Determined household waste disposal options, as committed in the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement.

If YESAB goes ahead and approves this project, there will be no incentive for YTG Minister of Community Services, Richard Mostyn to consult with us. As a result, Yukon Government will proceed with the closure of Silver City and impose tipping fees and create a problem where there isn't one.

I do not believe and I do not trust the Minister of Community Services, Richard Mostyn.

Anonymous User

[2023-0059-0068](#) 📅 July 26, 2023

Beaver Creek is very curious when did we get a community meeting on this? Where did YTG get 354 people in the community when we only actually have less than 100 people on a yearly basis!

YTG should have a community meeting and informing the community as a whole before the YESAB process because YESAB does not listen to these public comments nor do they work with communities.

Anonymous User

[2023-0059-0067](#) 📅 July 25, 2023

I live in Beaver Creek. Are Beaver Creek residents going to be consulted about this proposal for tipping fee's? I understand other communities have not been consulted? Is WRFN going to be contacted as well? Are low income people/ or Income support recipients who rely on other people to drive them to the landfill, going to be reimbursed for the tipping fee? As it is, how much does it cost the government to look after the landfill now? What are the expected tipping fee's going to be? I feel that Beaver Creek residents should have been included in this proposal from the beginning.

Kluane Outdoor Inspirations

[2023-0059-0066](#) 📅 July 25, 2023

As local business owners and year around residents of Silver City, we are regular users of the Silver City Waste Transfer Station. We are very concerned about the impact of the proposed closure of this facility. Local consultation has not taken place and suggested alternatives to full closure have not been considered by government to date. As residents of Silver City, we continue to ask repeatedly for consultation with YG in advance of moving forward with the proposed closure plan. We agree with many of the comments of concern already posted here and we would like the opportunity to discuss further through meaningful community consultation.

Sincerely,

Pauly Sias and Jady Hurlburt

Kluane Outdoor Inspirations

Cecile Cox

[2023-0059-0064](#) 📅 July 22, 2023

Personally, I am in favor of the all the garbage sites remain in service to the public as they are.

For the following reason.

- They are needed. Check out population numbers at Silver City The current government seems to have their numbers askew.

- People who choose to live in rural Yukon should not be punished for that choice. Wherever you have people, you will have garbage that is where dump sites should be.

. The concept of recycling is a noble one, but where do you think the garbage will go if not to a designated local site. By the observation, I can tell you where it goes ..into the DITCH!

- Although you can have a burning barrel on your property, individual is not allowed to burn usually...forest fire safety is always quoted. The fire danger will be increased if the government makes difficulties for people to access their local dump stations.

All you need is a lot of waste sites access and good common sense.

Charles Eikland Sr.

[2023-0059-0063](#) 📅 July 22, 2023

I am concerned about the changes to rural waste facilities being pushed through YESAB. I don't know why the government is picking on small communities. I was here before the Alaska highway was built, and I have seen a lot of changes since then. Why is the Yukon government constantly trying to attract more people to the Yukon while cutting back on the basic services? We, the rural people, have been welcoming and taking care of them when they come to our communities as long as I can remember. Why is the Yukon government trying to make this more difficult? I think that Yukon government needs to have a better understanding and more consideration of Yukon small communities.

Amber Smith

[2023-0059-0062](#) 📅 July 21, 2023

Project 2023-0059

I write in allyship with the folks of Silver City to implore YESAB to leave the transfer station operational. As a resident of Keno City (the only community of the 4 which has actually faced a shut down), I echo the frustration and anger echoed in their comments.

I've worked with these fine people to try to jam the breaks on this proposal. I know they've advocated hard for their community; they've appealed every way they know how: working with their MLA, attending meetings with Ministers; circulating petitions, writing to newspapers.

It seems all is for naught. This government is committed to quashing essential services in rural communities. They have failed utterly in regards to consultation. They have ignored very real concerns about what a closure will mean and how it will affect their community:

-increased wildlife conflicts

-increased dumping and littering by visitors and those unable/unwilling to travel great distances to dispose of garbage

-increased costs to businesses and service providers who are forced to clean up

Frankly, Silver City is best positioned to understand the effects this will have on their community, not YG. But has anyone listened?

I believe, YG already determined the outcome they wanted and cherry-picked the data to support their plan. As with Keno, they grossly underestimate the number of facility users and nowhere do their calculations account for future growth. On that point, Yukon's population is rapidly growing and surprise, not everyone wants to call Whitehorse home. Many are seeking out small, rural communities. They're building businesses and futures in them. In dealing with population growth and planning, YG should recognize the need for services to meet capacity. Removing them does not do this.

In grossly underestimating the number of users, YG has failed to account for the footprint visitors leave. It seems Yukon is a victim of its own tourism success. The buzzy ad campaigns have gained traction; the visitors are coming but the services have not kept up. That means locals are making up the short fall by collecting the litter and accumulated refuse. Does YG really intend for these people to continue doing this and expect them to pay for visitor produced garbage?

I question the true intentions of this policy. The "dump shopping" menace YG harps about. With fuel costs being what they are, I question how many people will deliberately drive many kms out of their way to get rid of garbage. The tipping fee savings will hardly make up for the fuel costs.

It seems everytime a valid concern is raised, YG reaches into their bag of euphemisms to grab a new talking point. -reduced emissions

-sustainability

-user-pay

-regionalization

-eliminate dump shopping

-reduced liability

Which one is it? There is no emissions savings with multi-vehicle, long distance travel. There is increased emissions. What does sustainability even mean in this context? Its an empty word, reeking of virtue signalling. If regionalization were truly the goal, why isn't Whitehorse eyeing the Mt.Lorne or Marsh Lake facilities? They are in close proximity to Whitehorse which also has a landfill. 3 facilities within a small radius but rural Yukon is expected to travel the greatest distances to access the service and then pay a tipping fee on top. Reduced liability- YG has failed to prove that concentrating garbage in fewer locations reduces liability or improves environmental outcomes. I would argue the opposite is true.

This government has, on every occasion blatantly ignored Silver City's attempt to meaningfully consult. They borrow heavily from AYC's report in the drafting of the 2018 Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste, which featured not a single member from rural Yukon on its panel. Yet the ideas were bound to have grave consequences for rural Yukon. AYC President Ted Laking has stated AYC doesn't represent rural Yukon. This government loves engagements with stakeholders and the What We Heard reports that follow, yet the AYC report and 2018 Committee on Solid Waste report failed utterly to consult the most affected stakeholders-unincorporated Yukon. Why would that be? Because the conclusion had already been drawn and the rest was a preamble to justify it.

And with this YESAB process, the government very nearly succeeded again. You would think, after all the opposition to this plan, and the tremendous advocacy Silver City has mounted (including partaking in an Ombudsman's complaint which concluded an unfairness on YG's part over consultation) somebody, somewhere would extend the courtesy of notification to Silver City. No. They hoped the comment period would elapse unnoticed and the final nail in SC's transfer station coffin would be hammered. That adds insult to injury.

At the risk of being verbose, I will close by asking YESAB to reject this proposal. Send a clear message that upending essential services in rural Yukon communities is unacceptable. Let them know that offloading onto local, tax paying residents, with legitimate and grievous concerns is unacceptable. Hold them to account so that they're forced to answer this question:

What is their duty to serve unincorporated Yukon.

Bruce Williams

2023-0059-0061 📅 July 19, 2023

Today as I sit here in my little house here in Silver City a few thoughts cross through my mind. Over fifty years ago the government told Highway lodge owners to be more responsible with the garbage they created in the cafes they owned, cafes that were serving the travelling public. (In which I might add, the government officials often bellied up to the lunch counter and partook of the tasty, sweet fare as well. No one said lodge owners were not good cooks!) The highway was different back then. Gravel, windy, it took longer to get anywhere and stopping for sustenance was mighty welcome indeed. A 'service', you might call it. The café owners would store the waste food from the café out back because they were busy cooking and serving and trying to make a desperate profit off a miserly clientele. This waste food often would attract bears, which the responsible owners promptly shot as the bears tend to be a risk to human safety and happiness. (How many bears have been shot in Whitehorse already this year?) "You gotta store your garbage away from people", the government officials declared, so very concerned about the safety of said bears, and promptly passed laws to such, handing out fines to anyone who didn't promptly comply. "But where shall we put 'our' garbage" they asked? "Well, in the garbage dump we agree on, not where you might like it, where we the almighty government will decide. Oh no, not there" said the officials, "oh no not there either" they repeated. "Our land is very precious and no one but us can decide which land to use." Eventually the mighty government decided a transfer station would serve the tax paying public best. Electric fences to keep the bears away and lids to prevent the flying types from entering and spreading litter as well. Oops, gotta keep that electric fence charged up, else this bear then that bear gets in and spreads garbage far and wide throughout the bush. "But who shall clean up this mess?" asked the friendly café owners and some of the other locals? "Not I", said the government official, "not I" said the bear protector, (yet another highly paid government official with a steady paycheque and no travelling public with which to hard-scrabble for a living.) "I live many miles away in a place with a big landfill with many electric fences and no bears anymore and many minions to pick up the garbage."

The next day the government official decided those people who dared live away from the big city would just have to figure out some other solution for their garbage. They were very worried about climate change and did not see any real need to add up the effects of many people driving to a landfill site as opposed to just one big truck driving to a transfer station. And they never worried about being hypocrites again. The End.

David Cartier

2023-0059-0060 📅 July 19, 2023

Closing down rural waste transfer stations across the Yukon is not a constructive idea and, whatever the government's rationale for this is (It has never been explained or honestly discussed with community residents) it is almost guaranteed to be counterproductive on many levels. Here at Silver City, our community is growing, with a steady increase in tourism and other activities. Losing our transfer station will only make life more difficult and expensive for families and businesses to live and operate here. Emissions will increase, as residents are forced to drive additional hundreds of kilometers several times a week to distant landfills. Trash will begin to proliferate in places where it doesn't belong, as, inevitably, some will be unable or unwilling to regularly make the expensive drive to an expensive waste disposal which will become necessary. Private dumping sites will once again become common, as they were in the past. Litter will accumulate along

highways and byways, as the volunteers who currently keep roadsides clean will be discouraged by the difficulty and expense of hauling trash to landfills. Fire danger will increase, as burn barrels become common again. Dangerous interactions between bears and humans will increase, as residents store waste around their homes, while waiting for their next long distance dump trip. What is the upside to the government's plan?? And why have local residents never been consulted? Why has the reasoning never been explained? What can possibly justify the dismantling of a system which currently is working in a manner clearly beneficial to all ??

Jim Gibson

2023-0059-0057 📅 July 17, 2023

I have lived in this Silver City area for 30 plus years. It seems to me that you as a government don't know what you are doing. We had a dump on the airport road, then you moved it to the Silver City gravel pit. I know, I dug this pit. Then, you spent a whole a lot more money putting in a burn barrel. A little while later, you spent a whole a lot more money getting rid of the burn barrel, and drilling test wells. Then, you put in a transfer station. Finally, a good idea. Now, you want to shut down the transfer station. What is going on? It seems to me that you don't put much value on rural people. You make a dictatorial decision giving us no saying what you are doing to Yukon rural people. You should send out whoever thought out this plan to explain the reasons for closing these transfer stations. There should be a way to solve this problem for rural residents. It seems pretty sneaky passing your responsibility onto YESAB.

John Ostashek

2023-0059-0056 📅 July 14, 2023

Until there is actual meaningful consultation with ALL the residents, of ALL these communities, there should be no consideration of dump closures or implementation of tipping fees.

Closure of any of these facilities all only lead to garbage being dumped in the bush off the side of rural roads. Increase Human/Wildlife conflicts due to increased garbage storage at residences and business.

Why not consider simply installing garbage transfer bins in these smaller communities (Silver City, Canyon Creek) fence them in and provide keys or access code to registered residents.

a couple of security cameras and monitoring of dump activities would be established.

In this era of going green using less, asking every resident of these communities to travel farther just to dispose of there garbage is ridicules. there is already a garbage truck making the trip from Whitehorse to Beaver creek on a regular schedule, surely the cost to stop and empty a couple bins in Silver City and Canyon Creek could not be significant.

The cost of implementing tipping fee's will surely be more than the revenues generated and therefore a bad idea.

Taxes paid by residents of The Yukon and the businesses operating in these communities should be more than sufficient to cover the cost of these transfer stations without adding tipping fees, as we already do not get the benefit of many services for our tax dollars.

Anonymous User

2023-0059-0055 📅 July 14, 2023

I believe removing the dump is a very bad idea.

- This will force residents to drive further to discard their waste products,
- same for businesses that will incur extra costs
- these costs that will be passed down to their customers (which are the residents already impacted by the suggested removal in a first place).
- This will also most likely lead to people accumulating garbage for longer before driving a long way for disposal. This local accumulation of garbage will increase the risk of bear/human interaction.

All in all a bad idea. Don't do it. It works fine as it is.

Yukon NDP

2023-0059-0053 📅 July 14, 2023

Residents of Silver City were surprised to learn in this YESAB application, that the government is planning on closing the Silver City transfer station without any meaningful consultation with the community.

In the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement, the government did commit to: "6.D Consult with communities to determine household waste disposal options in Keno, Johnson's Crossing, Silver City and Braeburn."

It seems that the government is planning the closure of the Silver City without having:

- Consulted with the community, as committed in the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement; and
- Determined household waste disposal options, as committed in the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement.

Public comments in a YESAB application do not qualify as meaningful consultation, as I am sure the government and minister are aware of. Residents of Keno, Johnson's Crossing, Silver City and Braeburn deserve to know more about the future of their household waste disposal options.

The government needs to advise residents of Keno, Johnson's Crossing, Silver City and Braeburn, as to when they will start consultation they committed to, to determine household waste disposal options.

Kate White

2023-0059-0054

Anonymous User

2023-0059-0052 📅 July 13, 2023

The residents of Silver City reside in a known bear corridor, yet you want to take away a place for them to dump their household waste, there must be better solutions than having them drive 45 minutes one way to the nearest landfill. What about the effects on our climate from the extra fuel & emissions going into the air as residents are driving back & forth with garbage? What about the safety issues with bears in the area, as garbage will not be disposed of near as often because of fuel costs to reach a landfill. What about health issues from people having to travel 45 minutes with household waste in their vehicles, not everyone drives a vehicle where waste can be kept totally separated from passengers.

Could residents of Silver city be given keys and just have dumpsters available to them? There would be no added cost to YG as the trucks drive right by the area on their way to Destruction Bay & Beaver Creek.

If there are going to be tipping fees in place at the Destruction Bay landfill site, will there also be fees in place for the dumpsters at Klwane First Nation? Those dumpsters are used by citizens as well.

Municipality Haines Junction

2023-0059-0050 📅 July 13, 2023

2023-0059-0051

Silver Creek Woodworks

2023-0059-0049 📅 July 13, 2023

As a person running a small construction business and a full time resident of Silver City, this waste management facility is very important to my operation and personal life. It is essential to have a place to bring light weight materials to not clutter my work site or create litter in the community. It is also very important to have a place to dispose of wildlife attractants due to the high density of bears in the area.

As a local business man and contractor I am seeing the growth of this community and helping make it larger. The work sites I am at are already very convenient as I do not have to drive to the next community to find clients. It is also convenient to not have to drive to the next community to dispose of waste as well. By staying locally for work I am helping keep emissions down. We already do not have many services in Silver City but the few that we do have (mostly being the transfer station and the local mail box) are so valued for their convenience. We are paying taxes just like every other community but we have so few services to show for it. If we are stripped of our waste management facility then what are we getting out of the taxes we are paying? The trucks that pick up this waste are already driving this route anyway, it doesn't seem like it would cost much more money to the government to continue to pick up the waste at this facility on their way to Whitehorse from other transfer stations.

I hope these comments are heard and that the voice of the community is taken into account when deciding the next steps for this facility.

Anonymous User

2023-0059-0048 📅 July 11, 2023

YTG proposes they shut down garbage dumps and impose tipping fees. They have waged war on rural communities because it is taking away from frivolous spending in Whitehorse proper with the illusion running these rural facilities costs too much. How about the fact that to install payment machines and the costs to operate them will be significantly more than what would be collected? The idea they could then stop collecting taxes needed to run them by charging fees instead is absolutely laughable. And will rural citizens get that tax money back then? Of course we won't but I'm sure the government will still collect it, raise them further and we still will have no dumps and will have to pay for them.

How about the fact there will be garbage dumped at the gates because people will refuse to pay for them? How about the fact that our local youths and citizens are the ones who voluntarily pick up in our communities and haul garbage away for elders and tourists alike.....you know, being the responsible green caring citizens this world desperately needs and we as a society are trying to encourage yet now you expect CHILDREN to cover YOUR costs? Way to counteract what you make them learn in OUR YUKON school curriculums.

Garbage is a fact of life. Despite all green propaganda, you cannot avoid it. Does a government feel good about counter acting the very thing it pretends to care about? A clean environment, responsible recycling, and proper waste disposal? But more importantly, punishing the kids and community volunteers who care about our land and environment where the Government is showing it does not? Contrary to the Government's disillusion, garbage in the rural/remote areas of the territory does not get picked up and dealt with by a garbage fairy. It is rural people who care about our communities, our environment, and our wildlife. Their fairytale idea of the rural are not being developed and numbers using them will never change is as valuable as a wooden nickel. Maybe their right hand should check to see what the left hand is approving.

Emily Schneider

2023-0059-0047 📅 July 11, 2023

As a full time resident of Silver City, the closure of this facility greatly impacts myself and my partner who is a business owner in this community and it impacts the health of the overall community. For one, we live in a very dense grizzly bear corridor therefore it is very important to have a place that we can bring our waste that is convenient that helps keep smelly waste away from residences in an electrified facility such as what is available at the Silver City Transfer station.

My partner is running a construction business and for him to be able to dispose of his waste quickly and efficiently helps keep his work site and keep the community clean. We live in a very windy place in which it is easy for light materials to get blown around creating a lot of unintentional litter. With a facility available where we can bring light materials quickly this helps decrease this issue.

The community is also growing and is very busy during the summer due to multiple tourism business and 2 research stations where lots of people stay (Arctic Institute of North America being the major one). There are definitely way more than "~20 people" using this facility especially in the summer months where tourism picks up and there is an increase in traffic on this corridor on the Alaska Highway.

If the government wants a future of environmentally conscious communities, forcing people to drive an hour out of the way just to dispose of waste when a facility already exists right around the corner on a site that has already been contaminated does not sound very "green". I already spend time picking up litter on this section of the Alaska Highway which will probably increase if this station gets closed. I will reiterate my point of being in a very dense grizzly bear habitat, these bears do coexist very nicely right now but I hate to think of what possible increase in conflicts between bears and humans could arise if we do not have a safe place to quickly dispose of wildlife attractants.

Really hope that this facility does not close and stays open. The population of Canada is growing, the population of the Yukon is growing, and the population of this community is growing. We should be increasing or maintaining current transfer stations and not decreasing them. That is a step backwards and very short-sighted thinking.

YG Environment

2023-0059-0044 📅 July 10, 2023

2023-0059-0045

Anonymous User

2023-0059-0043 📅 July 09, 2023

The dumps should just be left alone, as they work perfectly fine as is. Introducing new "tipping fees" will cause garbage to just go everywhere because people will NOT want to pay these fees, which will cause even more garbage to go into the waterways and forest. People will start dumping garbage into the rest stop garbage bins in order to get around these fees, which will cause tourists to have

nowhere to put their garbage, which leads to them throwing it on the ground. People will also start illegally dumping garbage into the forest. These "tipping fees" will cause even more problems than they will solve; not that these "tipping fees" will solve any problems to begin with, as they just create a lot of new problems and that's it. Want proof? Look around Whitehorse and the garbage that is thrown everywhere to avoid the tipping fees. Anywhere that dumping is free, there is very little if any garbage to be found everywhere. That isn't the case around Whitehorse. Closing dumps is an even WORST idea than the "tipping fees" as it will cause even more problems, such as garbage everywhere, people burning garbage. And more carbon emissions because people have to drive further to throw out garbage. Isn't that why we pay taxes? To cover these services?

Anonymous User

[2023-0059-0042](#) 📅 July 09, 2023

On Jan.31,2023 Confidence and supply agreement (CASA) was signed by Yukon Liberals and NDP. Under the agreement, section 6 (b) states " Consult with communities to determine household waste disposal options in Keno, Johnsons Crossing, Silver City and Braeburn". There has been no consultation, but this subject is under "the project" which none of locals knew about. Someone who passed this so-called project to YESAB must not have read CASA agreement. This should not be in the hands of YESAB until we get promised consultation regarding options.

Also, the numbers of the user for Silver City transfer station is inaccurately estimated in the project statement. There are more than 20 users. Tourists, scientists, students, locals. The population, businesses and visitors are definitely growing in Silver City and we need the transfer station to live together peacefully with wildlife. We don't want to have any conflicts with bears. We need the local dump station for the safety of all.

Regarding YG's "Our clean future" plan,

closing the transfer station in Silver City doesn't make sense at all. How can we reduce greenhouse gas emissions with many people travelling over 100kms for a dump run?

This project seems like someone is trying to destroy small communities by falsely citing " environmental concerns". We believe that just shutting down the transfer station will harm rather than help the environment. We don't understand why YG cannot consult with people and try to work together to find better solutions.

Anonymous User

[2023-0059-0041](#) 📅 July 09, 2023

On January 31, 2023, Confidence and supply agreement (CASA) was signed by Yukon liberals and NDP. Under the agreement section 6 (b) states "Consult with communities to determine household waste disposal options in Keno, Johnsons Crossing, Silver City and Braeburn." Are you aware of it? There still has been no consultation, but somehow this subject is under "the project" which none of the locals know about. Someone who passed this so-called project to YESAB must have not read the CASA agreement. This should not even be considered until the promised consultation regarding options has taken place.

Kluane First Nation

[2023-0059-0039](#) 📅 July 07, 2023

2023-0059-0040

Anonymous User

[2023-0059-0038](#) 📅 July 07, 2023

Closing transfer stations and expecting people to drive up to half an hour or more to dispose of their household waste is a bold and extremely irresponsible proposal by a government that already confuses remote/rural transfer stations as Whitehorse (re: tipping fees: – Document #2023-0006;March 27, 2023- Destruction Bay Solid Waste Management Plan, pg 26.) Perhaps in their eagerness to confuse remote /rural transfer station as a suburb of Whitehorse, they have forgotten that unlike the urban residences of Whitehorse suburbs, we have no curbside garbage pickup. We ARE our garbage pickup. Perhaps the government has also forgotten to include in their waste site studies the development of new cottage lots, agricultural land grants, subdivision lots and mining grants in the very areas that will be covered by these closures and tipping fees. In each study, conveniently they have projected no foreseeable demand on the sites under the proposal while we watch new developments go on around us daily.

In the current economic period coming out of a pandemic, Canada has been hit with carbon taxes, high food prices, and high gas taxes. Dollars are stretched tight. People are making choices on ways to reduce their spending, driving being one of them. Rural/urban residents do not generally make the annual salaries a government worker does or as most who live in a city, like Whitehorse, do. They live a simple

existence, often off the land, our elders with even less disposable income of them all. Yet it is the government's belief that driving their refuge more than 30 minutes away, one way, not the return included, is an acceptable plan when people are already tightening their belts to put food on their tables and keep a roof over their heads. All because the government is unable to separate Whitehorse from rural/remote regions. Out of sight, out of mind.

This is an irresponsible plan on so many levels. What you are asking is not what a person in Whitehorse would accept nor should it be. Those who live in rural/remote areas have rights and purposes too and should be treated with the same dignity and respect as an urban dweller. This proposal will fail. People will find work arounds. The savings the government are so eager to save will be outweighed by the environmental impact costs that come out of it as well as the social care costs to help the residents they are elected to support. Perhaps before they close a transfer station or impose tipping fees in communities outside of Whitehorse, I will invite the ministers to come to our communities and try out their proposals. Please get in our vehicles packed with stinky garbage from the past two weeks and drive more than half an hour away to an open transfer station, then drive home. As part of consultations and being representatives of our territory, I'm positive none of the government ministers would appreciate the drive.

Anonymous User

2023-0059-0037 📅 July 06, 2023

We do not want our dumps changed in any way or form. Repeatedly, we have stood up as one up and down the areas impacted by this proposal and voiced, loudly and very clearly, no, leave our dumps alone, do not impose fees, do not close them. They work efficiently, we do not abuse them, and they are needed. That sentiment has not changed.

The proposed plan is to introduce tipping fees to dispose of waste at 3 of the 5 transfer stations and close 2. In specific reference to tipping fees, it is assumed we need to be treated as a city, Whitehorse precisely. Perhaps the proposal is unaware of exactly where these transfer stations exist in the territory. Previous meetings within our communities with the minister-in-charge, clearly proved they have no working knowledge of life in the rural/remote regions of this territory.

"The objective of establishing tipping fees was to shift away from a system that relies on taxation and move toward a user-pay system. Additionally, this payment system mimics City of Whitehorse SWMF's tipping fee structure to discourage Whitehorse residents from "dump shopping" and transporting their waste to SWMFs out of town. With this change, residents are encouraged to drive to the nearest SWMF which will improve overall operational efficiency, since less waste needs to be transferred to Whitehorse (2021 Annual Report, Yucan, 2022)" – Document #2023-0006; March 27, 2023- Destruction Bay Solid Waste Management Plan, pg 26.

The time period to notify the public to respond to this proposal outside of community gatherings was deliberately kept quiet and short - convenient. Over the past couple of years, community meetings were held with a minister who came ill prepared, was combative and refused to listen to or acknowledge the concerns and comments of those who live in the proposed areas to be affected. Petitions were sent around the communities impacted clearly proving how we do not want these proposed changes. They were presented to the government and conveniently ignored. We have posted in our territorial newspapers our anger to change our dumps which work efficiently as is, again, ignored. In the process of all our attempts to voice no, leave our dumps alone, we would come to learn exactly all that the government has chosen to not disclose to us in an attempt to push this proposal through.

Closing of the 2 dumps will result in rural people having to travel to dispose of their garbage. Those who aren't forced to travel now will have to pay to enter it, to recycle, to use our free stores, to be responsible citizens. Who cares if many won't be able to do so. It's only money and at that, not the government's.

I'm not a professional psychic nor do I profess to be but, I can see the future. Illegal dumping of waste in out of site locations to avoid travel and fees. Very angry visitors to our area will find businesses not receptive to their depositing of their waste at their establishments. Small businesses, lodges, campgrounds, First Nation Bands having to allocate monies earmarked to survive spent paying for the proposal's shortcomings and the clean ups on their lands because of it. Locals will no longer voluntarily clean the ditches and shorelines out of a sense of caring for our communities, our environment, our wildlife, lakes and forests as why should they now have to pay to haul away garbage not of their doing. Waterways will become contaminated impacting our fish habitats as they become new hiding spots for waste, wildlife encounters will go up as they are exposed to garbage disposed of improperly, someone will be hurt, wildlife disposed of. The potential of forest fires increases due to new fire sources in out sight locations. Our environment and world renown heritage site will no longer be pristine and the entire Alaska highways will look very similar to every rest stop, road and ditch in southern Canada who have taken this approach. It will soon become common to find someone has thrown their garbage on your property to avoid paying to take it to the dump. Burn barrels in everyone's yards will become a reality. Environmental issues and the protection of our environment which we now have will go out the window.

However, by all means, close the transfer stations, impose fees. It is clear we do not matter or are our voices heard. But I forewarn you to be prepared for the environmental disaster you unleash. There will be no putting the genie back in the bottle once she's out.

Anonymous User

2023-0059-0036 📅 July 06, 2023

Ever heard of the phrase "If it isn't broken, don't fix it."? Our dumps work now. There is no need to change them. I don't think you people understand just exactly what you're doing with these proposals.

In the past several years, the Yukon government decided to follow suit with southern Canadian provinces to start charging to take garbage into the dumps, by closing transfer stations to 'minimalize' our carbon footprint, and by taking away the garbage cans at rest stops. If you go through with this, this is going to be HAZARDOUS to our environment. Shutting down the dumps and imposing dump fees is just going to create a bottleneck effect. Go anywhere down south where these things have already been imposed and look in the ditches and over the sides of highways! There will be more widespread illegal dumping. We will see wildlife encounters go up and wildlife populations come down. We're going to introduce more waste into a wider spread area. We're essentially going to be punished for producing garbage when today it's something you can not go without producing. People will start burning garbage in their yards. Our lakes and rivers will become more polluted than they already are. Our carbon footprint will only increase as people will have to drive further distances to throw out their garbage. Illegally dumped garbage can start forest fires. If you shut down the transfer stations or impose fees, you're just going to make the problem worse. You can't make people pay a fee, and if they don't want to, they're not going to. They will find work arounds and those work arounds will be worse for our environment than the transfer stations we have now. Not to mention, we already pay for these services with our taxes. Governments have a legal obligation to provide waste management services, so to take them away and make us pay for something we already pay for through our taxes is ridiculous.

Not only that, it's also quite cute how these proposals are being talked about under the table as not to alert the residents of Rural Yukon in these communities who have, time and time again, stated their frustrations and anger over these arrangements. There is not a single word about this on the Yukon government site nor on the Yukon news aside from what was put on there back in 2021 when you first decided to close the transfer stations. Need I remind you of petitions that were put out to prevent this, which slowed the closure of the Silver City transfer station which you are still trying to close today? Need I remind you of the petitions put out to prevent the tipping fees? Need I remind you of the petitions in April 2021, and the meetings communities had where your representatives actively ignored us? Need I remind you of the petition that went around in September 2021 that called for Yukon's minister of community services, Richard Mostyn's resignation? There has not been a word about this ANYWHERE. If it weren't for a requested extension on commenting, I'd go so far as to say you kept the comment cut off date short on purpose. You are trying to keep this quiet to get your way. That is not right. You are legally required to inform residents of these changes before they happen so that they may prepare for them – not after.

Anonymous User

2023-0059-0034 📅 July 06, 2023

All of these facilities should be left exactly like they are today, Dumps are unpleasant but are needed and the government has a legal obligation to provide them. Introducing tipping fees is just plain stupid and will cost far more to implement than it will raise. Closing a facility will force residents to all transport their waste by private vehicle increasing pollution when a garbage truck is going past anyways. Closing a facility does not eliminate the garbage that is being deposited there. Tipping fees also do not reduce the amount of garbage being produced it only makes the residents pay again for what they are already paying for with their taxes. People they will find other ways to dispose of their garbage which again increase pollution. Just look at the current disaster with Carbon Tax. Carbon Taxes go up so the price of literally everything in society goes up, so everyone demands higher wages, which causes spiralling inflation, and the cycle continues with no effect on the original problem. (Pollution) This approach is very short sighted and only believed by those who can not see the big picture. Government needs to think of ways to make things more efficient (like using the garbage truck that is going past anyway) and reduce fees and taxes.

Suzanne Tremblay

2023-0059-0032 📅 July 06, 2023

2023-0059-0033



Office of the Minister
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

March 9, 2012

Pauly Wroot
Silver City, Kluane Lake
paulysmailbox2@xplornet.com

Dear Ms. Wroot:

Re: Solid Waste Disposal Facility (SWDF) – Silver City

Thank you for your February 9, 2012 letter regarding operational changes to the Silver City Solid Waste Facility and for the opportunity to discuss your concerns with Mr. Istchenko and I during our recent meeting in Haines Junction.

Through our Solid Waste Action Plan (SWAP) we had identified a regional waste collection system based on transferring waste from communities to regional sites. The information we had regarding site usage for each community was based on information collected in 2009 during public consultation on solid waste issues in the Territory. It appears that the information for Silver City was not reflective of the current reality.

It is my understanding that staff from our Community Operations branch have since met with community members and has indicated the site has dedicated users year round. With this new information we agree that continuous service for the community is appropriate and will make arrangements in the near future to implement this service. Waste collection bins as well as a recycling bin will be placed at the site for continuous service. Reclamation of the existing burn barrel and pit will occur during the summer.

Again, thank you for bringing the site usage discrepancies to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elaine Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "T".

Elaine Taylor
Minister of Community Services

c: Wade Istchenko, MLA Kluane
Chief James Allen, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation
Chief Mathieya Alatini, Kluane First Nation

