

Association of Yukon Communities



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President
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Councillor Lauren Hanchar

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Councillor Doris Hansen

Immediate Past President
Mayor Gord Curran

Executive Director
Shelley Hassard

Manager of Operations
David Rózsa

Members of:



Sept 29, 2023

Honorable Kate White
Leader of the Yukon NDP
PO Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 4P1

Dear Ms. ^{Kate}White,

RE: COMPREHENSIVE MUNICIPAL GRANT AND FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY

I am writing you today concerning the sustainability of Yukon communities.

Yukon municipalities find themselves in a situation where the governance framework and revenue system afforded to us are no longer allowing for keeping up with the modern challenges, and current expectations facing our local governments. Antiquated revenue and funding sources are stretched thin for the funding of frontline services, roads, bridges, parks, public buildings, water treatment, waste collection, seasonal maintenance, as well as municipal planning and administration to provide unexhaustive examples on the list – ultimately, it equates to essentially everything we deliver as local governments.

The Comprehensive Municipal Grant (CMG) is unconditional block funding provided to municipalities by the Government of Yukon since 1991. The Association of Yukon Communities initiated work in September of 2022 to review and modernize the CMG, as well as the relationship with the Yukon Government, to ensure our communities are adequately supported. The analysis and our report on CMG modernization was completed in July of 2023, and was presented to the Government of Yukon. I have attached a copy of the report and its findings for your review. This details many of the challenges currently faced by municipalities in addition to containing recommendations on how to address them.

Financial and long-term sustainability are the most pressing issues currently facing our communities. This could, if not addressed, result in service reductions, a lack of infrastructure maintenance, and property tax increases. Resultantly, the Association of Yukon Communities is requesting your support and expressed advocacy in making this issue a proper priority of the Government of Yukon.

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I would be pleased to meet with you and discuss this important work further.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ted Laking
President
Association of Yukon Communities