

August 2, 2023

Hon. Ranj Pillai

Premier / Minister of Economic Development / Minister of the Executive Council Office / Minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation  
Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Box 2703 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



Dear Premier Pillai,

Thank you for your responses to our letter dated May 29, 2023. However, the Yukon Nonprofit Advisory Council (YNAC) does not believe that the provided responses adequately address our three critical requests, as outlined in our initial letter.

Firstly, funding for nonprofits impacts more than just the Health & Social Services sector; it extends across multiple departments within the Yukon Government. We believe that a government-wide strategy is necessary to effectively support the approximately 350 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that receive Transfer Payment Agreements (TPAs) from a vast range of departments. We kindly request your commitment to developing such a strategy to ensure the sustainability of the nonprofit sector in the Yukon.

For some organizations, their requests for wage reviews and/or COLA increases within their TPAs have been languishing for a year or more. The teams of professional staff can no longer wait. We ask for a government-wide request of all departments for an immediate and swift review of the current TPAs with nonprofit organizations with staff. There is a strong need for your government and the sector to work collaboratively to ensure that organizations can provide adequate wages without the need to cut critical programming.

Secondly, the response to our request for continued collaboration and shared services with the non-profit sector raises concerns. Your letter indicates that the Department of Economic Development may not be continuing its mandate to work with the non-profit sector for COVID-19 recovery and enhanced collaboration efforts. We seek clarification on this matter and urge you to reaffirm your commitment to this important sector. Additionally, we kindly request the designation of a primary point of contact within your government to facilitate effective communication and coordination between the government and the non-profit sector.

While we appreciate your mention of existing funding programs, such as the Community Development Fund and Economic Development Fund; however, it is important to note that these programs are not specifically designed to address the sector's recovery needs from the pandemic, inflation, rising costs, and the growing staffing crisis. We seek a clear commitment from your government to honor the commitments made in your public statements, specifically regarding the disbursement of the remaining \$2.75 million as part of the Social Recovery Plan.

The Social Recovery disbursement could include sector-wide communications and information sharing; development of systems and tools for resource sharing; support for employee recruitment, hiring and retention.

With our sector in jeopardy of further burnout, additional loss of skilled workers, and risk of loss of critical services to our communities, there are heightened consequences that include:

1. **Diminished quality of services:** When the sector experiences professional worker shortages and employee burnout, it leads to a decline in the quality of the services they are able to provide.
2. **Disruption in operations:** It becomes challenging for organizations to maintain smooth operations and ensure consistent delivery of critical services. The remaining staff may feel overwhelmed as they have to take on additional responsibilities, further exacerbating the issue.
3. **Further disruption of professional employee retention within the sector:** As loads increase for remaining employees, they experience higher levels of stress, exhaustion, and frustration; having a cascading effect on the overall work environment, leading to reduced job satisfaction and motivation among employees.
4. **Impact on public trust:** When critical services are at risk due to burnout and loss of effectiveness, it can undermine public trust in the sector and the government mandated to provide those services. This can have long-lasting consequences, as rebuilding trust takes time and concerted effort.
5. **Increased risks and safety concerns:** Burnout and exhaustion can impair judgment and decision-making abilities. In sectors where critical services involve public safety, the consequences of compromised performance can be significant, putting both service providers and the public at risk.

Given the urgency of these matters and their impact on the sector's ability to serve the Yukon community and provide critical services, we kindly request a meeting between yourself, key department ministers, and representatives from the non-profit sector. A meeting would allow for a more comprehensive discussion and exploration of viable solutions to the challenges faced by our sector.

We kindly request a response by August 23, 2023, and we would greatly appreciate a meeting date before September 15th, 2023.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues, and we look forward to your prompt and comprehensive response.

Sincerely,



Wendy Morrison  
Chair, Yukon Nonprofit Advisory Council  
[wendy@vzedprojects.com](mailto:wendy@vzedprojects.com)  
867.333.9903

and on behalf of the following organizations:

Blood Ties Four Directions  
Canadian Mental Health Association, Yukon Division  
CPAWS Yukon  
Dawson Shelter Society  
Gwaandak Theatre  
Help and Hope for Families  
Hospice Yukon Society  
Inclusion Yukon Society  
Larrikin Entertainment Ensemble  
LDAY Centre for Learning  
Les Essentielles  
Liard Aboriginal Women's Society  
Music Yukon  
Nakai Theatre  
Open Pit Theatre  
Queer Yukon Society  
Opportunities Yukon  
Safe at Home Society  
Sport Yukon  
Spring Home Society  
United Way Yukon  
Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre  
Volunteer Bénévoles Yukon  
Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle  
Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition  
Yukon Conservation Society  
Yukon Film Society  
Yukon Food for Learning Association  
Yukon Learn  
Yukon Status of Women Council  
Yukonconstruct  
Yukon Wildlife Preserve Operating Society

## **Yukon Women in Trades and Technology**

**Regarding related correspondence:**

[Letter to Premier from YNAC May 29, 2023](#)

[Letter from Premier Response June 19, 2023](#)

[Letter from Premier Response July 17, 2023](#)

**CC: Jeanie McLean, Deputy Minister/ Minister of Education / Minister responsible for Women and Gender Equity Directorate**

**CC: Tracy-Anne McPhee, Minister of Health and Social Services/ Minister of Justice**

**CC: Richard Mostyn, Minister of Community Services**

**CC: John Streicker, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources/ Minister of Tourism and Culture/  
Minister responsible for French Language Services Directorate**

**CC: Sandy Silver, Minister of Finance**

**CC: Nils Clarke, Minister of Environment**

**CC: Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition**

**CC: Kate White, Leader of the Third Party**