



April 16, 2024

Chris Pinkerton, Executive Director
CPAWS Yukon
101-301 Hawkins St
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1X5

Dear Chris Pinkerton:

RE: Closure of funds for the Yukon environmental community

Thank you for your March 14, 2024, letter regarding your concerns with the closure of the Yukon Environmental Training Fund and the Environmental Awareness Fund.

The Environmental Awareness Fund was set up to provide financial support for projects that aligned with themes identified by the Department of Environment and was active between 2018 and 2023.

The fund was initially well received, but interest in it declined over time, and the fund was closed in June of 2023. The Environmental Awareness Fund had five applications in 2021-22 of which three were fulfilled, five in 2022-23 of which two were fulfilled and one in 2023-24 which was fulfilled. Over the last two fiscal years of the fund less than \$3,000, 10 per cent of the fund, was awarded to applicants annually.

The Government of Yukon continues to offer a range of funding programs for eligible organizations, including three labour market development programs: Staffing UP, Building UP and Working UP. We recognize that these programs may not represent one-to-one replacements for the Yukon Environmental Training Fund or the Environmental Awareness Fund, but they can provide a wide range of training supports for businesses and workers.

Staffing UP and Building UP are delivered by the Department of Economic Development. Staffing UP helps employers hire and train workers, develop workplace support and enhance human resource practices. Building UP supports organizations that support people to get job skills, provide support to employers, connect employers to jobseekers, and coordinate training funds. We understand that CPAWS was recently approved for an application to Staffing UP, and I would encourage you to contact department officials if you would like to discuss further support. You can contact the Department of Economic Development's Labour Market Development Branch by contacting Anton Solomon, Director of Post Secondary and Labour Market at Anton.Solomon@yukon.ca, 867-332-7028, or LMD@yukon.ca.

Working UP is delivered by the Department of Education. It helps workers take the next steps toward their work or learning goals, improve literacy and skills, increase workplace experience, including apprenticeships, and get workplace or learning support. If you have eligible workers, you can direct them to the Department of Education at edu-pslm@yukon.ca.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I appreciate the work of CPAWS Yukon to advocate for protecting our environment, wildlife, and their habitats on behalf of Yukoners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nils Clarke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nils Clarke
Minister of Environment

cc: Deborah Lemaire, Deputy Minister of Economic Development
Michael Prochazka, Deputy Minister of Environment
Lane Tredger, Yukon NDP critic for Environment
Wade Istchenko, Yukon Party critic for Environment