

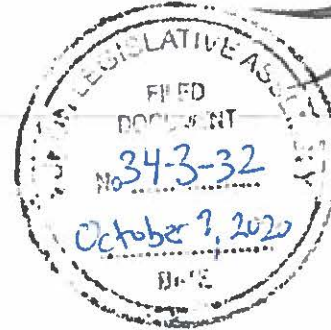


September 22, 2020

Mr. Neil Hartling
Chair, TIA Yukon
#3 - 1109 Front Street
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 5G4

Neil

Dear Mr. Hartling,



Thank you for your letters of July 13 and August 24 regarding the state of the Yukon's tourism industry, opening up to additional jurisdictions and a meeting to discuss the issue in greater depth.

As a result of your letters, I understand that on September 14 you met with the Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Brendan Hanley, and Deputy Minister Royle to discuss when restrictions might be lifted for residents from other provinces and territories to travel to Yukon without mandatory self-isolation. At that meeting, Dr. Hanley shared that it is difficult to predict when restrictions might be lifted but that he does not expect further expansion of our travel bubble in the immediate future, based primarily on epidemic trends in neighbouring jurisdictions.

I also understand that on September 15, you met with Minister Dendys and Deputy Minister Royle. And on September 11, Minister Dendys, myself and Deputy Minister Royle met with representatives from Northern Vision Development about the current and future state of the industry and the accommodation sector.


The Government of Yukon recognizes the unprecedented challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on the Yukon's tourism sector and businesses.

Recognizing these challenges, the Government of Yukon is working to understand the needs of the Yukon's tourism industry and to identify gaps in existing relief efforts to support the sector.

The Government of Yukon is also working to develop a Tourism Recovery Plan to support businesses to prepare and adjust for when border restrictions are removed and recovery of the sector can begin.

I appreciate the efforts of the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon to assist its members in this very difficult time. The Government of Yukon is committed to working with you, other tourism stakeholders and the Government of Canada to ensure the necessary supports are in place to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on Yukon tourism businesses and to prepare them for recovery.

Sincerely,



Sandy Silver
Premier

cc Hon. Jeanie Dendys, Minister Responsible for Tourism and Culture
Hon. John Streicker, Minister Responsible for Community Services
Hon. Ranj Pillai, Minister Responsible for Economic Development
Dr. Brendan Hanley, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health
Valerie Royle, Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture
Janet Moodie, Chief of Staff