



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



June 16, 2019

Hon. Sandy Silver
Premier
Government of Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Premier Silver,

Re: Electoral Reform Commission Applicants

Thank you for informally providing the Official Opposition with your list of applicants for the Commission on Electoral Reform.

As you know, we have serious concerns with your government's One-Party-Decides-All approach to the electoral reform process. This process allows for only your government to select and appoint the members of, and create the terms of reference for, the Electoral Reform Commission.

It is my understanding that in your verbal communications with our office staff you noted that you are looking for our input on this list of current potential candidates for the Commission on Electoral Reform. I want to be clear that the Official Opposition does not consider an informal verbal communication as true consultation. Your approach of simply swinging by our office unannounced to have a quick informal and off-the-record discussion leaves us with the impression that you are not interested in genuinely consulting with the Opposition parties on the Electoral Reform Commission.

Before we provide you input I am looking for specific details, in writing, on the nature of the input you are seeking from the Official Opposition and how it will be utilized.

For example, you indicated to my staff verbally that you would like us to indicate who is a "no go" and to provide names of people that we would recommend. I would like to understand how the Official Opposition's input will be treated. Will it merely be a consideration that you can ignore at your discretion? Or will we be given an actual decision-making role where we are able to prevent or influence the appointment of certain candidates to the committee? Will we be provided copies of applications so that we can properly review candidates? What assurances do we have that the Official

Opposition will be formally involved in the decision-making process and that you are not simply creating a façade of working together? Will membership of the committee and the terms of reference be determined by a consensus between all three parties in the Legislative Assembly or just the Liberal government?

With those questions considered, I also ask that you could include a deadline for when you require our input and an updated timeline on when you will finalize the shortlist as well as when you will be selecting the successful applicants.

I would like to once again reiterate our concerns with your government's One-Party-Decides-All approach to electoral reform. By designing the process in a partisan way with only the Liberals making the decisions about who sits on the commission and their terms of reference, your government is stacking the deck in favour of one party.

The Official Opposition is still open to a collaborative process in which all parties are formally provided a fair say, such as the already established Members Services Board process for making changes to the Elections Act or the non-partisan Electoral Boundaries Commission process.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Hassard', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stacey Hassard
Leader of the Official Opposition

CC: Kate White, Leader of the Third Party