



City of Whitehorse

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October 6, 2021

Hon. Richard Mostyn
Minister of Community Services
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Minister Mostyn, *Richard*

Re: Energy Retrofit Loan Program/Better Buildings Program

The City has been made aware that amendments to the *Municipal and Assessment & Taxation Acts* are scheduled to go forward in the upcoming Fall Sitting of the Legislature.

The City remains concerned with the anticipated changes and, as per our October 2020 letter to Minister Streicker, would like to state once again that while we are in favour of the general intent of the program, we do not support the downloaded burden to municipalities. The City is left feeling that the continued dialogue offered by the Minister was not as thorough as we expected, nor were any alternate delivery options seriously explored by Yukon government (YG).

Some of the City's concerns include:

- the decision on the part of YG to download a program onto municipalities who do not have the capacity to take on tasks unrelated to mandates established via legislation and council direction;
- the increased burden to potential homeowners that a program designed in this manner will have on home affordability. This program does not allow for alternative payment options in order for a homeowner to spread out the cost, instead the July 2 tax payment will be made larger by the amount of the annual loan payment;
- municipalities attempt to minimize obstacles to property tax default, adding a program that is expected to have a broad appeal not only to residents but also to businesses is expected to increase the burden on front line staff tremendously. The volume of loan questions, payment option queries, and potential multi-year default actions are anticipated to exceed existing staff capacities;

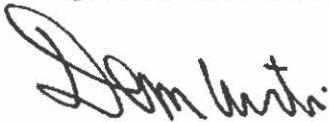
- having a large number of Better Buildings Loans will reduce the likelihood that municipalities will be able to levy traditional LICs and thus will impact the traditional reconstruction funding methodologies increasing a municipality's infrastructure pressures.

The City is surprised that YG is choosing to proceed at this time without further direct conversation with the City. Our Administration reports that December 2020 was the last time a formal meeting occurred on this topic; at this time a commitment was made by YG representatives to explore ways to shift any ongoing program delivery burden proposed under the program away from other aspects of our relationship. No further communication was received by our appointed representative.

Once again, I would like to request that YG seriously consider the concerns of the City of Whitehorse and the Association of Yukon Communities, and defer these legislative amendments until such time as alternate delivery options which keep the program delivery burdens with YG can be developed.

Sincerely,

CITY OF WHITEHORSE



Dan Curtis
Mayor

c: City Council
Senior Management