

LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Richard Mostyn

1. On April 20, 2017, Stacey Hassard, Member of Pelly-Nisutlin

asked the following oral question at page(s) _____ of Hansard

submitted the following written question – WQ No. 8

gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____

RE: _____

OR

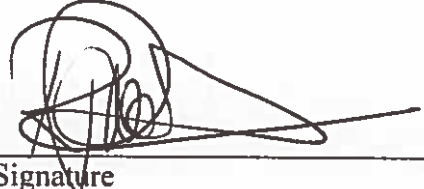
2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to:

on _____ at page(s) _____ of Hansard.

The response is as follows:

Attached is the letter provided in response to the same written question submitted by the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin on January 12, 2017.

MAY 1 / 2017
Date


Signature



February 13, 2017

Stacey Hassard
Leader of the Official Opposition
Yukon Legislative Assembly
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. Hassard:

Thank you for your written question tabled in the Legislative Assembly on January 12th concerning the release of government transition and briefing materials.

As you know, a new government is provided materials to inform them about every aspect of the business of government, so that a new government can move forward with both governance matters and issues as quickly as possible. It is important that this information is frank and comprehensive. The 2012 amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (ATIPP Act) removed all public access to the materials prepared for a new government.

During the debate on amendments to the act in 2012, the then Minister stated the changes to the ATIPP Act reflected an adequate balance between transparency and protection necessary to ensure good governance. We agree that a balance between transparency and good governance is important, but our preference is to release more information rather than less when it is discretionary.

While there is clearly no legal right of access, I am committed to releasing transition materials prepared for our government that will not breach confidentiality around Cabinet and its committees, or disclose advice given to our government under certain provisions of the Act. For briefing materials preparing a Minister for debate in the Legislative Assembly, I anticipate that once a full assessment of the Act is completed and amendments are made, there will be a similar approach taken.

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Our government is committed to increasing the amount of government information available to Yukoners and will continue to work on increasing this availability. At a minimum, we will be preparing amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, establishing an open data repository, and increasing access to government services on-line. These commitments can be found in our mandate letters issued by the Premier in January.

Thank you for your interest. I look forward to having further discussions on how we can make improvements to transparency and accountability for Yukoners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Mostyn', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Mostyn
Minister of Highways and Public Works