

October 18, 2021

Dear Minister Mostyn,

Thank you for taking the time to outline the Better Buildings program that has been proposed by the Yukon Government. I am happy to write a short letter outlining why I believe that this is a positive step forward for the Yukon.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt in the north, and we have a responsibility to do everything we can to both adapt and mitigate these impacts. That is why the Yukon and a number of municipalities have declared a climate emergency.

Given the climate we live in, one important measure we can take is to ensure our homes are as energy efficient as possible. Unfortunately, the high cost of retrofitting is a barrier for many Yukoners, and this is especially true for anyone who is not planning on staying in the same home for the next twenty years. Why would someone who plans on moving within the next five years pay \$50,000 for something that will not make a huge impact on the value of their home, but may take decades to recoup the cost through the associated energy savings.

That is the reason why connecting low-interest debt to the property, rather than the individual, through a local improvement tax makes a lot of sense to me. This kind of model has succeeded elsewhere and has helped grow the adoption of solar energy and other similar home improvements that aid the climate, but have a long return on investment.

I look forward to seeing this program in action.

Sincerely,



Chris Rider
Executive Director, CPAWS Yukon