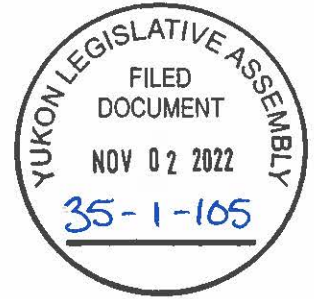




TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

PO Box 590 Watson Lake, Yukon Y0A 1C0
P: (867) 536-8000 E: Info@watsonlake.ca



November 2, 2022

Honorable Nils Clarke
Minister of Environment
PO Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Emailed: Nils.Clarke@yukon.ca

Dear Minister Clarke:

Re: Animal Protection Act

Mayor and Council was recently made aware of a new Animal Protection Act that has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly and hope that you can take some time to answer questions that Council has about this Bill and the Yukon government's consultation process.

Based on information found on the Yukon government website, public engagement was conducted in 2018 with public meetings held in most Yukon communities, however, not in Watson Lake. Can you please provide some background information on why a public engagement meeting was not held in Watson Lake? Did the Liard First Nation participate in the consultation process? Were any of the survey responses that you received from Watson Lake residents? Was another engagement session held in the spring/summer of 2019 as planned?

We are also curious to know if our Bylaw department was made aware of the consultation process and invited to provide feedback? As the consultation for this Bill was completed several years ago, is further consultation being planned? Was feedback provided from Watson Lake regarding what tools and mechanisms would best empower Animal Control/Bylaw Officers to design and enforce animal control requirements in our community?

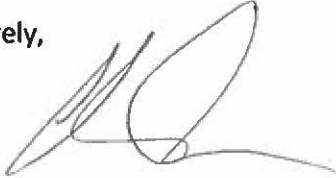
Lastly, based on the anticipated timeline in the "What We Heard" document, Legislative changes were meant to be completed by 2020. Can you tell us the reason for the two year delay and what changes were made to the Act?

We feel that these questions are important, as the current Town of Watson Lake Council members and Administration do not recall any consultation in our community around the Animal Protection Act, and no information has been shared about what changes could potentially be required when it

comes to animal enforcement and protection, and how it may affect our current Bylaws and practices.

We thank you for your time and look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Irvin', with a large loop at the end.

Christopher Irvin, Mayor
Town of Watson Lake
irvin@watsonlake.ca

cc: Patti McLeod, MLA for Watson Lake
Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition
Kate White, NDP Party Leader
Shelley Hassard, Executive Director, Association of Yukon Communities