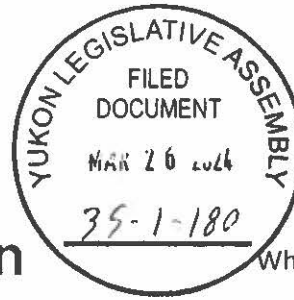




# Council of Yukon First Nations



2166-2nd Avenue  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4P1  
867-393-9200  
cyfn.ca

March 21, 2024

**Re: Support for the establishment of Shāw Kwä'q / Health and Wellness Yukon / Santé et mieux-être Yukon via the proposed Health Authority Act (Bill 38)**

Dear Minister McPhee:

The Council of Yukon First Nations is pleased to see the tabling the *Health Authority Act* that establishes *Shāw Kwä'q / Health and Wellness Yukon* on March 11, 2024. We support this legislation and the collaborative way that it was drafted with Yukon First Nations throughout the development process.

In our work at CYFN, we continue to see the immediate and long-term impacts on individuals, families and communities that result from a system that was not designed with or for Yukon First Nations people. We have long faced systemic racism and health inequities from a fragmented and siloed health and social services system. This legislation is a necessary first and foundational step to begin addressing the fragmented nature of the Yukon's current system.

The proposed *Health Authority Act* outlines important goals for the health system: enhancing patient and staff experience, improving population health and value for money all while advancing health equity. The collaborative governance structure that is proposed for *Shāw Kwä'q* includes clear and ongoing roles for Yukon First Nations, as well as new requirements that will put communities at the centre of health system planning. These include the integration of the Yukon Health and Wellness plan with community health and wellness plans, and a cultural safety framework that will aim to eradicate discrimination and racism from the health care system.

The legislation, and the development of *Shāw Kwä'q* as a modern and culturally responsive health authority, are also crucial to maintain the Yukon as an attractive place for healthcare professionals to practice. After the *Health Authority Act* is passed, the Chiefs Committee on Health and the Health Transformation Advisory Committee look forward to continuing to work with the Government of Yukon, health system partners, health and social service organizations and associations, and all stakeholders to ensure we are collaboratively building a system that all employees and users of the system can be proud of.

This work cannot progress until the Yukon has enabling legislation that provides the government the ability to create the Yukon's first Health Authority. For this reason, on March 19, 2024, the Council of Yukon First Nations passed resolution LDR 1192-24 affirming their support for Bill 38 and broad health system transformation, and calling on all members of the Legislative Assembly to act in the best

interests of Yukoners and pass Bill 38, without any delay during this 2024 spring sitting of the 35th Yukon Legislative Assembly.

We know the legislation is foundational and the Council of Yukon First Nations supports the establishment and implementation of *Shāw Kwä'q*. We are committed to continue to partner on this important work as the implementation and development of *Shāw Kwä'q* continues, and excited to work with all partners in the health care system to innovatively transform our system for both those who are clients of the system and those that work in the system.

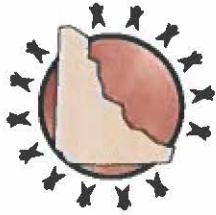
Gunalchish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Johnston', written in a cursive style.

Peter Johnston  
Grand Chief

cc: Currie Dixon, Yukon Party

Kate White, NDP



# Council of Yukon First Nations

2166-2nd Avenue  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4P1  
867-393-9200  
cyfn.ca

LRD NO: 1192-24

**Leadership Resolution:**      **BILL 38 HEALTH AUTHORITY ACT**

**MOVED BY:**  
Chief Joe

(A)      The Government of Yukon:

- a.      commissioned an independent panel to conduct a comprehensive review of its health and social programs and this panel released *Putting People First* in 2020 that set out 76 recommendations, including the creation of “Wellness Yukon, a new, arm’s-length government agency that delivers basic health and social services in the territory and contracts with NGOs or other providers to deliver specialty services on their behalf . . . [including management of] the hospitals currently under the Yukon Hospital Corporation and primary care, long-term care and treatment facilities under the Department of Health and Social Services”; and
- b.      accepted *Putting People First* and committed to work with Yukon First Nations to transform the health care system in the Yukon and implement each of the 76 recommendations;

**SECONDED BY:**  
Chief Benoit

(B) Under the direction of the Chiefs Committee on Health (“CCOH”), the Yukon First Nation representatives on the Health Transformation Advisory Committee (“HTAC”) have worked collaboratively with Government of Yukon to develop the *Health Authority Act*, known as Bill 38,

and ensure that Bill 38 serves to benefit all Yukoners to improve and enhance the provision of their health services;

- (C) Bill 38 was introduced to the Legislative Assembly for first reading on March 11, 2024, that, among other matters, sets out the legal framework to create Shāw Kwä'ą (Health and Wellness Yukon), the Yukon's first health authority;
- (D) HTAC and YG have had extensive consultations, engagements and information sessions with Yukon doctors, nurses and other health professionals and employees and their organizations, including the Allied Health Professionals, Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Association of Registered Nurses and various non-governmental health organizations about the scope and nature of Bill 38;

**PASSED BY:**  
**Consensus**

**Resolution passed on:**  
**March 19, 2024**



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**Grand Chief**  
**Peter Johnston**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Chiefs of the Council of Yukon First Nations:

1. reaffirms its support for the reform and transformation of the health care system in the Yukon towards a health authority model that will operate more effectively and efficiently address the health of all Yukoners;
2. affirms its support for Bill 38, *Health Authority Act*, and commits to continue to collaboratively with the Government of Yukon via the CCOH and HTAC throughout the transition period and beyond to stand up Shāw Kwä'ą; and
3. calls on all members of the Legislative Assembly to act in the best interests of all Yukoners and pass Bill 38, without any delay during this 2024 Spring Sitting of the 35th Yukon Legislative Assembly, so that the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations can work with health and social services providers and health system staff in the Yukon and other Yukoners to implement the provisions of Bill 38, including the operationalization of Shāw Kwä'ą (Health and Wellness Yukon) and, in particular, develop transition plans to facilitate the implementation of Bill 38.