



Yukon
Ombudsman



Yukon
Information
and Privacy
Commissioner



Yukon
Public Interest
Disclosure
Commissioner



January 27, 2025

The Honourable Jeremy Harper
Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly
and Chair of the Members' Services Board
Jeremy.harper@yukon.ca

Dear Chairperson Harper:

Re: Ensuring the independence of House Officers' budgeting process

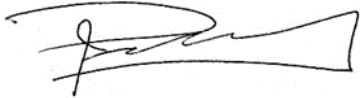
It is of fundamental importance that decisions with direct influence on our operations, including the budget approval process, are left to the Legislative Assembly. The home act of every Officer of the Legislative Assembly contemplates direct approval by the Legislative Assembly with prior review by the Members' Services Board. This legislated procedure works to insulate the independence of these Officers from the very government that we are tasked with overseeing.

In your letter dated December 19, 2024, you called for the Minister of Finance to respect the legislated budget process of our offices. To date, it is our understanding that there has been no such agreement by the Government of Yukon or, in particular, the Minister of Finance. While we received confirmation that the Management Board has now purported to "approve" the budget estimates as reviewed by the Members' Services Board, we maintain that the Management Board has no legal authority to do so. Our concern remains the budgetary process, not the outcome.

In our view, the Members' Services Board is the body best positioned to balance the needs of our offices in protecting the rights of Yukoners, with the need for fiscal accountability to the public, by way of the Legislative Assembly. You know who we are and the importance of our work. Therefore, any continued involvement by the Management Board in asserting that it has authority to approve or modify estimates transmitted by you to the Minister of Finance cannot be tolerated.

We ask that the Members' Services Board continue to engage with the Government of Yukon to clarify the relevant legislated procedures and prevent such interference with our independence on future budget submissions.

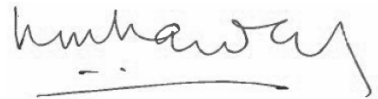
Kind regards,



Jason Pedlar
Ombudsman
Information and Privacy
Commissioner
Public Interest Disclosure
Commissioner



Annette King
Child and Youth Advocate



Maxwell Harvey
Chief Elections Officer