



Yukon  
Ombudsman



Yukon  
Information  
and Privacy  
Commissioner



Yukon  
Public Interest  
Disclosure  
Commissioner



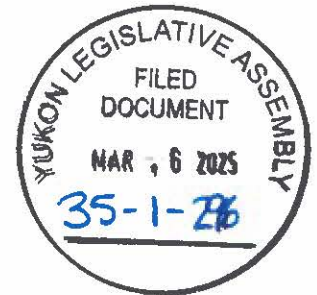
DELIVERED BY EMAIL

March 5, 2025

The Honourable Ranj Pillai  
Premier of Yukon  
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Currie Dixon  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
[Currie.dixon@yla.gov.yk.ca](mailto:Currie.dixon@yla.gov.yk.ca)

Kate White  
Leader of the Third Party  
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Dear Premier Pillai, MLAs Dixon and White:

**Re: Ensuring the independence of Legislative Officers' budgeting process**

We are writing to you because you are the respective party leaders who, collectively, have the power in the Legislature to make statutory amendments to correct a conflict of laws. We are asking for action by this Legislative Assembly to ensure our budgetary independence, as was intended when our Acts were enacted.

Specifically, we seek your immediate support for legislative amendments to the *Ombudsman Act*, the *Child and Youth Advocate Act (CYAA)*, and the *Elections Act* that provide an express provision in each to exclude the *Financial Administration Act (FAA)* from the budgetary process of the Legislative Officers; specifically, Management Board oversight. We have also written to the Members' Services Board (MSB) on this same issue.

As you likely know, on Monday the Yukon Supreme Court Justice Campbell delivered an oral decision (to be later provided in writing) about the independence of our budgetary processes.

Although she dismissed our petition, she took the view that the Legislature clearly intended to protect the Legislative Officers' independence from the Executive branch by outlining a distinct budgetary approval process in *Ombudsman Act* section 9 and *CYAA* section 22. In her view, referral

of our budget estimates to the Minister of Finance is strictly procedural and does not give authority to the Management Board to review or modify the MSB's recommendations.

She further stated, however, that this currently conflicts with the broad authority of the Minister of Finance and Management Board on such budgetary matters by way of the FAA because neither the *Ombudsman Act* nor the CYAA are explicitly exempt from, nor do they prevail over, the FAA as it stands.

Justice Campbell then left it to the Legislature to decide whether it should address this conflict of laws.

As independent Legislative Officers, we hold strong that any decisions directly affecting or influencing our operations, including the budgetary approval process, must be left to the Legislative Assembly as was intended.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that you immediately consider amending *Ombudsman Act* section 9, CYAA section 22, and *Elections Act* section 16 to include a paramountcy provision over the FAA or an FAA exclusion in respect of main estimates, supplementary estimates, interim supply funding, and special warrants.

These amendments would fix firmly in law that our offices remain independent of the government and establish our independent budgetary process as intended by the Legislature. They would also have the immediate and fundamental effect of enabling us to continue to meet our oversight mandates without fear of reprisal or uncertainty.

Finally, we respectfully understand that the Spring Session will shortly be upon you but, in view of the exceptional importance of our continued independence, we are looking to you for your collective and timely support.

Kind regards,



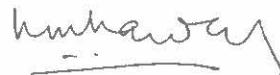
Jason Pedlar

Ombudsman, Information and  
Privacy Commissioner, and  
Public Interest Disclosure  
Commissioner



Annette King

Child and Youth Advocate



Maxwell Harvey

Chief Elections Officer