

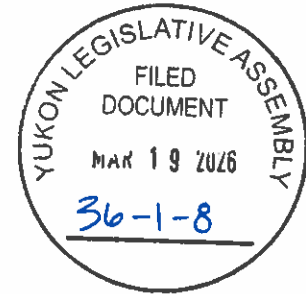


# Council of Yukon First Nations

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

March 18, 2026,

Kate White  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Yukon NDP  
Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 2C6



Dear Kate White,

We write to urge you and the Yukon NDP to publicly support Shāw Kwā'a (the Health Authority) and join the Chiefs Committee on Health in calling for no legislative changes to the *Health Authority Act* during the Spring Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly. Good work in the Yukon must be done collaboratively, and we need time to work together on any issues relating to health system transformation.

As you know, on February 9<sup>th</sup>, the Yukon Government announced their unilateral decision to pause implementation of and intention to repeal the *Health Authority Act*. This decision severed a partnership developed over the past several years which saw the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations working together to co-develop the legislation. That collaborative process was chosen by Yukon First Nations based on the Putting People First report, which identified that gaps and inefficiencies in Yukon's health care are symptoms of a fundamentally fragmented system.

With the goal of improving health outcomes for their citizens, Yukon First Nations could have created their own health system. However, seeing the evidence of existing system fragmentation, we chose to partner with the Government of Yukon to create a system that works for all Yukoners. We worked to develop a health authority model that could address long-standing gaps in coordination, accountability, and service delivery across the system.

The goals of Shāw Kwā'a' remain clear: improving efficiency across the health system and addressing racism and discrimination in care. By bringing services, infrastructure, planning, and accountability under one structure, we can reduce duplication, modernize service delivery, and

make it easier for people to navigate care. This unified approach will help ensure that Yukoners receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

More importantly, the Health Authority represents a real and overdue opportunity for system change. It creates space for new models of care, stronger cultural safety and humility, and a more seamless integration of clinical, community, and traditional approaches to wellness. With shared governance and strong Yukon First Nations leadership, it also sets a new standard for reconciliation in health - one that will benefit every community across the territory. These aspirations simply are not possible under the current health system.

We welcome an opportunity to meet with you and your caucus to share more and continue collaborating on critical health system improvement. Please contact Nantsana Murphy with the CYFN health department at [nantsana.murphy@cyfn.net](mailto:nantsana.murphy@cyfn.net) to arrange a conversation.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of Yukoners and for considering this invitation to support transformational change in our health system. Together we will create a health system that truly serves all Yukoners.

Sincerely,



Chief Pauline Frost, Chair  
Chiefs Committee on Health



Chief Barb Joe  
Chiefs Committee on Health



Deputy Chief Erin McQuaid  
Chiefs Committee on Health



Deputy Kaa Shaadé Hení Darla-Jean Lindstrom  
Chiefs Committee on Health

CC: All Yukon First Nations Chiefs