



March 9, 2021

Liz Hanson, Chair
Special Committee on Civil Emergency Legislation
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Ms. Hanson:

RE: Special Committee on Civil Emergency Legislation

I am writing in response to your January 18, 2021, request for information regarding Economic Development's experience with the Civil Emergency Measures Act. In your letter, you posed a number of questions, which I have addressed below.

Our experience with the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic has primarily been as an agency that has received instruction from the responsible departments on how to maintain a safe work environment and maintain the safety and wellness of Yukoners. From Economic Development's perspective, the information received was clear and has been followed.

With respect to the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic: While Economic Development's direct involvement in maintaining the safety and wellness of Yukoners has been minimal to date, the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* has helped the department through its clarification of responsibilities and accountabilities.

To date, Ministerial Orders specifically related to the Economic Development have not been used under. Relevant Ministerial orders that have had applicability to Economic Development include:

- M.O. 2020/50 - staff have followed self-isolation requirements where applicable.
- M.O. 2020/71 - staff follow orders with respect to masks in public places as required.

Within our experience, there are no aspects of the current legislation that may have prevented Economic Development from reacting as it would have liked during an emergency. We do not believe there are currently gaps in the legislation.

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Lastly, Economic Development does not have any suggestions for improvements to Yukon's Civil Emergency Measures Act.

I trust that the information provided above includes information to inform your Committee work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin Ferbey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister of Economic Development