

Public Service Commission Response: Special Committee on Civil Emergency Legislation

- 1. How was the Public Service Commission hindered or helped by Yukon's *Civil Emergency Measures Act* when attempting to maintain the safety and wellness of Yukoners during an emergency?**

In dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic to date, Yukon's *Civil Emergency Measures Act* (CEMA) has helped the Public Service Commission respond during the state of emergency.

The Public Service Commission has played an essential role in administering the public service throughout the pandemic. CEMA has enabled PSC to support business continuity, ongoing service delivery and emergency response by enabling the reassignment of Government of Yukon employees throughout the pandemic.

The Public Service Commission was not hindered in any way by the Act itself.

- 2. Have ministerial orders relating to the Public Service Commission been used under Yukon's *Civil Emergency Measures Act*, and if so, how?**

There have been no ministerial orders relating specifically to the Public Service Commission used under CEMA.

The Public Service Commission and the Government of Yukon as employer have had to adapt and respond to implications stemming from various orders under CEMA, just like other employers in the territory (examples include employees needing to self-isolate, border restrictions, leave usage, health and safety protocols in the workplace, etc.).

- 3. Are there any aspects of the current legislation that may have prevented the Public Service Commission from reacting as it would have liked during an emergency?**

No aspects of the current legislation prevented the Public Service Commission from reacting as it would have liked during an emergency.

- 4. From the Public Service Commission's perspective, are there currently any gaps in the legislation?**

We have not identified specific gaps but can say that the legislative regime does not include comprehensive provisions related to management of the public service in an emergency.

- 5. Does the Public Service Commission have any suggestions for improvements to Yukon's *Civil Emergency Measures Act*? Please provide details and examples.**

The Public Service Commission has not conducted in-depth policy research into CEMA or CEMA-type legislation. However, we can say that the Yukon government is both an employer and is responsible for the emergency response, and as such having a legislative framework that supports the ability to quickly redeploy staff into areas of greatest need, whether in terms of emergency response or ongoing service delivery, is of the utmost importance.