



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 8, 2021

TO: The Special Committee on Civil Emergency Legislation

FROM: Mary Cameron, President, Yukon Housing Corporation

RE: Civil Emergency Measures Act (CEMA)
Information Request Response

Context

- In response to the request expressed by the Special Committee on Civil Emergency Measures Act, Yukon Housing Corporation shares its preliminary observations on how CEMA affected its mandate, programs and services.
- Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) recognizes that any substantial views on its performance during the pandemic may need to be informed by further research and evaluation.
- Like other departments and agencies of Yukon Government, Yukon Housing Corporation has adapted its programs and services to be aligned with the prescriptions from the Civil Emergency Measures Act.

Legislation

- Yukon Housing Corporation does not have a position on whether the CEMA is outdated or not. The legislation, as currently worded, appears to YHC to not present a problem.

Policy

- Yukon Housing Corporation's issues are linked to the policy's outcomes generated since CEMA has been applied, not with the legislation itself.

- Disruptive symptoms observed are linked to delays on urgent housing projects. Quarantine obligations significantly delayed some critical construction projects. The root cause of that problem is the lack of human resources supplies, not the legislation itself.
- Disruptive symptoms observed were also on the increased cost of construction supplies. Again, the application of CEMA is not the cause of that situation. That situation resulted from disruptions caused by the pandemic on human resources sectors across the private sector.

Policy objectives and options

- While being committed to remaining accountable by being transparent, Yukon Housing Corporation sees value in having CEMA allowing departments and agencies to use maximum flexibility and agility in responding to an emergency without creating delays in construction projects.
- Given the timelines imposed by the committee, Yukon Housing Corporation notes that it is reasonable to conduct additional policy work to identify options.