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# Yukon Council on disABILITY

October 8, 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Yukon Council on disABILITY is a non profit organization whose mission statement is:

"To be a resource for Yukoners with disABILITIES on issues of equity, community awareness, government policy and employment"

We would like to add our support to the proposed changes to the "Human Rights Act"; especially with regards to the issue of Definitions of Disabilities in Section 37; definition of physical or mental disability. We agree that the existing definition should be replaced with:

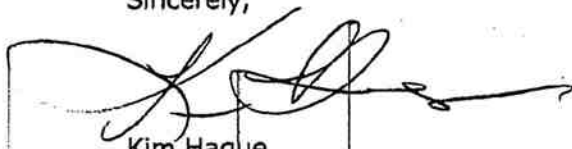
A disability is a physical or mental condition or illness, including fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and addiction to alcohol and drugs, that is either; permanent, ongoing, episodic or of some persistence and that may limit a person's ability to carry out any of life's important functions or activities.

We also strongly support the rationale that:

The current definition of mental disability in the Act refers to "retardation" which is a degrading and outdated term and should be deleted. The definitions of both; "mental disability" and "physical disability" should comply with the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, which Canada recently signed. It is also important to highlight FASD and addictions because of their seriousness and prevalence in the Yukon."

In conclusion, the Yukon Council on disABILITY supports any changes that will remove barriers, no matter how small, in order to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities. We wish the Commission well.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director



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