

Moved by the Hon. Brad Cathers, Government House Leader:

THAT a Select Committee on Whistle-blower Protection be established;

THAT the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Ted Staffen, be the chair of that committee;

THAT the honourable members Hon. Jim Kenyon, Steve Nordick, Eric Fairclough and Steve Cardiff be appointed to the committee;

THAT the committee report to the House its findings and recommendations respecting the central issues that should be addressed in whistle-blower protection legislation including:

- (1) whether all public institutions and private organizations performing "public" functions will be covered,
- (2) whether only employees or others -- unions, advocacy groups, the media, citizens -- can use this legislation,
- (3) what types of wrongdoing will be covered,
- (4) whether the same office will conduct investigation, mediation and the protection of whistle-blowers,
- (5) whether employees will have to exhaust departmental procedures before approaching the whistle-blower protection office,
- (6) how retaliation against whistle-blowers will be defined and how long protection will exist,
- (7) whether there will be a reverse onus on the employer to demonstrate that adverse decisions on a whistle-blowing employee were not a reprisal,
- (8) what remedies for employees judged to be adversely affected will be specified in the legislation; and
- (9) what sorts of consequences there will be for employees who engage in reckless or malicious accusations of wrongdoing and for managers who engage in reprisal against employees who act in good faith;

THAT the committee report to the House its recommendation as to whether whistle-blower protection legislation should include a sunset clause similar to that found in section 35 of the *Ombudsman Act*;

THAT the committee have the power to call for persons, papers and records and to sit during inter-sessional periods,

THAT the committee hold hearings for the purpose of receiving the views and opinions of Yukon citizens and interested groups on whistle-blower protection legislation;

THAT the committee have the power to seek background information from experts and to be able to call and hear these experts as witnesses;

THAT while all testimony provided to the committee shall be in a matter of public record, the committee have the power to hold in-camera meetings and to direct that the records of the committee, in specific instances, not contain details that could lead to the identification of an individual group, third party, or community;

THAT if the House is not sitting at such time as the committee is prepared to present its report, the committee transmit its report to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and then, not more than one day later, release the report to the public; and

THAT the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly be responsible for providing the necessary support services to the committee.

(Motion #125)