



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



September 8, 2020

Hon. John Streicker
Minister of Community Services
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Minister Streicker,

RE: Loss of Garbage Service Impacting Farmers and Other Businesses

Recently, one of the two companies that has been providing commercial garbage pick-up service north of Whitehorse, PNW Waste Removal, informed customers it would no longer be providing service. The other company which provides this service, General Waste Management, has informed me that they are also planning to shut down their commercial waste removal service for customers in the area I represent.

This is directly impacting Yukon farmers, and a number of other businesses in the Lake Laberge Riding (including people in the Mayo Road, Hot Springs Road, and Ibex Valley areas). Farming in the Yukon is challenging enough without our largest producers having to deal with a loss of commercial waste disposal upon which they are currently depending.

Farming profitably during our short growing season is hard at the best of times. If farmers in my riding are left without commercial waste disposal options, they will have to either take time out of their day to personally take garbage to the Deep Creek Solid Waste Transfer Station, or resort to other less desirable options such as burning, burying, or dumping their garbage elsewhere.

As I am sure you are aware, over 70% of the farms in the Yukon are in my riding. Some of our territory's largest food producers (as well as other businesses) are being negatively impacted by this loss of service.

This loss of garbage service is a problem largely created by government policy.

Based on my discussions with PNW and General Waste, I understand that one of the key issues leading to their decisions to end this service is that the City of Whitehorse doesn't want to continue to accept commercial garbage originating from outside city limits, believing that garbage to be the responsibility of the Yukon Government.

I recognize that every municipality has limitations on what it is able to do, including the extent to which it can handle dealing with garbage which it is not officially responsible for under the *Municipal Act*. However, in the absence of an agreement between the Yukon Government and the City of Whitehorse that allows garbage from businesses in the Whitehorse periphery to be taken directly to the City's landfill, local business owners are paying the price for the Yukon Government and the City of Whitehorse not working together to find a solution.

Directing this garbage to the Deep Creek Solid Waste Transfer Station is not a logical option. First of all, that facility is not set up to accommodate the trucks which either company uses to pick up from commercial customers. Even if that were to change, all of the garbage in question would ultimately end up in the City of Whitehorse landfill after being transported to Deep Creek. For garbage coming from businesses on the Hot Springs Road, taking it to Deep Creek would literally result in a 40-mile side trip on the way to the Whitehorse landfill.

I trust that both governments will recognize that the increase in both costs and fossil fuel emissions which would result from doing that makes it an illogical option.

I urge you to work with the City of Whitehorse to find a solution that allows farms and other businesses outside city limits to continue to have access to affordable commercial waste disposal service. As part of this solution, it will be necessary to ensure fair, predictable, and affordable fees and standards that apply to garbage being dumped at the City's landfill by commercial waste disposal companies such as PNW Waste Removal and General Waste Management. Government needs to create the conditions for private sector success.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Brad Cathers
MLA for Lake Laberge

Cc. Shayne King, PNW Waste Disposal
Tara-Lynn Connelly, General Waste Management
Sonny Grey, President of the Yukon Agricultural Association