



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



July 11, 2019

Hon. Sandy Silver
Premier
Government of Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Premier Silver,

Re: Electoral Reform Commission Applicants

Dear Premier Silver,

Thank you for your response to my June 16th letter regarding the Electoral Reform Commission applicants. Although your response is dated July 4th I just wanted to note that it wasn't received in our office until July 10th.

I would like to correct your assertions where you suggest the Official Opposition is not interested in participating in an electoral reform process. As I have indicated on several occasions, including in my June 16th letter, the Official Opposition is open to a collaborative process in which all parties are formally provided a fair say in electoral reform. It is for this reason that I wrote my letter on June 16th seeking further clarification on what exactly it is you are looking for from the Official Opposition.

To date, all we have received from you is informal discussion with very little detail as to what you are looking for. Your approach of simply swinging by our office unannounced to have a quick informal and off-the-record discussion or to try and conduct consultation on electoral reform via text message is concerning. I note that the approach you have pursued so far, of keeping things out of writing, may have the unintentional consequence of avoiding Access to Information legislation and this is counter to your government's commitment of being open and transparent.

It is our view that an important process that could potentially change the way Yukoners vote must be conducted openly and transparently. There can be no ambiguity about what is being asked so that Yukoners can understand how decisions were made. It is for this reason that we asked you almost a month ago for specific details, in writing, on the nature of the input you are seeking from the Official Opposition and how it will be utilized. Simply put this has to be a written record of exactly what you are seeking from us.

Your response to my June 16th letter has unfortunately left all of our questions unanswered. For your reference I will once again include them below and expect that, if you are sincere about wanting us to participate, that you will be able to reply promptly in writing.

For example, you indicated to my staff verbally that you would like us to indicate who is a "no go" and to provide names of people that we would recommend. I would like to understand how the Official Opposition's input will be treated. Will it merely be a consideration that you can ignore at your discretion? Or will we be given an actual decision-making role where we are able to prevent or influence the appointment of certain candidates to the committee? Will we be provided copies of applications so that we can properly review candidates? What criteria would you like us to review candidates based upon? Do you want us to interview candidates? Are you asking us to vet candidates? What assurances do we have that the Official Opposition will be formally involved in the decision-making process and that you are not simply creating a façade of working together? Will members of the committee and the terms of reference be determined by a consensus between all three parties in the Legislative Assembly or just the Liberal government?

Again, with those questions considered, I also asked that you could include a deadline for when you require our input and an updated timeline on when you will finalize the shortlist as well as when you will be selecting successful applicants. If you are unable to provide us such simple information in writing we will be left wondering whether you are sincere in wanting to work with us and why you do not want a written record of your request.

I do worry that your delays in providing us any formal or detailed requests in writing will unfortunately delay the work of the committee and I encourage you to expedite your reply.

I would like to once again reiterate that the Official Opposition is open to a collaborative process in which all parties are formally provided a fair say, such as the already established Members Services Board process for making changes to the Elections Act or the non-partisan Electoral Boundaries Commission process.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'Stacey Hassard', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stacey Hassard
Leader of the Official Opposition

CC: Kate White, Leader of the Third Party