



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



May 3, 2021

Hon. Sandy Silver
Leader of the Liberal Caucus
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Ms. Kate White
Leader of the NDP Caucus
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. Silver and Ms. White,

I am writing to express my concern about some aspects of the written agreement between your two parties as it relates to standing committees of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

While it is your prerogative as leaders to make whatever agreements between your two parties that you wish, it appears that your agreement includes matters that are to be determined by all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Even further, there appears to be at least one case where your agreement makes commitments on behalf of the Yukon Party.

It is the long-standing tradition of the Assembly that the structure of committees generally reflects the balance of MLAs in the House, and that changes to the structure, composition, and operations of committees are determined through discussion and consultation with representatives of all members. This did not happen in this case.

Furthermore, I note that your agreement appears to indicate that a Yukon Party MLA will assume the position of Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole. We were not consulted on this, and we do not agree. A Yukon Party MLA will not be offering to serve in this capacity.

In the spirit of collaboration and in order to fix this issue and ensure committees include a proper and reflective balance of MLAs, the Yukon Party caucus is willing to sit down with members of your caucuses to discuss a path forward.

We propose a cumulative committee membership made up of 26 members between all 5 committees with 11 members coming from the Official Opposition caucus, 11 members coming from the Government caucus, and 4 members coming from the Third Party Caucus. Further we propose that of the 5 committees, 2 be chaired by a member of the Official Opposition, 2 be

chaired by a member of the Government caucus, and one be chaired by a member of the Third Party caucus.

This structure would mean that 57% of the committee positions and 60% of the committee chair positions are taken up by members of the Liberal-NDP deal. This would be more representative of the Legislature as signatories of your deal represent just over 57% of the MLAs in the Assembly. In our view this would be a more fair, equitable, and representative make up for the committee structure and would go a long way in supporting a collaborative Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Currie Dixon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Currie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Dixon".

Currie Dixon
Leader of the Yukon Party