



LEGISLATIVE RETURN

SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Mr. Pillai, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

1. On November 27, 2019, Mr. Kent, Member for Copperbelt South

- asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*
- submitted the following written question – WQ No. 6
- gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____

RE: Expropriations of Placer and Quartz Mining Claims

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion with _____ on _____ related to:

Bill No. _____ Second Reading Third Reading
 Committee of the Whole: _____
 Motion No. _____ RE: _____
 at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:
Please see attachment for response.

October 19, 2020
Date


Signature

Re: Response to Written Questions No. 6.

With respect to Question No. 6 regarding compensation for individuals whose placer and quartz mining claims may be affected by government decisions, the response is as follows:

1. The Government of Yukon is continuing to consider the matter of compensation and alternatives to compensation for mineral claim holders. The Government of Yukon relies on the independent review of projects under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act to assess a project and recommend if and how the project will be allowed to proceed. All mineral exploration and mining projects must meet the requirements of territorial mining and exploration legislation and all other applicable acts and regulations. Exploration and mining projects that do not meet regulatory requirements, or conform to standards in place, may need to be redesigned and resubmitted or may simply not be able to proceed. If claims for compensation do arise, the Government of Yukon assesses and responds to each claim on a case-by-case basis.
2. No expropriations of placer or quartz mining claims are occurring or planned, including as a result of implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan. The activities related to such claims continue to be permitted, albeit in some cases, subject to additional requirements or the requirements of other regulatory agencies. If an exploration or mining project meets a regulatory setback, there are options for the proponent, such as resubmitting the project to the appropriate regulatory bodies after amending the design of the project or holding additional discussions with First Nations, communities or the public to address issues that have been raised. Land use planning can provide certainty to mineral claimholders in advancing their mineral projects, as it provides guidance on how to align mineral projects with the prescribed land uses.
3. The Government of Yukon is not currently negotiating with any placer claimholders within the municipality of Dawson City on compensation matters. The Government of Yukon is undertaking an initiative to address land use conflicts that may arise due to municipality and community zoning and mineral-related activities within municipal and community boundaries. The scope of this initiative includes engagement with affected stakeholders and First Nations, the results of which will be published in a "What We Heard" document, and work to develop a policy to improve the management of mineral staking and development activities within community boundaries.
4. No expropriation of mineral claims has occurred since January 1, 2017.