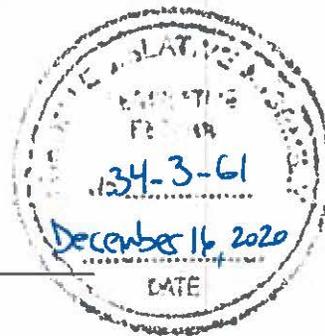


LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Ms. Frost, Minister of Environment

1. On _____, (Member)

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

RE: _____

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. White, Leader of the Third Party on November 24, 2020 related to:

Bill No. _____ Second Reading Third Reading
Committee of the Whole: Vote 52
Motion No. _____ RE: Wetlands strategy
at page(s) 2029 of Hansard.

The response is as follows:

The Minister of Environment has provided direction to complete the policy in collaboration with partners. The Minister is also supporting the department with the development of the Yukon wetlands policy by ensuring it has the resources it needs to lead this important project.

The Department of Environment is leading the development of the Government of Yukon's wetlands policy with support from an interdepartmental working group.

The department is developing the Yukon wetlands policy with First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups, federal and municipal governments, industry and other key organizations in order to develop a strong and consistent stewardship approach that reflects the values and interests of all Yukoners.

To-date this process has included four roundtable meetings to share knowledge and perspectives on wetlands, and to share views about how the Government of Yukon should make decisions that affect wetlands. These meetings included:

Roundtable 1 held on April 10-11, 2018 had 66 participants. Discussions resulted in a draft policy outline.

Roundtable 2 held on June 19, 2018 had 62 participants. Result of the meeting was development of background materials and information for the policy.

Roundtable 3 held on October 10-11, 2018 had 48 participants. The result was agreement on key objectives for the policy: protection, management of human activities in wetlands, research and awareness.

Roundtable 4 held on March 26-27, 2019 had 59 participants. The result of this meeting was a draft policy incorporating policy objectives and integrating feedback heard from roundtable participants.

Dec. 15 2020
Date

[Signature]
Signature

During this process, we also convened a smaller group of roundtable volunteers to collaboratively draft the initial versions of policy content for discussion at the roundtables. We provided time and space for Indigenous partners to meet prior to roundtables, upon their request.

In August 2020, roundtable partners were sent a letter inviting them to re-engage with the policy development and provide feedback on a revised draft developed by the Government of Yukon incorporating the feedback received to-date. However, ability to conduct public engagement on the draft wetland policy was affected by the COVID-19 restrictions and we amended our approach to instead conduct bilateral discussions with partners versus holding another roundtable meeting.

The bilateral discussions and a review of a draft wetland policy with our partners concluded at the end of September 2020. The interdepartmental working group is currently revising the draft policy based on the feedback received.

The next step is to seek approval to release the draft policy for public review. This is anticipated for early 2021.

After the public review period concludes, we anticipate reaching back out to our partners a final time to come to agreement on a recommended final draft wetland policy. There will also be government-to-government consultation on this final draft.

The Yukon wetlands policy is targeted to be finalized in 2021