

LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Mr. Pillai, Minister of Economic Development

1. On \_\_\_\_\_,

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 Mr. Istchenko, Member for Klwane on November 30, 2020 related to:

Bill No. 205  Second Reading  Third Reading

Committee of the Whole: Vote 07

Motion No. \_\_\_\_\_ RE: Yukon Essential Workers Income Support program

at page(s) 2115 of Hansard.

The response is as follows:

Question: When it comes to the Yukon Essential Workers Income Support program, how did the minister select the rate of \$20 an hour? I'm understanding, in the ministers earlier comments, that its the Department of Education that administers the program. Can he clarify that? Who in the department is authorized to approve applications and distribute money? At what thresholds? A key one that has been asked by lots: Is any of this funding recoverable from Canada? If so, how much? We would also like to find out a little bit about the uptake of the program. What has it been like?

The response is as follows:

The program is administered by the Department of Economic Development.

There are two focus areas for the program:

1. Eligible organizations that are delivering essential services can receive a wage subsidy of up to \$4.00 per hour for each eligible employee, increasing their wage to a maximum of \$20.00 per hour for the program duration.

2. The program also works in partnership with the Department of Educations Staffing Up labour market funding program. Through these two programs, Yukon employers may be eligible to receive up to \$20.00 per hour for each new critical or essential summer student position, to a maximum of 40 hours per week and 16 weeks of employment.

Additional information is attached to this return.

December 22, 2020

Date

Signature

## Additional Yukon Essential Workers Income Support program information

The program expenditure is offset by \$4,336,000 in federal funding, which is recoverable from Canada.

In determining the program limit per hour, the department considered wage rates and benefit amounts that would maximize the federal funds available to support Yukoners. The department also noted the living wage as defined by the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, identified as \$19.06 in 2019.

Applications to the program are reviewed by Department of Economic Development staff and finally approved by the Director of the Business and Industry Development branch in the department. The Director has the authority to sign for payments up to \$300,000 for the program. Consistent with the Financial Administration Manual, in order for payments to be made, two approvals are required, one from the program branch and the other from the Finance and Information Management branch.

As of December 15, 2020, the program has approved \$2,396,662 in funding for 126 businesses.

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