

Yukon First Nations Continue to Oppose Bill S-6

March 30, 2015

For immediate release:

Whitehorse (Yukon) - Self-governing Yukon First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations urge the House of Commons Standing Committee to give full and fair consideration of the tremendous opposition that First Nations, Yukoners and industry presented to them today on Bill S-6.

“While we are pleased that the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs has come to the Yukon for a hearing on Bill S-6, we remain apprehensive of its ability to truly hear the concerns of the First Nations, Yukoners and Industry,” said Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation Chief Eric Fairclough. “We will continue to defend and protect our Agreements.”

As of noon today over 130 Yukoners attended the hearing on Bill S-6 that the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development held in Whitehorse. Many were there to show their opposition to the Bill.

“The Yukon Government continues to talk about good relationships with Yukon First Nations but fail to demonstrate this in their actions,” said Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Ruth Massie. “CYFN and First Nations spent 20 years negotiating our agreements that achieve the objective of collaboration and partnership. We will not stand by while they support the undermining of our agreements”



To date, over 350 letters opposing Bill S-6 were signed by Yukoners. These letters will be submitted to the Committee at the end of the day.

Yukon First Nation Self-Governments believe that Bill S-6 should not pass unless four contentious amendments are dropped. These amendments to YESAA, our made-in Yukon assessment process, go against the Final and Self-Government agreements between the governments of First Nations, Canada and Yukon.

“We are disappointed, once again, by MP Ryan Leef’s lack of understanding of our Agreements and also his inability to represent all Yukoners,” stated Chief Fairclough. “If Bill S-6 passes, it is a clear decision against upholding our treaties and is simply bad for industry and development in Yukon.”

Self-Governing Yukon First Nations ask Yukoners, Canadians and industry to continue to speak against Bill S-6 and visit www.cyfn.ca/services/yesaa to learn more.

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