

# News Release

## Yukon First Nations Continue to Oppose Bill S-6

March 12, 2015

### For immediate release:

**Whitehorse, Yukon** - Once again, the federal government fails to recognize the impact that Bill S-6, the bill to amend the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA), will have on the Yukon. Yukon First Nations continue to request that their concerns and Yukoners' concerns be heard on this important issue.

"We are disappointed that Bill S-6 has passed second reading and that such a short time was allowed for discussion and debate in the House of Commons," said Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Ruth Massie. "And we were surprised to learn that our Yukon Member of Parliament, Ryan Leef, was not present and did not vote on this Bill that will so significantly impact all Yukoners."

Second reading of Bill S-6 was voted on in the House of Commons yesterday, March 11, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. The Standing Committee has scheduled hearings for one day in Whitehorse on March 30, 2015.

"While we are pleased that the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs will come to the Yukon for a hearing on Bill S-6, we are very concerned that the Committee will limit its visit to a day," said Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation Chief Eric Fairclough. "That is not sufficient time to hear the concerns of First Nations, Yukoners and stakeholders."

Yukon First Nation Self-Governments believe 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.

"If Bill S-6 passes, it is a clear decision against upholding our treaties and is simply bad for industry and development in Yukon," said Grand Chief Massie.

Self-Governing Yukon First Nations ask Yukoners, Canadians, industry and other stakeholders to continue to speak against Bill S-6. Please visit [www.cyfn.ca/services/yesaa](http://www.cyfn.ca/services/yesaa) to learn more.

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