

Response to CYFN:

Q1. It is the Yukon First Nation's Position that certain amendments to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Act (YESAA) proposed by Bill S-6 undermine the spirit and intent of our Final Agreements. The unilateral changes to YESA are a breach of our agreements. If elected, what will you and your party do to right the wrong Bill S-6 imposed on the Yukon?

- A. The Government of Canada is committed to the Agreements signed by Canada, Yukon, and Yukon First Nations. It is only through complete realization of these agreements that Yukon will prosper. Respect for final agreements is paramount. This is clearly expressed in Section 4 of the YESA that a final agreement will prevail in the event of an inconsistency or conflict with the Act. The Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) is also very clear under Section 2.6.2.2 that it will prevail in the event of an inconsistency or conflict with a federal law-including any that may arise with YESA.
- B. The changes to YESA came about through a 5 year legislated review. Most of the recommendations were agreed to and designed to improve our regulatory review in a manner that ensures socio-economic potential and our environmental integrity. These improvements will ensure timely review of critical community infrastructure like water treatment facilities, clean-energy projects, roadway improvements, and projects that create real jobs for Yukon people in Yukon communities.
- C. Our Party will support the Tri-lateral process offered by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, of implementing YESA provisions so that Yukon First Nations have clear and direct input along side the Governments of Canada and Yukon. This will further ensure the confidence of proponents, First Nation businesses and communities included, that projects both small and large will be dealt with in a timely, and thorough manner enhancing economic opportunity through jobs and revenue to communities most in need while at the same time ensuring partnered governance and socio-economic and environmental security.

Q2. Self Government Agreements empower Yukon Self-Governing First Nations to govern ourselves in a manner that is responsive to the needs and interests of our people. Acting in good faith and ensuring that our agreements are implemented is crucial to their success. The Government of Canada signed these agreements and often seems to forget its obligations. How will you and your government ensure that the implementation of our agreement is a priority; is done in a timely manner; and respects their spirit and intention.

R. Q2. Ensuring full implementation of Yukon Self Government Agreements (SGA's) is critical for the growth and long-term prosperity of all Yukon citizens. That is why, our Government is proud to negotiate Government to Government Financial Transfer Agreements with Yukon First Nations, Gas Tax Transfers, supportive funding for community infrastructure like the Da Ku Cultural Centre in Haines Jct

and the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre on the Whitehorse Waterfront. These investments are in the hundreds of millions each year. Our Government provides direct financial support to Yukon's nearly 8,000 First Nation Citizens through instruments achieved by positive and progressive Government-to-Government partnerships and negotiations. We will continue the positive work with individual First Nation Governments, organizations and individuals to ensure our continued track record of strong investments. Those that meet the needs of each unique and individual First Nation Government.

Q3. There are a staggering number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women across the country, a problem that has visited the Yukon, as well. What is your position on a national inquiry for missing and murdered Aboriginal women?

R. Q3. I believe an inquiry would provide value to our nation and to the families and victims who have suffered the most. I also believe the diverse and complex strategies, and subsequent suite of investments our Government put forward in the 41st Parliament were critical to vote for. Sadly, the NDP and Liberals voted against concrete measures that will improve the living conditions of women and girls living on and off reserves in our country. Investments like improved housing, education, violence prevention, real and matrimonial property rights for aboriginal women, financial transparency, expanded health and treatment services to name but a few examples. Shamelessly, the NDP leader found it more important to speak nearly 400 times in the House of Commons about the behavior of one Senator while speaking about Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women less than 10 times. While I was proud to stand and vote for an inquiry into Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women, I know it is not the solution alone. That is why I am proud to support both the inquiry and all other measures to reduce violence and improve the overall opportunities and living conditions for aboriginal women and girls who are at the highest of risk.

Q4. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) completed their work this year and made 94 broad and diverse recommendations for repairing the relationship between First Nations and Canada, a vital step in making our country whole. Of those recommendations, what do you see as the most important to address? What will your party do to ensure the recommendations made by the TRC are implemented.

R Q4. Looking back on the history of Conservative Governance the commitment to ensure fair, full, and equal participation of Canada's Aboriginal, Inuit, and First Nation People is clear, from ensuring the right to vote in 1960 (under Prime Minister John Diefenbaker), to the historic apology for Residential Schools by Prime Minister Harper. Recognizing truth and reconciliation was critical for our Nation, the TRC undertook exceptional work that was most certainly difficult and painful for the courageous participants. The initial report released offers 94 recommendations. While a more complete and certainly more complex volume of the TRC's findings

will be presented in the near future, the 94 recommendations provide key steps to the ultimate aim of a brighter path forward. The Conservative Government has provided \$1Million to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to help house the millions of historical records collected during the TRC's six-year mandate. We are also providing support to Reconciliation Canada and the Legacy of Hope to continue to raise awareness about the legacy of residential schools and to engage Canadians in dialogue and public education. Our party is committed to a thorough and thoughtful review of the reports and recommendations and decisive action on priority recommendations. Some of these may vary from region to region based on specific realities of a particular community, province, or territory. Broad themes are presented with specific recommendations under each. It is clear that health equalization; educational support, language and cultural focus are core areas to ensure greatest opportunities for self-determination and success. Only by working with regional and local First Nation, Aboriginal, and Inuit Governments can one identify and rapidly implement the very specific recommendations that will serve the immediate needs of the community and their priorities. Any effort to implement all recommendations without thought, priority, or regional considerations will only serve to frustrate, delay and water down the strength of the Commissions outstanding work and the clear value of the broad range of recommendations that have been provided for the Government of Canada to thoughtfully consider and implement. The process of reconciliation must involve a sustained generational commitment. The Conservative Party understands this includes on-going engagement and will acknowledge, learn from, and address past wrongs; be responsive to Aboriginal peoples expressed needs and priorities; actively engage Canadians in reconciliation efforts; and commemorate the significant contributions of Aboriginal peoples and cultures to Canada.