

Name: Robert Sharp

Date: March 29, 2015

Mr. Blake Richards, MP – Wild Rose  
Chair – Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Richards,

RE: Proposed amendments to the Yukon and Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Act (YESAA) through Bill S-6: An Act to amend the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act and Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act.

I am writing to you and your Committee to oppose the following amendments to the YESAA through Bill S-6. On the following grounds:

In 1993, the Governments of Canada, the Yukon and Yukon First Nations signed the Umbrella Final Agreement. It states:

The parties to the Umbrella Final Agreement wish to recognize and protect a way of life that is based on an economic and spiritual relationship between Yukon Indian People and the land;

Under Chapter 12 of the Umbrella Final Agreement, The Governments of Canada, The Yukon and Yukon First Nations agreed to:

- 12.1.1 The objective of this chapter is to provide for a development assessment process that:
  - 12.1.1.1 recognizes and enhances, to the extent practicable, the traditional economy of Yukon Indian People and their special relationship with the wilderness Environment;
  - 12.1.1.2 provides for guaranteed participation by Yukon Indian People and utilizes the knowledge and experience of Yukon Indian People in the development assessment process;
  - 12.1.1.3 protects and promotes the well-being of Yukon Indian People and of their communities and of other Yukon residents and the interests of other Canadians;
  - 12.1.1.4 protects and maintains environmental quality and ensures that Projects are undertaken consistent with the principle of Sustainable Development;
  - 12.1.1.5 protects and maintains Heritage Resources;

12.1.1.6 provides for a comprehensive and timely review of the environmental and socio-economic effects of any Project before the approval of the Project;  
12.1.1.7 avoids duplication in the review process for Projects and, to the greatest extent practicable, provides certainty to all affected parties and Project proponents with respect to procedures, information requirements, time requirements and costs; and  
12.1.1.8 requires Project proponents to consider the environmental and socio-economic effects of Projects and Project alternatives and to incorporate appropriate mitigative measures in the design of Projects.

The amendments to the YESAA through Bill S-6 fails to honour this agreement in that it:

**GIVES BINDING POLICY DIRECTION TO THE YESAA BOARD** (i.e. Proposed amendment #34 to add a new section 121.1 after Section 121 of YESAA)

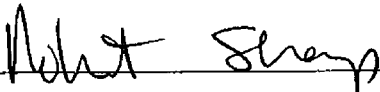
**DELEGATES RESPONSIBILITIES TO YUKON GOVERNMENT** (i.e. that part of proposed amendment #2 that would add section 6.1 to YESAA)

**IMPOSES MAXIMUM TIMELINES FOR ASSESSMENTS** (i.e. proposed amendments #21 and #23(2), and those parts of proposed amendments #16 and #17 that pertain to the establishment of time lines)

**DOES NOT REQUIRE ASSESSMENTS WHEN A PROJECT IS RENEWING OR BEING AMENDED** (i.e. proposed amendment #14 (to add section 49.1(1 and 2) after Section 49 of YESAA).

I respectfully ask that further consideration of Bill S-6 be deferred until such a time as the three parties, through further dialogue, reach agreement on these four controversial elements. Failing that, I ask that you recommend Bill S-6 be amended to delete these provisions from Bill S-6 in your report back to the House of Commons.

Sincerely,

(Signed)  \_\_\_\_\_