



# VILLAGE OF MAYO

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March 23, 2015

Blake Richards, MP  
Committee Chair for Bill S-6  
650 -- Valour Building  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6  
blake.richards@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Richards:

**Re: Letter of Support for Bill S-6**

The Village of Mayo Council is providing this letter in support of the views of the Government of Yukon pertaining to the 4 specific amendments proposed in Bill S-6 that are being disputed.

Policy Direction: Ability for the federal minister to issue policy direction to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB). Section 121(1).

The Village of Mayo Council believes that policy direction can provide guidance to YESAB but cannot expand or restrict the powers of YESAB. Any policy direction given would have to be consistent with YESAA, the Umbrella Final Agreement, individual land claim agreements or other Yukon legislation.

Delegation: Ability for the federal minister to delegate authorities under YESAA to the territorial minister. Section 6(1)

The Village of Mayo Council believes that the authorities that could be delegated are limited, and that many of the authorities must be undertaken in consultation with First Nations and /or the federal Minister of Environment. The proposed amendment states that the First Nations are to be notified in writing of any delegation. Furthermore, the regulation-making powers are held by the Governor in Council, and therefore cannot be delegated.

Clause that clarifies that a renewal or amendment to an authorization does not solely trigger an assessment: Clarification that amendments and renewals to authorizations do not require an assessment simply because an authorization is being renewed or amended. Clarification that a decision body determines if the project requires reassessment. Section 49 (1).

This clause clarifies that a renewal or an amendment to a permit or authorization in and of itself is not a trigger for an assessment. This is consistent with environmental legislation in other jurisdictions. This clause clarifies that it is up to the decision body(ies) to determine if a project requires reassessment. The Village of Mayo Council believes that when it comes to project assessments, a level playing field is paramount. Yukon used to be a leader in regards to assessment practices across the country, but now is lagging behind, and is no longer seen as competitive. It is crucial for Yukon to have a regime that is consistent with those in other jurisdictions in order for Yukon projects to compete globally for limited investment dollars that are available during this downturn in commodity prices.

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Timelines: Legislated time limits that include the adequacy stage: Designated Office evaluations - 9 months; Executive Committee screenings - 16 months, and; Panels - 3 months to develop terms of reference plus 15 months. (Sections 56 (1), 58(1), and 72).

The Village of Mayo Council understands that currently, time limits are not in legislation. YESAB sets time limits in their board rules. Assessments are already completed within the proposed time limits in Bill S-6. The proposed time limits do not include "proponent time". Proponent time is the amount of time taken for proponents to answer information requests from the assessor. the proposed time limits include the adequacy stage. Current time limits in the YESAB rules do not include the adequacy stage. The proposed amendments allow for requests for extensions to the timelines for all levels of assessment. The federal minister, at the request of the Board, can extend the time limit by a maximum of two months. The Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the federal minister, can further extend the time limit any number of times by periods of any length.

The Village of Mayo Council believes that the amendments proposed in Bill S-6 are necessary for Yukon's future success.

We understand that the Yukon First Nations consider their Final Agreements to be sacrosanct, and we support their position that these constitutionally enshrined agreements be upheld.

We are aware that some Yukon First Nations deem certain amendments contained within the Bill to be inconsistent with their Final Agreements.

However, we believe that their concerns can be alleviated if the First Nations discuss the points they deem inconsistent with their Final Agreement with the Federal and Territorial governments.

The Village of Mayo Council is hopeful that all concerned parties will get in touch with the Federal Minister to demonstrate the specifics of their issues as soon as possible, so that any conflicts regarding this proposed legislation may be addressed to allow for the amendments to proceed to Parliament.

In closing please note that I, Scott Bolton, Mayor of Mayo, Yukon, would be pleased to appear before the committee to voice the Village of Mayo Council's support for the Government of Yukon regarding the 4 specific amendments mentioned in this letter that are proposed in Bill S-6.

Sincerely,



Scott Bolton  
Mayor

cc: Premier Darrell Pasloski, Government of Yukon