



September 8th, 2020

Yukon Mineral Development Strategy Panel

P.O. Box 372 – 108 Elliott Street
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 6C4

Re: Written Submission from Yukon Women in Mining

Panel Members,

On behalf of Yukon Women in Mining (YukonWIM), thank you for this opportunity to provide our organization's perspective to the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy (YMDS) engagement process. YukonWIM representatives also met with Panel Members earlier in the process to provide direct input and feedback. Your collective efforts to support Yukon's mineral industry and our communities going forward is appreciated.

YukonWIM is a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization established in 2012, dedicated to the ongoing advancement of a diverse, inclusive, respectful and progressive mineral sector here in the territory, which supports all Yukon residents and communities.

Women and Yukon First Nations citizens have participated as leaders, mentors and community champions within the territory's mining industry for well over 100 years and YukonWIM is proud to work, alongside our valued industry partners, to help ensure the continued inclusion of all Yukoners within the sector.

Our efforts to date include education and awareness campaigns, and student and community interactive education and training through our signature project - Yukon Mining Days, and during COVID-19, Virtual Yukon Mining Days. These initiatives allow Yukon's mineral Industry and leadership to directly connect with and inspire the next generation of Yukoners to seek valuable, rewarding and safe careers within their own backyard, community, traditional territory and beyond. The Government of Yukon's participation and support are critical to the ongoing success of these initiatives. Learn more at www.yukonwim.ca.

YukonWIM also Chairs the newly formed Yukon Mineral Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, dedicated to collaborative advocacy amongst a diverse group of organizations, companies and communities. With future Government(s) support the group aims to establish baseline information and ongoing evaluation that supports the advancement of an inclusive, diverse, respectful and progressive minerals industry and quantifies the current and potential contribution of the minerals industry in communities, both economic and social for, for all Yukon and Yukoners.



The Working Group is currently comprised of Yukon Women in Mining, Klondike Placer Miners Association, Yukon Producers Group, Yukon Chamber of Mines, Yukon Women in Trades and Technology, Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce, Yukon Aboriginal Women’s Council, Nacho-Nyak Dun Development Corporation, Newmont Goldcorp - Coffee Project, Victoria Gold Corp – Eagle Gold Mine and Government of Yukon – Women’s Directorate and Energy, Mines & Resources departments. Members may change from year to year from the private sector and communities.

As with several other private sector industries, the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging the Yukon’s mining industry and is negatively impacting the significant social and economic benefits and opportunities the sector provides.

Particularly, the pandemic continues to illuminate gender and socio-economic inequalities and the decreased participation of women in the current labour force.

According to the Royal Bank of Canada, in a July 2020 report¹, 1.5 million Canadian women lost their jobs in the first two months of the pandemic and accounted for approximately 45 per cent of the decline in hours worked, however will only comprise 35 per cent of the recovery.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) also announced in mid-July² that since the onset of the pandemic, “women in Canada have experienced increased domestic violence, higher rates of exposure to the virus, higher rates of infection and death, and have borne the brunt of limited access to child care and caregiving programs. This has taken a toll on the mental health of women across the country.”

Regarding Indigenous peoples, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs states that Indigenous women throughout the world “will be disproportionately affected” by the socio-economic effects of the pandemic’s lockdowns, physical distancing and other mitigation efforts³.

¹ COVID Takes Drastic Toll on Women’s Participation in Labour Force. Royal Bank of Canada. July 21, 2020. www.royalbank.com

² Women & COVID-19: Effects will linger long after the pandemic ends. Public Service Alliance of Canada. July 17, 2020. psacunion.ca/women-covid-19-violence

³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Indigenous Peoples & The COVID-19 Pandemic: Considerations. www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/04/COVID19_IP_considerations.pdf



As YukonWIM works diligently to help illuminate opportunities for all Yukoners in the territory's mineral sector that encourage, empower, educate and elevate both existing and future participants in the industry, we request that the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy recognize how vital mining is to our territory and the unique barriers under-represented individuals experience and the added barriers we will face during these challenging times.

Together, we hope to work with all orders of government to support the success, health and prosperity of YukonWIM members, our industry and our communities.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Turner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anne Turner
President and Founder
Yukon Women in Mining
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