



YUKON PRODUCERS' GROUP

For electronic submission

September 3, 2020

Yukon Mineral Development Strategy Panel
P.O. Box 372 – 108 Elliott Street
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 6C4

Re: Written Submission from the Yukon Producers' Group

Panel Members,

On behalf of the **Yukon Producers' Group**, I am providing follow-up input to the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy (YMDS) engagement process as we last met with you in January 2020; prior to COVID-19 and the harrowing socio-economic realities the pandemic has bestowed upon the territory's mineral exploration and development sector.

This follow-up submission is pandemic-related, outlining additional operational challenges in light of COVID-19; however, our historic and continuing concerns with the Yukon's permitting and licensing regime and the lack of certainty the territory's regulatory timelines place on our industry's sustainability remains a key and ongoing priority.

As you are aware, we are an industry-led organization representing the territory's three operating hard rock mines, an advanced mineral exploration company and five key contracting companies and suppliers, which so valuably allow our industry to function. Together, we work to advance the common interests of the territory's mining industry to help ensure operational sustainability and resulting opportunities and benefits for Yukon governments, businesses, residents and communities.

Alexco Resource Corp. Casino Mining Corp. Minto Explorations Victoria Gold Corp.
Alkan Air Ltd. ALX Exploration & Mining Supplies Cobalt Construction Inc.
JDS Energy & Mining Pelly Construction Ltd.

Collectively, our member companies make up the Yukon's largest private sector employer and contribute significantly to territorial self-determination and Canada's GDP. In addition, our mining industry is a key, consistent and highly generous contributor to health, educational and social initiatives and charitable causes throughout our communities, which Yukoners will depend on now more than ever.

Since the pandemic first impacted the Yukon in March, and continuing today, government-mandated travel restrictions between Canadian jurisdictions, paired with the mandatory 14-day isolation for employees and technical expertise beyond the territory's "bubble", are severely impacting the industry's ability to operate. Employment, training and contracting opportunities, contributions to the territory's tax base and donations to address vital community need are all being severely hindered.

The YPG members are currently focusing their recruitment efforts within the Yukon and BC, NWT and Nunavut, however, industry expertise must also be garnered from other Canadian provinces.

In addition, the 14-day mandatory period mandating isolation from family, friends and colleagues is demonstrating increasingly cumulative negative effects on employee mental health and well-being. It is imperative for the Yukon Government to promptly establish an alternative process to the mandatory 14-day self-isolation requirement if our industry is to provide these considerable and essential contributions to Yukoners moving forward.

The members of the YPG well understand that mitigating the severe social and economic impacts of COVID-19 in the territory was not in the initial scope of the YMDS; however, believe it is critical for the strategy to recognize and address them, as all orders of government clearly communicate that our current state of the pandemic is what the industry, and all Yukoners, will be potentially experiencing for years to come.

Accordingly, the YPG is proud to be collaborating with our other key industry association partners, including the Yukon Chamber of Mines, as the Yukon Mining Industry Collective (YMIC) in order to communicate to governments with one voice regarding all industry-related challenges and concerns related to COVID-19.

The territory's mineral exploration and development industry is foundational to the Yukon economy. It provides significant benefit to the Yukon Government, Yukon First Nations governments and citizens, municipal governments, businesses who rely on the industry and all Yukoners.

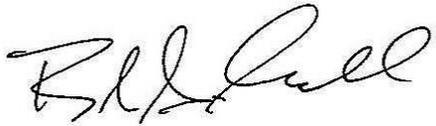
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COVID-19, and its dire impact on the tourism and hospitality sectors, has clearly demonstrated how important mining, and the economic diversity it provides, is to the Yukon. We are a leader in Indigenous partnerships and environmental responsibility and our industry's demise will be reflected across the territory.

In this COVID-19 environment, it is all the more critical now that the territorial government address our long-standing concerns regarding permitting timelines and process duplication to provide certainty for future investment if the Yukon is to recover from this crisis.

Thank you for this opportunity to engage and provide our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Thrall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brad" and last name "Thrall" clearly distinguishable.

Brad Thrall
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