

Biannual Public Report

Our Clean Future Policy Implementation Committee

July 2022

One of the stated commitments in the 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus is to establish joint policy implementation committees. The commitment states:

Section 3.2 Within one month of the swearing-in of a Yukon Liberal Government, two policy implementation committees shall launch. The committees will be comprised of the appropriate Cabinet Minister and a Yukon NDP MLA to work jointly with the civil service to finalize implementation of the Our Clean Future and Putting People First reports.

The Our Clean Future Implementation Committee (OCFIC) was established in June, 2021. Its members are Honourable Nils Clarke, Minister of Environment and Highways and Public Works and Emily Tredger, MLA for Whitehorse Centre. As Yukon's Our Clean Future strategy actions are shared by multiple departments, Honourable John Streicker, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has been appointed as an observer on the Committee.

Yukon Climate Leadership Council

The Yukon Climate Leadership Council (YCLC) was established as per the following CASA commitment:

Section 4.2 (a) Plans to reach the target will be developed by a newly-established Yukon Climate Leadership Council, modelled on the British Columbia Climate Solutions Council. The members will include representatives from environmental organizations and renewable energy sector, industry, Yukon First Nations, labour municipal governments, youth and Yukon University, to be selected through mutual agreement of the Yukon Liberal Government and the Yukon NDP Caucus.

The YCLC has agreed to terms of reference and is working diligently to submit recommendations to the Government of Yukon by July 1, 2022.

Minutes from the YCLC have been shared with the OCFIC via the Minister. The Minister also provided an update on the work so far. Members of the YCLC have noted that the task is very large and there are many aspects to this work that

could benefit from additional consideration. The OCFIC was informed that the YCLC is still committed to the original deadline of July, 2022.

Once the recommendations are received, the Yukon government working group will review and consider the recommendations. They will advise the government on what would be involved with adopting the recommendations as part of the Yukon's *Our Clean Future* strategy.

Ongoing discussions

The OCFIC continues to receive updates on the progress of government actions identified in the Yukon's *Our Clean Future* strategy. The Minister shared that the Committee is on track to meet the strategy's timelines. As of May, 2022, four of this year's actions are complete and 19 are in progress.

As is the mandate of the committee, the OCFIC discussed a number of Yukon government-specific climate mitigation work identified in the strategy, including:

Action 16. Include new provisions in quartz mine licenses by 2022 that will ensure critical mine infrastructure is planned, designed and built to withstand current and projected impacts of climate change.

Action 17. Require quartz mines to project their anticipated greenhouse gas emissions, identify measures to reduce emissions, and annually report greenhouse gas emissions through the quartz mine licensing process beginning in 2022.

Action 19. Establish an intensity-based greenhouse gas reduction target for Yukon's mining industry and additional actions needed to reach the target by 2022

Regarding Actions, 17 and 19, the Yukon government has shared with the Committee that work is underway to identify how mines can report greenhouse gas emissions so they can be measured. It is also working to have intensity targets in place by the end of this year. This work includes conversation with industry to determine how to proceed with reporting and monitoring targets.

The Minister has indicated that the commitment is on track and is aware there is considerable work needed.

Action P1. Establish a standardized method to determine the health status of wetland ecosystems and complete a pilot study to measure the baseline conditions of various reference wetlands by 2022 to better understand future changes.

The Yukon government has shared with the committee that work is underway to create a pilot study including wetlands mapping and developing an understanding of how much carbon is released if peat is disturbed and then returned. Work on this pilot study is expected to be complete this year.

Action C2. Flood probability maps for all Yukon communities at risk of flooding by 2023 that incorporate climate change projections.

Flood mapping in Yukon communities is currently underway. The Yukon government shared with the Committee that communities with the highest risk of flooding are being prioritized.

Action H9. Assess ways to ensure Yukoners can access adequate insurance for fires, floods and permafrost thaw by 2023.

The Yukon government is working with national insurance organizations to determine flood mapping to be used in insurance assessment. The government is also aware of federal work focussed on this issue and will be monitoring reports that come from that work.

Action T12. Continue to support municipalities and First Nations to make investments in public and active transportation infrastructure.

Both the Investing Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and Canada Community-Building Fund, formerly the Gas Tax (CCBF) programs have money available directly to municipalities. Both programs can be used directly for community projects. The Yukon government shared with the Committee that it supports communities with the background information that can be helpful to access these funds.

Action T13. Continue to incorporate active transportation in the design of highways and other Government of Yukon transportation infrastructure near communities.

The Yukon government shared that there are a number of active transportation projects underway. These include projects at Selkirk and Whistlebend schools, in the Whistlebend neighbourhood, and upgrades along the Alaska Highway. Government representatives are meeting with active transportation groups and the Hillcrest Community Association as the Alaska Highway upgrades continue in that area.

Next Steps

The OCFIC will monitor the progress of the action items identified in the Yukon's *Our Clean Future* strategy. It will also continue to receive updates on the work of the Yukon Climate Leadership Council.