

**Department of Environment  
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6**

August 4, 2020

Dear partners:

**RE: Yukon wetland policy update**

I would like to thank you for your participation and interest in developing a wetlands policy for Yukon. The Government of Yukon appreciates your engagement in this work, sharing of your perspectives, and working to find common ground as a foundation for this policy. We remain committed to completing a wetlands policy.

Since the roundtable last met in 2019, the Government of Yukon has been considering how to align the policy with other similar initiatives such as wetland plans by the Yukon Water Board, as well as adapting to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, we find ourselves unable to host the large roundtables that previously occurred or the community meetings that were once envisioned as a next step.

Completing a Yukon wetlands policy will provide much needed clarity and certainty in how we manage activities in wetlands, but completing this work requires an adjustment in our approach. One of our primary considerations is to respect the time, effort, and input that you, our partners, have invested in developing the draft policy so far. Consequently, the work and discussions of the roundtables continue to form the backbone of the draft policy, and we will continue to seek opportunities to engage with all partners, albeit in a different format than previously anticipated.

The revised process will focus on bilateral discussions with roundtable member organizations. To support this next step and since the roundtable last met, a revised draft of the wetlands policy ("Draft 6") has been developed and is attached for your review and input. We believe this draft is consistent with the direction from the roundtable and provides suggestions to resolve some of the considerations that remained unclear at the roundtable, or came up during our internal discussions.

For your additional reference, on the first page of Draft 6, we have provided a summary of how this draft differs from that of Draft 5, which was discussed at the last roundtable.

We are seeking your feedback on Draft 6 by September 30, 2020. Once we have received, considered and integrated the feedback into the draft policy, we plan to hold an online public review to give others an opportunity to provide their feedback. Following this broader engagement, and if time and circumstance allow, we will consider holding a final roundtable meeting. Regardless of the method or

timeline, we commit to providing periodic updates to roundtable partners throughout these next phases.

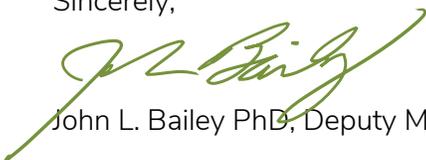
Our estimated timeline to complete a wetland policy is:

Now to September 30, 2020	Hold discussions with roundtable partners focused on a review of Draft 6 Independent technical review of Draft 6
Fall 2020 to early winter 2021	Consider feedback and revise the draft policy. Public review of the draft policy on <a href="http://engageyukon.ca">engageyukon.ca</a>
Winter 2021	Share what we heard during public and technical reviews Consider feedback and revise the draft policy. Hold a roundtable meeting, if possible
Spring 2021	Government to government consultation on the final draft policy
Summer 2021	Policy approval

We are looking forward to discussing the attached draft policy with your representatives. Department staff will be in contact with roundtable participants to schedule discussions. For your reference, the appropriate contacts are: Tyler Kuhn ([Tyler.Kuhn@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Tyler.Kuhn@gov.yk.ca) | 867.667.3538) or Amy Law ([Amy.Law@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Amy.Law@gov.yk.ca) | 867.456.3873).

I want to thank you again for your attention to this initiative. Your contributions have significantly shaped the direction of this policy and will continue to play an important role as we move forward to finalizing it over the coming months.

Sincerely,



John L. Bailey PhD, Deputy Minister of Environment

Enclosure: DRAFT 6: A policy for the stewardship of Yukon's wetlands