



Lesley Carberry
Executive Director
Association of Social Workers in Northern Canada

Dear Ms. Carberry,

Re: Clarification of Party Position – Regulation of Social Workers in Yukon

Thank you for your letter regarding the Yukon NDP's position with respect to the regulation of social work in Yukon. Unfortunately, the Yukon remains one of only two jurisdictions in Canada that has not yet established a process of regulation for social work.

As a former social worker myself, I understand the valuable service that social workers provide in our communities, particularly to our society's most vulnerable members. I am profoundly grateful to Yukon's dedicated social workers for their contributions to our territory.

As noted in your letter, the Yukon government must endeavor to provide high quality support services in a large, sparsely populated territory. The Yukon NDP believes that our territory deserves a government that will meet the needs of the population despite this challenge. A Yukon NDP government will increase the number of mental health and social work professionals, trained support workers, and scope of services offered in rural communities, along with cutting Yukon mental health treatment wait-times in half.

In support of our commitment to provide services and programs that work for our territory, we will enter into an informed and meaningful dialogue with Yukoners about needs and priorities. This will include consultation with Yukon's social workers to establish criteria for regulation of the social work profession.

A Yukon NDP government will join the majority of Canadian jurisdictions in regulating social work in our first mandate as government. We will meet the national standards for social work, while accounting for the unique realities of a northern practice environment.

Thank you again for your inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hanson".

Liz Hanson
Leader, Yukon NDP

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