



## For Immediate Release

### **January 25, 2016 - The Yukon Chamber of Commerce comments on the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses (CFIB's) just-released red tape accountability report card**

The Yukon Chamber of Commerce notes the CFIB's annual Red Tape accountability report card resulted in a D+ grade for the Yukon. This represents a slight improvement on the D grade received last year, and obviously is not a grade result to be celebrated. The Chamber understands that in part the grade is a result of the Yukon being a small jurisdiction which cannot place a priority on responding to the requests for information that the CFIB requires to make such assessments, and as such it is possible for the government to view the grade with suspicion.

While the Chamber recognizes that there are areas where the Territorial Government has made good strides with respect to improving access and efficiency, and there are many examples of government responsiveness to business, we also do see a large number of concerns being expressed about the regulatory process in the Yukon as it relates to resource project assessments, licenses and other reviews. Businesses complain about these processes being slow, inconsistent, and a significant impediment to doing business in the Yukon. The Chamber and its members recognize the importance of review and assessment processes but we would call on all level of governments and all political parties to continue to work on improving the consistency and efficiency of such reviews and assessments in order to create an appropriately welcoming environment for doing business in the Yukon.

As well Yukon Chamber has heard significant concerns expressed about Yukon Government procurement processes, and is working in conjunction with both the community Chambers of Commerce as well as Yukon businesses to advocate for more consistent procurement standards and procedures, as well as professional certification for Yukon government employees working on procurement.

In response to low grades earned by Yukon government on previous CFIB report cards, in 2014 the Yukon Chamber of Commerce undertook work to survey the Yukon business community to identify pain points associated with red tape encountered in dealing with Yukon government. The results of the study were shared with the Yukon government, which in turn has undertaken work to streamline procurement and better address the needs of Yukon small businesses in particular. CFIB identified this effort and attributed it as a contributor to Yukon's (slightly) improved grade. More needs to be done.

Incorporated in 1985, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce is the collective voice of Yukon's Business Community, working to create a climate conducive to a strong private-sector economy by providing leadership and representation on issues and projects affecting business. The Chamber represents the four Community Chambers of Dawson City, Silver Trail, Watson Lake and Whitehorse, as well as over 700 Yukon businesses, through either direct or Community Chamber membership.

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