



For Immediate Release

The Yukon Chamber of Commerce Chamber welcomes concerns about a shrinking private sector as expressed by Liberal Leader Sandy Silver.

Friday, 15 April, 2016 - Whitehorse, Yukon

WHITEHORSE – The Yukon Chamber appreciates the Liberal Leader highlighting the plight of declining private sector employment in the Yukon.

The Chamber noted, and supports, the comments by Sandy Silver, Liberal Leader, in the Legislative Assembly. As the Chamber has previously observed, in this challenging economic environment, all Yukon institutions and organizations must work together to support and address barriers to a healthy private-sector economy in order to make us less reliant on government transfer payments (which are always at risk). If regulation or assessment activities create the impression that the Yukon is not open for business, and if there is not a full time effort being made to support appropriate private sector development, then there will necessarily be erosion instead of growth in private sector jobs. This outcome would be bad for the majority of Yukoners who rely on a vital private-sector economy for their livelihood. A strong Yukon economy over the long term is absolutely dependent on a growing private sector, and the private sector employment that comes along with it.

“We have witnessed troubling moves by YESAB in recent months, including the non-decisions and delays related to important projects in multiple business sectors” commented Rich Thompson, Chair of the Yukon Chamber. “We have signaled our concern that against a difficult economic backdrop, assessment decisions and regulatory hurdles that sometimes go too far, will be very damaging for the Yukon economy as a whole. We agree with Mr. Silver that there has to be ongoing focus and serious concern about the erosion of private sector employment and welcome any moves by all parties in the Territorial Government to signal that Yukon is open for business, and that private sector employment growth is a cherished goal.”

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 over 700 Yukon businesses, through either direct or Community Chamber membership, as well as the five Community Chambers of Dawson City, Silver Trail, St. Elias Region, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.

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