

June 5 2017

Honourable Sandy Silver,
MLA Klondike
and
Mr. Brad Cathers
MLA, Lake Laberge



Dear Sirs:

Re: Bill 5, Act to Amend Human Rights Act and Vital Statistics Act

During the last month, my husband and I have heard friends and colleagues' discussions regarding the tabling of specific amendments to the Human Rights Act and the Vital Statistics Act outlining a 'change of sex' declaration initiated by a person over 16 years of age. We also understand that the proposed amendments will allow for practitioners, licensed and registered adults working in the medical, psychological, social, public school, law and Chief and Council to initiate an application to change an declaration for a 'change of sex' under the age of 16.

My inquiries more specifically relate to the public notice/s and results of the consultation period on these seismic changes being proposed to these two Acts. Of particular concern, neither Alex or I and many others that we spoke to were not aware and have never had a public notice that there would be a consultation period on the proposed changes of these two Acts. It seems offensive that the new liberal government would choose to do a quiet and short consultation period on a piece of legislation that will forever effect children, adolescents, families and potentially community places. I'm curious about the number of Yukon citizens that would have attended the various consultations and what the general or specific feedback contained to support the language contained in the bill to amend the two Acts?

I spoke with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation Spokesperson, Louise Gordon to ask if she had been consulted because this First Nation has children moving and living in Yukon to complete grades 10 - 12. She was not aware that the legislative amendments were under discussion.

Both my husband and I would appreciate knowing future consultation periods and plans to collect information from various people and groups so that the needs of children, families and Yukon communities and facilities will be strengthened in the process of changing something as important as 'change of sex' in the two Acts cited.

Sincerely,

Alex & Sandra Jack-Mirhashem

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