



May 15, 2025

Hon. Premier Ranj Pillai
Government of Yukon
Jim Smith Building
2071 2nd Avenue
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1B2

By email: Ranj.Pillai@yukon.ca

Dear Premier Pillai,

RE: Advancing Transparency and Strengthening Local Procurement in our Resource Sector for Yukon's economic recovery and prosperity

Thank you for your response dated April 17, 2025, addressing our concerns regarding the Eagle Gold Mine. We acknowledge the complexities involved in the current Receivership and appreciate the Government of Yukon's efforts to manage a challenging situation while recognizing the importance of ensuring that Yukon businesses are actively included and supported throughout the process. We also recognize the vital leadership role of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and its development corporation in advancing environmental protection and community-centred economic recovery.

However, we must express our escalating concern over the lack of transparency and the potential financial risks facing Yukon businesses that were involved in or impacted by the mine operations. Our members continue to seek clarity on how contracts are awarded, how their contributions are valued, and what role they can expect to play in the mine's future. Ensuring timely communication, fair procurement processes, and opportunities for business recovery is essential to protecting the local economy.

1. Expedite the Sale of the Eagle Gold Mine

The prolonged Receivership continues to create uncertainty for Yukon businesses involved in the mine's supply chain, while impacting our perceived investment attractiveness. The delay in selling the mine limits opportunities for local companies to participate in remediation and recovery efforts. At the same time, over \$100 million in financial securities held by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Yukon Water Board have been utilized under PricewaterhouseCoopers' (PwC) Receivership within less than a year, with minimal visible remedial activity on the failed heap leach facility. This lack of progress has raised concerns among our members about missed business opportunities and erosion of the mine's asset value.

We urge the Government of Yukon to prioritize the sale of the Eagle Gold Mine to a responsible operator committed to environmental stewardship, economic revitalization, and strong collaboration with affected First Nations, including the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation.

We also recommend that the Receiver publish a high-level remediation schedule with publicly available milestones and regular progress updates. While we understand the complexity of the remediation



process, increased visibility would support transparency, enhance public confidence, better align efforts with local business participation and be a tangible step in mitigating the anticipated \$1.5B GDP to Yukon's economy.

2. Strengthen Transparency and Procurement Accountability

We also wish to acknowledge the Yukon businesses that have liens or outstanding receivables connected to the Eagle Gold Mine. With the Receiver's expenditures drawing down mine value and creating uncertainty around asset recovery, we are concerned about the financial impact on these local companies. Yukon-based businesses should not bear the additional burden of delayed payments or lost opportunities, and their position should be considered in any future decisions surrounding mine sale or restructuring.

We acknowledge that the Receiver is accountable to the courts. However, the security dollars used for remediation were collected by and are being managed through the Government of Yukon. As such, we urge the Government of Yukon to request additional reporting from the Receiver through the court process, allowing for public release of data related to expenditures and procurement.

Your April 17th response noted that approximately half of the contractors engaged were local; however, more clarity is needed regarding the number of businesses and the total value of contracts. We recommend that future funding allocations be accompanied by clear procurement accountability and measurable reporting, ideally reflecting an increase in procurement with Yukon-owned businesses over time.

It is also critical to understand how Yukon-owned companies are being considered and prioritized within the current procurement process. Reports indicate that local companies have been displaced by larger non-Yukon firms with pre-existing relationships with PwC. This shift raises concerns about fairness and sustainability in local contracting. We urge the Government to ensure that PwC's selection of contractors is transparent, fair, and free of preferential arrangements. Additionally, we encourage continued examination of PwC's billing structure to ensure services are essential and appropriately priced.

3. Clarify Timeline for Independent Review Board Findings

While we understand the Government of Yukon has commissioned an Independent Review Board (IRB) to examine the heap leach failure, the findings have not yet been made public. We respectfully request an update on the timeline for the IRB's report and clarification on how those findings will be shared with stakeholders, including the business community. This transparency is essential in helping Yukoners and industry stakeholders understand the specific causes of the incident and inform future mitigation strategies.

Our Chamber's primary focus is to advocate for our members—businesses that contribute directly to Yukon's economy. We believe that transparent procurement practices, fair contract opportunities, and



accountability in public spending are foundational to restoring business confidence, securing our investment attractiveness, and enabling local enterprises to recover, grow, and invest in the territory's future.

We would appreciate your earliest availability for a meeting to discuss next steps. We also look forward to your written response to facilitate further discussion and resolution of these critical matters.

Sincerely,

Andrei Samson
Executive Director
Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce

CC:

Hon. John Streicker, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Hon. Nils Clarke, Minister of Highways and Public Works
Tracy Allen, Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works
Sierra van der Meer, Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources
Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition
Kate White, Leader of the Yukon NDP
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun
Andrijana (Jani) Djokic, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation
Steve Smith, Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce
Eri Boye, WCC/YCC Joint Procurement Committee
Anne Lewis, WCC Economic Resilience and Development Committee
Yukon Chamber of Commerce
Yukon Contractor Association
Yukon Chamber of Mines