

FOR RELEASE
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Government of Yukon completes fall 2017 sitting

The Government of Yukon completed the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly today. Over the past two months, the government tabled several significant pieces of legislation – all of which have been assented to by the Commissioner.

Legislation of note includes:

- Bill 8, which amended the *Workers' Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to establish the presumption that a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) diagnosis for an emergency response worker is work-related, and permit the government to protect the mental health of Yukoners in their workplaces – with the intent of preventing psychological injuries, including PTSD.
- Bill 13, the *Missing Persons Act*. This Act will improve the RCMP's ability to investigate missing persons cases in Yukon by allowing them to access vital personal information process that may help advance their enquiries via a court.

Other Bills which received assent were: Bill 6, the *Public Airports Act*; Bill 9, the *Act to Amend the Pounds Act (2017)*; Bill 10, the *Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (2017)*; Bill 11, the *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*; Bill 12, the *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*; Bill 14, the modernized *Legal Profession Act, 2017*, which replaces the old Act; Bill 203, the *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*.

Bill 7, the *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)* and Bill 202, the *Third Appropriation Act 2016-17* received assent on October 12.

The spring sitting has been scheduled to start on March 1, 2018.

Quotes

"We took tremendous steps in the fall sitting to improve the lives and safety of Yukoners. We created a *Missing Persons Act*, which will help the RCMP better investigate cases of missing persons. We made legislative changes that support Yukon emergency response workers who are at risk of suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, which was something Yukoners asked for during the last election. These are laws that have the potential to save lives.

"We have fulfilled parts of the Minister of Justice's mandate letter by improving regulation of the legal profession. We have made regulatory improvements for dental hygienists and we took responsible action to better manage the territory's aviation infrastructure.

"I am eager for the spring sitting and the accomplishments that lie ahead – many of which will be possible thanks to our ongoing engagement with our communities and partners."

–Premier Sandy Silver

Quick facts

- Bill 6, the *Public Airports Act*, established the government's legal authority to manage airports and airport lands. The Act gives government the ability to better respond to airport tenant requests, manage traffic flow through aviation facilities, and improve service.
- Bill 7, the *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act*, permits dental hygienists to more fully use their training and qualifications in dental offices and in providing services to the Children's Dental Program.
- Bill 9 amended the *Pounds Act*. This amendment was designed to align the *Pounds Act* with others, including the *Highways Act* and the *Animal Protection Act*, to improve the ability of the government to respond to stray livestock across the territory.
- Bill 10 amended the *Income Tax Act*. The changes included harmonizing Yukon's income tax legislation with recent changes made to federal legislation wherein the caregiver credit, infirm independent credit and family caregiver tax credit were replaced with the new Canada caregiver credit.
- Bill 11, the *Health Act*. This amendment disbanded the Health and Social Services council, which was an independent body that reviewed policy, legislative and program initiatives and made recommendations. Changes in technology and new engagement initiatives have replaced the council and its function.
- Bill 12, the *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*, reduced the Yukon Hospital Corporation's Board of Trustees from 15 to nine members. It also made specific requirements as to the makeup of the board, which will consist of three people to be nominated by Yukon First Nations or the Council of Yukon First Nations, one person nominated by the hospital corporation's medical staff, four people from the public at large and one member from the Yukon public service.
- Bill 14, the *Legal Profession Act (2017)*, modernized the territory's existing Act in order to regulate the profession in the territory based upon the same best practices found in other Canadian jurisdictions.
- Bill 202, the *Third Appropriation Act 2016-17* appropriated an additional \$3.1 million for the 2016-17 fiscal year to cover additional spending within the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Bill 203, the *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18* appropriated an additional \$3.7 million in O&M during the 17-18 fiscal year as well as a corresponding \$3.6 million reduction in Capital largely a result of deferred Education projects.

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