

Dear Mr. Lane

Please accept this letter in response to your list of questions put to the Yukon Party with regards to our position on the ICT industry in Yukon. As Campaign Chair for the Yukon Party I am pleased to provide a response on behalf of all candidates.

Question 1

In our last term, the Yukon Party government identified that the ICT sector was an area of significant potential and that it had previously lacked attention. In response to this we provided steady funding to the Yukon Research Centre to support their Technology Innovation and Cold Climate Innovation programs, provided core funding for the first time to what is now known as TechYukon, and created a new branch in Economic Development called the Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate. We recognized the importance of taking these considerable steps to support the ICT industry and are happy to commit to continuing with that support if re-elected.

In addition we are committed to developing a new program specifically targeted at accelerating companies to develop, monetize and export ICT product. As well, we will work with industry to establish a business mentoring service where local firms are given incentives to help develop and support new start-ups. We envision this program to fall into the Department of Economic Development.

Question 2

In response to the recommendations made by the Procurement Advisory Panel earlier this year, we have agreed to review the Business Incentive Policy. We will involve TechYukon during that review to ensure that whatever policies and supports we have in place will work for the ICT industry.

Question 3

In response to requests from ICT companies in Yukon, the Yukon Party government increased the annual IT funding envelope to \$9.5 million in the 2016/17 budget and a re-elected Yukon Party government would maintain that level of annual investment. The Yukon Party would also work directly with industry to develop a 5-year ICT investment strategic plan to ensure government investments support growth in the sector.

Question 4

Education

As a part of our new vision for education, the Yukon Party has committed to adding new components to our curriculum to meet the needs of the 21st century economy. Coding and computer literacy are both components that we have committed to incorporating. Furthermore we will ensure that programming and training available at the Yukon College will meet the needs of your industry.

Question 5

Over the past five years, the Yukon Party government has focused on planning and developing improvements to the infrastructure necessary to allow this sector to grow. A re-elected Yukon Party government will complete the fibre-optic cable link to the Northwest Territories along the Dempster Highway by partnering with the Government of Canada, Northwestel, and the Government of Northwest Territories to begin construction of this project as soon as possible. While final engineering has not been completed, estimated costs for construction are roughly \$35 million and work will be done to secure financial support from federal infrastructure funds.

The Yukon Party will also expand the successful community fibre pilot projects that have been done in several Yukon communities to connect various health facilities, schools and other buildings with fibre-optic cables. The next phases of this project will be done through a competitive process that recognizes the value of local contracting.

I hope that these responses to your questions serve to assure you of the commitment of the Yukon Party to advancing the ICT industry in Yukon. We are proud of record to date and will closely work with your association and your members as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Currie Dixon

Yukon Party Campaign Chair