



October 31, 2016

Via email: yukonantipovertycoalition@gmail.com

Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition
Box 31230
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5P7

Attention: Kristina Craig, Co-ordinator

Dear Ms Craig:

It is with pleasure that I am responding on behalf of the Yukon NDP to the thoughtful questions posed by the YAPC. I hope you will have sufficient time to convey our answers to your membership before E-Day as I am confident they will find the NDP's approach will significantly advance our common goal to eliminate poverty.

A Yukon New Democratic government will, building on the good work done by so many (in particular the YAPC), implement a strategy that has priorities, measurable targets and accountability dealing with housing, food security, child poverty, mental health, addictions, gender, diversity, and the status of individuals with disabilities.

With respect to aligning the minimum wage better with a Living Wage, an NDP government will raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour over the course of our mandate.

With respect to affordable housing, the NDP platform commits to:

- Expand the supply of affordable rental, social and staff housing working with the Government of Canada, Yukon communities, First Nation governments, local landlords and industry,
- Work with communities to provide the option for, and to provide access to, or develop land for, tiny houses,
- Develop a home warranty program so that new home purchasers, and home owners who have had renovations, have more protection for addressing building deficiencies, and
- Recognize the differences between mobile home owners and renters and protect mobile home owners by putting a cap on pad rental increases and ensure all renters have security of tenure by removing evictions without cause.

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With respect to homelessness, a NDP government will end homelessness through a “Housing First” approach to homelessness and housing insecurity. We would build on the community-based action plan now in the process of being developed, given our preference to work collaboratively with stakeholders.

With respect to food security, a Yukon New Democratic government will implement a strategy that has priorities, measurable targets and accountability dealing with key issues, including food security.

With respect to social assistance, a NDP government will review and update social assistance rates to better meet the needs of low-income Yukoners, and develop a guaranteed annual income pilot project for Yukon.

With respect to additional government support for low income households, a NDP government will help them improve their standard of living by:

- Lowering the tax rate on taxable income up to \$44,701,
- Reviewing and updating social assistance rates,
- Developing a guaranteed annual income pilot project, and
- Implementing a strategy that has priorities, measurable targets and accountability dealing with key issues, including child poverty.

These commitments and more are set out in the New Democratic Party platform, which is now available online at www.yukonndp.ca/platform_2016.

Our vision is of a better, stronger Yukon where no one is left behind. You can trust a New Democratic government to work closely with Yukoners to ensure that we build the kind of territory we want – with a resilient economy and healthy communities – for ourselves and future generations.

Together, we can be the positive change that the Yukon needs now.

Sincerely



Liz Hanson
Leader, Yukon NDP

