

November 2, 2016

**Yukon Liberal Party Response to Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Yukon Centre**

Re: Response to Open Letter to Sandy Silver

Thank you for taking the time to write us about the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Yukon Centre's issues for this election. Our party is very interested in organizations committed to expanding the economy of the Yukon and the education and aspiration of Yukoners. There is plenty of potential to be unlocked in astronomy, as you have highlighted in your letter, and we are interested in how we can unlock it.

We are of course supportive of astronomy in the North (and in general); if elected, we are interested in collaborating on how we could contribute to the advancement of astronomy here in the Yukon.

Light pollution is also an issue we have heard from many Yukoners on the doorstep this campaign, as well as in the lead-up to the election. The well-being of Yukoners is a fundamental priority of our platform and we are committed to ensuring Yukoners lead healthier, happier lives if elected.

You may have heard that our party is committed to replacing the existing street lighting in communities with energy efficient LED lighting. As you have mentioned, there are many types of LED lighting available and our government will collaborate with municipalities and stakeholders to determine the lighting option that is energy efficient and minimizes light pollution. We are not opposed to the use of LED lights you have recommended, but are not in the position to commit to a specific form of lighting until we have had the opportunity to consult with the appropriate parties.

As for the preservation and reclamation of our night sky heritage, we are interested in working with municipalities, tourism operators, and stakeholders to determine what the Yukon Government can do to advance night sky tourism, minimize light pollution, and encourage the pursuit of astronomy in the Yukon.

Thank you once again for taking the time to speak with us during this election.

Yours truly,



Sandy Silver  
Leader Yukon Liberals