

October 17, 2016

Ken Taylor
Trails Only Yukon Association (TOYA)
Whitehorse, Yukon

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am writing in response to your recent letter to Yukon political party campaign managers, which included questions about the intentions of the three parties regarding ATV legislation and regulations in the territory.

I thank you for your correspondence, and for the opportunity to provide the Yukon Party position on these important issues.

Yukoners are intensely passionate about our environment. Conversations about the use of off-road vehicles to access Yukon wilderness show the wide diversity of strongly-held opinions. An all-party Select Committee on the Safe Operation and Use of Off-road Vehicles issued a report with 14 recommendations, which the Yukon Party government adopted. Yukoners told the Select Committee of the need for education focused on the safe, responsible and respectful operation of off-road vehicles, as well as strong environmental stewardship.

I'd now like to address your questions directly.

Question # 1:

The changes to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* that the Yukon Party Government passed in our previous term gave Yukon Government new tools to respond to these challenges which will allow us to take a proactive approach to implementing targeted restrictions for off-road vehicles. A re-elected Yukon Party Government would develop a process to implement those new tools that are now available. This process must take into consideration Yukon Government's obligation to consult Yukon First Nations Governments about measures that could restrict access to certain areas for hunting or traditional activities. The Yukon Party is committed to ensuring that any restrictions on off-road vehicle use apply equally to all Yukoners.

Question # 2:

The Yukon Party believes it is important to target specific areas that are in need of protection either because they are, or are likely to be, under pressure from off-road vehicle use. We are committed to develop a process to implement the new tools available through the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act*, including:

- Restricting or prohibiting the use of off-road vehicles within specific areas
- Imposing operating conditions applicable to off-road vehicles within specific areas

- Developing, approving, and implementing trails plans for off-road vehicles in specific areas which could limit the creation and growth of new trails.

Question # 3:

The Yukon Party will continue to examine models used in other jurisdictions. While a general requirement for licensing and registration for off-road areas is not envisioned, for certain designated areas, a re-elected Yukon Party government will be open to examining the requirement for an off-road vehicle to be registered or licensed.

Question # 4:

We believe the tools to create an effective management regime for off-road vehicles are already in place as a result of the changes made by the Yukon Party Government to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act*. While we are committed to developing a process to implement those tools, it is difficult to commit to a specific timeline without compromising our consultation obligations. We are however, committed to moving expeditiously.

In conclusion, Yukoners hold passionate and diverse views of how best to enjoy Yukon's wilderness. What we all have in common is a deep love for the land. A re-elected Yukon Party government will continue to work to balance the views of Yukoners on how best to access, enjoy and protect the land.

Sincerely,

Currie Dixon
Yukon Party Campaign Chair