

Yukon Changes to Yukon Camping Regulations: Results of the Public Survey

Introduction

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics conducted an online survey on behalf of Yukon Parks to gather feedback on two proposals to amend Yukon regulations. The first proposal was to change the time campers may occupy a campsite without being present, from the current 72 hours to 24 hours. The second proposal was to increase the corresponding fine.

The survey ran from May 11 to July 10, 2017. It was made available on the Department of Environment website, and promoted through the following methods: social media (e.g., Yukon Parks and Department of Environment Facebook posts); direct emails to Yukon resident annual permit holders who had purchased the permit online; notices posted in campgrounds, and; park officers who shared information while on patrol in campgrounds. A total of 1,323 people responded to the survey.

This report provides a summary of the survey results. Overall, campers have indicated a strong preference to amend the regulations to reduce the time that personal belongings may be left unattended on a campsite to 24 hours, and to increase the penalty for not adhering to the rule. Among all options for the increased fine amount, \$200 had the most support.

Proposal #1

Change Campground Regulations to limit the time any personal belongings may be unattended on a campsite from the current 72 hours, to 24 hours.

This change would still allow campers to do activities (like fishing or hiking) away from their campsite for as long as 24 hours. However, people could no longer “hold” campsites for 3 days without being there (for example, leaving a RV at a campsite on a Tuesday to hold the site for arrival on Friday).

The results of the 1,323 responses to this question were as follows:

	Frequency	Percent
Agree	1202	90.9
Disagree	106	8.0
No opinion	6	0.5
Left blank	9	0.7

Those who agreed with the proposal offered a total of 236 additional comments:

- 24.2% (57/236) had concerns about sufficient enforcement (e.g. how often sites would be monitored in order to assign fines).
- 12.7% (30/236) suggested further reducing or not allowing any holding hours.
- 8.5% (20/236) suggested creating and implementing a reservation system.
- 7.6% (18/236) had concerns regarding the current holding situation being unfair for tourists.

Comments also show a concern for people holding sites with nobody present or with small items (e.g. tent, chair). Additionally, some who use the site as a base for multiday trips away from the campground would no longer be able to do so.

Comments also suggested to apply the proposal only to busier campgrounds located closer to the city and increase the price for the annual permit.

Those who disagreed with the proposal offered a total of 62 additional comments:

- 35.5% (22/62) suggested a 36 or 48 hour period of time that any personal belongings may be unattended on a campsite.
- 21.0% (13/62) had concerns that campers who use the site as a base for multiday trips away from the campground would no longer be able to do so.

Proposal #2

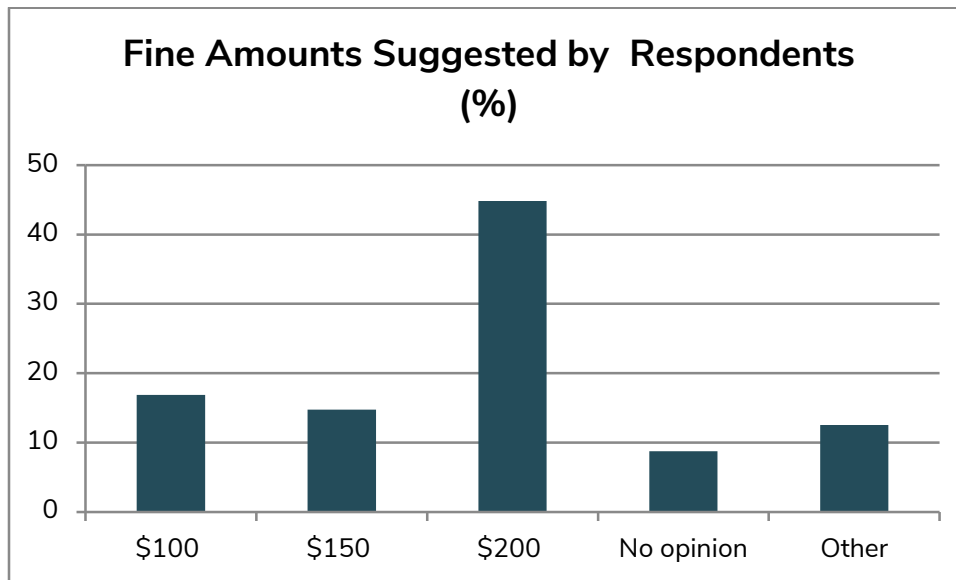
To support the proposed 24 hour rule, Yukon government proposes to increase the penalty for leaving personal belongings unattended on a campsite from the current \$50 penalty to a higher amount.

Part A: Do you agree with having a higher penalty?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1159	87.6
No	148	11.2
Left blank	16	1.2

Part B: In your view, what penalty would help to stop people from leaving their personal belongings unattended on a campsite for longer than allowed?

	Frequency	Percent
\$100	223	16.9
\$150	195	14.7
\$200	593	44.8
No opinion	116	8.8
Other	166	12.5
Left blank	30	2.3



A total of 12.5% (166) of respondents indicated 'other':

Other	Frequency	Percent
less than \$100	28	2.1
\$101-199	1	0.1
\$201 or more	107	8.1
No penalty	13	1.0
Other type of penalty	17	1.3

Of the 87.6% of respondents who agreed with the proposal to increase the fine, 331 additional comments were offered:

- 32.6% (108/331) suggested increasing the fine (ranging from \$100-\$1000).



- 28.4% (94/331) had concerns about sufficient enforcement (e.g. how often sites would be monitored in order to assign fines).
- 12.7% (42/331) suggested suspending camping privileges or revoking annual permits.
- 10.9% (36/331) suggested confiscating items on sites that were unattended for longer than the allowed time.
- 5.1% (17/331) suggested accumulating the fine per day.
- 4.2% (14/331) suggested increasing fines per offence.

Of the 11.2% of respondents who disagreed with the proposal to increase the fine, 64 additional comments were offered:

- 31.3% (20/64) had concerns about sufficient enforcement (e.g. how often sites would be monitored in order to assign fines).
- 23.4% (15/64) suggested no fine or no change in fine.
- 12.5% (8/64) suggested creating a reservation system.