

# Summary of Feedback for Legislation Governing Societies



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Societies, and the volunteers who run them, contribute so much to what makes Yukon a great place to live. The *Societies Act* provides a framework for the governance of societies and this effects their efficiency and abilities. There are currently more than 750 societies in the Yukon.

The Department of Community Services is considering how to modernize and improve the *Societies Act* and its Regulations to better serve all Yukoners.

From October 14 to December 14, 2017, the department asked the public for input on potential improvements to the *Societies Act*. In particular, we wanted to hear from Yukoners about their experience with the legislation. We wanted to know what kinds of changes could reduce red tape in an attempt to:

- reduce repetition,
- remove operational obstacles,
- increase operational efficiencies for Yukon societies, and
- balance the interests of all stakeholders.

We heard from over 90 people:

- At least 55 participants at 2 open house/focus group events
- 7 participants during 3 conference calls
- 30 written submissions

### Pre-Engagement

From September 25 to 29, 2017, the Department of Community Services asked a small cross-section of stakeholders to share their experiences with the *Societies Act* and its Regulations. Eight themes emerged. These became the guiding conversation points for discussions during the general engagement phase.

## GENERAL ENGAGEMENT

### Notification

Yukoners were invited to participate by news release, social media (Twitter, Facebook ads and a Google ad), advertisements in English and French newspapers, letters to stakeholders, and EngageYukon.ca.

### Engagement Methods

- **Open houses.** On October 27 and 28, 2017, open houses were held in Whitehorse. Using the eight general themes as a guide, participants shared their thoughts and talked with one another and government officials about their concerns and experiences.
- **Focus groups** were held at each open house. Participants used the opportunity for in-depth discussions about their experiences and thoughts about the Act.
- **Conference calls.** On November 8, 9 and 16, 2017, we hosted facilitated conference calls with interested participants in Dawson City and Watson Lake.
- **Written submissions.** Between October 14 and December 14, 2017, stakeholders and the public provided written feedback.

**Participants** represented the interests of many of the societies registered in Yukon and the spectrum of Yukon society. Input was received from the following areas:

Agriculture	First Nations	Leisure
Arts	General citizens	Municipalities
Aviation	Health	Religious
Consultants	Historical	Social Justice
Education	Human Rights	Sports and Recreation
Emergency Response	Legal	Yukon International Community

*See Appendix 2, below, for a detailed list of participants.*

## RESULTS

The department is using the feedback as it reviews the Act and considers how it can be updated to better serve Yukoners. We are also considering the suggestions on how we can improve customer service.

Stakeholders identified where and how they had difficulty with the legislation, and offered areas where the legislation could be improved. Below is a high-level summary of the input received for each of the eight general themes.

## THEMES

See Appendix 1 for an expansion on themes, with detailed points of input from stakeholders.

### Bylaws

- Some stakeholders were in favour of abolishing the Registrar's review of bylaws, while others said that bylaws should continue to be reviewed by the Registrar.
- Some stakeholders recommended that societies should have the choice of having bylaws reviewed or not.
- Some stakeholders said common terms and roles need to be defined more clearly.
- Some stakeholders recommended that bylaw schedules should be provided to suit different sizes of societies.
- Some stakeholders said bylaws should include a basic mechanism for internal conflict resolution.
- Some stakeholders agreed in principle to adopting the British Columbia model.
- One stakeholder suggested mirroring the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*.
- Many stakeholders had concerns about potential legal costs.

### Extra-territorial societies

- One stakeholder requested that we treat outside (extra-territorial) societies, differently to recognize that they have been created in, and operate under the laws of, their home jurisdiction.
- It was also suggested that we revisit and improve the naming rules and requirements for extra-territorial societies.
- Stakeholders said that no review of extra-territorial societies' bylaws should be required, and processes for these societies should be simplified.

### Chapters and branches of national and international organizations

- Stakeholders said providing bylaws separate from their umbrella organization (that may be incorporated in another jurisdiction) is an unrealistic expectation.
- Stakeholders said that there are no prescribed forms for forming or maintaining a branch society in Yukon.

### **Streamlined processes**

- Stakeholders said that many processes are inefficient and need to be simplified.
- Stakeholders were frustrated by the duplicate requests for information on forms.
- Stakeholders welcome online filing for forms and reports.

### **Financial review**

- Stakeholders said that the financial review process is complicated and expensive.
- Stakeholders said that reviews and audits are necessary, because they protect societies, especially the larger ones.
- Stakeholders suggested allowing financial statements to include the Canada Revenue Agency's T2010 form, "Election to Deduct Resource Expenses upon Acquisition of Resource Property by a Corporation," for submission.

### **Annual reporting**

- Stakeholders said that the financial and legal reporting requirements are too much 'red tape'. They said the requests for information on forms is a burden, repetitive and rigid.
- Stakeholders suggested that providing online forms, allowing for digital signatures, and a public database would make it easier to provide the required information.

### **Dispute resolution**

- Stakeholders said the current dispute resolution process is inefficient and unclear.
- Stakeholders recommended that there be a way to ensure societies are compliant with the law, including human rights law.

### **Dissolving societies**

- Stakeholders told us that a clear statutory process is lacking for liquidating assets, dealing with outstanding debts, or addressing other general issues that arise.

### **Other suggestions**

- Stakeholders think societies should be able to provide rewards or benefits to motivate volunteers, including youth.
- Stakeholders suggested that social enterprises should be allowed in the Yukon.
- Stakeholders suggested that we purchase liability insurance in bulk for societies, as is done by Nova Scotia.
- Stakeholders suggested that municipalities and First Nations nominate volunteers for an annual reward gala hosted by the Premier.
- Stakeholders suggested that we offer training workshops for board members several times a year, as a way to build skills. Others suggested that we offer a Treasurer 101 course to help educate those who take on that role in societies.
- Stakeholders said that societies' levels of allowable revenue for categorizing societies, for reporting purposes, should be increased.
- Stakeholders said that the legislation needs principles and preamble that speak to intent.
- Stakeholders suggested we create a societies navigator or ombudsman position.

## APPENDIX 1 – IN YOUR WORDS

### THEMES AND COMMENTS

Comments from all engagement types have been grouped by theme. Many are recorded word-for-word; similar comments are combined.

#### Bylaws

- Concerning the review of societies' bylaws:
  - For:** The Registrar should continue to review bylaw changes and the registration process. There is great value in the current bylaw review process. To save on societies' legal fees, the Registrar's office should have additional staff dedicated to liaising with societies. Their job would be to instruct and advise on how to create and maintain good bylaws.
  - Against:** The Registrar should not be required to review bylaws. They should be filed with the Registrar and posted online by the Registrar for public viewing.
  - Neutral:** Some organizations don't require a review of bylaws. This should be an opt-in, opt-out service.
- Modern wording and plain language needs to be used in any new Act and Regulations. This is very important for creating and maintaining bylaws, as well as for maintaining them and when any procedures need to change. Who has liability for them should be made clear in the Act and its Regulations.
- The bylaw writing process is complicated. Societies should be provided with an information package and training on how to form and maintain a society. Allow bylaws to be tailored to suit societies' needs.
- Some societies are caught between Yukon's and their national parent organization's bylaw expectations, which requires costly legal advice. Some societies would like the Act to be flexible, allowing for the use of or the referral to bylaws of their national or international parent organization.
- Legal opinions on bylaws are too expensive for small societies.
- For national not-for-profits, the federal government has created a 'default' bylaw that can be used. Final bylaws are reviewed; this is a good process.
- There are concerns about the potential elimination of bylaws review by the Registrar. It ensures societies are compliant with the law, including human rights law. One option would be to change section 8 of the *Societies Act* to read: "A society may change its bylaws by special resolution, effective upon filing. The registrar shall review bylaw changes and may override a change within 30 days upon filing if the bylaw change is not compliant with this Act." This option would meet the goals of timely bylaw changes for societies, while maintaining the legal review procedure, including a review of potential inconsistencies with human rights law.
- Providing a "how to" guide or booklet and standard bylaw templates that scale for society category size, will significantly improve process. This guide should include how to:
  - 1) Run a board meeting;
  - 2) Run a general meeting;
  - 3) Run an annual general meeting (AGM);
  - 4) Run a Special General meeting;
  - 5) Advertise the Annual General Meeting;
  - 6) Define clearly the roles and procedures for society governance; and
  - 7) Solve common problems.

- Societies would be better able to meet quorum if the Act made the distinction between society members and society associates. Often, most members are only interested in membership for a single year, with no interest in governance matters. This results in not meeting quorum.
- Quorum of 20 per cent at an AGM is too high, it was suggested that it be reduced to 10 per cent.
- It needs to be clear that Schedule A bylaws are not mandatory, that it is an option that societies can choose.
- Ensure law, including human rights law, is enforced among societies and their members.

### **Extra-Territorial Societies**

- Extra-territorial societies should not be subject to Schedule B of the Naming Regulations;
- Clarify rules around how extra-territorial societies are named.
- Canadian not-for-profit corporations should not be required to submit an Application for Name Reservation in order to extra-territorially register in the Yukon.
- The Registrar of Societies should not be required to review bylaws of a extra-territorial society.
- The anniversary month should be extended to allow for an extra-territorial society to comply with their home jurisdiction requirements with respect to financial statements.
- Form 16 Annual Report of Extra-Territorial Society should be amended to be less complicated and more user friendly. Section 8 "Choose one" options should be amended to include: "...last annual general meeting or were approved by the governing board of the American corporation."
- Allow a registration period that considers constraints of extra-territorial societies.
- Integrate federal bylaw guidelines.
- Insert a clause in the Act that considers the differences between extra-territorial requirements and those for Yukon. This is more adaptive in our fast-changing world. Legislation in home jurisdictions of extra-territorial societies is in the same state of change as the Yukon, but is not always going in the same direction.
- There are no prescribed forms for forming or maintaining a branch society in the territory.

### **Chapters and Branches of National and International Organizations**

- National or international societies should only have one set of bylaws, and only add what is missing if applicable. Local issues can be addressed by policy or governance documents. This would avoid duplication.
- Integrating federal bylaw guidelines would simplify the process.
- For simplicity, reporting should be aligned with that of the home jurisdiction.
- Forms for forming or maintaining a branch society in Yukon should be prescribed.

## Streamlined processes

- A template package should be available for first-time board members to introduce them to procedures, roles, and responsibilities. It should be online with an FAQ page. Societies and their members should not have to read the *Societies Act* and its Regulations to get basic information that should be in a simple guide-form. The “Handbook for Societies” was a very useful booklet in lay language - would like to see something similar brought back.
- Provide a glossary of terms.
- Reporting for change of directors and addresses needs to be streamlined. Linking the Canada Revenue Agency return to financial review should suffice. The current process is very frustrating and unnecessarily repetitive.
- How do we balance transparency and accountability with a streamlined process?

## Financial review

- Concerning financial review:

**For:** Many societies have poor financial record-keeping abilities. So, they would not recommend removing financial review every five years. It is the only way to guarantee at least one clean year of books every five years, despite the cost. Financial review is necessary for incorporated NGOs. Transparency is important. Category A societies should be required to provide reviewed (not audited) financials every year. A review every five years is reasonable, though every seven years would be all right, too.

**Against:** The five-year review is time-consuming, complicated, and very expensive (\$6000 or more plus disbursements plus GST). The fee is a huge cost to the society. They believe that the money would be better spent on community projects. The review of financial statements for all categories should be dropped. Government should require an audit or review. Requiring it should be the sole responsibility of grant-giving agencies.

**Neutral:** One suggestion was that a YG accountant review the financial statements, just as professional accountants do, and ask questions of the treasurer and/or board members when required. This way, though the same time commitment is involved, the massive fees would be absent. Remove necessity of Category A societies to spend funds on financial reviews that are better spent on benevolent services. Or, find a process that addresses the difference between benevolent non-profit societies and self-serving organizations and release benevolent societies from the tedious and expensive requirement for accountant reviews.

- Better definitions of audit and review are needed.
- There is a perception of inequity in an apparent arbitrary decision of who gets audited. An audit can virtually bankrupt an organization.
- Are there options for having to have a formal review?
- Review is not necessary for smaller entities with less than \$500,000 in revenues.
- Society classification criteria is not financially fair. It is too broad and does not focus on the societies that may need closer financial oversight. Regulations on classification and reporting need to be amended to reflect the financial reality of societies being administered. This would include removing fixed assets as a criterion (buildings, equipment). There are many societies in this situation.
- A compilation could be done every five years instead.



- Revenue and assets need to be differentiated. Low revenue and high-value assets should not put a society into a higher category that requires fundraising just to meet financial obligations as stipulated by the Act.
- Most non-profits have assets that exceed the required threshold that triggers an audit but not the required income/funds. This often means fundraising to meet audit costs.
- Measuring categories only by revenue may be more realistic given that various societies with low revenues have real estate as assets. As categories were set in 1988, it may be time to review current financial thresholds. Can the audit procedure become optional by category, or can there be funding provided to help handle the financial burden of the audit?
- Create more categories or sub-categories of societies that consider sources of revenues.
- Regulators should focus on high-income societies. Categories that determine levels of financial reporting are inequitable, particularly to those non-profits with a benevolent nature.
- There is a lack of clarity in the department's decision-making process about the review of financial statements and triggers for accountant review and/or demand for a full audit.
- The reason for filing requirement is not well communicated by Corporate Affairs.
- It is often difficult to have audits or reviews completed before the end of April. Societies, like the Association of Yukon Communities, often fall into default due to the date of their Annual General Meeting (AGM). Consider creating a floating year-end reporting procedure based on a given period after each organization's AGM (i.e. 2 months) to avoid falling into non-compliance. Financial statements presented at the AGM should suffice for Community Services.
- Or increase the revenue amounts to cause a slide in category classification and an option to waive financial review.
- Why not just use the financial statements which YG already has and are public? The B.C. model is on the right track, but asks for statements and maybe T3010. Alternatively, since a T3010 is filed with the CRA (Canada Revenue Agency), why must a review take place?
- If accounting is done by a professional, why is an audit required?
- Expense of audits is the issue. Could frequency of audit, and by whom it is carried out, be revisited? Every seven years is reasonable.
- Audits are a real burden for smaller societies. Some societies are penalized by having contingency funds that put them in a higher category.
- Reviews should be exempted if financial statements are prepared monthly and submitted annually unless a certain profit or loss threshold is reached.
- Annual reviews are important as public money needs to be accounted for. Why not have an YG auditor for societies?
- Funds from YG and the federal government have accountability processes in place. Societies that access these funds should have them omitted from determining their category status, and only revenue should be used to classify status. YG grants require extensive review. It is redundant to include these grants in any audit.
- Financial statements, bylaws, and compliance classification should be posted on the YG website for public access.
- Can YG provide a basic handbook for financial reporting requirements?
- If societies find that financial reporting or review is too much of a burden, they should think of starting clubs instead, and then not be required to report.
- Need the "society in good-standing" form.

## Annual reporting

- The current system puts unnecessary burden on volunteers and requires massive investment of volunteer time. Concerned with how difficult reporting has become. The previous one-page Annual Return was sufficient for all administrative needs of the society and the Registrar's Office. The current system is not user-friendly. It must be kept simple. All that should be required are the names of current officers and directors, with their addresses.
- More financial accountability is needed, not less. Achieving that accountability in as few steps as possible should be the aim.
- Administration needs to be simpler for every society category. Financial and legal reporting is complicated, time consuming, and very difficult to follow. The YG review should focus on non compliant societies, period. The review of financial status and providing assistance should be the priority, rather than focusing on minor clerical errors.
- Societies need clarification about how financial statements are reviewed and assessed when they are submitted, as well as the Registrar's other decision-making standards.
- If more than three months is required to file, a policy could be implemented allowing the Registrar to, after application, extend the deadline by three months. The deadline for submitting financials should be lengthened. Societies should be given 6, not 4, months after their fiscal year-end to file their annual report.
- Financial reporting standards for Category A are onerous and expensive, while standards for Categories B and C are insufficient to protect membership with assurances by the government body that they are in compliance. Financial and legal reporting is the core obligation that gives organizations the ability to be a society. The process can be improved, e.g. Corporate Affairs could be the "holder" of societies' financials for other departments, saving the society from having to report to various departments.
- Be cautious of relaxing reporting requirements, as there has been poorly handled business by societies in years past.
- There is no issue with providing yearly reporting forms or financial statements.
- Annual filings should be reviewed to ensure societies are compliant with the *Societies Act*.
- Annual reporting should be streamlined with three options:
  - 1) Just complete the forms;
  - 2) Complete the forms and file financials signed by two officers stating the financials were approved at an AGM;
  - 3) Complete the forms and file financials signed by two officers stating the financials were approved at an AGM and provide a statement showing the ten largest revenue sources and ten largest expenses signed by the Treasurer and Board Chair.
- Change the timeline to reapply from annually to every five years. This will be less burdensome for all involved. Alternatively, annual financial reporting and meeting should be required.
- There is no continuity in understanding or guidance among staff services: staff do not seem to be on same page as forms and procedures.
- Annual report forms are complicated and not easy to read, namely the parts involving directors and officers. Current annual reporting forms contain redundancies, specifically with the officer forms. Simplify the Corporate Affairs forms and eliminate the duplication of information.
- One year, the forms are accepted, yet rejected the next for no apparent reason.
- Letters of status arrive weeks after applications were submitted. This needs to improve.
- The original signature requirement is antiquated and needs to be upgraded to digital in step with, among others, the Canadian Revenue Agency.

## Dispute resolution

- A dispute body should be set up to deal with society disputes.
- Decision-making by a committee including involved stakeholders by voting is the best and least expensive method.
- The basic mechanism for internal conflict resolution should be in the bylaws (cf. national guide). There must be a way to ensure societies are compliant with human rights law.
- YG should help with mediation. Court is expensive and a waste of valuable resources. If no resolution, society must dissolve.
- There needs to be a clear and fair arbitration process. Provide a list of mediators.
- Expelling a board member requires a special general meeting. Is there another way to do this and save face?

## Dissolving societies

- Dissolving a society is not complicated, but the process is vague and confusing despite helpful staff.
- The legal dimension of dissolving societies is not to be ignored. However, YG can clarify the needs of the law and the options available to societies in, for example, a step-by-step guide or checklist.

## Forms

- Reports and forms are far more complicated than they should be: getting online and fillable/savable forms would help tremendously. It would be far less onerous if the form process were online. Payment method needs to be modernized. Digitalize the annual fiscal reporting requirement. Make electronic filing the norm; have a public database.
- There is a lot of redundancy in forms regarding new board members and forms requiring the entry of board information in three different places. Only one list of board members should be required: who is new? Forms should be simplified. There is an onerous duplication of information between the annual return and change of directors' forms. The forms themselves are sufficient evidence of the complicated process that is required. Currently, forms are not friendly, rather they are intimidating. Forms are too long. Board member and society forms are unnecessary.
- Recent changes have made filing confusing and unnecessarily time consuming for volunteers with little time. There should be a simple and straightforward filing procedure (the filing was previously two pages, now it is seven pages).
- Provide opt-in, opt-out email address on forms. Stop making everything a PDF, it adds to difficulty in the process.
- You should only need a list of newly elected board members names and addresses, including continuing officers. Writing down details of past directors is a waste of time. Often officers remain the same each year. It would make more sense to require reporting only if there were changes in officers.
- The reporting paperwork is unnecessarily repetitive and time consuming, requiring Corporate Affairs staff to do more work than they should have to.

- Adjust the timeline so societies have more time to submit. For financial review, allow CRA forms to be submitted instead of the prescribed forms: both contain same information.
- Clarify term “remuneration” to include non-monetary benefits to members or family affiliates of the members and require inclusion of ‘in lieu of cash’ in revenues.’ Re Section 8, remuneration/loaned amounts to member/director/associate is defined as “amounts paid” and does not consider that many NGOs use credits for volunteer time in lieu of cash. By definition, remuneration is synonymous with “fee, payment, compensation.”
- The practice of issuing credits to members against society fees or expenses is not addressed in either the *Lotteries Act* or *Societies Act* - would like that to change. Of the opinion that credits are “pay in lieu of cash” which don’t have to be reported in Financial Statements to the Registrar. Such a mechanism clearly reduces actual revenues of the society, possibly changing category status and/or having other impacts on Financial Statements.

### Other suggestions

- Corporate Affairs should be client-oriented and explain the purpose and process of society registration.
- Clarify who is eligible to form a society in the territory. The understanding is that only Canadian citizens and permanent residents are eligible. Allowing temporary residents to create a society could create a situation that allows a legally registered society to apply for public grants. This could allow for defrauding public funds as those temporary workers could leave the country with funds in hand.
- Create a simple guide showing citizens whether they need to create a society in the first place. Creating a club may be a better option.
- The society database needs to be updated as dissolved societies still get sent mail to old addresses. Making this public would help with identifying errors.
- Social enterprises: where do they fit? B.C. has been instrumental in their legislation when it comes for social enterprise accommodation.
- There are concerns that the gold seal of good standing is no longer part of the certificate. It’s hoped that either the gold seal or another official looking dimension is added to future certificates of “good standing” or compliance.
- Societies should not be allowed to register without a minimum number of designated and defined positions. We’ve heard of groups registering with just one person and been given a year to form the Board: this allows for funding to be applied for with just one person and risks those funds being used to serve interests other than the community that the society claims to serve.
- There should be a better system for handling complaints: a person who makes an honest mistake is not a criminal. There should be an in-person meeting when Corporate Affairs launches a complaint about a society.
- There are concerns that Corporate Affairs will not allow fees to be paid to the territorial agent in a community. The agent is supposed to represent all departments and aspects of YG, but for some reason, they are not allowed to accept fees for annual filing because Corporate Affairs will not give them proper permissions. Bottom line: why can’t fees be paid through the Territorial Agent?

- If a society has to pay legal costs, who will cover the cost? Is this a way for YG to discharge some duties?
- As much as possible, the Yukon *Societies Act* should mirror the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* and not the *British Columbia Societies Act*.
- Link the Societies forms to those for gaming, specifically charitable gaming.
- Like Nova Scotia, create a territorial volunteer award and recognition ceremony. Each municipality and first nation could nominate a group with the gala held in Whitehorse with the Premier.
- Should there be a cap on the number of societies in the Yukon? If there is duplication, there is waste. How can we incentivize collaboration?
- Offer education workshops or online videos as to what the Act and its Regulations do, who is liable, who is protected, and who is not.
- Hire a staff person to help train boards and build capacity among societies. They would be a society “navigator” or ombudsmen.
- Incentivize youth volunteering. Partner with Department of Education to increase volunteering among youth. Governance should be offered in high school.
- Recognize that youth can be part of a Board.
- How can we pool resources like liability? Nova Scotia apparently insures all small boards collectively. This can be done in Yukon, and boards can be charged a relevant fee to help cover this expense. This can be an opt-in, opt-out option. This would encourage societies to get more involved as they would have coverage.
- Principles need to go into a preamble in the Act so that they are entrenched and cannot easily be changed with a change in government. The legislation needs principles that speak to the intent, flexibility, support from government, and regulate transparency and accountability.
- Hold workshops several times a year to build capacity, especially with treasurer principles, and changing board members. For example: <https://www.culturetourism.alberta.ca/community/programs-and-services/board-development/default.aspx>
- The Regulations should more clearly define remuneration to include non-monetary compensation provided to individual members.

## APPENDIX 2 – PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDER SOCIETIES

This list names the stakeholders who chose to provide their organizational name or capacity as an attendee to Community Services. Highlighted stakeholders are involved with a Yukon community/communities.

Written Submissions	Open House Participants	Conference Call Participants
Arctic Edge Skating Club	Association of Yukon Communities	Community Library Board
Arctic Institute of Community - Based Research	Yukon Fish and Game Association	Dawson City Music Festival
Association of Yukon Communities	Heart of Riverdale	Friends of Dawson
Austring, Fendrick & Fairman - Barristers & Solicitors	Humane Society of Yukon	Klondike Trails
Carcross Aerodrome Society	Rotary Club of Whitehorse	Liard Golf Club
Communities, Strategies, Resources	Sport Yukon	Watson Lake Ski Club
CSR Management	United Way Yukon	
Dawson Firefighters Association	Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle	
Dawson Ski Association	Yukon Agriculture Association	
Faro Golf Club Board	Yukon Roller Girls	
For Northern Health and Well-Being	YuKconstruct	
Japanese Canadian Association of Yukon		
MacBride Museum		
No. 711045		
Pioneer Women of the Yukon		
Rotary Club of Whitehorse		
The Lung Association Yukon		
Watson Lake Creative Playgroup		
Liard Valley Literary Society		
Watson Lake Family Centre		
White Ribbon Yukon Anti-Violence Society		
Whitehorse Elks #306		
9 individuals did not identify a specific society		

## **WHAT COMES NEXT**

Our goal is to create new legislation that reduces 'red tape' and provides societies with modern governance to meet their needs.

We will be reviewing all of the feedback we have received and consider it as we begin drafting a new *Societies Act* and Regulations. You will have an opportunity to review the proposed key changes and see how your input is helping modernize the Societies legislation.