

**ASSOCIATION OF YUKON COMMUNITIES**

**SUBMISSION**

**STATUTORY REVIEW  
CANADA TRANSPORT ACT**

March 26, 2001

The Association of Yukon Communities wishes to thank the Transportation Act Review Panel for this opportunity to provide comments.

Members of the Association of Yukon Communities have reviewed the Yukon Government's Submission to the Panel and want to state their support for the opinions provided in that submission. In addition, I want to emphasize three main areas.

**Regional Airports** – the *Canada Transportation Act* (“CTA”) does not address the provision of minimum levels of air service to the remote regions of Canada. In the Yukon, the Watson Lake airport once accepted daily jet service, but scheduled flights have not landed there in a number of years. Medium sized passenger aircraft can be accommodated at the Dawson City airport. The Panel should ensure that the Act addresses, possibly through regulation, the provision of air service to regional airports.

**Costs** – the variation in costs is a major concern to member municipalities. All municipal services have an element of transportation associated with it; whether that is truck or air-freight for supplies or parts, travel for employees to attend southern training sessions, the provision of an isolated post allowance to employees for travel to southern Canada, or the use of professionals from the south to advise on legal, financial or engineering matters. The CTA must ensure that pricing for scheduled air service in the north is comparable to prices available to southerners for comparable levels of service.

Associated with price is the certainty of scheduled flights and pricing. Flight cancellations and unscheduled price increases impact on all Yukoners. Attached to this submission, for your information, are two air express bills of lading that illustrate an unannounced 27% price increase.

**Rail Transportation** – all levels of government should participate with the US government in the study of the Rails to Resources project, which is considering the feasibility of a rail link between Alaska and British Columbia, through the Yukon. This link could significantly reduce the transportation costs for materials required in the Yukon and make the export of products and resources more affordable.

I hope that you will consider these comments and, once again, I thank you.