



Energy, Mines and Resources
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

August 12, 2026

Jason Pedlar, Ombudsman
Yukon Ombudsman Office
3162 Third Avenue
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1G3

Dear Jason Pedlar,

RE: Ombudsman report on land lottery findings and recommendations

I would like to thank you and your team for your work over the last year to create the report outlining your recommendations for the land lottery process in Whitehorse.

We respect and appreciate the Ombudsman's conclusions of our processes and agree that fairness, transparency and accountability are integral within the land lottery. We acknowledge the concerns raised in the report regarding use of proxies in Whitehorse which has eroded public confidence and created challenges in the lottery process. We recognize the current legislation, and regulatory framework presents challenges in addressing proxy participation and enforcement of eligibility requirements.

The Department is reviewing the findings and recommendations in more detail to identify opportunities for improvement in the short term while also considering the feasibility of broader legislative or regulatory changes. Specifically, we will commit to the recommendations outlined in the report:

1. Prior to commencing any future public single family lot lotteries in Whitehorse, the Authority must take reasonable measures to demonstrate that it is meeting its legal obligations for the administration of Lot Lotteries under the *Lands Regulations*, as well as the intention of the legislation.
2. Any measures contemplated by the Authority to ensure compliance and fairness, must be provided to the Ombudsman for comment before being implemented.

In the broader context of reforming our land lottery processes, we have already taken steps to modernize how residential lots are offered, including the introduction of a residential builder's lottery pilot program as part of the broader efforts to respond to housing demand and improve access to land for builders. We aim to evaluate additional measures that strengthen eligibility, support compliance and improve public confidence in the system. We appreciate your contributions to

improving our processes and will consider this report in full as part of our ongoing work to ensure Yukon's land disposition is fair, transparent and responsive to the needs of Yukoners.

Sincerely,



Jeff O'Farrell
Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources