

Association of Yukon Communities



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The Honorable John Streicker
Minister of Community Services
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT
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April 9, 2020

Re: Temporarily waiving penalty and interest fees for property taxes

Dear Minister Streicker,

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss options regarding a property tax extension deadline.

Our members met today and would like to recommend the initiative be called 'Temporarily waiving penalty and interest fees for property taxes' in lieu of a property tax deadline or deferral extension. Our members feel the terminology may encourage those that are able to pay their taxes to pay in July as opposed to September 1.

Our members suggestion is to temporarily waive late fees and interest charges on property taxes for all Non- Government properties to September 1, 2020. Interest and penalties would start to accrue after September 1, 2020. We would ask that the Government of Yukon also include consistent messaging in the property tax notices that encourages home and business owners that are still able to pay their property taxes should do so by July2, 2020 as municipalities rely on tax revenue to fund essential services.

We would also ask Government of Yukon to expedite the grants in lieu of property taxes to ensure municipalities are financially capable to endure the two-month lag in revenue.

Currently all municipal office buildings are closed to the public so homeowner grant forms may be difficult to collect. The municipal administrators will be meeting to discuss different options and recommendations from them will be forwarded soon.

We look forward to continue working with the Government of Yukon on this initiative.

Warm Regards

Tara Wheeler
President

