



May 5, 2021

Currie Dixon
MLA, Copperbelt North
Leader, Yukon Party
Sent via email: info@yukonparty.ca

Dear Currie Dixon,

RE: Addressing Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia in the Yukon Party

Queer Yukon Society was deeply disturbed and profoundly disappointed to learn of recent comments made by Yukon Party MLAs about their own colleagues. In addition to being a form of bullying and harassment, jokes about “women with penises” are blatantly transphobic. These comments and their focus on an individual’s genitalia are not only rude - they are dehumanizing and promote a dangerous culture of transphobia in the Yukon. We are deeply disappointed to see Yukon Party MLAs and their supporters attempt to demean and humiliate anyone with lewd references to our community.

The 2021 Yukon Party Platform promised a “bold vision” and “new thinking” for the Yukon and we want to see that applied to your party’s work on addressing homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia. These words from Wade Istchenko and Stacey Hassard were a betrayal of campaign promises to “stand for and represent all Yukoners” and a betrayal of the trust and hope we had for a better Yukon Party. When we surveyed political parties on LGBTQIA2S+ issues during the campaign, the Yukon party committed to “show leadership to ensure that we build a more inclusive Yukon by seeking the views and respecting the input of [our] community.” We are therefore calling on the Yukon Party to give us “Action for a Change” when it comes to addressing homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia.

Queer Yukon Society is specifically calling on the Yukon Party to take the following actions:

- Meet with Queer Yukon Society leadership to discuss the comments and the harm they caused.

- Issue a public apology to the LGBTQIA2S+ community that recognizes these harms.
- Develop a code of conduct and orientation material for the Yukon Party - including MLAs as well as all staff and volunteers - that specifically addresses homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.
- Adopt a zero tolerance policy for homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia.
- Develop a set of values for the Yukon Party that explicitly names the LGBTQIA2S+ community, and strengthen accountability measures for MLAs found in violation of these values.
- Work with Queer Yukon Society or another recognized LGBTQIA2S+ organization to provide meaningful training to MLAs, staff, and volunteers around gender and sexual diversity, and form an action group on LGBTQIA2S+ issues involving members of our community to identify and address homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia on an ongoing basis.
- Develop meaningful and ongoing relationships with the LGBTQIA2S+ community.
- Commit Yukon Party funds to educating your own supporters on these issues.

In 2021, we are profoundly disappointed to find elected officials who are more concerned with an individual's genitals than with their ideas, passion for community, or integrity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mona Luxion". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mona Luxion (They/Them)
President
Queer Yukon Society Board of Directors