



Online Tourism Operators Forum – Friday July 10, 2020 (12pm)

Format:

The forum will take place online using Zoom as the platform. All participants must be registered in advance of the meeting, using the link below:

Meeting Minutes

Min 0 - 3.35 – Welcome and Overview

TIA Yukon Executive Director, Blake Rogers

- Housekeeping notes

Min 3.36 – Industry Update

TIA Yukon Vice Chair, Jesse Cooke

- Territories open for just over a week
- Campgrounds full mostly with Yukoners, good for mental health but not for money
- Local businesses Dawson: most Restaurants and Hotels are open, but not much going on
- Phase 3 for August 1 possible, Tourism Industry needs more info on what it means

Min 6:09– Government of Yukon Update

Yukon Minister of Community Services (including EMO), Hon. John Streicker

- From Health Perspective: In a pretty good place. We're well prepared
- From Border Perspective: Watch U.S. – not good right now
- People in Transit through Yukon: Have to keep people on route
- Borders to Europe: Lead will be the Premier, it's a national decision
- Current Situation with BC & NWT: Yukoners to BC and other way around, no Self-Isolation needed
- Heard from Dr. Hanley that Phase 3 might start August 1
- What that might look like: opening up to other provinces (Alberta etc.)
- Opening backcountry / Outfitters, conversation happening right now
- Phase 3 is ultimately the new normal, but will have steps within Phase 3.
- What will be here throughout is social distancing, hand washing
- I am open for questions

Min 15:32 - Comment from Blake Rogers:

- Thank you. In regards to your question if the CMOH has been on the call: If you or any other Minister on the call is in touch with CMOH Dr. Hanley, if you could please encourage him to take part in this call as we have asked 4 times in the last 2 months and haven't received a response.

Min 17:20 – Comment from Jesse Cooke:

- As Industry we are willing to proceed with caution
- Going back to BC opening it felt that our customers did not get enough notice
- Not promoted in time, same deal with August 1.
- Needs to be promoted sooner for customers to book in that time frame

Min 19:53 – Response from Minister John Streicker:

- Minister Dendys has carried that message throughout
- Explaining why it is difficult to be faster
- Dr. Hanley is supposed to be independent from politics, so we don't pressure for best science
- We will move heaven and earth to be as fast as we can, but it will never be as fast as you need and I apologize for that.

Q&A for Minister Streicker:

Min 22:30 - Question 1:

Kalin Pallett

Minister S: Does that mean that backcountry travelers could arrive from regions OUTSIDE of current travel bubbles? (If they arrive and go straight to their trip?)

Min 22:59 – Response by Minister John Streicker:

- By Monday I hope to have resolved questions around Outfitters
- Then we look if that's applicable for other groups
- We are willing to have that conversation

Min 24:05 – Response from Kalin Pallett

Min 24:31 – Response from Minister John Streicker

Min 26:06 – Question 2:

Raven Inn (Sarah Stuecker)

Minister Streicker: Re-Alaska Corridor: travelers show up downtown claiming not having been told anything about rules entering Yukon. How can this be?

Min 26:26 – Response by Minister John Streicker:

- Two places they can come from, Watson Lake/Stewart Cassiar – they have signed a declaration
- If they're coming in southbound from Beaver Creek, we're working with CBSA. People get map, where to go, where to stay. We are working on tightening it up there.

Min 28:44 – Question 3

Louis Gagnon

MINISTER: where is YG in regards to the Constitutional challenge (border)? Has a contingency been prepared in case of a YG loss?

Min 29:00 – Response by Minister John Streicker

Min 32:04 – Government of Canada Update

Yukon MP and Parliamentary Secretary for CanNor, Hon. Larry Bagnell

- Updates & Summary from past week

Min 35:14 – Yukon Tourism & Culture Update

Minister of Tourism & Culture, honourable Jeanie Dendys

- Marketing campaign in BC is in full swing, including TV ad until beginning of September
 - Spoke about need with BC Minister for Tourism for clear travel information that is consistently shared on our respective government websites
 - Government and BC CMOH are encouraging BC residents to travel within BC at this time
 - They don't promote travel outside of their territory at this time
 - The VIC's are now open daily 8am-8pm (Whitehorse, Dawson City, Beaver Creek, Watson Lake, Carcross. Haines Junction will open July 13
 - Incidents of US traveller coming to Carcross
 - Looking ahead we are assessing a transition into Phase 3 on August 1st
 - More info on that on July 22nd from the CMOH
 - I have continuously advocated for information come out early
 - Department is working on processing the 188 TCMF applications
 - CanNor & Ec.Dev working on other Relief and Recovery programs
 - We continue to focus our efforts on longer term initiatives & programs for tourism operators
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Min 45:03 – CanNor Update

Sierra Van Der Meer

- Happy to announce extension on fix cost program
- Program is going to shift from a 4 month to an annual (April 1st, 2020 - March 31st, 2021)
- It covers costs up to \$100,000 in non-repayable
- It is reimbursing for fix-costs up to the loss the business is experiencing
- We will be either paying the annual fix costs up to \$100,000 or the annual loss, whichever one is lesser.
- Extension is specifically for tourism operators, accommodation, transportation, arts/recreation & entertainment, retail and restaurants

- If exceeding the \$100,000, a loan system will be available from government with mostly 0% interest, 2-year before payback, 5-year plan to pay back.
- We are going to connect with our clients via email that has the instructions and we will go ahead and make these changes
- If there is any tourism operators that have a cash flow issue and have applied, I encourage you to email me
- We are working closely with TIAY, YFNTC, and YG to develop a program that will work with tourism operators and businesses to help fund activities to respond, or pivot due to Covid or change operations in order to prepare for new reality.
- If you are selling an asset we are looking what the value is, and only the profit on that asset is considered a revenue.
- Deposits & refunds: If you are counting your deposits as cash then your refunds are cash. If you count them as accrual, then refunds are accrual.

Q&A

Min 1:02:24

Question 1:

Steve Berger-Husson

Is there any news on Federal level to open to other countries using a model as Europe does?

Min 1:02:36 - Response from Larry Bagnell

- Trying to balance need for tourism and safety – and it doesn't seem like in the near future to open borders. No appetite to open to States.

Min 1:03:49- Question 2:

Joost van der Putten

We are far past saving our summer season, sacrificed 5 months of business. How can we prevent a second wave, which would be nearly impossible to survive?

Min 1:04:21 – Response from Deputy Minister Valerie Royle:

- Following the safe 6 and sticking to Health advice
- As CMOH said, we will have Covid in the Yukon and we will have to keep the curve flat
- CMOH said there will be Covid in Yukon, have to keep curve flat
- Same situation counts for second wave

Min 1:06:09 Question 3:

Joost van der Putten

Is anything been done to prevent new infections by demanding visitors to stick to the rules? We see many out of territory people without masks, distancing etc.

Min 1:06:40 – Response from Valerie Royle:

- Masks not mandatory but recommended when you can't distance
- Everyone coming through border receives info on what to do
- Changing border orders to have "more teeth"
- People signing a declaration, and some people decide not to follow
- Scan officers in Whitehorse working with Bylaw officers to check in on people

Min 1:08:13 – Response from Larry Bagnell:

- Recites Border Services Minister Bill Blair statement
- People can't pass through Canada unless essential work is the reason

Min 1:08:55 – Question from Blake Rogers:

Bigger cities like Toronto have passed mandatory mask rules. In Yukon is mandatory to wear at airport. Has there been any discussion about mandatory mask laws in the Yukon at all?

Min 1:09:34 – Response from Valerie Royle:

- Haven't heard of any discussion on that
- We have a lot of space to distance in the Yukon

Min 1:10:46 – Question 4:

Jesse Cooke

Larry - you mentioned change to the Wage subsidy, I am sorry but I missed what you said. Are we talking about a potential extension?

Min 1:11:04 – Response from Larry Bagnell:

- No official details yet
- Changes have to be made by legislation

1:13pm - Adjourn