



## **Online Tourism Operators Forum – Friday May 22, 2020 (12pm)**

*Note: numbers in brackets correspond with when each person starts speaking in the recording*

12pm – Welcome and Overview:

TIA Yukon Executive Director, Blake Rogers

- Slido 33194
- 91 people on the call
- No survey this week, but asking for feedback on reopening plan
- Please fill out the questionnaire: <https://tiayukon.com/covid-19-updates/updates-from-the-industry/>

**(4:07)** – TIA Yukon Status Report

TIA Yukon Chair, Neil Hartling

- We hear you that there is confusion and frustration after the reopening plan has been released
- We have new helpful tools on our website to help create your own operating plans
- Buy local wherever you can. Avoid online purchases.

**(9:40)** – Update from Yukon Department of Tourism & Culture

Director of Tourism, Pierre Germain

**(15:53)** – Update from Yukon Community Services/EMO

Minister of Community Services, Hon. John Streicker

**(23:40)** – Update from Government of Canada

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

**(28:43)** – Special Report: Status of BC's tourism industry & reopening plan

CEO of TIA BC, Walt Judas

**(48:40)** Q&A from Neil Hartling to Walt Judas

Your chief medical officer quoted on the national news last Friday, there would be no international travel into BC. Wasn't in any printed material, was it a slip? Do you have a comment?

**(49:12)** Walt Judas responds.

**(51:46)** Mark Waldbillig: Is June 21st a "likely" date for the loosening of borders for other areas such as BC and Ontario?

**(51:55)** Walt Judas responds

**(53:00)** Blake Rogers: From your perspective, from a long-term point of view, as far as international arrivals go; that will be in the final phase of any opening plan. Have you heard anything from operators, from the government with plans to accommodate people that might not be able to shift from that market?

**(53:52)** Walt Judas responds.

**(55:29)** Janet Sanders: Has BC done any modeling on how many businesses will go out of Business in 3 Month 6 Month and 1 to 2 years based on different reopening models?

**(55:37)** Walt Judas responded

**(56:23)** Sylvie Binette: How receptive is the BC government with your recommendations?

**(56:28)** Walt Judas responded

**(1:00:13)** Julie Jessen, Manager of Communications and Public Relations for the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) – Alaska Reopening

**(1:09:34)** – Q&A

Paul Robitaille: Is YG working on the Passport Program or a version of it to target/promote in-Yukon travel for when restrictions lift? (Robin Anderson responded, **1:09:57**)

**(1:11:05)** Isabelle Bouffard: Are there discussions about putting measures in place to encourage local tourism? (e.g. local tourism expenses tax deductible, 4-day work week, etc.)? Robin Anderson responded, **1:11:40**)

**(1:12:54)** Anonymous: Can we expect international tourism? YES or NO (Neil Hartling responded **1:13:13**)

**(1:15:58)** Mark Waldbillig, Will the Yukon be following BC and Alberta and only allowing locals to book territorial campsites through the summer? (Robin Anderson responded, **1:16:32**)

**(1:17:40)** Joost van der Putten: People roaming downtown Whitehorse act as if nothing ever happened (no face masks, no distancing). How does this affect the date of re-opening tourism? (Neil Hartling responded, **1:18:10**)

**(1:19:08)** Timothy Bell: What is the possibility of creating a bubble zone with AK, BC and the Yukon (Julie Jessen, ATIA responded for the Alaskan perspective, **1:19:58**)

- Question for Minister Streiker for Yukon

**(1:21:43)** Anonymous: How and where can we pick up PPE (Neil Hartling responded, **1:21:59**)

**(1:24:24)** Timothy Bell: How is progress coming on the TCMF guidelines for summer 2021. When will you give us some idea what the plan is? (Robin Anderson responded, **1:24:43**)

**(1:25:54)** Larry Bagnell: Loans are available from CEBA of \$40k up to \$60 million, so liquidity shouldn't be a problem. EDC and BDC programs are available if they fit the requirements.

**(1:27:08)** Blake speaks on the TIA Yukon funding guide:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mVuvt8RmUIj0YoZPS9TUbO\\_-x8aywnRjlaTocm5Nx6g/edit#gid=1242770102](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mVuvt8RmUIj0YoZPS9TUbO_-x8aywnRjlaTocm5Nx6g/edit#gid=1242770102)

**(1:27:33)** Neil Hartling says keep your questions coming, we keep track of all of them and hope by next week to have answers from YG.

**1:28pm** – Adjourn

Zoom Sidebar chat

Torsten Eder: Minister Streiker, is the governments goal to keep the Covid Cases at 0 or are their thoughts to accept some cases and open up the Yukon for business again?

Janet Sanders: It will be important to align our Regulations to BC and Alaska to allow for a smooth Transition to opening Borders as time goes on.

Mount Logan Lodge: I miss part of Mr. Stricker talk. What is the situation of travel within communities? Are people from Whitehorse able to visit in Haines Junction?

Andrea Vincent: The idea of a bubble zone between Yukon and BC is excellent. I was on a meeting with Destination Canada earlier this week. They went through the likely scenario of cross-province domestic travel by vehicle. Southern provinces would benefit from that, but northern Canada would likely not.

Julie Jessen: [jjessen@alaskatia.org](mailto:jjessen@alaskatia.org), [www.alaskatia.org](http://www.alaskatia.org)

Sylvie Binette: A passport program this summer? Do we know if all venues are opening? If communities that have places in the passport are welcoming visitors? Has YG been in touch with the different venues?

MARK WALDBILLIG: Larry -what is your "gut feeling" around Ottawa that the CEBA program will be flexible in a higher total loan/grant amount? Likely the best vehicle for long-term support. We can chat separate if there is no time here :)

Thomas: You can pick up Hand Sanitizer at Yukon Still Works on 102 Lambert Street across the Tourism Visitor Center yukonstillworks.com

Tammy Beese: Yes we did :) Yukon Chamber will be putting on our website for purchase and then working on contactless pick up. Also GP Distributing has lots of hand sanitizer and can access all the PPE supplies. GP's masks are in end of month. Yukon Brewing also said they can supply businesses with hand sanitizer and lastly the salons supplier Joico I think sorry I can't remember their name...but they do sell PPE supplies

### **Questions on Slido that the call didn't get to, but noted for future discussions.**

***Please note: All of these questions will be put on Slido for the Friday, May 29th, 2020 meeting.***

1. What financial support will be available to NGO's (communities' museums and cultural centres) who depends on visitors and are not eligible for current funding?
2. Most of questions, discussions have become obsolete to us, summer is lost and revenue not expected before Oct/Nov regardless of restrictions. Any advice?
3. Does opening of campgrounds June 4 extend to commercial campgrounds for Yukon residents only at this time, or until further announcements? (for ministers)
4. YTG is banning international Travelers. Is YTG paying for refunding down payments for trips we now have to cancel?
5. There should be no thoughts of accepting some cases of Covid in order to open up Yukon. Do our operators seriously want to open up and risk it?
6. Reference to Mark's Question: currently we can't book campgrounds, has thought been given to a booking system to try this year?
7. For Julie, is ATIA actively working to create a travel bubble with the Yukon
8. What is the status on NGO's awaiting TPA's for those who have already submitted documents for this fiscal and are awaiting first payment?

9. What are the regulations with paying back down payments in the Yukon. We heard in BC it is 2 weeks. Are there any regulations in place in YT?
10. Larry: How long does it take to be approved for the wage subsidy? Its been two weeks, do we call the Yukon CRA #, would they have any access to that info?
11. Without cruises this year, YT, AK and BC are going to have to realize there is no possible way to generate that level of business. Is it possible to survive?
12. Can our industry put together a reasonable and safe proposal to YG to have safe tourism? We have had weeks and weeks of time to put something together.
13. Larry - is there any "gut feeling" around Ottawa that the CEBA program will be flexible in its max loan/grant %. Likely the best vehicle for long term support
14. Why is YTG not waiving the property tax? Doesn't make sense that we have to pay the tax and then receive at least part of it back from CanNor.
15. A passport program this summer? Do we know if all venues are opening? Has YG been in touch with them? Are communities opened to this idea?