

April 12th 2021

Mr Mayor, Councilors,

My name is Salomé Alby and I am a resident of Canyon Creek here in Yukon Territory.

I am approaching Council on the matter of the reopening plan of the freestore.

I wanted to state that, despite being alone in front of you today, I am not speaking in my name only, but in the name of many villagers and local organizations that have shared with me the same desire. We also wish to notify the Council that we are not here today to complain, but to find ways together, as a community, to make this desire a reality, by proposing solutions and positive change. We considered having a petition signed to back up our claim that this is a villager-based initiative, but decided otherwise to avoid stirring discontent and prefer to favor community based discussions and consultation as a way to go forward.

Roles of the freestore for the Haines Junction community

Social and economical Aspects

The freestore serves many purposes in our community, but is definitely an important part of the social construct of our village.

It is a place where villagers meet and learn to know each other, independently of sex, cultural backgrounds or groups of interest. The freestore serves a wide variety of different individuals and people that are not necessarily comfortable using other ways to share items (thrift store, buy and sell, etc.) do use this service.

It is also a huge game changer for newcomers to our beautiful village and a way to welcome our new members. As the village witnesses a lot of turn around and many workers joining us seasonally, it allows people to live decently. When I moved here about 5 years ago, I brought very little with me. We lived in the small cabin at the corner of the Alsek Valley and three quarters of what I owned I found in the freestore. I was able to save thousands of dollars by doing so. I still own a lot of things I got for free, but I also reached a point where I want to give back to others who are in the situation I was in a few years ago and make sure everyone is well cared for, not only as clothes go, but in all item categories.

The freestore is also a social equalizer. There are important financial disparities within our village and the possibility for our wealthier members to share their surplus and the less fortunate to save money without the social stigma associated with charities makes a big difference for many, especially for families with young children.

Ecological

And last, but not least, we have to consider the ecological aspect of the freestore.

If I am not mistaken, the Village of Haines Junction has recently considered taking a stand by declaring a state of climate emergency. I am unsure of the final decision taken by the Village, but this Council still probably agrees with me that the state of our Planet is a concerning matter. Here in the North, we are some of the heaviest polluters per capita. Most of the products we consume are not local and have an enormous carbon footprint. Our society consumes way more than the capacity of this planet and it has been proven that the first step we have to take is not to recycle, but to reduce our consumption. As we need to look at ourselves and our consuming patterns, the freestore allows many of the residents of this Village to live off second hand items and share unused items before they hit the dump. A long term resident told me they had noticed a significant increase of items discarded in

construction and residential waste compared to a few years ago and an even more significant increase since the freestore closed its doors.

We also have to consider the long term capacity of the dump and the interest of the Council to limit the amount of waste they have to process to limit the areas required for waste disposal.

Overview of the Council's meeting about the freestore

I also want the Village Council to know that I did listen to the minutes from the Council Meeting that took place on November 12th 2020 and the discussions that arose about the eventuality of reopening the freestore.

I understand your concern of a previous dishevelment state in the freestore and the hazards that ensued as much as the work that was required for Village employees to clean the premises on a regular basis. I also understand that the volunteer work that took place to try to straighten up the place was insufficient, at least if we are talking about the last 4-5 years. I tried to give a hand personally on a few occasions in the past folding clothes and putting things away, but in the absence of a structure, things usually reverted back to a state of entropy very quickly.

I also noted the Council's concern as to not undermine the work done by the thrift store. In this regard and to address the Council's concern, I approached members of the thrift store to validate this concern. In doing so, I received overwhelming support from the organizers of the thrift store in favor of the reopening of the freestore. The thrift store is, indeed, a non profit benefiting from the sales of used items, clothes in particular. However, their main objectives are to reduce the amount of household items that end up in the landfill and to offer them to community members that need them. The profit made from the thrift store is existent, but minimal, as a choice from the organizers to encourage citizens to reuse those items above the intention to make profit.

The thrift store therefore urges the Council to reopen the freestore for three main reasons. First of all, the freestore and thrift store should not be exclusive as they serve different purposes. The thrift store focuses on clothes as the freestore welcomes books, household items, sport items, furniture, gardening items, etc. Some citizens that also use the freestore might not be comfortable entering the church basement for different reasons. Secondly, the amount of clothes received by the thrift store is too important for the church basement's capacity and since the freestore has been closed, they have had to call for a halt on drops on a regular basis. Finally, the thrift store will close for the summer season from sometime in June to end of September-early October and an alternative needs to be found for this period.

Proposed solutions

After painting this type of portrait, I felt compelled to approach the Council to find a way to bring this project forward, and by speaking to fellow Junctioners, I realized many of us had an array of ideas to make this project better and get involved. As the citizens get involved, we still want the Council to make the decisions and take on the project as the freestore is located on their premises and they have taken responsibility for it in the past from the association of volunteers that used to run it. Such an organisation takes years to build and cannot happen overnight. For this reason, citizens want to share their ideas and offer their help, while leaving the responsibility with the Council to coordinate this service.

Solutions in this regard are multiple: some are straightforward and some would require long term improvements but all should be expressed, listened to and planned on a time continuum.

Short term solutions:

- **Part time reopening** (ex: limited afternoon hours on Fridays and Saturdays only). We feel that two days a week to start would be a realistic expectation for volunteers and better than a single day to avoid congestion and respect the covid protocols.
- **Restricted access** during hours where the freestore is closed (ex: doors that can open and close. Those would also facilitate the cleanup process during cold winter months for staff and volunteers).
- An **organized volunteer group**, working in partnership with the waste management staff to monitor the hours that the freestore is open. We think this would be necessary especially at the early stages of the reopening process as residents have been keeping a lot of items in the perspective of the reopening of the freestore, which could lead to an overwhelming amount of items without the proper supervision. The group would be very open, with ideally a staff or volunteer coordinator responsible to manage the schedule and close the freestore in case of volunteer unavailability. Volunteers would look into and be inspired by existing groups and former associations to optimize the freestore and network to bring extra items to locations that accept them (Raven recycling for clothes, blankets to Mae Bachur Animal Shelter, punctual needs of the Salvation Army and the Women's Shelter, etc.)
- **Clear direction and communication from the Village of Haines Junction** to their staff and the volunteer group as per covid protocols and required PPE.
- **Positive signage**. Residents should be encouraged to put things away in the right place (ex: "Please hang the clothes you donate in the right section" or "If an item is misplaced, please put it away. We can all care for our freestore" or "Please donate clean and good working condition items") and we should avoid condescending or scolding signage (ex: "Do not put trash") that does not keep the occasional disrespectful person from being disrespectful.
- **Better organization of the current space**, with clear sections for household items, sport items, bins for clothing and rags, defined sections for mens-women's-kid's clothes, etc.
- Small improvements such as a garbage can, a magazine rack, etc. A **suggestion box** would be an option to get those ideas from villagers.
- One group that hasn't been consulted yet is **Champagne and Aishihik**. It would be important to do so before a volunteer group is set or any other measure is put in place.
- **Use the donation of refundables to fund the freestore**. As great as the donation system currently is, we believe many of these local organizations are thriving while our freestore is struggling. This could take many forms and should be further discussed, but the money could pay a part-time worker to manage the freestore and volunteers (ex: 5h per week), put aside for larger improvements in the long run or simply to organize the freestore better with bins and signage.
- Consider the **use of cameras** to identify disrespectful behavior and address it with the individual instead of having a whole community bear the consequences of a few's actions. As I understood, these were used in the past and would need to be reinstalled.

These short-term solutions have been inspired by other functioning freestores in the Yukon. We recommend a part-time reopening with controlled access to the freestore space during pre-established hours. Volunteers would enforce covid protocols (ex: limit the number of residents in the freestore at the same time) and ensure the current items remain clean and tidy, while overseeing the addition of new items. This would be a trial run and should be reevaluated after a set amount of time, for improvements (hopefully) or the termination of the project.

Longer-term solutions/expansions

Many residents expressed that the current location and space of the freestore might be part of the problems we actually face. Different solutions have been quickly brushed, but would need a lot more consultation and planning.

- **Extend the roof** on the side of the actual freestore to welcome bigger items (furniture), construction leftovers (ex: good windows, etc.) and bicycles. This would avoid filling the freestore with larger items that restrict passage and reduce tidiness. We understand that such a project is larger and that construction materials especially would have to be monitored closely to avoid extending the problem to the side of the building.
- **Place a drop-off container.** People with very large amounts of items to bring to the freestore (especially in the case of death or sudden move) do not always put away items properly. Offering a drop-off container where people could leave their things and have them sorted and placed properly by volunteers would avoid untidiness as well as some potential hazards (ex: medication that ends up in the freestore).
- A **new building**, located across from the recycling center so staff can watch and monitor the freestore activity while accomplishing their duties in the waste management facility. This new building could be funded partly by the community and through refundable's donations (or green grants if these are available). We should consult widely on its design to meet our tidiness and volume objectives by brainstorming with the community, asking the volunteer group for their input and getting inspired by other working Yukon freestore designs.

These solutions come from a very quick and limited public consultation. Many residents wish to get involved and have ideas to offer, but simply need a platform to express their concerns and ideas. We think this document should not replace a public discussion and the latter could include the wider subject of waste management, as it is a subject dear to the resident's heart.

I thank you for your time and consideration and urge the Council to keep this discussion public and transparent as it is dear to many of the residents.

Sincerely

Salomé Alby

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 Phone 867-668-2114 | info@digitalink.ca

Valid 30 days from issue.
 536272 Yukon Inc. GST Registration #70668 8124 RT0001

Card ID: *None

Order Number: 00207138

Quote/Estimate to:

1-Cash Sales

Ship to / Notes:

Stephanie Twiss
 stephanietwiss@gmail.com

SALESPERSON		YOUR NO.	SHIP VIA	SHIP DATE	TERMS	DATE	PG.
		Stephanie	Pick Up		C.O.D.	2021-04-09	1
QTY.	ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	UNIT	DISC %	EXTENDED PRICE	TAX
52	1-DL48x48	32" x 7" - dibond sign panels - printed reflective vinul + UV laminate on one side - square or rounded corners	\$36.80	ea		\$1,913.60	G
1	4-3000	OPTIONAL Graphic Design Services if needed for set-up	\$92.50			\$92.50	G
COMMENT							
reflective dibond panels						Subtotal Freight GST Enviro Fee	\$2,006.10 \$0.00 \$100.31 \$0.00
<small>NOTE that any changes in materials or specifications from shown above will result in revised pricing and altered delivery schedules. PRICES as shown constitute estimated time based on normal working conditions for similar projects. Production Item prices are fixed, however, photography, licensing, changes and/or additions, delays caused by the client, special consultations and all other project expenses that cannot be accurately estimated in advance will be billed extra. CANCELLATION of the project at any time prior to completion will result in the client being invoiced for all work and commitments made to date including any special materials orders regardless of receipt status.</small>						Total	\$2,106.41
						Deposit Balance Due	\$0.00 \$2,106.41
CODE	RATE	AMOUNT	NOTE				
G5	5% GST 2008	5%	\$100.31				
				THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE To confirm your order, please contact our office.			

Municipal Accounts Payable to April 14, 2021 as updated

<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>
Transfer	Payroll Account #4305418	\$ 26,555.86	Administration	Net Pay - Pay Period 7
		\$ 5,332.61	Administration	RRSP Contribution - Pay Period 7
		\$ 6,736.67	Administration	Group Insurance - April 2021
Transfer	Visa	\$ 3,336.32	Administration	Postage, Milepost ad, Microsoft refund, job posting, duotangs
		\$ 2,484.61	Public Works	Aerial lift, fall protection & confined space training, travel
		\$ 770.01	Arena	Satellite TV, rope, cords, cleaning products, screws, paint, tape
		\$ 96.34	Water and Sewer	Water testing for metals
		\$ 90.11	Recycle Centre	Carabiners, paint brushes
		\$ 36.58	Animal Control	Dog food
26323	Petty Cash - Noelle Palmer	\$ 675.75	Recycle Centre	Refunds paid out: March 19 - 31, 2021
26324	Donna Istchenko	\$ 43.02	Capital	Rug for bouncy castle
		\$ 85.70	Administration	Coin rollers, paper clips, storage drawers
26325	Billy Rondeau	\$ 130.00	Public Works	Medical examination for driver's licence
26326	44478 Yukon Inc.	\$ 4,700.24	Capital	Firewalls, firewall licensing, conference equipment
		\$ 4,767.00	Administration	March network support, annual Office licensing
26327	535561 Yukon Inc.	\$ 75.00	Legislative	Winter Holiday Event gift certificates
26328	ACWWA	\$ 115.00	Administration	UMO2 and Public Works Manager job postings
26329	Armstrong Mechanical	\$ 1,759.61	Public Works	Repair and maintenance on excavator
		\$ 1,745.69	Public Works	Repair and maintenance on bucket truck
		\$ 818.36	Public Works	Repair belt issue on 2007 Toyota Tacoma
26330	Association of Yukon Communities	\$ 85.00	Administration	Inter-Municipal Business Licence #HJ-21-05*
26331	Backyard Services	\$ 7,003.50	Roads and Streets	Blading west side of town, hauling snow
26332	Big Bud Contracting	\$ 1,748.25	Recycle Centre	Recycle pick-up for the month of March
26333	BI PureWater	\$ 3,856.02	Water and Sewer	Water filter cartridges and supplies
26334	Boge & Boge (1980) Ltd.	\$ 189.00	Capital	Public Works yard storage facility engineering fees to March 9
		\$ 189.00	Capital	Equipment wash bay engineering fees to March 9
		\$ 189.00	Capital	Arena furnace upgrade engineering fees to March 9
		\$ 189.00	Capital	Convention Centre insulation upgrades to March 9
26335	CivicInfo BC	\$ 208.95	Administration	UMO2 job posting

* Denotes an item not directly funded by the Village

**Grant funded

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26336	Cleanflow Utility Supply Company		\$ 925.84	Public Works	Hipwaders, hi-vis safety sashes
26337	Emco Corporation		\$ 10.21	Public Works	Gauge
26338	EOCP	\$ 157.50		Administration	UMO2 job posting
		\$ 157.50	\$ 315.00	Administration	Public Works Manager job posting
26339	Equifax		\$ 1,292.76	Administration	Account monitoring services
26340	Federation of Canadian Municipalities		\$ 263.42	Administration	Annual FCM membership fees
26341	Finning	\$ 185.22		Public Works	Hoses, couplings, orings
		\$ 273.13		Public Works	Hydraulic oil
		-\$ 116.03		Public Works	Retun of bolts and nuts
		-\$ 299.88	\$ 42.44	Public Works	Return of pins, retainers and tips
26342	Hippy Meadows		\$ 22,050.00	FireSmart	FireSmart invoice for Bear Berry Road project*
26343	Jacobs Industries Limited		\$ 497.70	Water and Sewer	CO2
26344	Lambert Logging		\$ 21,280.00	FireSmart	FireSmart invoice for Bear Berry Road project*
26345	Eric Liang		\$ 40.00	Arena	Replacement cheque for Cheque #026309
26346	Northwestel Inc.	\$ 414.60		Administration	Internet and phones: April billing
		\$ 700.98		Water and Sewer	Radio, internet and phones: April billing
		\$ 633.72		Fire Department	Radio, internet and phones: April billing
		\$ 87.10		Convention Centre	Phones: April billing
		\$ 43.55		Mezzanine	Phones: April billing
		\$ 43.55		Arena	Phones: April billing
		\$ 57.57		Recycle Centre	Phones: April billing
		\$ 99.06	\$ 2,080.13	GST	Radio, internet and phones: April billing
26347	Parkland Industries (Fas Gas)		\$ 168.74	Public Works	Gas: March billing
26348	Ralph Hotte Contracting Ltd.		\$ 3,937.50	Roads and Streets	Snow removal
26349	Random Renos Contracting		\$ 5,076.75	Public Works	Replacement of chimney at Public Works Shop
26350	Monika Steputh		\$ 75.00	Legislative	Winter Holiday Events gift certificates for mks ceramics

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**Grant funded

Municipal Accounts Payable to April 14, 2021

26351	Source Motors	\$ 2,547.06		Arena	Heating fuel: March billing
		\$ 1,732.35		Fire Department	Heating fuel: March billing
		\$ 1,611.61		Administration	Heating fuel: March billing
		\$ 1,611.61		Convention Centre	Heating fuel: March billing
		\$ 1,627.50		Administration	Emergency fuel tank rental : March billing
		\$ 738.75		Recycle Centre	Heating fuel: March billing
		\$ 99.83	\$ 9,968.71	GST	March billing
26352	Staples	\$ 425.73		Administration	Printer ink cartridges, filing cabinet
		\$ 97.07		Administration	Pens, binder clips, paper
		\$ 5.22	\$ 528.02	Convention Centre	Padlock
26353	Top Spot Ltd.	\$ 4,690.84		Public Works	Gas and diesel: March billing
		\$ 375.00	\$ 5,065.84	Legislative	Winter Holiday Event gift certificates
26354	Tru-Cut Sharpening		\$ 56.45	Arena	Zamboni blade sharpening
26355	True North Electric		\$ 186.90	Recycle Centre	Rewire fixtures for LED lights
26356	Twiss & Shine Custodial Services Inc.	\$ 480.00		Administration	Custodial Services: March billing
		\$ 705.00		Mezzanine	Custodial Services: March billing
		\$ 1,005.00		Convention Centre	Custodial Services: March billing
		\$ 150.00		Fire Department	Custodial Services: March billing
		\$ 117.00	\$ 2,457.00	GST	Custodial Services: March billing
26357	Viva Automation Ltd.		\$ 1,170.54	Water and Sewer	SCADA tech support: January - March 2021
26358	WSP Canada Inc.		\$ 1,286.25	Capital	OCP rewrite consultation fees: March billing
26359	Xerox Canada Ltd.		\$ 445.65	Administration	Photocopier usage: December 28 to March 25
26360	Yukon Service Supply Company		\$ 125.79	Public Works	Nitrile gloves
	Municipal Accounts Payable		\$ 153,358.84		

Adopted on _____ Motion# _____

Mayor _____ CAO _____

* Denotes an item not directly funded by the Village

**Grant funded