



Dear Mayoral and Council Candidates:

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Re: Tax Situation at MacBride Museum and other Charities**

The City of Whitehorse has three tax classes: “business”, residential and agricultural. All NPO/NGO/Charities who own land are taxed at the “business” rate.

Between 2012 and 2015 MacBride worked with Council and staff to develop and approve a tax solution that ensured MacBride would not pay going forward. Council passed this resolution, which is still on the books at the City: “2015-12-07 as amended by 2015-12-08 (June 15) COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANTS

It was duly moved and seconded:

**THAT museums that hold title to their own property be exempted from the provisions of the Municipal Charges and Community Services Grant Policy and the City Grant-making Policy and be provided with a tax grant equal to the full amount of property tax owed;”**

Then after almost 70 years of 100% exemption / abatement, in 2018, the City sent MacBride a tax bill. We believe that MacBride continues to be tax-exempt based on the Council vote 2015-12-08 however we do not have the financial or legal resources to fight City Hall. Our website has a section outlining the history of this issue.

**MacBride is an entity that solely exists for the benefit of preserving history and showcasing it to our community and visitors. It is not financially viable for MacBride to pay taxes with the O&M that we receive and to remain open year-round.**

As a candidate, we are asking the following questions

1. Will you honour resolution 2015-12-08, which has not been rescinded, and provide a 100% exemption to MacBride?

**Ted Laking (TL): Yes.** If elected to Whitehorse City Council on October 21, I will support providing the 100 per cent exemption to MacBride Museum of Yukon History that it received previously as highlighted in the 2015 resolution. Furthermore, I will champion this issue, and how it contributes to the successful perseverance of our territory’s history and culture, with my Council colleagues and City of Whitehorse administration.

2. Will you commit to a review of the tax classes at the City with a view to creating a tax class for museums at a rate of zero that does not harm the operations of the organizations in the first year of your mandate?

**Ted Laking (TL): Yes.** I commit to supporting a review within the first year of the new Council's mandate, in order to create a tax class for museums within the City of Whitehorse, which is not punitive to organizations' operations.

3. We invite you to review the list of 23 charities/NGOS paying \$165K to the City in taxes in 2021. The City has been in a "surplus" position for many years yet taxes museums and service organizations in our community. Will you commit to an immediate review (year one) of Municipal Charges and Community Services Grant Policy and the City Grant-making Policy?

**Ted Laking (TL): Yes.** I commit to supporting a review of the City of Whitehorse Municipal charges and Community Service Grant Policy and the City Grant-making Policy within the first year of the new Council's mandate (and prior to the grant application deadlines).

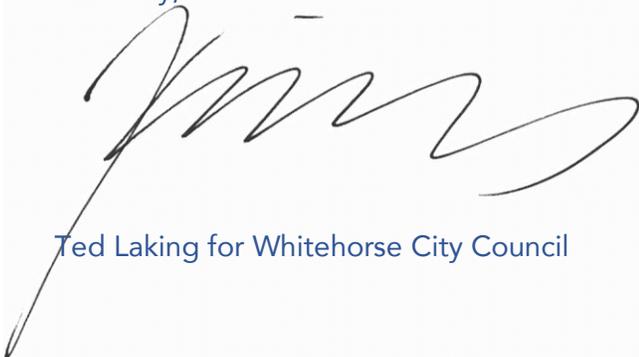
We would appreciate your reply by noon on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be sending replies to our members and posting them on our social media.

Regards,

Patricia Cunning  
Executive Director

Thank you for this opportunity to respond and present my positions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Laking', is written over a light blue background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ted Laking for Whitehorse City Council