



Public input on the yukon government carbon price rebate: **Summary of comments**

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

On January 17, 2019, the Government of Yukon released its draft framework for the Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate. The government engaged with Yukoners about their perspectives and opinions relating to this framework between January 17 and February 4.

A media campaign focusing on raising awareness of the framework and inviting public comment was distributed broadly and included radio ads, print ads and social media ads. The Department of Finance also held a technical briefing with media in order to answer technical questions from reporters. All feedback was requested by email to carbonrebate@gov.yk.ca.

This document summarizes what we heard through email correspondence between January 17 and February 4, 2019.

BY THE NUMBERS

Email: The Department of Finance received 30 emails from Yukoners during the engagement period; 11 from individuals representing organizations and 19 from individual Yukoners. The organizations submitting input on the rebate framework included responses from mining and mineral companies and organizations, Yukon NGOs and representatives from Yukon's trucking industry.

Social Media: A social media advertising campaign was conducted to increase the reach and awareness of the rebate framework. In total, 9,894 people were reached by these ads with 622 clicks on the ad itself and 421 clicks on the link to the report. The ads also received 45 comments between all the ads developed by the Yukon government, as well as 11 shares. The comments were primarily critical with very few focused on the rebate framework itself. The majority of the comments focused on opposition to carbon pricing generally, or opposition to a rebate generally.

RECURRING THEMES

- **No exemptions:** The most commonly recurring theme was one calling for no exemptions or 100% rebates for any group. In total, twelve of the respondents indicated their desire to see no exemptions or full-rebates for any group. In most instances, individuals expressing this opinion did not wish to see a 100% rebate for the placer industry. One respondent argued that the rebate to placer miners equates to a subsidy which reduces the annual benefit received by Yukoners – especially low-income earners.
- **Green initiatives:** An equally prevalent number of responses (8) argued that rebates should not be given and that revenues should instead be directed towards green initiatives and projects. Some argued that all rebates should be forfeited, while others claimed that either individuals or placer mining operations should not receive a rebate. These responses were almost identical to the largest piece of feedback received in 2017.
- **Specific business implications:** Three respondents were concerned about how carbon pricing, and by extension, the rebate, would impact their business operations.
- **Seeking exemptions:** Three respondents sought exemptions and clarification for their industry. Several representatives from the trucking industry argued for an exemption claiming an uneven playing ground with aviation. Representatives from the mining industry submitted comments requesting that an exemption be extended to the entire mineral exploration and mining activity industry, or delay the implementation of carbon pricing in the North for this industry.
- **Yukon Utilities:** Only one group recommended that Yukon utilities pay the carbon levy for fuel used on the primary electrical grid.
- **Eligibility for non-profit organizations:** Two organizations recommended that the Yukon government develop a solution to ensure that charities and non-profit organizations are not unfairly impacted by the carbon levy.
- **Recognize low-income earners:** One organization recommended that the government mitigate the impacts of the carbon price on the most vulnerable Yukoners.
- **Increasing the remote supplement:** One organization argued that the cost of healthy eating in remote communities is much more than 10% and that the remote supplement should aim to close that gap.