



PRESS RELEASE

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EDZERZA'S COMMENTS ON COMPUTER USE INVESTIGATION UNACCEPTABLE

(WHITEHORSE, Yukon) – Mr. John Edzerza's recently published comments about the Yukon government's computer use investigation are both inaccurate and offensive to the members of the Yukon Employees' Union. Mr. Edzerza, who served as Yukon Party Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission during the investigation, apparently still does not understand the trauma experienced by workers unnecessarily scrutinized and falsely accused during the sorry affair.

Contrary to Mr. Edzerza's assertions, the investigation was not a necessity. The Union had approached the Fentie government prior to the initiation of the probe. Our recommendation was to adopt a measured and reasonable approach similar to that taken by the Yukon Energy Corporation. YEC offered its employees an amnesty period to remove any inappropriate material from their office computers, after which training and a no-tolerance policy for inappropriate system use was instituted. The issue was thereby addressed in an efficient, collaborative way.

The City of Whitehorse, Yukon College and the Yukon Hospital Corporation all addressed the matter of inappropriate computer use in a co-operative, non-disciplinary manner. Unfortunately, this reasonable remedy was rejected by the Yukon government in favour of a punitive and destructive attack on its workforce.

There was never a legal obligation for the government to embark on a witch hunt, nor was there any requirement under the terms of the Collective Agreement to carry out a sweeping indictment of hundreds of innocent and dedicated workers.

Mr. Edzerza's claim that the government did not paint every employee with the same brush is fundamentally at odds with reality. The reputation of the Yukon public service and its workers was sullied by the government's actions, leaving many employees subject to ridicule and embarrassment.

Nothing positive resulted from the affair. Indeed, the residual damage to the reputation of the Yukon public service and morale of the workforce echoes still today.

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