



February 2, 2018

Ashley Kayseas, Manager Corporate Human Resources  
and Diversity Services  
Public Service Commission  
Government of Yukon

**RE: ASL Interpreting, Diversity Services**

Dear Ms. Kayseas,

I am writing to you today to add our union's support for the permanent hiring of an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter by the Government of Yukon.

As the current five-year term position of ASL interpreter is set to expire in mid-March, we feel that it is incumbent upon you to protect this service that so strongly impacts our members and our community. The role of ASL interpreter makes a big difference not only in the lives of our members but in the union's broader efforts to improve access to basic services, including for deaf and hard of hearing people.

A core part of the Public Service Alliance of Canada's mandate is to ensure that members with disabilities take a leading role in voicing their needs as union members and as citizens. Having a sign language interpreter to provide assistance makes a significant contribution in these efforts and makes a big difference in overcoming communication barriers between hearing-impaired people and the wider general public.

We call on the government to work with us to see that the services of the ASL interpreter continue uninterrupted. Your decision on this matter is an urgent one that affects the quality of life of our members and all Yukoners. I would be pleased to discuss this issue in further detail and can make myself available at your service.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jack Bourassa, Regional Executive Vice President North  
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