

Letter to the Editor,

We are writing as Yukon Energy employees who feel compelled to talk about Premier Fentie's plans to privatize the public corporation we work for. The secretive manner in which he is dealing with this issue is unacceptable to us. The premier has an obligation to be open and honest about his plans not only with those directly affected (in this case the Yukon Energy staff) but with all Yukoners, who are the owners of Yukon Energy.

We would also like to express our dismay over the resignation of four very dedicated Yukon Energy Corporation/Yukon Development Corporation board members. We are saddened that these four felt they could not, as a result of political interference, continue to perform their duties and responsibilities. We have lost a huge bank of knowledge and expertise with their departure.

Yukon Energy is at one of the most crucial times in its existence. Major projects are planned for the near future, including Mayo B. Yet it appears Fentie has chosen this time to try to dismantle the Corporation and hand it over to a private company from Alberta. Why, we don't know. He hasn't given us any explanations. But readers should understand that if he moves forward with his plan, Yukoners will be the poorer for it. As a public corporation, Yukon Energy answers to Yukoners. As a private company owned by outside interests, Yukon Energy would answer to the bottom line and profits would go to Alberta instead of being re-invested in Yukon.

We are Yukoners who work hard at our jobs and love what we do. We want to stay and raise our families in the territory. But we are worried that if Yukon Energy is privatized, many of us will lose our jobs. For some of us, that will mean leaving the Yukon to seek work elsewhere.

We have a message for Premier Fentie: As you have chosen not to be forthcoming on this issue, we can only assume that you are not interested in what's best for Yukon Energy or for the Yukon public. We all make poor choices at times and we hope that you step back from this one. We invite you to meet with us as a group to explain your actions, rationale and plans for the future of our company.

We would also urge any readers who are worried about where the premier is going with this, to please contact their MLAs, write to this newspaper, and use whatever other means they can to voice their concerns.

Nick Balderas  
Barbara Bowen  
Darryel Collins  
Myrna Engren  
Lynda Harlow

Jaeson Henderson  
Crystal Huebert  
Mai Ho  
Scott Hoffman  
Attila Janits  
David MacDonald  
Wesley Marsh  
Christina McGillivray  
Ed Mollard  
Melanie Pettefer  
Janet Patterson  
Al Porter  
Brian Power  
Les Rowland  
Ken Sawyer

And several other Yukon Energy employees who chose not to give their names