
YLUPC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TO: Yukon Land Use Planning Council
FROM: Tim Sellars, Director
DATE: December 6, 2023

The following is an update on activities undertaken since September 2023.

1. Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Planning Region

On October 17, YLUPC made a formal recommendation to the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (NND) and Government of Yukon (YG) in the form of a General Terms of Reference for a Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Regional Planning Commission.

We are hopeful that this recommendation will lead to the establishment of a new Commission this later this fiscal year or early in 2024-25.

NND and YG have established a Senior Liaison Committee to work on a Memorandum of Understanding for the region and a Technical Working Group for work on the General Terms of Reference.

In preparation for planning, we are developing a manual for the new region. The manual will serve as a resource for new commission members, new commission staff, and for the YLUPC secretariat in support of the commission. We will be seeking Council approval of the Table of Contents for this manual.

We are also compiling an annotated bibliography of relevant land and resource publications relevant to the region.

2. Dawson Planning Region

YG and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are continuing the Dawson Recommended Plan review and intergovernmental consultation. The Parties have communicated that they intend to provide a response in March 2024.

The DRPC Senior Planner, Kirsten Reid, has developed a Preliminary Work Plan and Budget for 2024-25 based upon the assumption that DRPC will meet that timeline for response, and that the response will be for modifications.

3. Southern Yukon

On November 7, Neil and I met with several staff members from the How We Walk initiative, including Kwanlin Dun, Ta'an Kwach'an, and Carcross/Tagish First Nation staff. We provided information on Chapter 11 planning and answered their questions and addressed

some concerns. Of particular interest was how the First Nations are involved in Chapter 11 planning and what kind of interim measures are applied to address development concerns.

Meanwhile, multi-party discussions are continuing for future planning in a region encompassing Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory, Carcross/Tagish First Nation Traditional Territory, and Northern B.C. It is still unclear whether these discussions will lead to regional planning under Ch 11.

4. North Yukon

YLUPC staff have explored some rationale and options related to a potential review of the North Yukon Plan. We are bringing a discussion paper forward for Council consideration.

It is understood that Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation currently has diminished capacity, with vacancies in their land and resources staff positions.

5. Communications

- **Website:** posting our news on a regular basis
- **Facebook:** have started posting regular updates
- **Events/Presentations:**
 - o CAFN Career Fair (November 30)
- **Communications Strategy:** Still on the to-do list

6. Advancing Regional Planning

A list of joint projects was endorsed by the Leads group at the last meeting. Staff for YG and YLUPC have set up monthly meetings to check in on progress on these projects.

7. Finances

We continue to be on target for expenditures this fiscal year. We do not anticipate a surplus at the end of 2023-24.

The 2024-25 Preliminary Work Plan and Budget is being brought forward for Council approval at this meeting. We anticipate that funding will continue to be tight, limiting our ability to support both Dawson and NND regions..

8. Staffing

We are at full capacity for staffing.

Julia Benn is expected to soon be on maternity leave. Andrea is prepared to provide finance support for the duration.

The Dawson Senior Planner, Kirsten Reid, is providing support for various YLUPC projects while DRPC awaits feedback on the Recommended Plan. This includes some work to prepare for the NND region.

9. Council Member Appointments

Tess MacLeod' term ended in October. CYFN has sent correspondence to Yukon Government to initiate the appointment process.

The next Council appointment expiry will be Neil Salvin on April 15, 2024.

10. Traditional Knowledge Circle

The Land Relationship Planner, Micheal Jim, is now supporting the work of the Traditional Knowledge Circle, with some guidance from Copper Joe.

We are putting the finishing touches on the Proceedings from the Land Relationship Gathering at Brooks Brook in August.

The Circle continues to meet, with their next meeting scheduled for **December 14**. The focus of the meeting will be to develop a work plan and discuss the next on the land gathering.