
YLUPC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TO: Yukon Land Use Planning Council
FROM: Tim Sellars, Director
DATE: January 26, 2023

The following is an update on activities undertaken since December 9, 2022.

1. Dawson Planning Region

The Parties are reviewing information collected from their public engagement on the Dawson Recommended Plan. Once they are ready, they will begin formal intergovernmental consultation. Under the Chapter 11 process, they may Approve, Reject, or propose Modifications to the Commission. It is now anticipated that feedback will be received in May or June.

YLUPC staff will be participating in a Dawson scenarios tabletop exercise that is being coordinated by the Parties. The intent is to test run the plan and determine how well it can be applied to hypothetical project proposals. This will allow for assessment of the clarity of the plan for land and resource users and regulators.

The Dawson Preliminary 2023-24 Work Plan and Budget was submitted to Government of Yukon in December and included a number of assumptions about activities expected in 2023-24. Feedback from YG is that they are generally supportive of the budget presented. Based upon this, the Commission is presenting a budget which reflects that they will be fully operational again next year.

2. Advancing Regional Planning

Staff at YLUPC, YG and CYFN have been working on an action plan to follow up on the YLUPC August 8 formal Recommendations to the Parties to Advance Regional Planning. This action plan will be provided to the Yukon Forum Regional Planning Leads group at their next meeting March 6.

Active discussions are continuing between Government of Yukon and First Nations in candidate regions. Specifically, the Northern Tutchone Region and Teslin Region. Discussions are related to boundaries, planning region extent, Terms of Reference, interim measures and related topics.

3. Finances

YG is providing us \$50,000 in funding to support our indigenous planning initiatives this fiscal year. The funding will cover the costs of our indigenous planning February workshop and the resulting report. We hope that this will assist us in a shift towards indigenous planning methods.

Beyond this, our current expenditures are within budget and we anticipate that we will fully expend our budget this year, meaning no carry forward funding to next year.

4. YESAA CE Forum

We have been active participants at the YESAA Forum on Cumulative Effects. When it comes to cumulative effects, there is a very strong linkage between assessments and regional planning. Some of the key issues raised so far are: land management silos and the lack of reliable data to support decision making.

5. First Nation Engagement

This past month, YLUPC met with the First Nation Lands and Resources Committee and with First Nation Leadership. We presented the August 8 recommendations and

First Nations are working towards negotiations with Canada on the Umbrella Final Agreement Implementation Plan (UFAIP) funding, and regional planning is among the top priorities for First Nations.

In mid-February, we will be hosting a booth at the 50th Anniversary celebrations hosted by CYFN for “Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow.” We are producing a poster and updated maps. We will have various materials available at the booth.

Subject to budget availability, we will begin planning an on the land gathering for May and June, with invitations to First Nations representatives.

6. Conformity Checks

YESAB is reviewing the joint letter to the Parties outlining our shared concerns about conformity checks. Once consensus is reached, we will send this letter to the Parties.

On December 21, YESAB issued a bulletin which expresses their views on conformity checks under YESAA. The bulletin highlights their view that YLUPC does not have authority to undertake these conformity checks on behalf of commissions and government.

7. Office Space:

We have now fully transitioned from our old office to our new office space. This includes an upgrade to fibre optics for the network, a new internet-based phone system that allows us to forward calls to our mobile devices, accessibility improvement, individual temperature control for offices, and several other improvements.

8. Staffing

We are awaiting the results of the Salary and Benefits Review being conducted Clarity Consulting (Mike Neville). We anticipate a draft report by the time of this meeting.

9. Briefing Notes

I have prepared briefing notes on the following topics:

- Implementation Funding
- Plan Implementation
- Successor Legislation

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Tim Sellars, Director
Yukon Land Use Planning Council