
YLUPC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TO: Yukon Land Use Planning Council
FROM: Tim Sellars, Director
SUBJECT: Report for June-July 2022
DATE: July 26, 2022

The following is an update on activities undertaken since June 1, 2022.

1. Director Orientation

As the incoming Director for YLUPC, I am pleased to present my first Director's Report.

Ron Cruikshank recently retired as the YLUPC Director after 24 years in the position and we held a retirement celebration on June 28 in honour of the occasion.

Throughout June, Ron and I met to facilitate my transition into this role. I am still being oriented and getting up to speed. I very much appreciate the support I have received from staff and Council members.

As part of my orientation, I have reached out to my peers in other organizations and have held several informal meetings. These have been valuable to gain an insight into priorities, issues, and opportunities moving forward.

2. Dawson Planning Commission

The Dawson Regional Planning Commission submitted their Recommended Plan to the Parties on June 10, 2022. This is an important milestone for planning in the Yukon. Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government are responsible for consultation on the Recommended Plan and will undertake this in the fall. After completion of the consultation, they may approve, reject, or request modifications to the plan.

The Commission has produced a draft "In Your Words" report which summarizes the feedback received during the 2021 Draft Plan public engagement.

YLUPC is continuing to support the work of the Commission. The Commission will be producing a Plan Summary, plan Highlights, and a Methods Report. They will also be conducting conformity checks for proposed projects in the region through the YESAA process.

I am recommending that YLUPC do a review of the Dawson Recommended Plan. Given our limited capacity, I suggest we develop a scope of work and find a contractor to undertake this work.

3. Peel Watershed Plan Implementation

The Peel Watershed Implementation Committee was formed to undertake actions under the approved Peel Watershed LUP. A major undertaking is the establishment of Special Management Areas under legislation. This includes boundary delineation, naming, and determining the appropriate legislative designation. Once these preliminary steps have been

taken, the areas can be designated in legislation and collaborative management planning should be undertaken.

4. New Logo

YLUPC has adopted a new logo based on the theme of “planning... for a brighter future.”

The circle represents the continuation of life and optimism for the future. The mountain and the fireweed are symbols of the Yukon. The fireweed on the horizon is a symbol of resilience and new growth. The foreground has many segments to represent the many groups coming together to plan. And the cabin represents the human relationship to nature.

We will begin integrating the logo in all of our communications materials, from the website, to display panels, to fact sheets, to business cards, and so forth.

5. Indigenous Planning and Traditional Knowledge (IPTK)

The IPTK working group has continued to meet regularly in order to support new approaches to regional planning that take into account the intent behind the First Nation Final Agreements and Chapter 11.

The IPTK is seeking an ongoing mandate and terms of reference that defines their role, scope of work, and membership.

This group could play an important role in guiding the strategic direction.

6. Public Lands Act Development

The Government of Yukon is in the early stages of developing a new ***Yukon Public Lands Act*** and has made presentations to the Council and Dawson Commission, soliciting input into the process.

Although the deadline to for public feedback was April 30, 2022, YLUPC has notified Government of Yukon of its intent to provide our input. Our understanding is that any feedback provided will still be considered as part of the ongoing process.

The legislation will likely address land use for residential development, resource development, cultural heritage, and environmental protection. It could be used to support and manage recreation activities such as cabins, camping, off-road vehicle use, bicycling and hiking.

The legislation may be an opportunity to address legislative gaps such as the lack of a Yukon Planning Act and the lack of land designations that allow for a higher standard of care.

Staff will review previous work undertaken, hold an internal working session, and develop a response for Council consideration.

7. Future Planning Regions

YLUPC is well positioned to support the establishment of the next planning regions. We continue to offer our advice and support to Yukon Government and First Nations to assist in any way needed.

Our understanding is that Government of Yukon is very close to being prepared to start discussions on memorandums of understanding with First Nation of Na-cho Nyak Dun and with

Teslin Tlingit Council. Other regions may also move ahead, depending on discussions between First Nations and Yukon Government. In all cases, First Nation staffing capacity is an issue.

YLUPC has recommended flexible and creative solutions to addressing ongoing challenges related to overlapping traditional territories and membership.

I recommend that YLUPC begin to work with the Parties to identify specific pre-planning activities that could help streamline the planning process and reduce the burden on planning commissions.

8. Advancing Regional Planning

In addition to the above efforts regarding future planning regions, YLUPC is working with our partners to explore other ways to advance and improve regional planning.

The Yukon Forum Regional Planning Leads group last met in May. This group, working under the 2018-19 letter of instruction from Yukon Forum, has developed a series of recommendations meant to support the advancement of planning.

YLUPC is now finalizing a formal set of Recommendations to the Parties under Section 11.3.3. of the First Nation Final Agreements.

9. Environment Canada Funding Opportunity

Environment Yukon has reached out to YLUPC regarding 2022-23 and 2023-24 funding available to support projects that entail advancing indigenous interests in conservation. We have identified two potential projects to put forward:

9.1. Indigenous Planning Workshops

- Hosting 2 or 3 workshops to advance the integration of indigenous planning processes with Chapter 11 planning processes

9.2. Contract Support

- A contract to support planning and facilitation of the indigenous planning workshops.
- Scope of contract to also include a report, recommendations, and framework for moving forward.

10. Finance and Administration

The Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2021-22 are due to Government of Yukon by July 29. We are working to have these ready for Council approval at the July 29 Public Meeting. The timeline is very tight, allowing only very limited time for staff and Council to review these before they are tabled for approval. Yukon Government has stated that they would extend the deadline, but that they would then withhold funding until such time as the statements are approved.

I will be seeking a new timeline for the 2023-24 Transfer Payment Agreement that sets the deadline September 30 while still flowing funding. Other organizations (e.g. YFWMB) have a September 30 deadline and a reliable cash flow for the duration.

In August, we will be required to identify regional planning commission funding needs for 2023-24, including any funding required for Dawson and new planning regions.

11. Upcoming Projects and Activities

YESAB: We will continue to work with YESAB towards addressing the issue of roles and responsibilities for project assessment conformity checks under Section 44 and 45 of YESAA.

Outreach: Lois Craig, Joe Copper Jack and I hosted a booth at the CYFN General Assembly in June at Minto Landing. This was an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with First Nations leadership and citizens.

We will develop a communication plan that sets out our approach to Community and First Nation engagement for the remainder of the year.

Website: We are reaching out to local website designers about redesigning our website to be easier to use and to have a more up-to-date look and feel.

North Yukon Plan Review: At present, there is not any work to report regarding a review of the North Yukon Plan. The review would include the North Yukon Annex in the overlap areas between the Dawson and North Yukon planning regions. The first formal step would be to make a recommendation to the Parties, if supported by the Council.

Thank you.

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Tim Sellars, Director
Yukon Land Use Planning Council