

**GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL**

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Gwich'in land, culture & economy for a better future

August 21, 2006

Brian Johnstone
Senior Planner
Peel Watershed Planning Commission
307 Jarvis St. Suite 201
Whitehorse, Yukon

By Fax: (867) 667 4624

Dear Mr. Johnstone,

RE: Response to the Issues and Interests Report

The GTC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Issues and Interests Report. The GTC basically echo some of the comments regarding land use planning guiding development to ensure minimal impacts on the environment.

There are two issues that the GTC believes should be included for further discussion. First is the issue of the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan should be a legal document and provisions of the Land Use Plan be legally binding. The second issue would be managing Tourism and Outfitting.

The Gwich'in Land Use Plan is a federally legislated plan and provisions of the plan are legally binding. A process to get the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan legislated should be discussed.

The management of Tourism and Outfitting should be considered in the same sense as Oil and Gas Development in terms of impacts on the environment. The GTC believes that Tourism and Outfitting can have the same impacts as resource development and measures should be introduced in the Land Use Plan that would limit these impacts.

In terms of comments on the Actual Report there seem to limited focus on the Traditional Knowledge (TK) of the Gwich'in communities. In workshops held since the release of the report the elders demonstrated a vast amount of knowledge of areas. This TK has to be included in the Land Use Plan above all information gathered.

I wish you continued success in developing the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan.

Sincerely,



Fred Carmichael
GTC President

CC.

Abe Wilson President, Tetlit RRC
Sue McKenzie Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board
Robert Charlie Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board