

## **Yukon Land Use Planning Council Annual Report 2002-2003**

### **Mission**

The Yukon Land Use Planning Council advocates land use planning as a comprehensive means of addressing cultural, social, economic and environmental sustainability. The YLUPC promotes an open, fair and public process that involves all Yukoners, as set out in the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.

### **Message from the Council**

*The Council has had another year of progress with respect to the implementation of Chapter 11 of the UFA and the First Nation Final Agreements in the territory. Activity took place in 5 of the 8 planning regions in the territory.*

*The Council is particularly pleased to see the Teslin Regional Planning Commission (TRPC) complete its Precise Terms of Reference and begin the detailed work associated with the regional planning process for the Teslin Planning Region. The Council also worked with Carcross Tagish First Nation, the Teslin Tlingit Council and Government to begin drafting a General Terms of Reference for the Dakh Ka Planning Commission, This work anticipates the settlement of a land claim settlement with the Carcross Tagish First Nation.*

*The Parties to the establishment of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission made great strides towards the creation of a commission in the Peel Watershed Planning Region and the Council looks forward to the creation of this commission in the coming year. In the Northern Tutchone Planning Region, the Northern Tutchone Council focused much of its attention to the creation of a commission for that region and presented a draft Northern Tutchone Regional Land Use Planning Agreement for consideration by Government.*

*The only disappointment in the year was the delay of appointments to the North Yukon Planning Commission as a territorial election and the implementation of the Devolution Transfer Agreement meant a slower than expected appointment process. However, with the assistance of existing members, work was completed on a start-up and orientation strategy for the*

*new commission. The Council also worked with the Parties to delineate their roles and responsibilities in the planning process.*

*The Council remains very optimistic about the future, for never before has there been such a level of activity taken place with respect to regional planning in the Yukon. The Council looks forward to even higher levels of activity and is ready to accept the challenges this period of growth will bring.*

Sincerely,

Lesley Cabott,  
Chair

## Introduction

Under the terms of its funding agreement, the Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC) is required to produce an annual activity report that outlines the following:

- a) brief description of implementation activities;
- b) a progress report on results and achievements;
- c) the scheduling or timing of major events; and
- d) an overall assessment of the achievements of the Council's obligation under the Umbrella Final Agreement, its Implementation Plan and related Act(s) of Parliament.

## Mandate of YLUPC

The mandate of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council is outlined in the Umbrella Final Agreement as follows:

“The Yukon Land Use Planning Council shall make recommendations to Government and each affected Yukon First Nation on the following:

-land use planning, including policies, goals and priorities, in the Yukon; the identification of planning regions and priorities for the preparation of regional land use plans;

-the general terms of reference, including time frames, for each Regional Land Use Planning Commission;  
-boundary of each planning region; and  
-such other matters as Government and each affected Yukon First Nation may agree.”

### Council Members

The Yukon Land Use Planning Council is comprised of three members nominated by Canada, the Yukon Government and the Council of Yukon First Nations:

- **Lesley Cabott** has been a member of the Council since 1997. She was reappointed for another 3 year term in 2001. In addition to serving as Chair of the Council, Lesley is the Manager of Planning for the City of Whitehorse, and has been active in planning in the Yukon for many years. Lesley was nominated to the Council by the Government of Canada.
- **Tom Cove** was appointed to the Council in March 2001 upon the nomination by the Yukon Government. He has lived and worked in a variety of Yukon communities over the last 25 years. His background includes experience as a logger, sawmiller, miner, prospector, trapper, land claim negotiator and consultant to First Nations. This experience enables him to provide diverse insight into land use planning issues.
- **Albert Peter** was appointed to the Council in September 2001 to fill a vacant CYFN nominee position. Albert has been involved with land claims in the Yukon since the 1980's. He has extensive experience in the area of land management through his work with various boards, committees and initiatives, including advising the Na-cho Nayak Dun Lands and Resource Department in his hometown of Mayo.

### Secretariat

The following staff comprised the Secretariat in 2002-2003:

Ron Cruikshank, Director

Gerald Isaac, First Nation Policy and Planning Advisor

Glenda Koh, Land Use Planner, Shawn Francis, Land/Resource Use Planner

Jeff Hamm, Planning Advisor and Information Technologist  
Rhoda Gribben, Office Administrator

### **2002-2003 Description of Implementation Activities (Timing and Schedule indicated)**

The work of Council/Secretariat fell into 5 categories:

- a) Assisting Existing Planning Commissions
- b) Working to establish Planning Commissions
- c) Addressing Yukon wide issues associated with regional planning
- d) Administering Funds and Reviewing Budgets
- e) Advocating for Regional Planning

To complete this work, the Council maintained a Secretariat consisting of 5 staff members, held 12 Council Meetings, Special Board Meetings and Teleconferences and participated in many meetings, workshops, assemblies and conferences.

#### **Assisting Existing Planning Commissions:**

Teslin Regional Planning Commission:

Provided direct financial administrative services for the commission until September 2002; assisted with minutes, job description, hiring of executive director (until September), jointly presented material at the Cordilleran Round-up (January 2003) and met regularly with TRPC commission members;

North Yukon Planning Commission:

Maintained direct financial and administrative control over the North Yukon Planning Commission while maintaining contact with existing members and making contact with nominated members; designed a training and orientation strategy for the commission; worked with the Parties to define Roles and Responsibilities within the Common Land Use Planning Process for the Yukon. Developed and recommended a revised Terms of Reference for the North Yukon Planning Commission.

## **Work to Establish Planning Commissions:**

### Peel Region:

Developed and successfully implemented the Peel Action Plan, with the assistance of the Parties to the creation of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. This involved hosting and chairing meetings, developing and executing a workplan for the creation of the General Terms of Reference and resolving outstanding issues with the General Terms of Reference. Staff and Council members traveled to Mayo, Dawson, Ft McPherson and Inuvik making presentations and facilitating discussions on the General Terms of Reference. Council member served as chair/facilitator and the Secretariat served as principle author and group administrator. (Action Plan developed May 2002, executed through to April 2003).

### Dakh Ka Region:

Facilitated and chaired meetings of the Parties to the creation of the Dakh Ka region to develop a draft General Terms of Reference for this region. Acted as principle author for the drafting of the GTOR (Summer, Fall 2002).

### Northern Tutchone Region:

Attended meetings of the four Parties to this region regarding the outstanding issues associated with the General Terms of Reference and provided technical advice. Attended a meeting of the NTC First Nation staff regarding planning boundary issues (November 2002, January, February, 2003).

## **Addressing Yukon wide issues associated with Regional Planning**

The Council addressed a number of issues regarding regional planning that had Yukon wide implications. These included:

1. developing a Common Land Use Planning Process (CLUPP) for the Yukon through a Council sponsored, Yukon wide, 2 day workshop involving over 40 people from First Nations and Government (May 2002);
2. projecting the establishment and activities of regional planning commissions between 2002 and 2009 (June 2002);

3. determining the role of regional land use planning as a tool for managing cumulative effects (Yukon wide workshop co-sponsored with Canada's Environment Directorate, attend by 135 people, February 2003);
4. developing a model for the allocating of implementation funds amongst the 8 planning regions (released as a Discussion paper, January 2003).

### **Administering Funds and Reviewing Budgets**

The Council prepared the 2001-2002 annual report for itself, the Teslin Regional Planning Commission and the North Yukon Planning Commission. The Council reviewed and recommended the 2002-2003 mid-year budget and workplan submission of the Teslin Regional Planning Commission (TRPC) and the Teslin Regional Planning Commission's proposed 2003-2004 annual budget. The Council developed, in correspondence with the existing North Yukon Planning Commission members, both the mid-year amended budget for the North Yukon Planning Commission and 2003-2004 annual budget and workplan. The Council proposed these budgets, and its own workplan and budget to Government and administered the funds received.

In addition, Canada, with assistance from the Council, developed a document that summarized the annual financial cycle for both YLUPC and planning commissions. YLUPC worked with Canada and YTG to prepare for the implementation of the Yukon Northern Affairs Program Devolution Transfer Agreement (November 2002-March 2003).

### **Advocating for Regional Planning**

The Council continued to advocate for regional planning in the Yukon through its presence at many meetings, workshops, assemblies, conferences, correspondence and its website.

*Assemblies, Workshop and Conferences and Selected meetings:*

Council attended the General Assemblies of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, First Nation of the Nacho Nyak Dun and the Council for Yukon First Nations (Summer 2002)

Meetings/Presentations with the Trondek Hwech'in, Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Ft McPherson, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvik, Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board, Inuvik (August 2002)

Meeting between YLUPC, Director General of the DIAND, YTG staff (September 2002);

Display Booth and staff at the Yukon Geoscience Forum, Whitehorse (November 2002)

Attended "Rails to Resources" hearings regarding: the Canada/Alaska Railway Proposal (December 2002);

Muskwa Kechika Management Area Workshop, Ft St John, B.C. (December 2002).

Attended the Teslin Regional Planning Commission's Open House, (December, 2002);

Display Booth, staff and Chair at the Cordilleran Round-up, Vancouver (January 2003);

Presentation and Discussions regarding the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESSA) (January 2003);

Attended Cumulative Effects Thresholds Workshop, Whitehorse, Borderlands Coop Meeting, Whitehorse, Access Management, Calgary, Ecosystem Framework Workshop, Whitehorse (March 2003);

## **Results and Achievements**

Discussion Paper: Financial Model for Completion of Regional Land Use Planning under Chapter 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreements (text document)

Estimated Schedule of Planning Commission Activities and Planning Region Priorities (January 2003)

Annual Reports, Interim Reports and Audit Financial Statements for YLUPC, the Teslin Regional Planning Commission and North Yukon Planning Commission for 2001-2002

Proceedings from the Common Land Use Planning Process for Regional Planning in the Yukon (CD available and through the Council's website)

Roles and Responsibilities for the North Yukon Planning Commission (text document )

Regional Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects Management: Linkages and Applications: Conference Proceedings (CD available and through the Council's website)

Recommendation regarding a new General Terms of Reference for the North Yukon Planning Commission

Training and Orientation Strategy for the North Yukon Planning Commission (text document)

The Peel Action Plan: A Plan for the Establishment of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission

Continued development and expansion of the Council's Website ([www.planyukon.ca](http://www.planyukon.ca))

Produced and distributed three YLUPC newsletters (April 2002, August 2002 and December 2003).

## **Assessment of Achievements**

The Council continues to facilitate the implementation of Chapter 11 and bring regional planning to the Yukon. In 2002-2003 the focus of the Council's work shifted from primarily dealing with the process of establishing planning commission to issues associated with the production of land use plans. This shift is an indication of the consistent progress that is now being made with respect to completing the vision of the Umbrella Final Agreement of a land use plan in every region in the Yukon.

The Council is particularly pleased with the development of the Common Land Use Planning Process and the development and implementation of the Peel Action Plan. Both these products represent process models that will assist in solving future challenges faced by the Council, planning commissions and the Parties to the land claim agreement. The Council looks forward to developing closer relationships with all Yukon First Nations, planning commissions and the newly empowered Yukon Government.