



YUKON LAND USE PLANNING COUNCIL

YUKON LAND USE PLANNING COUNCIL (YLUPC) **Annual Activity Report 2008-2009**

1. Introduction

This report summarizes the activities of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, as required by the Yukon Government in its Transfer Payment agreement with the Council. The annual activity report contains the following:

- A brief description of implementation activities;
- A progress report on results and achievements;
- The scheduling or timing of major events; and
- An overall assessment of the achievements of the Council's obligations under the Final Agreement, its Implementation Plan, and related acts(s) of Parliament.

2. Implementation Activities, Results and Achievements

The Council has had a very active 2008-2009 assisting two active planning Commissions and the signatories to the land claim agreements as they implemented Chapter 11. The North Yukon Planning Commission (NYPC) completed its Final Recommended plan and the Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC) completed a draft plan for the Peel region. The Council recommended the establishment of the Dawson Regional Planning Commission and its terms of reference. To complete its work plan, the Council held 8 meetings and one Strategic Planning session.

2.1 Completing the 2008-2009 Work plan

Roles and Responsibilities and Preparing for the Next 10 Years of Implementation (4.1.1 in 08/09 WP)

The Council updated the Roles and Responsibilities identified in the Common Land Use Planning Process based upon the experiences of the Council since CLUPP was originally created in 2004. The Council also developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Peel Watershed Planning Commission as a means of clarifying roles and responsibilities related to the completion of the 2008/2009 work plan. This included the Commission becoming responsible for its own human resources, after 3 years of staff secondment agreements with the Council. A Chair's and Senior Planner's roles chart was also updated to clarify internal roles and responsibilities.

Products: Common Land Use Planning Process updated April 2008 Chairs and Planners roles chart updated April 2008

Creation of Third and Fourth Regional Planning Commission (4.1.2 in 2008/09 work plan)

The Council recommended the establishment of the Dawson Regional Planning Commission in December 2008. This recommendation included the Commission's Terms of Reference. These Terms of Reference were improved from the NYPC and PWPC's General Terms of Reference in the following ways:

- the planning process no longer requires the production of a Precise Terms of Reference and the *General Terms of Reference* are now simply titled the *Terms of Reference*;
- the Commission has been provided a three year work plan and budget;
- the major planning components, deliverables and due dates have been identified.

The Terms of Reference was the result of over three years of work with the Yukon Government and the Tr'ondek Hwech'in, the Vuntut Gwitchin and the Nacho Nyak Dun. The last outstanding issue that required resolution related to the northern boundary of the region and agreement was reached between VGFN and the TH in November 2008.

Once the Council made this recommendation, follow-up letters to the Yukon Government and the Trondek Hwech'in were written to encourage them to come to agreement on commission membership. Council received confirmation in February 2009 that the Trondek Hwech'in had nominated their members. The Yukon Government did not nominate their members within the fiscal year.

Additional Technical Working Group meetings also occurred (March 2009) to begin preparation for the orientation and the first year of operation of this commission. The Technical Working Group identified key products required at or near the start of the commission: conflict of interest assessments, policies and procedures, communication strategies, evaluation of commission member skills, cross cultural awareness training and education regarding the nature of land use planning and planning processes.

In addition, the Council had hoped to host a workshop that focused upon the establishment of a fourth commission but this was postponed until the PWPC draft plan was completed (March 31, 2009).

Products: Recommendation for the Establishment of the Dawson Regional Planning Commission, December 2008

Assisting the Existing Commissions (4.2 in 2008-09 WP)

North Yukon Planning Commission

The Commission was without staff for this period and the Council provided assistance for most of its operations during the year. The work during the first two months of the fiscal year included winding down the office and communicating the release of the Commission's Recommended Land Use Plan. A Memorandum of Understanding was developed with the Commission and included having the Council responsible for:

- contract management;
- financial and administrative services;
- annual activity report production and other annual budgeting cycle responsibilities;
- day-to-day communications;
- transferring NYPC spatial data to the Yukon Planning Atlas
- coordinating meetings and helping with the production of the Final Recommended plan

This was the first MOU with a Commission that had finished a Final Recommended Plan. The Council's staff coordinated the final meeting of the Commission (January), with the Final Recommended Plan being completed in January 2009.

The Council also helped the Commission make "representation" to a project (Northern Cross exploration) which was proposed through the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act). This was the first representation made to a YESAA related project after a Final Recommended Plan had been completed.

The Council began a "debriefing" process for the Commission and its staff. A series of questions were developed for interviews with Commission members and key staff intended to capture the experience of this planning exercise. This survey was administered by a Masters student from Royal Rhodes University, with results expected in 2009/2010. In addition, to understand the costs of various portions of the regional planning exercise, the Council's staff analyzed the expenses of the North Yukon Commission from the time it was established through to its completion.

Products: Interview Questions for NYPC members and senior staff

Peel Watershed Planning Commission

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and the Council identified the assistance the Council provided the Commission throughout the year. Components of the MOU's include:

- agreement on the method by which funds are to be transferred from the Council to the Commission;
- assistance with financial administration and integration of the financial accounting system;
- staff orientation and training;
- facilitation of PWPC meetings;
- YLUPC staff assistance with plan production and related products;
- sharing office of space and computer networks;
- assistance from the Commission with relevant recommendations the Council is developing.

This MOU resulted in the Council's staff assisting with the production of the Statement of Principles, Conservation Assessment Report, Scenarios Document and draft Regional Land Use Plan. The Commission's Senior Planner announced he was moving to employment with the Yukon Government in the summer and the Council's director assisted in the hiring of a new Senior Planner. The orientation of the Senior Planner began in September 2008, the Director assisted with his two month performance review in November, 2008. The Council's staff also helped with the hiring of the Commission's office administrator and with associated training. The Council's Director and First Nations Policy and Planning Advisor joined the Commission in several community visits, including the Scenario Document tour in December and January to Mayo, Dawson City and Ft McPherson. The Council's Senior Planner did the bulk of the mapping work associated with the production of the draft plan in March 2009.

The Council requested substantive changes to the Principles Statement and indicated the need for the Commission to include regional summary maps in its Conservation and Resource Assessment Reports. The Council's Chair attended Senior Liaison Committee meetings and the Council's Senior Planner was the Council's Technical Working Group member. The Council also covered the cost of an editor for the draft Regional Land Use Plan.

Products: Memorandum of Understanding: YLUPC/PWPC, Financial Transfer Payment Agreement: YLUPC/PWPC

Data Atlas Implementation: Thematic Content Development Project

The Yukon Planning Atlas provides a web outlet (<http://atlas.planyukon.ca>) to support wider and easier distribution of land use planning documentation to all interested parties. It is envisioned that the Atlas will play an important role in maintaining the information base of regional land use plans in the Yukon after the plans are completed. The information base from the North Yukon land use planning process was loaded into the Atlas for public viewing, including text descriptions of key information from the plan and the resource assessments reports. This represents the first major public release of a complete set of information from a regional planning exercise. Work also began on loading data that has already been compiled for the Peel region by the PWPC.

Products: Planning Atlas content for the North Yukon Land Use Planning region, additional themes added to the atlas (online), Thematic Content Development Project reports (May, July, September 2008)

Other Work:

- Forestry Resources Act submission: the Council submitted comments to the Yukon Government's Forestry Branch regarding its new forestry act. The Council's comments focused on the need to link *Chapter 1: Forest Resources* with *Chapter 11: Land Use Planning*, as per the applicable clauses in the agreements;
- Yukon Environmental and Socio Economic Assessment Act 5-year Review submission: the Council began preparing a submission for a consultant undertaking a review of the Yukon Environmental and Socio Economic Assessment Act. Meetings with the consultant occurred in January 2009;
- Website updated (1st quarter) and throughout the year;
- Commission Member Source Book: this document is to be completed for the start of the Dawson Regional Planning Commission and provides a general guide to regional planning in the Yukon. Decisions that are currently before the Parties with respect to the work of a planning commission after the approval of a regional plan have prevented the completion of the section that focuses on Plan Implementation. Illustrations for the publication were completed in the second and third quarter;
- YLUPC Strategic Planning Session: December 2008;
- Meeting of the Chairs: attempts made for January and March but all Chairs not available and postponed until 2009-2010;
- Council's staff attended and presented at the 29th *Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing*, Whitehorse, June 2008;
- Council's staff attended Yukon Government's *Environmental Change, Yukon Challenges, Yukon Solutions*, Whitehorse, May 2008;
- YLUPC Booth at Yukon Geoscience Forum, Whitehorse, November 2008;
- Presentation at the *Integrated Resource Management Workshop*, Dawson City, March 2009;

- Senior Planner attended “*Arctic Climate Science*” workshop, Whitehorse, March 2009;
- Council’s staff attends the Council Yukon First Nations General Assembly, Lake Laberge, July 2008;
- Director presented at Provincial/Territorial Planning Director’s Workshop, Whitehorse, September 2008;
- Senior Planner presented at *Free Open Source Software for Geospatial Conference*, Cape Town, October, 2008;
- Project Management Training: Director, Financial Administrator, Whitehorse, September 2008;
- Council member attends Canadian Institute for Planning Conference, Winnipeg, MB, June 2008;
- Annual Budgetary Cycle work: audit financial statements and activity reports produced and approved for the YLUPC, NYPC and PWPC. This included developing a new template for the annual budgets and work plans. The Council reviewed and made recommendations on the annual work plans and budgets for both the Peel, Dawson and North Yukon Planning Commissions for 2009-2010 (March 2009).

Overall Assessment

The YLUPC and the regional planning commissions continue to reach significant milestones in the implementation of regional planning in the territory and of Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements. The North Yukon Planning Commission submitted a Final Recommended Plan to the Yukon Government and the Vuntut Gwitchin Government for approval in January 2009. The Council views this as the most important implementation success in 2008-2009 as it represents a major achievement in the implementation of the land claim agreements.

The completion of a draft plan for the Peel region represents a second milestone in regional planning. The Peel region faces a different and more complex set of planning challenges than the North Yukon Planning Commission. It must build consensus amongst *four* First Nations and the Yukon Government in a region with high public profile. Much has been learned about production, planning product expectations and the need for an iterative process involving the Commission and the approval Parties. These lessons can be applied to future regional planning processes.

A third milestone occurred in December 2008 when the Council recommended the establishment of the Dawson Regional Commission, after advocating for the agreement on the planning boundary. The Council anticipates this third commission will become active in 2009-10 and successfully operate under the new Terms of Reference for regional planning commissions.

Finally, the Council looks forward to the improvements to the First Nation Land Claim Agreement Implementation Plans that will stem from the *Yukon First Nation Final Agreement Implementation Reviews* (October, 2007). The implementation of Chapter 11 will benefit from the certainty established once there is agreement amongst the Parties on agency roles and responsibilities, financial commitments and the intent of the claims with respect to regional planning processes.

4. Schedule of Events

ACTIVITY - APRIL 2008
Entered into a funding agreement with the Yukon Government (YG) & the PWPC
Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the NYPC
Appointed Mackay LLP to complete a Financial Audit for YLUPC, NYPC & the PWPC
NYPC publicly releases its Recommended Land Use Plan
PWPC finish & release their Planning Principles, Conservation Priorities Assessment & Resource Assessment (RA with YLUPC assistance) Reports
PWPC employees formerly seconded from YLUPC enter into their own employment contracts while benefits continue to be administered by the YLUPC
Staff met with "Forest Values Focus Group" re: Forest Resources Act
Director Cruikshank attended a 3 day Project Management Course at Yukon College

ACTIVITY - MAY 2008
Director Cruikshank attended the YG Environmental Forum, Whitehorse
YLUPC staff met with staff from YG, THHN, & VGFN to discuss a planning boundary
May 16, 2008 – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting 01

ACTIVITY - JUNE 2008
"29th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing/10 th International Circumpolar remote Sensing Symposium" held in Whitehorse, presentation of North Yukon Regional Planning Database and the Yukon Planning Atlas by Jeff Hamm (YLUPC) & Sean Francis (NYPC)
YLUPC Regular Board Meeting June 30, 2008
Attended CYFN General Assembly
Attended NND General Assembly
June 30, 2008 – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting 02

ACTIVITY - JULY 2008
Council Member Ian D. Robertson attends Canadian Institute of Planning Conference, Winnipeg, MB
YLUPC Regular Board Meeting

ACTIVITY - AUGUST 2008
August 8, 2008 – YLUPC Special Meeting 03
Approved the activity reports & audited financial statements for YLUPC, NYPC, & PWPC

ACTIVITY - SEPTEMBER 2008
YG offers Comments on North Yukon Recommended Land Use Plan
CAFN expressed interest in Land Use Planning to the Premier during the fall tour
YG provided YLUPC with updated NYPC approval schedule – 2 mth delay from original
New MOU with PWPC

ACTIVITY - OCTOBER 2008

October 3, 2009 – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting 04
Staff participation in PWPC Scenario Workshop
Council reviews a TH/VGN planning boundary developed by staff
October 15, 2009 - YLUPC Special Meeting 05
Interim Budget & Workplans submitted to YG for YLUPC & PWPC

ACTIVITY - NOVEMBER 2008

November 21, 2008 – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting 06
Attended Yukon Geoscience Forum

ACTIVITY - DECEMBER 2008

Strategic Planning Session
YLUPC & PWPC hosted a Christmas Open House
YLUPC recommends Dawson Terms of Reference

ACTIVITY - JANUARY 2009

Final Recommended North Yukon Land Use Plan is released
New Financial Agreement developed by YG
Director Cruikshank facilitates a PWPC technical review workshop
January 27, 2009 – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting 07
PWPC release Scenario Options Report

ACTIVITY - FEBRUARY 2009

Draft workplan & budget prepared for 2009-2010 – YLUPC, PWPC & DRPC
All Staff assisted with PWPC Scenario Open House in Whitehorse
Member Robertson attended Senior Liaison Committee meeting February 16, 2009
First Nation Policy Planner attended PWPC Scenario Tour meetings in Mayo & Dawson while Director Cruikshank attended in Fort McPherson & Inuvik
YLUPC staff assessing state of overlap agreements between settle First Nations
New Senior Financial Administrator hired

ACTIVITY - MARCH 2009

Attended Integrated Resource Management Workshop in Dawson hosted by TH
Participated in “Arctic Climate Science Workshop” (ArcticNet), Whitehorse
4 year renewal of Planyukon.ca domain

YLUPC Regular Board Meeting – March 25, 2009