



## YUKON LAND USE PLANNING COUNCIL

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May 8, 2006

Angus Robertson  
Deputy Minister  
Energy, Mines & Resources  
Yukon Government  
P.O. Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 2C6

Chief Joe Linklater,  
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation  
P.O. Box 94  
Old Crow, Yukon  
Y0B 1N0

Dear Mr. Robertson and Chief Linklater:

### **Re: Reappointment of the North Yukon Planning Commission and the Commission's Role in Plan Implementation**

At the Council's April 24, 2006 meeting, Yukon Government staff indicated that the Minister intends to reappoint the North Yukon Planning Commission in June 2006 for a three year term. The Council is pleased that this Commission will be given the opportunity to finish and implement the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan.

However, the Council and commissions have yet to receive any notification of decisions stemming from the recommendations contained in the Council's 2003 *Review of the UFA and YFNs Final Agreement Implementation Plans*. In that submission, the Council addressed issues associated with the roles and with the funding of regional commissions in implementing the regional plans that they produce (see attachment). Therefore, there remains a number of outstanding questions regarding the work and funding of commissions after plans have been approved:

#### **What are the Roles of the Commissions in Plan Implementation?**

The work of a planning commission after a draft plan is complete typically involves monitoring the implementation of the plan, conducting conformity checks including the consideration of non-conforming uses and variances, ensuring other land and water management processes are linked to the plan, ongoing maintenance of the information base that the commission utilized in the production of the plan and plan review and revision.

The North Yukon Planning Commission will soon be developing an implementation plan that will identify:

- the tasks needed to be completed;
- why they need to be done;
- who is to complete the task;
- when the work is to be completed;
- the required funding or staffing commitment.

The Commission is currently without confirmation that there is agreement amongst the approval bodies about the roles they are to play in plan implementation. Without this agreement, the Commission will define its own roles in the implementation strategy that is part of the draft plan. **Delays in plan approval could be caused if the approval bodies do not agree with these roles.** We urge that the key agencies associated with the North Yukon regional plan develop agreement on the roles the NYPC will play in plan implementation. The Council's 2003 *Review of the UFA and YFNs Final Agreement Implementation Plans* should form the basis for this agreement.

**Is the Commission Funded after the Draft Plan is Approved in December 2006?**

Although the Commission appointments are to be for three years, there is currently no funding commitment to the North Yukon Planning Commission after December 31, 2006. This makes it very difficult for the Commission to make any work related commitments beyond the end of this year. If decisions regarding funding the implementation period wait until the mid-year review period (November), the Commission will only have 2 months notice if it is to continue operations beyond December. This short notice makes it difficult to make decisions relating to office space, staffing and to plan for its role in the implementation of the plan.

**The Council recommends that the appointing Minister address this funding issue at the same time that he is reappointing the Commission for a three-year term.**

We look forward to the resolution of these fundamental issues associated with Chapter 11 implementation.

Sincerely,



Ron Cruikshank,  
Director  
Yukon Land Use Planning Council

Cc Catherine Constable, Land Claim Implementation, Yukon Government  
Shirlee Frost, Chair, North Yukon Planning Commission  
Attachment