



Village of Carmacks Integrated Community Sustainability Plan 2006

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Attachments:

1. December 15, 2005 letter to Chief, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
2. February 9, 2006 memo to Mayor and Council, Village of Carmacks.
3. February 28, 2006 letter to Chief, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
4. June 14, 2006 letter to Chief, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

Carmacks Yesterday and Today

Carmacks is located at the confluence of the Yukon and Nordenskiöld Rivers. It lies 180 kilometres north of Whitehorse on the Klondike Highway, at the junction with the Robert Campbell Highway.

Situated at the southern edge of the central Yukon region, Carmacks tends to experience extremes in temperature. Over the past few decades, typical January weather was a daytime high of minus 17 degrees Celsius, dropping to minus 26 C at night. Temperatures in July and August typically reached a daily maximum of 18 C to 21 C, with night time temperatures of 6 C to 9 C.

Carmacks has served many functions over the years, including campsite, trading post and coal-mining community. Originally, the Carmacks area was part of the hunting and fishing territory of the Northern Tutchone people. The site of Carmacks was an important trading stop on the river trade routes of the Coastal Tlingit and the Northern and Interior Athapaskan.

The modern community is named for George Carmack, one of the discoverers of gold in the Klondike. In 1893, three years before the gold discovery, Carmack found a seam of coal at Tantalus Butte, at the mouth of the Nordenskiöld. He built a cabin that grew into a trading post - Carmack's Post.

During the Klondike Gold Rush, the site became a stop on the way to Dawson. Later, it was a stop on the Overland Trail between Dawson and Whitehorse. When the first leg of the Klondike Highway was completed in 1950, Carmacks became a major service centre. At that time the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation people were relocated to the north bank of the Yukon River, where most still live. The business section of Carmacks is on the south bank.

The community has a heated swimming pool for summer use, a multipurpose outdoor skateboard/rollerblade/ice rink, golf course, hiking trails, three-lane curling rink, cross-country ski and snowmobile trails, historical sites and buildings, archaeological sites, and a First Nation interpretive centre and traditional craft shop.

In 2001, the Carmacks population averaged 411, a steady decline since the mid-1990s, when the population had been close to 470 for several years. In 2001 the Census indicated that almost 80 percent of the people living in Carmacks lived there five years earlier. About 9 percent of the 2001 population had come from outside the Yukon some time during the 1996 to 2001 period.

Carmacks has a young population in comparison to the Yukon as a whole; 27 percent of community residents are children aged 14 or younger, compared to the Yukon average of 20 percent. A further 14 percent of the Carmacks population is in the 15-to-25 age group, mirroring the Yukon average. People over 65 make up 7 percent of the Carmacks population, the same as the Yukon average. At the end of 2003, 50 percent of the Carmacks population was female, the same as the Yukon-wide percentage.

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation makes up almost 70 percent of the total population of Carmacks. This is significantly higher than the 23-percent representation of First Nations in the Yukon population.

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation is affiliated with the Northern Tutchone Council. They have always been very reliant on the Yukon River and its rich salmon resources. As of April 2004, the registered population as reported by the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation was 621, almost half of who live outside the community.

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation signed their land claims and self-government agreements in July 1997. Their Final Agreement follows the structure of the Umbrella Final Agreement but contains provisions unique to them. An example of a specific provision is the Nordenskiöld Wetland Special Management Area.

The Little Salmon/Carmacks traditional territory is rich in renewable and non-renewable resources, and the First Nation is establishing and building co-management regimes with other levels of government.

Carmacks is located in a mineral rich area, and seasonal employment has come from mining exploration, as well as from providing services to exploration crews. The amount of employment available from this source depends on the highly variable economic state of the mining industry.

Government services, including education and health, account for over half of the jobs in the community. The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation employs people in administration and implementation as well as in the fields of Lands and Resources, Capital Works, Health and Social, and Education. The First Nation also operates an interpretive centre. Other government services employees work for the Yukon government or with the Carmacks municipal government.

Tourism is a sizeable part of local economic activity. About 7 percent of employment is found in accommodation and food services, just below the Yukon average. Other services, largely recreation, provide 5 percent of employment, a little higher than the Yukon share. Trade provides a further 5 percent - lower than the Yukon average.

Activity in primary industries, transportation, and construction amounts to a similar share as the Yukon average. Traditional activities are important in the economy and lifestyle of First Nations people in Carmacks, and a significant proportion of residents hunt and fish to supply some of their families' food needs.

Carmacks became incorporated as a village on November 1, 1984. The community has a municipal office, a Territorial Agent, a Yukon Government Lands and Forestry office, an RCMP detachment, a Yukon Government Highway Maintenance Camp, Yukon Government Social Services, and a post office.

The Village of Carmacks faces several specific community development challenges that have a direct bearing on the future of the community. These challenges include:

- The loss of population over the past 5-7 years coupled with a decline in regional economic development is eroding the community tax base and its ability to pay the capital and operating costs associated with long overdue infrastructure improvements;
- Yukon River geography splits the community in half limiting future land development opportunities and making a unified approach to planning, infrastructure location and servicing design more complicated and expensive;
- Effective community building and governance requires close cooperation between the Village and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation governments; and
- The community's size makes it challenging to provide an extensive range of services, public facilities, lifestyle and/or employment choices to compete with Whitehorse.

Our Vision for the Future

“The Village of Carmacks will be a vibrant, healthy and sustainable community capable of meeting the needs of residents today and tomorrow.”

Our Values

Collectively, the values of the residents of Carmacks define the community today, and guide us as we plan for the future. We want to ensure that our values continue to be reflected in the decisions that we make as a community, and in the direction that we move. While we recognize that our residents have different perspectives on many things, we believe that these broad values are reflective of the people who live and work in Carmacks.

The community of Carmacks values:

The natural environment that surrounds and sustains the community.

The natural environment of rivers, forests and mountains around Carmacks provides clean air and water, as well as fish and game that members of our community rely on. This wilderness also provides many recreational and economic opportunities, and contributes to the quality of life that we all enjoy here.

A diverse and stable economy that supports residents and local governments in the long term.

Residents must be able to make a living, and our municipal government depends on a tax base to support infrastructure and services. Carmacks has gone through boom and bust cycles, and we must diversify the economy to insulate us from future busts while adapting to new opportunities in a changing world. We welcome the economic boost from resource development at a scale and pace that allows us to maximize local benefits, while minimizing negative impacts.

A physically and emotionally healthy population.

We recognize that people require more than a job and a roof over their head to truly succeed. Many elements go into creating the conditions to allow members of our community to reach their full potential. Healthy and active lifestyles, a sense of safety and security, and education and training are among the many essential building blocks for our residents.

Community pride and unity.

While many of us come from different places and backgrounds, we share a sense of pride in our community and the belief that only by working together can we achieve our common goals.

The history, heritage and culture of the community.

The history, heritage and culture of our community extend thousands of years from the first aboriginal inhabitants of this area. This is shared with a more recent past based in part on the location of the community on key travel corridors, and its proximity to natural resources. Relative newcomers to our community bring their own heritage and culture.

We respect and value the heritage and culture of all of our residents, and believe our community is enriched by its multi-cultural nature.

Sustainability

The concept of sustainability includes the ability of people to meet their basic personal needs. These needs include the infrastructure and resources that allow people to live comfortably, as well as the physical and emotional health to allow them to realize their full potential.

It is equally important that these personal needs are met in a way that does not make it more difficult for others to meet their own needs. This includes the needs of future members of our community and of society in general.

We are all dependant on nature to provide the basic necessities of life including clean air and water. As well, nature provides the food we eat, the raw materials that provide shelter and many of the objects that enhance our lifestyle.

There are limits on the ability of nature to provide these necessities, and too often we damage nature beyond its capacity to renew itself. The damage that we do to nature can be divided into three categories:

Increasing Accumulations of Substances Extracted From the Earth

Many substances that we extract from the earth such as oil, gas, metals and minerals, contribute to the lifestyle that we enjoy today. However, as these substances build up in the ecosystem, living organisms and the ecosystem itself can be damaged. Problems can include an increase in greenhouse gasses contributing to climate change, and metal levels in nature that can impact our wildlife.

In practical terms, this means we should increase recycling and reuse of these materials, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

Increasing Accumulations of Substances Produced by Society

Society also produces matter that is not found in nature. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides are among many synthetic compounds that we produce and disperse into nature. The build up of these compounds in the food chain harm wildlife, and can cause diseases such as cancer in humans.

This means discouraging the use of these persistent human made substances, and finding safer, natural alternatives.

Physical Degradation of Nature

We meet many of our needs as a society from renewable resources. This includes harvesting fish and other animals for food, and harvesting trees for the manufacture of wood and paper products. We can continue to use these resources, but we must do so at a rate and methods that allows them to replenish themselves.

In practice, this means minimizing the destruction of habitat that supports the natural diversity of the ecosystem, and using wood and paper from sustainably harvested forests.

Our Sustainability Principles

As we plan for the future, the Village of Carmacks will use sustainability principles to help guide our decisions. These principles will help ensure that the actions we take today and in the future will move us closer to sustainability.

Based on the desire to ensure that our community and residents are able to meet their needs within the ability of nature to maintain itself, we will apply the following sustainability principles to the future planning and development of the Village of Carmacks:

In our sustainable community, we will:

1. Ensure that all residents are able to meet their own needs and realize their full potential, in a way that does not reduce the ability of others to do the same.
2. Minimize and eventually eliminate our contribution to the accumulation of substances extracted from the earth.
3. Minimize and eventually eliminate our contribution to the accumulation of substances produced by society.
4. Minimize and eventually eliminate our contribution to the physical degradation of nature.

Our Long Term Goals

The community of Carmacks will enjoy modest population growth that will allow us to maintain existing services and infrastructure and encourage the future expansion of services in the community.

Retaining existing community services and infrastructure as well as attracting new services is important to the quality of life in the community of Carmacks. This applies to services provided by different levels of government, as well as services typically provided by the private sector.

While residents value the small town feeling of life in Carmacks, modest population growth would increase the ability of local governments to pay for community services and infrastructure, and would make private sector businesses more viable.

The community of Carmacks will expand and diversify its economic base to support residents, attract newcomers, and allow local governments to provide and maintain community infrastructure.

Economic opportunities for current residents and prospective new residents are critical to increasing the population of any community. We will work to expand our economic base to help us meet our goal of increased population.

We also understand the need to diversify our economy to ensure that our community is economically sustainable in the long term. Large resource developments tend to be cyclical in nature. While we welcome the benefits that large projects provide, we will work on longer-term community based economic development to ensure that the community is less affected by any potential downturn in the resource economy.

The Village of Carmacks will work cooperatively with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation in all appropriate forums to improve the lives of all residents of Carmacks.

The Village of Carmacks recognizes the importance of a close and positive working relationship with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation. Many of the residents of the greater community of Carmacks are Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation members and make a strong contribution to the social, cultural and economic fabric of the community.

Close cooperation between the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation government and the Village of Carmacks government in local planning, services and

infrastructure initiatives can result in less duplication, and more effective and efficient use of limited resources.

The Village of Carmacks will use bylaws and infrastructure development as tools to promote sustainability, enrich the lives of residents, and enhance the visitor experience.

The Village of Carmacks understands that it has a role to play in supporting and encouraging community sustainability initiatives, helping residents realize their personal needs and aspirations, and in enhancing the visitor experience in the community.

While these responsibilities are often shared with other governments and the private sector, the Village of Carmacks will use municipal bylaws and infrastructure development to further these important community objectives where appropriate.

The Village of Carmacks will maintain a compact footprint to promote environmental sustainability and enhance the affordability of community infrastructure.

The Yukon River physically separates the community of Carmacks which makes maintaining a compact community footprint and the provision of community infrastructure more of a challenge.

However a compact community footprint has both environmental and economic advantages for the community of Carmacks. The Village of Carmacks will work within its municipal boundaries to limit the encroachment of development on existing wilderness and to lessen the cost of providing infrastructure to residents.

The Village of Carmacks will also work with the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation on joint infrastructure to the benefit of both governments wherever physical, financial and logistical limitations can be overcome.

The community of Carmacks will promote the development of services and facilities that will allow the residents of Carmacks to remain in the community as long as possible as they age.

The residents of Carmacks respect and value the contribution that seniors and elders have made and continue to make to our community. They add social, cultural and economic value to fabric of community life. Seniors and elders may eventually need to move to a larger centre for specialized care. We must work with health services and housing partners, however, to ensure that services and facilities are available in Carmacks that allow our residents to stay in their home community as long as possible.

Measuring our Success

It is important that our community goals are aligned with the values of our community members. It is also critical to set out ways to measure whether or not we are reaching our goals.

To ensure we are making real progress in meeting our goals, we have identified measurements and targets that will indicate success in meeting each one of our community goals.

Goals, Values and Measures of Success

The community of Carmacks will enjoy modest population growth that will allow us to maintain existing services and infrastructure and encourage the future expansion of services in the community.

This goal is aligned with the Carmacks community value of *“a diverse and stable economy that supports residents and local governments in the long term.”*

Measures of success for this goal are fairly simple. They will be considered over a ten-year period to allow annual variances to be accommodated. The Village of Carmacks will measure success in reaching this goal in three ways:

- An increase in the population of the community over a ten-year period from 2006 to 2016 as measured by Statistics Canada.
- An increase in the number of Village of Carmacks business licenses over a ten-year period from 2006 to 2016.
- An increase in the value of the municipal tax base over a ten-year period from 2006 to 2016.

The community of Carmacks will expand and diversify its economic base to support residents, attract newcomers, and allow local governments to provide and maintain community infrastructure.

This goal is aligned with the Carmacks community value of *“a diverse and stable economy that supports residents and local governments in the long term.”*

In addition to measuring success through an increase in the number of business licenses as noted above, the Village of Carmacks will measure success in reaching this goal in two ways:

- An increase in the number of employed residents over a ten-year period from 2006 to 2016 as measured by Statistics Canada.

- An increase in the number of “industry divisions” in which residents are employed over a ten-year period from 2006 to 2016 as measured by Statistics Canada.

The Village of Carmacks will work cooperatively with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation in all appropriate forums to improve the lives of all residents of Carmacks.

This goal is aligned with the Carmacks community value of “*community pride and unity.*”

While the effects of cooperation between the two local governments will often result in successes that are difficult to measure, increased cooperation between the Village of Carmacks and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation can also be measured in tangible ways. The Village of Carmacks will measure success in reaching this goal in four ways:

- Regular and special joint council meetings with the Village of Carmacks Mayor and Council and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations Chief and Council.
- The development of agreements between the two governments such as Memorandums of Understanding.
- The completion of Service Agreements between the two governments in which one government provides a service to the residents of the whole community.
- The development of infrastructure and/or services that are shared by the two governments.

The Village of Carmacks will maintain a compact footprint to promote environmental sustainability and enhance the affordability of community infrastructure.

This goal is aligned with the Carmacks community value of “*the natural environment that surrounds and sustains the community.*”

We will measure our success in meeting this community goal in three ways:

- The redevelopment of land within the municipality that is currently underdeveloped or underutilized.
- Meeting demand for new residential or commercial land by making lots available within the current developed footprint of the municipality.
- The relocation of the existing Highway Maintenance Compound outside of the downtown area.

The Village of Carmacks will use bylaws and infrastructure development as tools to promote sustainability, enrich the lives of residents, and enhance the visitor experience.

This goal is aligned with the Carmacks community value of *“the natural environment that surrounds and sustains the community”*.

The quality of life of community residents and the quality of the visitor experience can be challenging values to quantify. In part, we will use specific projects and initiatives that we believe will contribute to these goals as well as the goal of community sustainability as a way to measure progress in these areas. These projects and initiatives include:

- Completion of the Carmacks sewage treatment system.
- Development of a Recreation Centre heating system based on renewable energy.
- Completion of the riverfront boardwalk.

Other ways that we will measure our success in reaching this goal include:

- Improvement of the Village of Carmacks Solid Waste Management methods and facilities that result in an increase in recycling and a decrease in waste entering the landfill.
- A decrease in energy required to run municipal buildings and operations.
- The number of homes and businesses in Carmacks with access to reliable, safe, and clean drinking water.

The community of Carmacks will promote the development of services and facilities that will allow the residents of Carmacks to remain in the community as long as possible as they age.

This goal is aligned with the Carmacks community values of *“a physically and emotionally healthy population,”* and *“the history, heritage and culture of the community.”*

We will measure our success in meeting this community goal in three ways:

- The development of recreational programs or activities aimed specifically at older residents of the community.
- An increase in housing units available in Carmacks with design elements that makes them more suitable for aging residents.
- The continuing availability of Home Care services for all residents that require them.

Community Inventory and Assessment Checklists:

Capital Project Infrastructure Inventory and Assessment

Capital Project/Infrastructure	Do you have it? Yes/No	What is the condition? Good/Avg/Poor	Is there enough? Yes/No	Do you need it? Yes/No
City Hall	Yes	Good	Yes	Yes
Airport	Yes	Good	Yes	Yes
Community buildings	Yes	Average	Yes	Yes
Community Hall	Yes	Good	Yes	Yes
Dock facilities	Yes	Average	Yes	Yes
Community energy systems	No	N/A	No	Yes
Fire station	Yes	Average	Yes	Yes
Health clinic	Yes	Good	Yes	Yes
Housing	Yes	Poor	No	Yes
Internet service	Yes	Good	Yes	Yes
Library	Yes	Poor	No	Yes
Police building	Yes	Good	Yes	Yes
Post office	Yes	Poor	Yes	Yes
Recreation (parks)	Yes	Average	Yes	Yes
Roads	Yes	Poor	Yes	Yes
Schools	Yes	Poor	No	Being Built
Sewage collection and disposal	Yes	Average	No	Yes
Solid waste disposal	Yes	Good	Yes	Yes
Water service	Yes	N/A	N/A	Maybe
Public transportation	No	N/A	No	Yes
Active transportation	Yes	Ave	No	Yes
Youth centre	No	N/A	No	Yes

Social, Health, and Cultural Services Inventory and Assessment

Resource Category	Type of Service	Does this exist? Yes/No	Can it be improved? Yes/No
Health	Nutrition	Yes	Yes
	Weight loss	No	Yes
	Aids prevention	Yes	Yes
	Substance abuse	Yes	Yes
	Family planning	Yes	Yes
Public Safety	Police protection	Yes	Yes
	Fire protection	Yes	Yes
	Emergency response	Yes	Yes
	Search and rescue	Yes	Yes
Recreation Programs	Small children	Yes	Yes
	Teens	Yes	Yes
	Adults	Yes	Yes
Social Service Programs	Child care	Yes	Yes
	Domestic violence	No	Yes
	Seniors	Yes	Yes
	Disability services	Yes	Yes
	Counselling – adults	No	Yes
	Counselling – teens	No	Yes
	Legal services	Yes	Yes
Suicide prevention	Yes	Yes	
Self Government	Self government status	Yes	N/A
Cultural Programs	Elders group	Yes	N/A
	Music	Not specifically	N/A
	Subsistence food preparation	Yes	N/A
	Dance group	No	N/A
	Arts and crafts	Yes	N/A
	Language programs	Yes	N/A
	Spirit camps	No	N/A
Storytelling	Yes	N/A	

Economic Inventory and Assessment

Type of Typical Job	Number of jobs?	Is the job filled by a person in the community? Yes/No	Full time? Yes/No	Seasonal? Yes/No	Wage example
Arts and crafts	5	Yes		Yes	
CAO/Executive Director	2	Yes	Yes		60,000
Accounting officer	5	Yes	Yes		50,000
Environmental specialist	2	Yes	Yes		50,000
Logger/Forester	2	Yes	Yes		50-70,000
Health aide/Nurse	3	Yes	Yes		50-70,000
Heavy equipment operator	4	Yes		Yes	50-70,000
Mechanic	4	Yes		Yes	10,000
Construction	12	No		Yes	60,000
Housing manager	2	Yes	Yes		40,000
Public safety officer	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fire fighters	12/6active	Yes	Volunteer	No	N/A
Emergency response	7/3active	Yes	Volunteer	No	N/A
Business owners	25	Yes	Yes	Yes	30-100,000
Counsellor	3	Yes	Yes		50,000
Water treatment operator	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sewage treatment operator	2	Yes	Yes		45,000
Landfill operator	1	Yes	No	Yes	24,000
Power plant operator	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Environmental Inventory and Assessment

Environmental Assets/Needs	Do you have it? Yes/No	If this is lacking, does your community need it? Yes/No
Safe drinking water	Some	Yes
Adequate supply of water	Yes	
Certified water treatment operators	Yes	
Safe sewage disposal and treatment	Yes	
Permitted landfill	Yes	
Recycling program	Yes	
Used oil storage area	No	Yes
Lead acid battery collection area	Yes	
Developable land	Yes	
Fuel spill prevention plan	Yes	
Hazardous waste response plan	Yes	
Erosion control	No	No
Contaminated sites identified	Yes	
Healthy subsistence food	Yes	
Environmental Education programs	No	Yes
Healthy wildlife populations	Yes	
Hazardous waste collection area	No	Yes
Protected watershed plan	No	Maybe
Environmental impact statement	No	No

Capacity Building and Job Training Inventory and Assessment

Capacity Building/ Training/Education Opportunities Category	Type	Does this job exist in the Community? Yes/No	Training/education needed? Yes/No	Is training available in the Community? Yes/No
Municipal or First Nation Administrative Positions	CAO	Yes	Yes	No
	Accounting Officer	Yes	Yes	No
Education	Principal	Yes	No	No
	Teachers	Yes	No	No
	Teacher aides	Yes	Yes	Some
Health	Health aide	Yes	Yes	No
	Nurse practitioner	Yes	No	
	Doctor	Itinerant	No	No
Transportation Utilities	Driver/pilot	No	No	No
	Water treatment operator	No	N/A	No
	Sewage treatment operator	Yes	Yes	No
	Landfill operator	Yes	Yes	No
	Power plant operator	No	N/A	No
	Water delivery service operator	Yes	Yes	No
Justice	Court Worker	Itinerant	No	No
	Probation Officer	Itinerant	No	No

Community Evaluation

Community infrastructure in areas that are eligible for Gas Tax Agreement funding can be evaluated for its contribution, both positive and negative, to the sustainability principles of the Village of Carmacks.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure

While a new wastewater treatment plant will be built starting in the spring of 2007, improvements in existing water and sewer infrastructure are required in certain areas of the Village. The current wastewater collection system only services a portion of the community. Most of the lots, including those in the industrial and country residential sections of town and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation lots, have individual septic fields.

With the exception of several homes on water delivery, the drinking water for homes and businesses in the community is provided by individual wells, and while the water quality is generally good, there have been a number of boil water advisories in the last several years. The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation is currently investigating the feasibility of a water distribution system.

Completing a wastewater collection system for the whole community, as well as developing a distribution system for clean water for the community would help Carmacks meet the following two sustainability principles:

- Ensure that all residents are able to meet their own needs and realize their full potential, in a way that does not reduce the ability of others to do the same.
- Minimize and eventually eliminate our contribution to the accumulation of substances produced by society.

Solid waste disposal/recycling depot/hazardous waste collection

The landfill site operated by the Village of Carmacks is fairly new, and helps meet the goals set out in the recent 25-year *Solid Waste Management Plan*. The Village of Carmacks is currently building a new recycling building at the landfill site. Although this will improve the facilities, and hopefully increase usage, there will still be limitations on recycling. The community recycling society operates the recycling centre and they are currently only able to open it one evening per week. The new recycling centre will also still lack the ability to handle hazardous waste.

A recycling depot with expanded hours of operations with the capability of handling hazardous waste will help us meet the following four community sustainability principles:

- Ensure that all residents are able to meet their own needs and realize their full potential, in a way that does not reduce the ability of others to do the same
- Minimize and eventually eliminate our contribution to the accumulation of substances extracted from the earth.
- Minimize and eventually eliminate our contribution to the accumulation of substances produced by society.
- Minimize and eventually eliminate our contribution to the physical degradation of nature.

Community Energy System

There is currently no community energy system in place in Carmacks. The high cost of heating the Village Recreation Centre has led the Village to begin discussing a new heating system based on renewable fuels. The relatively close proximity of the recreation centre to other municipal buildings, territorial government buildings, the new school, and the Klondike Highway businesses make a community energy system a project worth considering. If a community energy system based on renewable fuel were established in Carmacks, it would help the community meet three of its sustainability principles:

- Ensure that all residents are able to meet their own needs and realize their full potential, in a way that does not reduce the ability of others to do the same.
- Minimize and eventually eliminate our contribution to the accumulation of substances extracted from the earth.
- Minimize and eventually eliminate our contribution to the physical degradation of nature.

Active transportation

There is no formal active transportation infrastructure in the Village of Carmacks. Traffic in the core of the community is relatively minimal and separate travel paths for pedestrians and bicycles along existing travel corridors would not likely increase usage. However, the Yukon River serves as a physical barrier to active transportation between the two halves of the community. The possibility of a pedestrian bridge across the river that directly links the different parts of the community has been discussed by some community members.

Such a link might also facilitate the connection of water and sewer infrastructure across the river. This infrastructure would help us meet two of our sustainability principles:

- Ensure that all residents are able to meet their own needs and realize their full potential, in a way that does not reduce the ability of others to do the same.
- Minimize and eventually eliminate our contribution to the accumulation of substances extracted from the earth.

It is recognized that building a pedestrian bridge across the Yukon River may be logistically and financially challenging. Carefully considering capital and ongoing costs of project must be a part of meeting community sustainability principles. If these costs were too high, a pedestrian bridge across the river would threaten one of the community's sustainability principles:

- Ensure that all residents are able to meet their own needs and realize their full potential, in a way that does not reduce the ability of others to do the same.

Public transportation

There is currently no public transportation in Carmacks. The local economy and size of the Village of Carmacks make it unlikely that it would be able to support an economically sustainable public transportation system at this time.

Roads

The roads within the Village of Carmacks are generally in reasonable condition. Most of the roads in the community have existing Bituminous Surface Treatments (BST). This requires periodic maintenance and upgrading. Several gravel roads in the municipality still need BST applied to them. The Gruder Drive/LePage road loop is the highest priority section where BST could be applied. While road systems do not generally make a positive contribution to environmental sustainability, they are important infrastructure in terms of the quality of life of residents and can make a contribution to economic goals. Improvements in the existing road network within the Village of Carmacks would help us meet one of our sustainability principles:

- Ensure that all residents are able to meet their own needs and realize their full potential, in a way that does not reduce the ability of others to do the same.

Service Agreements

Service agreements between two local governments can help reduce costs and avoid needless duplication of services. This can help contribute to the financial sustainability of both governments and the community as a whole. One existing service agreement, and a number of areas where there is potential for new service agreements are listed below.

Existing Service Agreements:

Service Provided via Agreement	Service Provider	Current End Date	Cost of Service	Rate Service (Good, fair or poor)	Will it be renewed?
Fire Protection Agreement	Village of Carmacks (VOC)	March 31, 2007.	Calculated annually based on previous year's costs.	Fair	Yes, annually

Potential Service Agreements:

Potential Service	Potential Service Provider	Expected Cost of Service	Is the Service Provided?	Is the service provider interested? Have they been contacted?
Solid Waste/ Recycling	Village of Carmacks (VOC)	N/A	Yes	N/A
Water/sewer agreement	VOC	N/A	Yes	
Snow Removal	VOC or Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN)	N/A	Yes	N/A
Road Maintenance	VOC or LSCFN	N/A	Yes	N/A
Bylaw Services	VOC or LSCFN	N/A	Yes	N/A
District Heat	VOC or LSCFN	N/A	No	N/A
Recreation	VOC or LSCFN	N/A	Yes	N/A

Priority Setting

Current and imminent projects in Carmacks will help meet community priorities in the areas of education and wastewater treatment. However, there are a few areas where improvement of existing services or facilities or the development of new services or facilities would improve the lives of community members and enhance sustainability.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure

The construction of the wastewater treatment plant scheduled to begin in May, 2007 will help meet residents needs in this area, but currently only part of the community is hooked up to the wastewater collection system. Residents and businesses that are not on the collection system must provide their own private septic fields. It is hoped that the system can be expanded in the next several years to service the majority of buildings within the core of the community.

The lack of a community well and drinking water distribution system has a negative impact on the quality of drinking water in the community. Individual wells are expensive and do not always provide clean, safe water. The construction of a community well and filtration system and a community water distribution system is a priority of the Carmacks. It is hoped that this can be achieved within 5-10 years.

Recycling and Waste Management

There is a new recycling building being built at the landfill site in Carmacks, but it will not have the capacity to handle hazardous waste. The limited hours of the recycling centre also contribute to its relatively low use. The limited use of the recycling centre has a negative effect on environmental sustainability, and the large amount of waste currently reaching the landfill will have a negative long-term impact on municipal spending, thus affecting all residents. A recycling centre with increased capacity and operating hours will address environmental sustainability issues, while lowering future waste management costs.

Municipal Energy Management

All governments and individuals have been struggling with rising energy costs over the last few years. These rising costs hinder the ability of the Village of Carmacks to meet other community priorities. Energy efficiency initiatives, combined with a stronger focus on renewable fuels will help Carmacks meet the first and second sustainability principles, through saving money that can be used to meet other community needs, and reducing the use of fossil fuels extracted from the earth's core. While all facets of municipal operations can be improved for energy efficiency, energy requirements associated with the Community

Recreation Centre are especially high – costing the Village of Carmacks about \$100,000/year at current energy costs.

Economic Development

The economy in Carmacks is improving as a couple of mining projects in the region are being developed. However, there have always been challenges ensuring local residents and communities maximize benefits from these developments, as well as in maintaining the economic benefits when mines close down, or exploration drops.

This impacts the ability of individuals to meet their personal and financial goals over the long term, while challenging local governments to provide infrastructure and services in a sustainable way. A close working relationship with mineral exploration and development companies, combined with training opportunities for local residents would help mitigate some of these concerns. Stronger community based economic development initiatives will also diversify the economy and ease the impact of the cyclical nature of resource development. Cooperating with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation on a Community Economic Development Strategy is the first step in advancing in this area.

Infrastructure and Services for Seniors

Carmacks residents requiring homecare are currently able to receive it. As the demand increases it is critical that the access to homecare is maintained. The Village of Carmacks is currently soliciting input from seniors on the need for recreational activities. Ensuring that seniors maintain an active lifestyle increases their quality of life and helps them stay healthier longer.

Limited facilities for seniors are an issue for Carmacks residents. While this directly impacts seniors and their families, there are broader consequences for the whole community. The social, cultural and economic fabric of the community is affected when long time residents are forced to leave the community as a result of increased care needs.

An increase in services and facilities for Carmacks seniors would have a direct and indirect positive impact on all residents of the Village.

Infrastructure Priorities

1. Wastewater Treatment Facility

The construction of the wastewater treatment facility for the Village of Carmacks has been a community priority for a number of years. It is expected that the project will be started in May 2007 and be completed within 2 construction seasons. This project will have a positive impact on Carmacks' third sustainability principle by ensuring that "substances produced by society" are properly treated. While the new facility will only service the existing wastewater collection area, future expansion of the community wastewater collection is also a priority (see below). If future expansion includes Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation buildings, the opportunity for cost sharing would exist. This project is eligible for Gas Tax Agreement funding.

2. Recreation Centre Energy Efficiency

The existing recreation centre in the community of Carmacks is inefficient and expensive to heat and operate. Current costs are approximately \$100,000/year for heat and electricity. An evaluation of potential energy efficiency initiatives related to the recreation centre, followed by the implementation of recommended actions would have a positive effect on the first and second sustainability principles. Financial savings would increase the ability of the Village of Carmacks to focus its resources in other areas, and a decrease in energy usage would reduce Carmacks' use of fossil fuels. Implementing a program prior to developing a new renewable energy heating system (see below) for the centre would ensure that future investments would be more effective. This project is eligible for Gas Tax Agreement funding.

3. Recreation Centre Renewable Energy System

The high environmental and economic costs associated with the current recreation centre have been documented above. In combination with the energy efficiency program, a new renewable energy heating system for the centre will have positive effects on the first two sustainability principles as already noted. While a biomass heating system seems the most promising technology, a closer look at biomass and other renewable energy options is required before moving forward with this project. This project is eligible for Gas Tax Agreement funding.

4. Improved Recycling Centre

A recycling centre with increased capacity to handle hazardous waste and increased operating hours would serve to help Carmacks meet all of its sustainability principles. Increased usage would help Carmacks with all environmental aspects of its sustainability principles, while increasing the amount of waste reaching the landfill will extend the life of the landfill, and help the Village of Carmacks meet other financial commitments and needs. There may be

the opportunity to share on this initiative with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, and any capital costs would be eligible for Gas Tax Agreement funding.

5. Community Well/Filtration System

Residents and businesses in the Village of Carmacks currently meet their drinking water requirements through individual wells and water delivery in a small number of cases. The current supply is not always reliable as evidenced by several boil water advisories in recent years. The development of a community well and filtration system with capacity to meet the water needs of the entire community would assist Carmacks in meeting its first sustainability principle. The development of a community water distribution system is a related project to the development of a community well. There is an opportunity to cost share on this project with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation. This project is eligible for Gas Tax Agreement funding.

6. Community Water Distribution System

As noted above, the development of a safe and reliable water supply for Carmacks is a community priority. A water distribution system would ensure that all residents have access to this water in a reliable and cost efficient way. This would assist the Village of Carmacks in meeting its first sustainability principle. Linked to the development of a community well and filtration system, this project could potentially be cost shared with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, and is eligible for Gas Tax Agreement funding.

7. Completion of Riverfront Boardwalk

The existing riverfront boardwalk runs from the Visitor Information Centre/campground to Pocket Park. Ultimately, the community would like the walkway to extend from Merv Tew Park to the Tage Cho Hudan Cultural Centre. This will serve as an attraction for visitors and an enhanced recreational opportunity for residents. Extending the walkway would enhance sustainability principle number one. This project would likely involve cooperation with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and the Yukon Government and the potential for cost sharing exists.

8. Extension of Wastewater Collection System

With the expected completion of a new wastewater treatment facility by 2008, the extension of the current wastewater collection system will become a priority project for the Village of Carmacks. By allowing more residents and businesses to have access to the new system, the first and third sustainability principles would be enhanced. Depending on the scope of the extension, there may be an opportunity to cost share with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation. This project would be eligible for Gas Tax Agreement funding.

9. Beautification of Klondike Highway Corridor

The beautification of the Klondike Highway corridor would have a direct positive impact both on the lives of current residents, and on potential residents and tourists. This would help meet sustainability principle number one. Direct responsibility for the Klondike Highway lies with the Yukon Government, and the Village of Carmacks, the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and private landowners have responsibility for land that borders the highway. It is likely that a multi stakeholder-planning group would be required to ensure a coordinated approach to this project.

10. Road Upgrades

Improvement of the existing BST surfaces in the municipality is a priority for the Village of Carmacks. All BST surfaced roads require regular maintenance and/or replacement and some streets are in need of immediate attention. Maintaining good road conditions help the community meet its first sustainability principle. Although this project is not eligible for Gas Tax Agreement funding, it may be possible to obtain financing from other existing infrastructure funding available to municipalities.

11. Improved Recreational Trail System

The community of Carmacks enjoys a number of trails located both inside and outside of the municipality. These trails, including the Ridge Trail, the Coal Mine Lake Trail, and the Agate/Gem Trails, offer recreational opportunities to residents and are an attraction for visitors. Improved trail signage and maintenance would enhance the value of the existing trails. Improving the trail system would help Carmacks meet its first sustainability principle.

12. Carmacks Arena Improvements

The arena in Carmacks is an outdoor facility, and it is in poor condition. Although there is a roof, the arena lacks walls or heating thereby limiting its use in cold weather through much of the winter. In addition, the concrete ice pad is cracked and not level. Other sections of the structure are unsafe. While dealing with energy issues at the recreation centre remains the top recreation project priority, an enclosed and safe ice arena is also a priority for the community. Improving this popular recreation facility would advance the first sustainability principle of the community.

The Planning Process

The Village of Carmacks developed this Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) in part to meet the requirements of the Canada Yukon Gas Tax Agreement signed in May 2005. This agreement, signed by Canada and Yukon, set out the terms for the transfer of \$37.5 million to Yukon municipalities, First Nations and unincorporated areas over a five-year period from 2005/06 to 2009/10. This includes approximately \$548,000 to the Village of Carmacks over this time period.

As set out in the Canada Yukon Gas Tax Agreement, the Yukon Government (YG) developed a template that sets out the minimum process and content requirements for Yukon ICSPs. This ICSP follows the template.

Some of the content of the ICSP was based on the 2005 Village of Carmacks *Official Community Plan* that followed its own distinct planning process that included significant opportunities for community input. The Village of Carmacks also held three advertised public meetings to allow community members input into this plan. As required by the YG template, these meetings were advertised for two successive weeks, and for the first two meetings, the final advertisement was placed at least seven days before the meeting. The lack of a Yukon News paper on Thanksgiving Day (October 9, 2006) resulted in the second advertisement for the October 17 meeting being placed six days prior to the meeting on October 11, 2006.

A public working meeting of council was held in June to prioritize infrastructure projects based on community goals and sustainability principles.

No written submissions on either of the draft documents available to the public were received.

Several one on one interviews with community workers in the fields of health and housing were also conducted to provide background information for the planning process.

The meeting and advertising information is listed below:

1. February 6, 2006

Advertised locally and in the Yukon News: January 27, 2006 and January 30, 2006.

2. April 3, 2006

Advertised locally in the Yukon News: March 24, 2006 and March 27, 2006.

Carmacks Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

A draft of the Community Overview, Community Vision Statement, Sustainability Principles, and Community Goals was publicly available at the Village of Carmacks office on March 27, 2006. The draft was approved at this meeting.

3. June 21, 2006

Working meeting of Council advertised by posters within the community of Carmacks.

4. October 17, 2006

Advertised locally and in the Yukon News: October 2, 2006 and October 11, 2006.

A draft of the complete ICSP was publicly available at the Village of Carmacks office on October 10, 2006. The draft was approved in principle at this meeting.

Final Approval

November , 2006

The final draft of the Village of Carmacks Integrated Community Sustainability Plan was approved at a regular council meeting on November , 2006.

Cooperation with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation

The Yukon Government ICSP template requires that local governments in close proximity to each other demonstrate that efforts have been made to work together in the development of their respective ICSPs.

Beyond this requirement, the Village of Carmacks recognizes the importance of working with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation in order to better the lives of all residents of the community, and to realize financial and capacity benefits through shared planning and services. This belief is reflected in one of the community goals adopted in this plan.

There was consistent communication between the Village of Carmacks and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation throughout the planning process.

In December 2005, the Mayor of Carmacks informed the Chief of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation of the beginning of the Village planning process and invited his government's participation (December 15, 2005 letter attached).

The Village of Carmacks and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation held a Joint Council Meeting on February 13, 2006 (February 9, 2006 memo attached) to discuss Integrated Community Sustainability Planning. The First Nation and the Village also scheduled a second Joint Council Meeting on March 6, 2006 to discuss ICSP planning (February 28, 2006 letter attached).

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation was also invited to participate in the June 21, 2006 working meeting of the Village Council (June 14, 2006 letter attached).