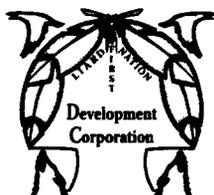




Liard First Nation
Integrated Community Sustainability Plan
(ICSP)



Liard First Nation Development Corporation
PO Box 64
Watson Lake, Yukon Y0A 1C0
November 2007

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Introduction

The Government of Canada introduced the New Deal for Cities and Communities, which in the Yukon, is the transfer of federal gas tax revenues to Yukon First Nations and communities providing more funding for economic, environmental, social, and cultural sustainable infrastructure.

Liard First Nation and other Yukon First Nations and communities are eligible for new federal funding. The Yukon Government is managing the funding over the five years of the federal program. The first step in getting the new funding is for LFN to complete an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). This long-term plan, developed in consultation with community members, provides direction for the community to realize sustainability objectives for the environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions of its identity.¹

The Liard First Nation (LFN) directed its wholly owned Liard First Nation Development Corporation (LFNDC) Team to complete an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) for the First Nation. LFNDC assembled community planning and development professionals who completed the ICSP, under the direction of Alex Morrison, General Manager, LFNDC.

LFNDC developed the LFN ICSP following the plan template as required under the Gas Tax agreement. For details on the Gas Tax Agreement, please contact the Yukon Department of Community Services, Community Affairs Branch.

The Yukon Government is managing the Yukon's share of the New Deal for Cities and Communities or Gas Tax Agreement for five years under the terms and conditions of an intergovernmental agreement. The agreement is for the fiscal year 2005-2009. A second agreement is expected though as with any federal government funding, program continuation depends on the priorities of the government of the day.

The initial \$950,250 LFN allocation earns interest until transferred to LFN for eligible projects under a contribution agreement. Completing the ICSP, following the template to which CYFN has agreed, will enable the Yukon Government to begin transferring the gas tax revenue to LFN. Based on a formula in the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA), funding to LFN is as shown in Table 1. LFN will forward the ICSP to the Oversight and Review Committee for approval. Following approval, LFN will then be able to access the remaining funding.

¹ "ISCP: Local planning that reflects local realities," PowerPoint Presentation. Yukon Government, 2005.

Table 1: LFN Share of Gas Tax Revenue²

			Program Total	1 year	2 year	3 year	4 year	5 year	
	%	Share	\$9,375,000	12%	12%	16%	20%	40%	Total
LFN	10.136%	\$950,250	\$950,290	\$114,035	\$114,035	\$152,046	\$190,058	\$380,116	\$950,290

To access project funding, LFN has completed the ICSP and will have it approved by the Oversight Committee. Funding to complete the ICSP and to undertake further implementation planning is provided upon request to LFN and is included within the five year contribution.

LFNDC integrated the ICSP planning process into other processes to avoid overlap in consultations, including the LFN Strategic Economic Development Planning process, and community consultations on various projects planned within the community.

LFN participated with the Town of Watson Lake (TOWL) in a joint planning and coordinating process, which is detailed in this plan. Cooperation on community and infrastructure planning and development has been a priority for the Chief and Council of LFN for the past three years.

² "Gas Allocations for Yukon First Nations," Yukon Government, November 16, 2006.

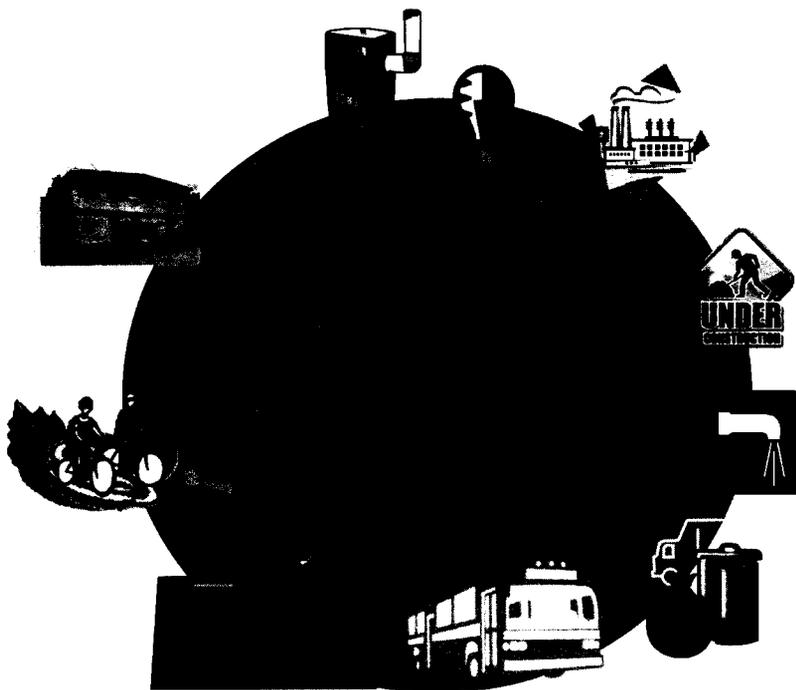
1. Understanding the ICSP

An ICSP is a community development planning tool that includes statements about the vision LFN citizens have for a sustainable future. LFN will develop this Plan following guidelines developed by the Yukon Government and the Council for Yukon First Nations.

The Governments of Canada and Yukon have developed a list of categories of projects eligible for New Deal funding. First Nations and communities can spend money on the following projects:

Projects Eligible for New Deal Funding

- Public transit
- Water systems including water treatment, wastewater systems and solid waste management
- Capacity building related to sustainability
- Community energy systems such as cogeneration or combined heat and power projects
- Building system improvements that promote significant energy efficiency
- Active transportation infrastructure like bike lanes, local road and related projects that enhance sustainability



Defining the Scope of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)

The ICSP was described to LFN community members, through newsletters and consultations, as a plan which brings together and considers all the parts of a community, and what it needs to keep it going in an agreed upon direction while preserving the culture, heritage and character that makes it unique.

LFNDC completed the ICSP which details LFN sustainability principles as identified by the LFN leadership and community members. As required in the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan Template, these principles covered five broad areas:

- Environmental
- Culture (including customs, arts and other achievements)
- Heritage (things such as works of art, cultural achievements and folklore that have been passed on from earlier generations as well as buildings, monuments and special places especially regarded as worthy of preservation)
- Social Issues
- Economic Issues



The Yukon Integrated Community Sustainability Plan Template identified five guidelines that were to be considered in preparing LFN's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan:

- A self-reliant community capable of maintaining its population and maintaining infrastructure through local funding.
- Infrastructure that respects and enhances the community's cultural identity.
- Infrastructure development that preserves and enhances bio-diversity and our natural environment.

- Public infrastructure that meets basic needs, while generating economic opportunity.
- Consider the effects infrastructure development will have on other communities, and where possible, include other affected populations in the planning process.

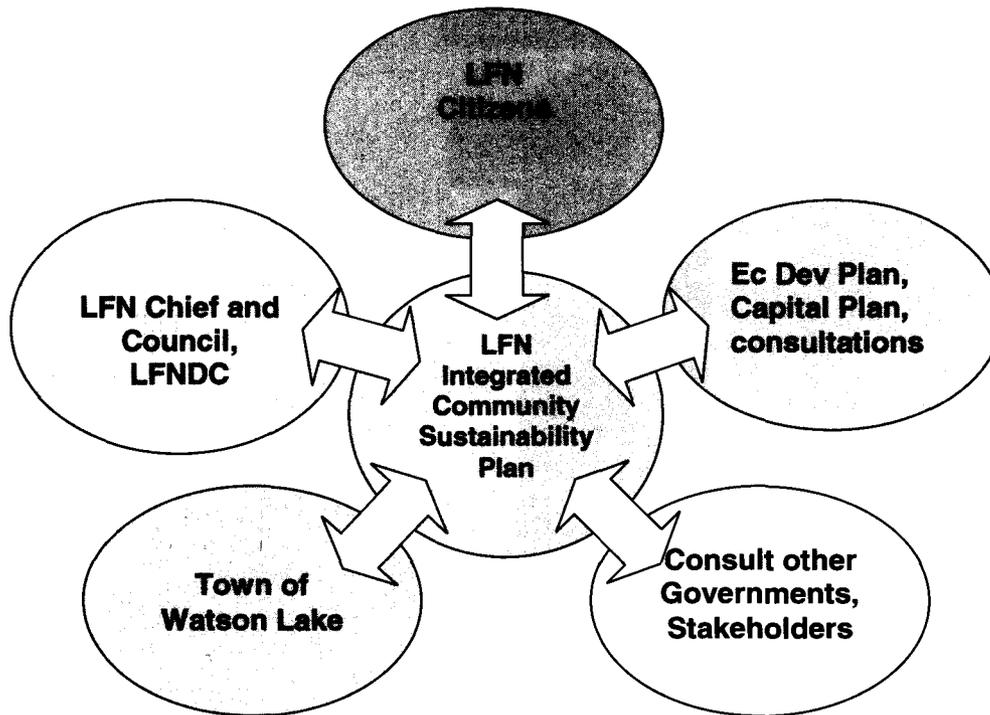
Exploring New Deal Community Development Possibilities in Detail

The ICSP was developed with the participation of LFN citizens. LFNDC met with the Chief and Council and community leaders over the project period. In meetings and workshops, LFN citizens were asked to help clarify issues relating to sustainability including what's important (values, vision statements, and goals) and what they think about the following related community assets and infrastructure:

- Public transit
- Water, such as drinking water supply, purification and treatment systems and water metering systems
- Wastewater, such as wastewater systems including sanitary and combined sewer systems and separate storm water systems
- Solid waste, such as waste diversion, material recovery facilities, organics management, collection depots, waste disposal landfills, thermal treatment, and landfill gas recuperation
- Community energy systems, such as cogeneration or combined heat and power projects (where heat and power are produced through a single process), district heating and cooling projects where heat (or cooling) is distributed to more than one building
- Active transportation infrastructure (e.g. bike lanes), local roads, bridges and walkways that enhance sustainability outcomes
- Building system improvements that promote significant energy efficiency improvements and/or utility
- Capacity building including collaboration, building partnerships and strategic alliances; participation; and consultation and outreach
- Knowledge; use of new technology, education and training; research; and monitoring and evaluation
- Integration: planning, policy development and implementation (like environmental management systems, life cycle assessment)
- local government

2. The Planning Process

LFN ICSP Consultation model



In late June & July, 2006, the application process started with Mr. Hale who met with Chief and Council to explain the process and how to approach the overall plan. LFNDC was given all available written planning material to read and subsequently met to confirm contract generalities from which LFNDC prepared a draft contract document – The overall plan and attached planning materials formed this contract.

Liard First Nation Development Corporation was contracted by the Liard First Nation to undertake this project. LFNDC met with Yukon Territorial Government and received a clear understanding of uses of the funds.

LFNDC met with Michael Hale to discuss the ICSP process, project eligibility and strategies. Once the Planning Committee, made up of Yukon First Nations and Yukon Territorial Government, approves eligible projects identified by the ICSP, Liard First Nation decides which project to proceed with.

It was considered acceptable and advisable to “piggy back” ICSP planning meetings with LFN members in other meetings. YTG indicated that this would likely have less of a negative impact that might occur because of too many meetings. In addition to saving money, the planning process would work well if tied into specific meetings already scheduled such as economic development and resource development discussions, and LFN Chief and Council consultations.

As well, LFN and the TOWL undertook a joint planning process, which ensured cooperation and consultation in this integrated community services planning process.

2.1. Cooperation with the Town of Watson Lake

In 2004, the Liard First Nation and the Town of Watson Lake entered into a Co-operation Accord.³ The purpose of the Accord was to:

- maintain and enhance an effective and respectful government-to-government working relationship;
- where possible, develop practical ways for their administrations to work together in the delivery of services in the Town of Watson Lake;
- encourage the development of greater private sector investment in Watson Lake;
- work together to maximize access to Yukon Government and Federal Government programs and services to promote economic and social development of the people of Watson Lake and the surrounding area, including such matters as training and educational opportunities;
- collaborate to develop community infrastructure, community justice and violence prevention, alcohol and drug treatment programming;

In keeping with the **Co-operation Accord**, the Town of Watson Lake and Liard First Nation worked together during the Integrated Community Services Plan process. As well, the Yukon Government ICSP template requires that local governments in close proximity to each other demonstrate that efforts have been made to work in partnership in the development of their respective ICSPs.

Beyond this requirement, the Town of Watson Lake recognizes the importance of this principle and continues to work with the Liard 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.

³ Co-operation Accord, Liard First Nation and the Town of Watson Lake, Watson Lake, Yukon, March 17, 2004.

There was consistent communication between the Town of Watson Lake and the Liard First Nation throughout the planning process, as well as the commitment for joint ownership of the ICSP process.

The Town of Watson Lake and the Liard First Nation have fostered a very strong leadership, one which has been set to pen under the Memorandum of Understanding, signed on March 17th, 2004 by Mayor Richard Durocher and Chief Liard McMillan. Three Joint Council Meetings were held on November 17th, 2005, December 13th, 2005 and February 13th, 2006 to discuss Community Sustainability Planning. In September 2005 a joint application between The Town of Watson Lake and the Liard First Nation was made to the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund to apply for funding for the BST surfacing of the roads at 2, 2 1/4 and 2 1/2 Mile. This application was accepted and road surfacing work was completed in the summer of 2007.

Some of the content of the TOWL ICSP was based on the current update of the *Official Community Plan* that followed its own distinct planning process, which included significant opportunities for community input.

The Town of Watson Lake had contracted Jerry Bruce of Bruce Community Development to start the planning process months before the announcement of the Gas Tax Agreement. On Mr. Bruce's recommendation the Mayor and Council hired Deb Hadwen as a Community Development Officer whose primary responsibility was to coordinate and facilitate the ICSP process.⁴

2.2. Community Consultation Process

This ICSP section reports on the ways in which the planning process identified the views and needs of LFN community members in the Watson Lake area.

The following community consultation methods were used at strategic points in the planning process:

1. Interviews and meetings and workshops with LFN leadership (Chief and Council)
2. Interviews and meetings with LFN community members
3. Focus group meetings
4. Community newsletters, meeting posters, advertising through LFNDC and LFN newsletters
5. Community meetings at strategic points in the planning process.
6. Participation with the Town of Watson Lake (TOWL) and Liard First Nation as a joint planning process.

⁴ Taken wholly from the Town of Watson Lake, Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, Draft, 2006

7. Personal interviews
8. Participation with the TOWL in its ICSP community consultations with TOWL members, including LFN citizens.
9. Workshops and meetings with other people in the community
10. Hosting an Open House

2.3. Consultations

As mentioned earlier, it was considered acceptable and advisable to “piggy back” economic development and resource development planning meetings already scheduled as well as scheduled meetings of LFN Chief and Council. Since many of the discussions overlapped, it prevented a negative impact that might occur because of too many meetings and a duplication of similar planning efforts.

On Dec. 6th, 2005 the Town of Watson Lake held an introductory meeting process in the Recreation Centre Community Hall. Individuals and community groups were invited to attend. Each notice of a meeting was advertised in the Yukon news, local rolling ads and the Watson Lake News.

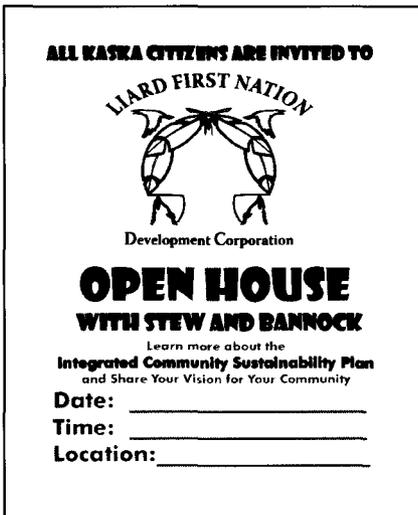
On January 12th, 2006 LFN partnered with the TOWL in holding a public forum and Community Dinner. It was well very well attended and the participants were very receptive to the ideas presented.

On May 30, 2006, LFN released its draft of the Strategic Economic Development Plan (SEDP) based upon consultations with LFN citizens and Chief and Council, including working group discussions at 2 Mile, the Watson Lake Recreation Centre and Chief and Council Chambers. Comments and suggestions related to the ICSP have been incorporated into this plan.⁵

On April 7th, 2006, Liard First Nation citizens and LFNDC project members Alex Morrison and Ron Gartshore attended a TOWL working group meeting at the Watson Lake High School. A list of issues discussed at previous meetings and consultations were presented to attendees. After this, those in attendance spoke to the issues and ideas raised, as well as added their own.

The TOWL published a comprehensive list of issues and ideas in the next Watson Lake newspaper for public review and comment. Approximately 48 of the identified 61 community service groups were met with in individual meetings attended by TOWL rep Deb Hadwen, and on most occasions LFN appointee Alex Morrison and TOWL Chief Administrative Officer, Rick Harder.

⁵ “Liard First Nation Strategic Economic Development Plan,” Stratagem Consulting Group Ltd., May 30, 2006.



On April 12th, 2007, an LFN ICSP meeting occurred at 2 Mile Community Hall, and was chaired by Alex Morrison, General Manager of LFNDC with the support of LFNDC's planning team included Randy Lewis, Dolly Carmichael, Cynthia Kearns, Martina Donnessey, and Ed Hall.

Approximately 21 citizens of the Village of Upper Liard, 2 Mile Village and Watson Lake were in attendance. After introductory remarks by Alex Morrison, issues were raised and comments made which are articulated within the findings of this plan.

LFN had undertaken defining community values, goals and objectives through the Strategic Economic Development Planning process. Through their consultation process, the TOWL defined community values, goals and objectives as well. A number of meetings occurred under the Strategic Economic Development Plan and have been incorporated into LFN's ICSP.

The Joint TOWL – LFN consultation process resulted in the TOWL contracting HS Productions to develop a DVD of the process steps and the chronicling of the meetings conducted by the TOWL.

2.4. Integration of Planning: Strategic Economic Development Planning

LFN and LFNDC undertook the development of a Strategic Economic Development Plan (SEDP). LFN's strategy planning process includes not only economic and educational initiatives but community, health, culture, and language are also addressed. The LFN strategy supports their efforts in culture, language, and social objectives. Therefore, consultations and results of the LFN SEDP have been incorporated into the ICSP

The LFN SEDP strategy was built upon

- a. Kaska's strong culture and traditional values.
- b. A vision of educated, healthy, independent, and self-sustaining communities.
- c. The potential to maximize undeveloped resources.

- d. The desire to share with benefits among all of the Kaska Nation.
- e. The need for Liard First Nation to take the lead in providing training, employment and wealth for LFN citizens, as the other models followed to date have not.



- f. Implementing opportunities that were identified during the workshop process and in prior studies.

- g. Prior regional business successes and capacity building.



Ongoing consultations with Chief and Council, a two day workshop held in White horse with Chief and Council, and consultations with LFN citizens, have been incorporated into the LFN Integrated Community Services Plan.

3. Sustainability Principles

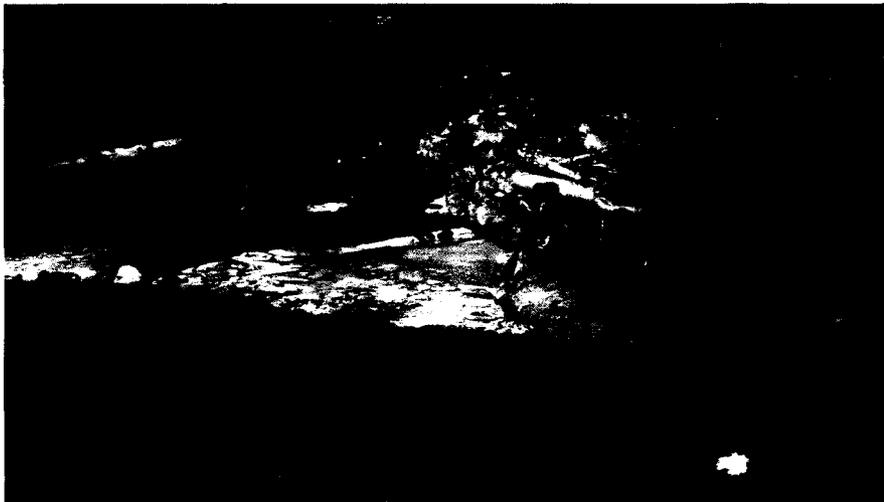
The sustainability principles as identified by the Liard First Nation planning process are detailed below. Items under 3.a. Environmental, sub sections a.i, a.ii, and a.iii are adopted from the joint planning process with the TOWL.

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 in physical and emotional health, which allows 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.

The Sustainability Principles identified through the LFN consultations as well as the TOWL consultations, include the following:



3.1. Environmental

Take steps to protect the air, water, and land environment

i. 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.

ii. Increasing Accumulations of Substances Produced by Society

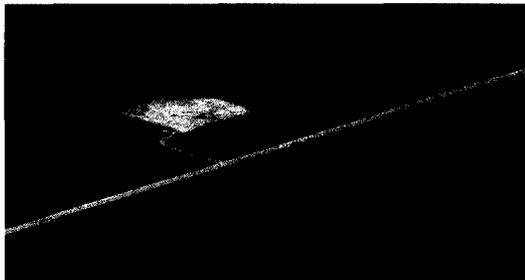
Society also produces matter that is not found in nature. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides are among many synthetic compounds that we produce and disperse into nature. The build up of these compounds in the food chain harm wildlife, and can cause diseases such as cancer in humans.

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

iii. 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 sustainable harvested forests and sustainable harvesting practices in mining and oil and gas exploration and development.⁶



⁶ Town of Watson Lake, Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, Draft, 2006, P5, 6.

The Liard First Nation Development Corporation, in an effort to meet the challenge of sustainability in development with its Traditional Territory has established the Healing the Land Division within its Corporate Structure

iv. Kēyeh Nejéh - Healing the Land

LFNDC, the economic development arm of the LFN has established a land management and reclamation division to provide business and government with extensive support services for sustainable development and land management.

Kēyeh Nejéh provides all the required support services for the mining and oil and gas sectors from logistics, transport, camp services, exploration services to best practices closure planning and site remediation.

Kēyeh Nejéh provides “solutions” to ensure that companies and government can work in the Liard First Nation territories and realize significant benefits by co-developing and maximizing the opportunities with Liard First Nation Development Corporation for the supply of services and a skilled labour force to meet industry needs while meeting the Liard First Nation requirements for: environmentally sound, socially responsible land management and sustainability goals.

It is a “solutions” based, energetic multi-disciplinary company whose partners combine years of field experience with dedicated senior management to provide client service and satisfaction.

Services include:

Traditional Knowledge Land Management

- Historical Land Use Research and Studies
- Consultation Planning and Implementation
- Socio-economic Impact Assessment
- Capacity Building

Reclamation Services

Reclamation Planning & Implementation

- Mining and Exploration
- Type II Mines
- Oil & Gas Development
- Pipelines and Well Sites

Environment Services

Environmental Site Management & Monitoring

- Contaminated Sites Construction and Management
- Mining and Exploration
- Oil and Gas Exploration

Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)

- Resource Development

Highway Right of Way Vegetation Management

- Revegetation
- Clearing & Brushing

3.2. Culture, traditional knowledge and language



- *Include traditional knowledge, culture and language in sustainability principles.*

Traditional knowledge is a high priority to use to preserve and sustain the land and culture, and to pass it on to the younger Kaska members. Kaska culture and language are to be used so people and industry can operate properly within Kaska lands, recognizing the Kaska relationship with the land and animals, as a means of accomplishing sustainable development.

3.3. Heritage and the land

- *Protect and preserve the LFN heritage sites and lands, as part of the Kaska Nation.*

(Things such as works of art, cultural achievements and folklore that have been passed on from earlier generations as well as buildings, monuments and particular places especially when regarded as worthy of preservation)

3.4. Social, education, training

Using education and training in economic, environmental, social, and cultural sustainable infrastructure.



- *To understand and participate in sustainability activities.*

Education is an essential requirement for LFN members to understand responsibilities as well as opportunities in developing economic, environmental, social, and cultural sustainable infrastructure.

- *Provide training opportunities for LFN citizens.*

It has been considered a priority that sustainable infrastructure be developed while creating training and employment opportunities to LFN citizens. The economic development arm of the LFN (LFNDC) creates training opportunities for many who do not have employment and need an upgrade of work and other skills. LFNDC will lead the implementation of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan initiatives and ensure LFN citizens receive the majority of opportunities. As well, in keeping with a local hiring policy, LFNDC endeavours to hire residents from Watson Lake and area.

3.5. Economic

- *Reduce unemployment within the community.*

The current unemployment rate was estimated at 60% in the winter and up to 35% in the summer among LFN citizens. By developing economic, environmental, social, and cultural sustainable infrastructure, using LFN and other Watson Lake workers, supplies and services, sustainable infrastructure development will decrease unemployment and increase the overall health and well being of the community.

- *Develop project management and project expertise within the community.*



Skills to innovate new businesses, entrepreneurship, and business management need to be expanded within the LFN. Overall economic benefit will come to the LFN and Watson Lake generally through LFNDC and private LFN and non-LFN businesses completing sustainable infrastructure projects.

As an important part to developing the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, the Liard First Nation undertook an integrated process of consultations related to the development of a Strategic Economic Development Plan.

4. Liard First Nation Overview



The Liard First Nation members comprise about 38% of the population in the Watson Lake area. This compares with 20 percent of First Nation population for the Yukon overall.

The Liard First Nation, which is part of the Kaska Tribal Council, has an estimated membership of 1500 as 2007. A little under half of the First Nation membership lives on First Nation land - either on reserves or crown land. Many members live in the Town of Watson Lake, while others live elsewhere in the Yukon and Lower Post, B.C. or outside the Territory.

The Kaska language of the Liard First Nation is one of the Athapaskan languages. The Kaska people are closely related to the Kaska Dena people of Ross River. As with other Yukon First Nations groups, the Kaska traditionally hunted and gathered on the land for their livelihood. They traveled in extended family groups throughout their traditional territory, hunting, fishing, and gathering vegetation as the seasons permitted. The Kaska were organized into a Wolf and Crow moiety system and observed the potlatch for ceremonial occasions.

Kaska First Nations people first began experiencing contact with white fur traders as early as the 1820s and 30s. Kaska territory was also part of the route to the Klondike goldfields in 1897-98. The First Nations people of the area were the subjects of conversion to the Roman Catholic Church as missionaries entered the area in the 1920s. With the building of the Alaska Highway in 1942, Watson Lake and Upper Liard became more permanent residences for the Kaska people.

Today, the Kaska people are actively involved in cultural revival, teaching the children the history, language, and traditional practices of the people. The First Nation supports heritage development, language classes, and elder involvement in healing programs and land-based activities. A Kaska language dictionary has recently been published.

The Liard First Nation is the largest sovereign First Nation within the Kaska Nation and is developing its social, cultural, community and economic institutions to make it self reliant and sustainable for future generations. The LFN has been involved in promoting unity, equity and cooperation with other Kaska groups in the region.

Liard First Nation Development Corporation



Over the last three years, the focus of Chief and Council has been to meet with advisors, community elders and citizens to formulate an economic and social plan that will capture and express the vision, values and community direction of the Liard First Nation.

Many things have been considered, including Liard First Nation's current economic status, future opportunities, changes needed in the community and the reality of LFN's assets compared with the desires, priorities and objectives of the community. As the achievement and realization of many of our goals will depend upon a sound economic base for the Liard First Nation, the first priority of Chief and Council was to create the Liard First Nation Development Corporation with a mandate to manage the economic affairs of the Liard First Nation and focus on sustainable economic development opportunities that will create jobs for LFN citizens, provide training opportunities, scholarships, new partnerships in resource development activity and overall, improve the quality of life in Kaska communities. The Watson Lake Hotel Properties and the Lakeview Apartments acquisitions fit within this objective.

There are a number of other specific initiatives planned or underway, including negotiating mining arrangements with companies, negotiating with the Yukon Government to open up the oil and gas opportunities, establishing joint ventures with industry partners, the creation of an environmental company, a community economic development plan, a new business policy for doing business within Liard First Nation's traditional territory, increasing housing for Liard First Nation citizens in the Watson Lake area, a business joint venture with Lower Post and joint Integrated Community Services Planning with the Town of Watson Lake. Plans to build a new administration building are in progress as well.

Alex Morrison, a Kaska citizen with extensive experience in Yukon First Nations economic and community development, took on the position of General Manager starting in January 2006, with Chief Liard McMillan and Deputy Chief Alfred Chief assuming the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors. Four new Board Members have been appointed to share their wisdom and experience in directing the future of the Liard First Nation Development Corporation. These include Joe Dick, Mary Porter, Ann Maje Raider and Don Megan. The Liard First Nation Development Corporation is the lead player in development and implementation of the Integrated Community Services Plan for the Liard First Nation.

5. The Town of Watson Lake



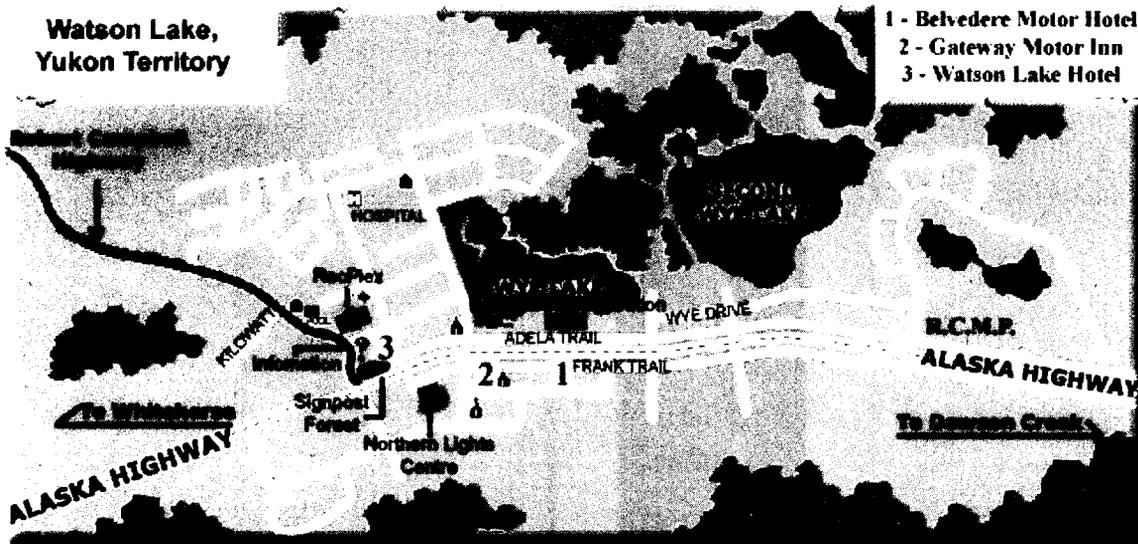
Watson Lake is known as the Gateway to the Yukon due to its location in the south-eastern corner of the Territory, just 14 kilometres from where the Alaska Highway crosses the British Columbia border. Watson Lake is a key transportation hub at the junction of the Alaska Highway, the Robert Campbell Highway to central Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and the Stewart-Cassiar Highway from central British Columbia. The Yukon's capital, Whitehorse, is 459 kilometres to the northwest.

A community was established at Watson Lake in 1939 when the Canadian government decided to build a chain of airports across the North, including one at Watson Lake. The new community was a supply and accommodation centre for airport construction in 1941 and for the building of the Alaska Highway a year later. After both were complete, Watson Lake became a service centre for the highway and, later, for the resource-rich region of the upper Liard River and its tributaries.

The Town of Watson Lake is located in South-eastern Yukon. As the "Gateway to the Yukon," Watson Lake is situated at Kilometre 1016.8 (Mile 635) of the Alaska Highway at its junction with the Robert Campbell Highway, making it the first community north of the 60th parallel as you enter the Yukon. The junction of the Stewart/Cassiar Highway with the Alaska Highway is 26 km. (16 miles) west of the community. Watson Lake also connects by road to Tungsten, Northwest Territories via the Robert Campbell Highway and the Nahanni Range Road. Watson Lake is 459.2 km. (285.2 miles) S.E. of the Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon.

The population of the Watson Lake community averaged 1790 people in 1997. As of June 2007 (Yukon Facts, Yukon Government), the population has decreased to 1567 people, a drop of 13% in the past 10 years.

Today, the Town of Watson Lake is the key transportation, communication and distribution centre for mining, forestry and energy activities in southern Yukon, northern B.C., and a portion of the N.W.T. It also serves as a major service area for tourism and is the site of regional Territorial Government administration services.



6. Values, Vision Statement and Community Goals

LFNDC built on recent LFN reports as well as the values, vision statement and community goals identified by LFN leadership and people in the community.

As community values were identified, the planning process involved developing a vision statement for the LFN community in Watson Lake. This vision statement also reflects other work that has been done by the community and is built on sustainability principles.

In keeping with joint planning and consultations with the Town of Watson Lake, for the purpose of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, the following community vision was adopted in consultation with the Town of Watson Lake, and subsequently built upon.

6.1. Community Vision Statement:

Watson Lake will be a progressive community with a vibrant, diversified economy - a regional centre, which is a good place to live and work.

Within this geographical context, the Liard First Nation will become one of Yukon's leading First Nation governments.

6.2. Liard First Nation - Town of Watson Lake: Community Values:

The Liard First Nation participated in developing the Community Values noted below.

Collectively, the values of the Liard First Nation citizens and other residents of Watson Lake define what the community is today, and guide us as we plan for the future. As with other communities, we want to ensure that our community values continue to be reflected in the decisions that we make as a community, and in the direction that we move. While we also recognize that our residents have different perspectives on many things, we believe that these broad values are reflective of the people who call Watson Lake and the Yukon, their home.

The land, rivers and forests surrounding our community provide for our physical and spiritual needs. The marshes, rivers, lakes and forests provide clean air and water, as well as fish and game which members of our community rely upon. This wilderness also provides many recreational and economic opportunities, and contributes to the quality of life that we all enjoy here.

i. A diversified, sustainable economy that provides a range of opportunities for current and future residents.

Residents must be able to make a living and the LFN and Town of Watson Lake municipal government depends on a population and tax base to support improvements to infrastructure and services. The Watson Lake area has experienced "feast and famine" cycles, and needs to develop a diverse economy in order to insulate us from future "famines" while adapting to new opportunities in the changing world. We temper our enthusiasm on economic boom times and would like the scale and pace to allow maximum local benefits, while minimizing negative impacts.

LFN citizens want to ensure full LFN participation in a diversified and sustainable economy.

ii. A safe and secure community where residents take individual and collective responsibility for the well being of all.

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

iii. A unified community that celebrates its diversity.

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. Community pride also equates to every aspect of our lives here, from the infrastructure that supports a healthy environment, to recognition of where we have come from to every where we can see ourselves going, the heights of educational awareness and provision of service, to the wide realm of recreational opportunities which exist and can exist within our community.

On the subject of unity, one LFN elder (re-) stated, "We must work *together today for our children tomorrow.*"

iv. A vibrant, active lifestyle with artistic, cultural and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The history, heritage and culture of our unique community spans many generations and has evolved through many different phases. We are all aware of the significance of the

historically rich "times gone by". It is with pride that we work together, members of First Nation heritage, old-timers, newcomers and interested people to preserve the footprints of the legacies. Not only do we have a rich transportation history, it is all about the people who have accomplished this through sheer grit, determination and ingenuity.

Two Mile Camp

Two Mile Camp is currently being constructed with the help of community members. It will be a place to teach our children about traditions and culture.



v. Lifelong learning that respects cultural differences and meets the varied needs of all residents.

We all continue to grow as we learn. We cannot remain stagnant in the evolution of our lives and the paths we take. We must be cognizant not only of our local needs but our relationship with the world that surrounds us, outside of our territorial boundaries.

LFN citizens stated the importance of respecting our elders, our Kaska heritage and each other.

7. Community Assessment

Through working with people in the community and the resulting research gathered, the LFNDC identified community assets and needs based upon the LFN's capital planning process, which identifies physical assets and priority infrastructure projects. These projects and community assets and needs are included in this ISCP.⁷

The LFN population in the Watson Lake area consists of settlements with different characteristics. Some of the recommendations were specific to the settlement area from which they live. The six settlement areas are:

- Upper Liard/Albert Creek Mile (about 13 kilometres west of Watson Lake),
- Brodhagenville
- Two Mile
- Two and a Quarter Mile
- Two and a Half Mile
- Town of Watson Lake.

The Liard First Nation is responsible for providing municipal infrastructure, housing and community services to the LFN residents of the Watson Lake area. The services provided include:

- housing
- residential, commercial and industrial building lots
- water supply, sewage and solid waste disposal
- volunteer fire department for Albert Creek and Upper Liard
- recreational services
- administrative services
- community road maintenance and snow clearing in Albert Creek



*A Water Treatment Plant is under construction.
Safe drinking water is a priority.*

⁷ "Five Year Capital Plan Update, 2003-2008," Liard First Nation

The Yukon Territorial Government (YTG) is presently responsible for providing:

- health services
- highway and community road maintenance and snow clearing
- community road maintenance and snow clearing in Upper Liard
- operations & maintenance for the firewall, fire equipment
- education

The Town of Watson Lake provides the following services under contract to the Liard First Nation:

- community road maintenance and snow clearing, including 2 and 2.5 Mile
- fire department including 2 and 2.5 Mile

Electrical power is the responsibility of Yukon Electric Ltd. and Northwestel provides communications.

A checklist provided in the *Integrated Community Sustainability Plan Template* is shown in Table 2 below. Several other checklists have been developed using the format of this template to assess community infrastructure and services.

Table 2: Capital Project Infrastructure Inventory and Assessment

Capital Project/Infrastructure	Do you have it?		What is the condition?			Is there enough?		Do you need it?	
	Yes	No	Good	Avg	Poor	Yes	No	Yes	No
City Hall	yes		good			yes		yes	
Airport	yes		good				no	yes	
Community buildings	yes				poor		no	yes	
Community Hall	yes		good			yes		yes	
Dock facilities	yes			fair			no	yes	
Community energy systems	yes		good				no	yes	
Fire station	yes		good			in the works		yes	
Health clinic	yes		good			yes		yes	
Hospital	yes			fair			no	yes	
Housing	yes		good				no	yes	
Internet service	yes		good			yes		yes	
Library	yes		good			yes		yes	
Police building	yes		good			yes		yes	
Post office	yes		good			yes		yes	
Recreation (parks)	yes			fair			no	yes	
Roads	yes			fair		yes		yes	
Schools	yes		good			yes		yes	
Sewage collection and disposal	yes			fair			no	yes	
Solid waste disposal	yes			fair			no	yes	
Water service	yes			fair			no	yes	
Public transportation		no					no	yes	
Youth centre	yes		good			yes		yes	
Theatre		no			no	yes		yes	

LFNDC conducted a similar inventory and assessment table for social, health, cultural, and heritage services (Table 3)

Table 3: Social, Health, Culture, and Heritage Resource Inventory

Social, Health, Cultural, & Heritage Resources	Type of Service	Does This Exist		Level of Service ⁸			Can It Be Improved		Responsible?		
		Yes	No	Good	Avg	Poor	Yes	No	Canada	Yukon	LFN
Health	General Practice Services	Yes					Yes			X	
	Hospital Services	Yes					Yes			X	
	Nutrition	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Weight Loss	Yes					Yes			X	X
	CD Prevention	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Pre-natal Support	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Substance Abuse Programs	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Counseling – Adults	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Counseling – Youth	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Family Planning	Yes					Yes			X	X
Public Safety	Police Protection	Yes					Yes		X		
	Fire Protection (town area)	Yes					Yes			town	
	Fire Protection (other areas)	Yes					Yes			town	X
	Emergency Response	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Search and Rescue	No								X	
Recreation Programs	Small children	Yes					Yes			town	X
	Teens	Yes					Yes			town	X
	Adults	Yes					Yes			town	X
	Elders	Yes					Yes			town	X
Social Service Programs	Child care	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Domestic Violence	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Seniors	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Disability Services	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Diabetes	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Legal Services	Yes					Yes			X	
	Suicide Prevention	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Justice Programs	Yes					Yes			X	X
Women's Shelter	Yes					Yes			NGO		
Cultural Programs	Elders group	Yes					Yes				X
	Music	Yes					Yes				X
	Subsistence Food	Yes					Yes				X
	Dance/drummer Group	Yes					Yes				X
	Arts and Crafts	Yes					Yes			X	X
	Culture Camps	Yes					Yes			X	X
Heritage Programs	Story Telling and Recording	Yes					Yes				X
	TEK Recording	Yes					Yes				X
	Language Programs	Yes					Yes			X	X

⁸ The determination of the level of services for any specific service would be subjective, unless a statistically empirical study was undertaken. Otherwise reporting within the context would be a disservice to those professionals or agencies undertaken these services. Therefore, it was decided not to subjectively report on this section.

Heritage Camps	Yes				Yes				X
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LFNDC has incorporated the effort of the Town of Watson Lake in identifying human resource inventory (Table 4) as well as incorporating LFN statistics.

Table 4: Human Resource Inventory

Typical Jobs Type	Number of Jobs	Filled by Community Person		Fulltime		Seasonal		Wage
		Yes	No	Yes		Yes	No	
Arts & Crafts	8	yes		No				
CAO / Exec Dir	2	yes		yes			no	70-100,000
Accounting Officer	3	yes		yes			no	50-70,000
Environmental Specialist	7	most		yes			no	50-100,00
Logger Forester	30	yes				yes		10-70,000
Health aid/nurses	20	yes		yes		yes		20-82,000
Heavy Equip Operators	60	most		some		some		50-100,000
Mechanics	8	yes		yes				50-90,000
Construction	40	yes		yes		some		25-100,000
Housing Manager	2	yes		yes			no	25-55,000
Public Safety Officer	1	yes		yes				70,000
Justice of the peace	4	yes		p/t				500-5,000
Community Coroner	2	yes		p/t				500-1000
Fire Fighters	10	yes		p/t				1000-70,000
Emergency Response	8	yes		p/t				1000-30,000
Business owners	150	most		yes		yes		10-150,000
Counselors	8	yes		some				30-80,000
Water treatment operator	4	yes		yes				28-49,000
Sewage Treatment Operate	4	yes						28-49,000
Landfill operator	4	yes						28,49,000
Power Plant operator	3	yes		yes				40-80,000
LFN Directors	5	yes		yes				40-60,000
LFN administrative staff	35	yes		yes				28-49,000
Retail/tourism hospitality	50	yes		yes		30%		20-39,000

In terms of training needs for LFN, LFN will be conducting a training similar inventory and assessment table identifying in detail training needs and opportunities.

Table 5 Environmental Assets – Needs

LFN Environmental Assets - Needs		
	Do we have it?	Do we need it?
Safe drinking water	some	yes
Adequate supply of water	yes	yes
Certified Water treatment operator	no	yes
Safe sewage disposal & treatment	some	yes
Permitted landfill	some	yes
Recycling program	no	yes
Used Oil storage	no	yes
Lead acid battery collection area	town	no
Developable land	yes	no
Fuel spill prevention plan	YTG plan	no
Hazardous waste response plan	YTG plan	no
Erosion Control	no	yes
Contaminated sites identified	some	yes
Healthy subsistence food	yes	yes
Environ. Education. Programs	no	yes
Healthy wildlife populations	yes	no
Hazardous waste collection area	town	no
Protected watershed plan	no	yes
Environmental Impact stmt		
Other		
Other		
Other		

Existing Service Agreements

LFNDC has identified existing service agreements involving each of the four levels of government delivering services in the Watson Lake area. In addition to reporting on existing agreements, the ICSP identifies opportunities for future agreements with a view to planning future infrastructure in ways that minimizes duplication of service delivery.

Using the table provided in the *Integrated Community Sustainability Plan Template* and working with people in the community, the LFNDC has completed:

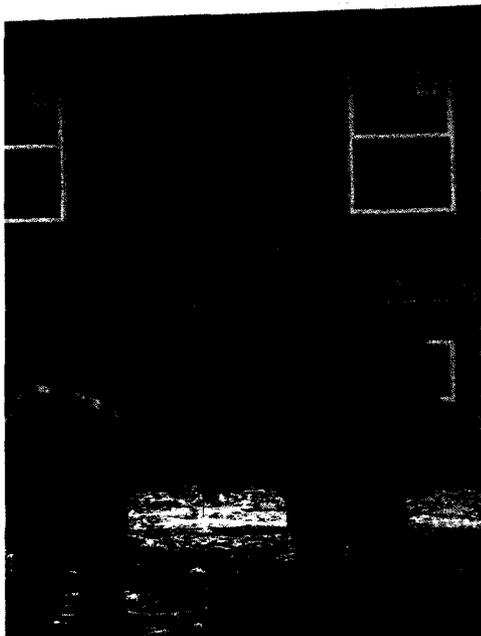
- an inventory of existing service agreements
- an inventory of potential service agreements.

Table 6 Existing and Potential Service Agreements

Service Agreements	Provider	Potential Service	
		Provides currently?	Future Interest?
Water/Sewer	LFN	yes	
Solid Waste/Recycling	LFN	yes	
Snow Removal Albert Creek	LFN	yes	
Snow Removal 2, 2.5 mile	TOWL	no	yes
Snow Removal Upper Liard	YTG	no	yes
Bylaw Services, 2, 2.5 Mile	TOWL	no	yes
Bylaw Services, Albert creek, Upper Liard, 2 and 2.5 mile	LFN	yes	
Home Heating	Private	no	yes
Recreation	Town/LFN	yes	
Fire Protection Albert Creek	YTG	no	yes
Fire Protection 2, 2.5 mile	TOWL	no	yes
Fire Protection Upper Liard	YTG	no	yes

8. Physical Infrastructure

8.1 Housing



As identified in the community survey and interviews with LFN staff, housing will continue to remain a priority for the LFN in the next 5 years.

The housing needs assessment indicated that LFN requires approximately 10 new housing units each year over ten years to meet current demand. At the present time, funding and resources for construction effectively limit the development of new housing units to 5-6 per year.

In order to meet the LFN housing demand, alternate means of funding home ownership will need to be explored. Some potential options would include providing subsidies for individual home ownership, charging rent or finding alternate sources of government funding.

LFNDC has acquired the Lakeview apartments, which ensures housing supply for LFN members and non-LFN members. As well, LFNDC is establishing a non-profit housing corporation and assuming responsibility for the 19 housing units which are located within the Town of Watson Lake and constructed under the CMHC Urban Native Housing Program, targeting aboriginal Canadians within Canadian cities.

The new capital plan identifies funding for developing a housing strategy for the LFN, which will evaluate the feasibility of these and other options for increasing the rate of construction of new housing.

The need for elders housing is a step closer through LFN's purchase of a building that will be converted into a senior's complex, once the necessary planning and negotiations with YTG and the federal government occur. A seniors energy audit and upgrade will be carried out as well.

8.2 Roads

The LFN Community of Watson Lake area is generally comprised of four development areas:

- 2 Mile
- Upper Liard
- Camp Ground
- Winded Lake



BST surfacing was completed at Two Mile in 2007

The majority of road construction planned includes drainage and sub grade improvements to existing roads in the Upper Liard Village and Albert Creek.

The previous capital plan had identified BST surfacing of roads in the LFN communities as a priority. The paving project for 2 and 2 ½ Mile was completed in FY2006/7. Preliminary plans for paving Upper Liard are underway.

The previous capital plan identified a need for a connector walkway/bike path between the Albert Creek Subdivision expansion and the Upper Liard Village. Constructing a walking trail and bike path beside the Alaska Highway to separate pedestrians from the traffic on the highway was noted as a high priority during the ICSP consultations.

As well, a request for turning lanes and improved street lighting will be submitted to the Yukon Government as the Alaska Highway falls under Territorial Jurisdiction.

Additional residential lots have been developed in the new two Mile residential subdivision to capture the new piped water system, which is under planning/development for this area.

The major road construction project for two new residential subdivision expansion access roads would provide access to approximately 20 new lots in the Albert Creek area. This project has been placed on hold, pending the remediation of the old Upper Liard dumps site near Albert Creek and the assessment of potential septic field discharge.⁹

The recently completed Two Mile subdivision loop road will provide access to approximately 20 new building lots in the Two Mile subdivision area. The cost of street lighting and driveway construction is included with the 2003 – 2004 estimates.

Approximately 5 lots are available for infilling at the existing Two Mile subdivision.

⁹ Preliminary investigations by Gardner Lee Environmental and YTG show potential concern respecting the discharge of waste into the water table, which provides drinking water for Albert Creek and Upper Liard residents.

Some infilling of existing lots may also occur at the Upper Liard Village.

The LFN also owns 23 country residential lots in the Belleview Subdivision located in the Town of Watson Lake. Ten of these lots are serviced with a road and power supply with the remaining lots requiring construction of an access road and provision of power supply. Most LFN members have indicated that they prefer not to live in the Town of Watson Lake. If the LFN enacts a community-housing plan whereby individual members can own their homes, these lots may become more attractive for members who wish to construct their own homes.

These roads will provide sufficient building lots for the planned house construction for the next five years.

8.3 Street Lighting

Improvements to street lighting have been identified as a priority to improve public safety in both Upper Liard and Two Mile communities. Of particular concern is the highway between the Albert Creek Subdivision and Upper Liard Village. This may be resolved through the construction of a bike/walkway path and bridge over Albert Creek, as proposed during the ICSP consultations.

Residents frequently walk along the highway between the residential subdivisions and concerns have been raised regarding the safety of pedestrians at night. As this highway is the jurisdiction of the Yukon Government, a written request has been submitted to upgrade street lighting in this area.

Within the developed areas controlled by the LFN, the following areas have been identified as requiring new or upgraded street lighting.

8.4 Community Buildings

i. Administration Buildings

Kobayashi + Zedda (KZA) were retained in 2002 to complete an architectural programme in preparation for new building construction.

In November, 2005, Kobayashi + Zedda (KZA) was again retained by the Liard First Nation to determine capacity within existing buildings to allow for the necessary expansion of current administration services provided to the LFN community. The current administrative spaces are small with limited potential for expansion and accommodation for increasing program and staff requirements. In part, the scope of work helped determine if existing community buildings could serve the administrative needs of the community or whether a new building will be necessary.

The Liard First Nation is in desperate need of office, meeting and storage space to meet current and immediate future needs. Its existing main administration building is a 25 year old modular unit. LFN also maintains three other modular units to meet its current administrative office requirements leading to excessive operating costs. To meet its needs, LFN plans to construct a new facility or retrofit existing buildings to create additional space.

The main office building occupied by the First Nation is too small and has technical problems that affect its long term usefulness as a healthy, safe secure and functional building. The other major problem is the operating and maintenance cost of the other older buildings used to house the other departments and the inefficiency of not housing all staff and operations under one roof.

In 2004, a study was undertaken to determine the feasibility of utilizing the new Chief and Council building as a future administrative office for the LFN. As well, the disparate location of current LFN administrative services prevents the delivery of cost-effective, centralized and accessible services to the community.

The Liard First Nation identified three existing buildings it considered appropriate for a central and expanded administration complex. The three buildings are:

- LFN Land and Resources Building (2 1/2 Mile);
- Chief and Council building (previously the Spahlmann building);
- LFN administration building (beside Tags Groceries).

Each building was documented, reviewed and an overall architectural, mechanical and structural assessment was conducted on July 20, 2005 by the following consultants:
Antonio Zedda, MAIBC Kobayashi + Zedda Architects Ltd. (architectural)
Niels Jacobsen, P.Eng. NA Jacobsen Structural Engineer (structural)
Lee Fleming, P.Eng. Lessoway Moir Partners (mechanical systems)
Ross Dorward, P.Eng. Dorward Engineering Services (electrical systems)

The Liard First Nation (LFN) has determined that the current administrative spaces are small, disbursed throughout the community, energy inefficient and are structurally and/or mechanically in need of major repair or replacement.

The building assessment reports provided a summary of building condition, code compliance and potential use of the new Chief and Council facility. With energy efficiency improvements, expansion and a new adjacent building in the future, this was determined to be the best option for an administrative facility.

A consolidated administrative complex has been a priority of LFN for more than ten years. The inclusion of the integration of administrative offices with an energy efficiency upgrade is a priority, and the energy efficiency upgrading of the Chief and Council building qualify under the ICSP guidelines.

ii. Recreational Facilities

The previous capital plan identified that recreational facilities for youth were a priority with the community as a significant factor for improvement of the health and well being of the community.

Proposed projects include an outdoor covered skating rink, ball diamond and change rooms for Upper Liard. Plans also include the construction of 3 small playgrounds (one has been completed) and youth centers for both Upper Liard and Two Mile.

iii. Upgrades to Public Works “Blue Building”

The LFN currently owns a 3,500 square foot warehouse in Watson that currently houses the LFN water truck and various tools and equipment used by the Public Works Department. The previous capital plan had identified a need for a complete retrofit of the building to create a proper “Public Works Department.” Due to priority being placed on other LFN projects, this work has been downgraded from a complete renovation.

iv. Healing Centre

A need has been identified for the construction of a healing center to assist members in dealing with substance abuse problems. This project has been retained but a source for the monies required for the project have not been identified to date. This again was raised as an important issue during ICSP CONSULTATIONS, however is not eligible for ICSP funding.

It is expected that assistance for this program may be available from some of the new First Nations initiatives recently announced by the Federal Government. Consideration should be given to make programs available to all residents in the Watson Lake area as additional funding may be available from the Territorial Department of Health and Social Services.

v. Fire Fighting

The Liard First Nation currently operates a volunteer fire brigade to serve the residents of Upper Liard and Alfred Creek. The previous capital plan identified a need for the firehouse and single fire truck to serve the Two Mile community area.

LFN also contracts the Yukon Government to provide fire-fighting services on LFN Traditional Territory from May until September of each year.

The need for fire protection in the Two Mile area is increasing with the rapid construction of residences in this area. Plans call for a single bay fire hall and attached office/ training area and single pumper truck.

An improvement in fire fighting capability was provided in 2002 with the purchase of a new water truck by the LFN. This 5000-gallon capacity pumper truck has been equipped with the appropriate valving and hoses to connect with existing fire fighting apparatus.

8.5 Sewage and Solid Waste

i. Sewage

The primary form of sewage treatment in the Watson Lake area is in-ground septic tanks and septic disposal fields.

All remaining residences in the Upper Liard area have had their holding tanks converted to septic fields and all new construction utilizes this method of sewage disposal.

Sludge from septic tanks is collected by a community sewage pump-out truck and disposed of at the Town of Watson Lake sewage disposal facility.

Residents have identified that they are generally satisfied with the sewage disposal system and there are no reported problems with the new or existing septic fields.

ii. Solid Waste

Solid waste from the Upper Liard area is hauled to the Upper Liard solid waste disposal site located approximately 800m west of Albert Creek off the Alaska Highway.

Residents have identified concerns with burning of solid waste at this site and air pollution that affects residents. Studies have identified that leachates are migrating from this site but residents have also noted concerns that continued use of this site including dumping of hazardous wastes could affect their ground water supplies in the future.

Negotiations are ongoing with the Territorial Government over the remediation, recycling and relocation of this solid waste disposal facility. The effort under the ICSP planning process will ensure initial planning funding to implement this important infrastructure need.

Solid waste from Two Mile is hauled to the Town of Watson Lake's solid waste disposal facility and no problems have been reported with this practice.

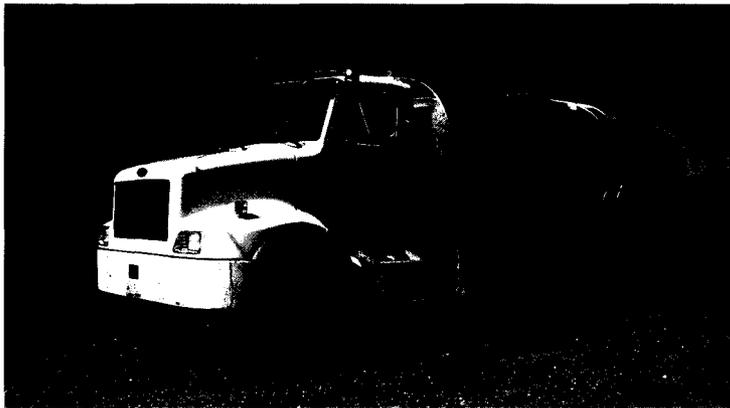
8.6 Water Delivery

Individual ground water wells are the primary source of drinking water for the community. LFN has been introducing the use of a "cluster well" where a common well provides water to two or more buildings (usually five). This allows LFN to provide maintenance and operation of the wells. Water quality from these wells varied and a number of concerns were identified including periodic high bacteria levels and poor taste due to high levels of manganese and iron.

The high bacteria levels were of particular concern and were linked to inadequate cleaning of water holding tanks for individual residences.

To date, all residences in the Upper Liard area have been converted to individual and cluster well systems. All new residential construction will be supplied with cluster well systems.

The LFN purchased a new \$170,000 water truck, which supplies residences, which remain on water holding tanks, and also serves to assist with fire fighting.



A ground water study was commissioned by the LFN in 2002 to provide guidance on the further development of ground water supplies. It is expected that cluster wells will be the preferred method of supplying water to residences. Water treatment systems at each cluster well or individual residences will improve water quality.

The new capital plan includes provision for 5 new cluster wells complete with water treatment facilities and 25 individual water treatment systems for water supplies where water quality is currently a problem.

8.7 Flood Control

Flood risk studies have been carried out previously for the Yukon Territorial Government for Watson Lake area. These studies indicate that there is some flood potential for the Upper Liard residential area.

The primary method of reducing the potential for flood damage will be to ensure new construction is located outside of designated flood plains. These areas include lands adjacent to Liard River and Albert Creek.

9. Infrastructure Priorities

Once the process of the community and needs assessment was complete, the LFNDC facilitated setting priorities for meeting community needs through a community information sharing and consultation process.

Working with the community, the LFNDC has identified all needs so that the ICSP reflects a complete description of what the community identifies as its needs and priorities recognizing that only some projects are Gas Tax eligible.

9.1 Potential Joint Ventures between the Town and LFN

In the Report to the Town of Watson Lake Council, July 17th, 2006¹⁰, a list of possible Joint Ventures with Liard First Nation were identified:

- Fire Hall
- Cultural Sensitivity, Community Education, Cultural camps, Support/Upgrade of Ambulance Services
- Support/Upgrade of CBC transmitters
- Drug & Alcohol Treatment services
- Support Trades Program and Mechanical Arts Building, Air Access and Airport Initiatives

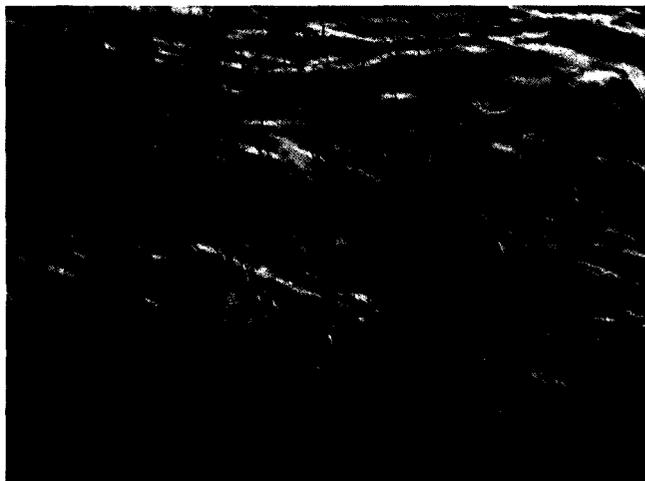
9.2 Liard First Nation Specific Consultations

The Liard First Nation consultation identified a number of projects. Potential projects included, but were not restricted to, the following:

- Public transit between all the LFN communities (some form of mini van system).
- Lighting between Albert Creek and Upper Liard where currently none exists thereby making travel on foot, between these communities, unsafe for children and elders.
- Adequate trail system/bike pathway to address some of the safety concerns surrounding walking and biking on the highway between Watson Lake and 2/2.5 Mile
- Water source development, well drilling, water storage, etc.

¹⁰ Report to the Town of Watson Lake Council, July 17th, 2006

- Redesigning the refuse dump in Albert Creek to possibly a container collection system, currently adapted in the community of Marsh Lake with some success, is being considered as an option. Concerns about the current dump include:
 - open pit burning occurs every Monday causing foul smoke to infiltrate the residents' homes
 - the combination of septic fields and refuse leaching into Albert Creek and eventually into the Liard River, making the consumable water unfit. Further study is needed in both of these areas.
- Broadening the scope of a skating rink in Upper Liard to include a permanent structure suitable for holding community events such as Kaska Days, music festivals, arts/crafts/culture exhibits.
- Study the use of power cogeneration from resource related industries
- Energy audit and upgrade for the building that will become LFN's Seniors Complex



- Water issues need to be addressed in the areas of the outlying communities where there is huge concern. Although the village of Two Mile appears to have some very good wells, others in the area find their water undrinkable. Those people residing in the community (and vicinity) of Albert Creek have real concerns with their water system and reliability relating to the environment.
- Building to house all departments under one energy efficient facility. (Energy Efficiency upgrade of the Chief and Council Building)
- Waste Water treatment facility at Two Mile
- Heritage preservation planning of the Watson Lake Hotel

10. Priority Setting

Infrastructure projects prioritized by the Liard First Nation capital projects planning process and projects identified through the integrated community sustainability planning process were placed into 7 major priority areas. These projects were introduced within Section 8 and Section 9 of this Plan.

While most projects that are a priority relate to the health and safety of LFN members, the ability to govern in an efficient and effective way through consolidation of administrative facilities was perceived to be a major infrastructure need to the future sustainability of Liard First Nation.

- a. Water & Sewer Infrastructure**
- b. Building Consolidation and Energy Efficiency Project**
- c. Recycling and Waste Management**
- d. Walkways and Bike paths**
- e. Safe Drinking Water**
- f. Power Cogeneration**
- g. Seniors Citizen Complex Energy Upgrade**
- h. Public Transit Project between Communities**

These initiatives are eligible under the Gas Tax Agreement funding. Specific Projects and very preliminary estimates have been identified are included in Table 7, detailed on the following page.

Table 7 Identified ICSP Project Priorities

Identified ICSP Eligible Projects	ICSP Eligible		Comment
	Planning/Engine	Capital Est.	
	-	-	
Biking/trail systems at Albert Creek, incl. bridge, lighting	30,000	250,000	
Completion of ICSP Planning for FY2007-08	34,945		
Energy Efficiency upgrade of the Spahlmann Administration Building	98,400	820,000	
Cogeneration of power study	18,000	150,000	
Hazardous waste collection area	-	?	Joint TOWL Planning
Heritage preservation planning of the Watson Lake Hotel	13,800	115,000	
Public transit between all the LFN communities	-	140,000	
Seniors Complex energy upgrade	37,800	315,000	
Septic fields leaching into Albert Creek remediation monitoring and plan	80,000		
	-		
Street lighting using energy efficient technology study	18,000	?	
Upper Liard/Albert Creek dump relocation, remediation/ facility design	120,000	?	
Upper Liard/Albert Creek dump remediation	54,000	450,000	
Upper Liard/Albert Creek new refuse and recycling facility	78,000	650,000	
Waste heat cogeneration of power study	-	?	Joint TOWL Planning
Water source development, well drilling, water storage	1,020,000	8,500,000	
Other	-		
TOTALS	\$1,602,945	\$11,390,000	

It is recognized that prior to proceeding on any of the specific projects, complete planning and in some cases engineering will be required prior to initiation.

11. Summary

Having completed the Integrated Community Services Plan will make LFN eligible to receive the remaining Gas Tax revenue over a three year period, as, noted below in Table 8. A second Gas Tax agreement is expected to follow the initial five year agreement.

Funds will be used for eligible ICSP projects, in conjunction with LFN funds and other government funds.

Table 8 *LFN Projected Budget Expenditures*

Program Total (to Nov 30, 2007) Interest used in Planning				2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Total
Allocation	Interest	Total	Planning	\$47,512	\$34,945	\$0	\$0	\$82,458
\$950,290	\$6,375	\$956,665	Projects		\$304,033	\$190,058	\$380,116	\$874,207
								\$956,665

12. Acknowledgements

The LFN ICSP planning process has involved many people in the LFN Watson Lake community. Their participation in the planning process is vital to its success.

To help achieve this success, this report outlines the many ways and means the LFNDC has engaged and involved people in the community in the planning process.

Completing an ICSP is an important and necessary step for LFN to receive its share of Gas Tax revenue.

Liard First Nation Development Corporation wishes to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations whose assistance was invaluable in completing this report:

- Liard First Nation Membership
- Chief Liard McMillan and Council
- LFN staff
- Town of Watson Lake Council and Staff
- LFNDC staff
- ICSP Staff, Yukon C&TS YTG Government
- Council of Yukon First Nations
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- Solutions North Consulting
- MCOM Communications
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- *Kobayashi + Zedda Architects Ltd.*
- Cynthia Kearns

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