



**Yukon Council  
on the Economy and the Environment  
Council Overview, 1989 – 2001**

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## Table Of Contents

### *Note to Reader*

<i>Introduction</i> .....	1
<i>Council Foundations</i> .....	1
<i>Council Terms of Reference &amp; Legislated Roles and Responsibilities</i> .....	2
<i>Council Membership</i> .....	2
<i>Secretariat and Budget Support</i> .....	3
<i>Council Operating Procedures</i> .....	4
<i>Major Activities Overview 1989 – 2001</i> .....	5
<i>November 1989 – November 1991</i> .....	6
<i>December 1991 – September 1993</i> .....	13
<i>October 1993 – March 1995</i> .....	16
<i>April 1995 – March 1998</i> .....	20
<i>April 1998 - March 1999</i> .....	25
<i>April 1999 – December 2000</i> .....	30
<i>January 2001-</i> .....	33
<i>Attachment 1 - YCEE Terms of Reference and Related Legislation</i> .....	35
<i>Attachment 2 - YCEE Member Appointments</i> .....	39
<i>Attachment 3 - YCEE Meeting Minutes Synopsis 1989-2001</i> .....	43
<u>1989</u> .....	47
<u>1990</u> .....	47
<u>1991</u> .....	52
<u>1992</u> .....	60
<u>1993</u> .....	69
<u>1994</u> .....	71
<u>1995</u> .....	77
<u>1996</u> .....	80
<u>1997</u> .....	82
<u>1998</u> .....	84
<u>1999</u> .....	93
<u>2000</u> .....	98
<u>2001</u> .....	102
<i>Attachment 4 - YCEE Publications &amp; Reports</i> .....	104



***Note to Reader:***

This chronological overview of the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment offers insights into the nature, scope and evolution of the Council's structure and major activities since its inception in 1989. Historical term reports, meeting minutes and other related documents form the basis of the findings contained in this report.

The reader is cautioned that two significant factors have both qualitatively and quantitatively influenced the production of this report:

1. Past Meeting-Minute and Records-Management Practices and Procedures:

YCEE minute and records management practices and procedures have varied substantially over the years with changes in secretariat support agencies and personnel, Council composition and membership, and general Yukon Government administration practices. While such inconsistencies can generally be expected to be found in any historical research period spanning several years, the extreme variance in the quality and nature of the Council's records suggests that documenting the Council activities and maintaining the Council's records may not have been a priority of those charged with providing secretariat support to the Council. In short, the existing state of the YCEE records resulted in substantial challenges to locating, retrieving and/or cross-referencing Council documents and decisions.

Research difficulties encountered in the course of this project included:

- mis-filed or missing documents and reports
- mislabeled or incomplete files
- lack of a records-management classification and (file) coding system
- incomplete or inaccurate (boxed) records-inventory sheets
- omission of mention in full-Council meeting-minutes of important subcommittee decisions/actions
- poor or no cross-referencing of subcommittee records to general Council meeting-minutes and records
- lack of clarity or inconsistency in project or file names as referred to in various Council minutes and Term Reports, and as noted on Council files.

2. Term Reports

Term or annual reports are an important tool for educating and informing interested parties, now and in the future, of the major activities of an organization. As such, they are generally considered to be a primary source document useful as a basis in determining further research directions.

Over the years Council has produced several term reports. In some cases, Council's reports are less than satisfactory in providing the quality of information necessary to enable a reader to be assured of the veracity of the report-content, or, to locate supporting documents. The previously-noted YCEE minutes and records management practices further compounded the time and scope challenges associated with researching Council's activities.

These matters were discussed at various times over the project-life with the YCEE Secretariat project-manager. This report reflects the following related project-management decisions:

- term reports content would be considered as de facto evidence of the Councils' activities over those periods; and
- further research aimed at confirming or clarifying Council decisions and activities beyond that outlined in this report would be deferred pending future Council discussions on these matters.

Therefore, the author offers this report with a caveat that the information contained herein is accurate and complete only to the extent that project-research and project-scope constraints have permitted. Further research may yield some variance in findings from that which contained in this report.

Parallel Productions suggests that a complete overhaul of the Council's historical records and strategic and consistent attention to Council's minutes and records-maintenance practices would significantly facilitate all future YCEE-activity research efforts, either by or on behalf of the Council itself, or by interested members of the Yukon public whom the Council exists to serve.

## ***Introduction***

Established by the Yukon government in November 1989, the Yukon Council on the Economy & the Environment is an arm's length advisory body whose primary role is to encourage environmentally sound economic development in the territory. Through research, public education and advice to government, the Council works to encourage **sustainable development** that meets Yukon's present-day needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Council has several mandated responsibilities, including a legal requirement to table in the Yukon Legislative Assembly an annual report of its activities and expenditures. (see Terms of Reference, below).

Since inception, the Council's reporting relationship has been to the Yukon Government Cabinet.

## ***Council Foundations***

The foundations for the Council's creation rested in three significant initiatives:

- 1987 report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy – this report included recommendations aimed at fostering and promoting sustainable development in Canada. A major recommendation was the creation in all Canadian jurisdictions of multisectoral round tables to bring together various interests to cooperate on environment/economy integration in Canada. The Yukon government endorsed this report;
- Yukon Economic Strategy - released by the Yukon Government in 1988, this Strategy was the culmination of two years of extensive consultations with Yukon people, businesses, and organizations under an economic development process known as Yukon 2000. The Strategy laid out the Yukon government's broad policies to guide its future actions in achieving four broad goals for future economic development in the territory, namely:
  - providing options to enable Yukoners to stay in the territory;
  - providing Yukoners with greater control over their own futures;
  - providing Yukoners with an acceptable quality of life; and
  - promoting equality of economic opportunity for all Yukoners.

The Strategy included a commitment for ongoing review and public monitoring on the Strategy's implementation;

- Yukon Conservation Strategy – released by the Yukon government in May 1990, the Yukon Conservation Strategy complemented the Yukon Economic Strategy as a foundation for Yukon development into the next century. Achieving balanced and integrated implementation of the Yukon's economic and conservation strategies was recognized as necessary to attaining the goal of a prosperous and healthy Yukon economy and society. The Conservation Strategy's development process included consideration of a requirement for appropriate implementation review and monitoring processes.

Oversight on the Yukon Economic Strategy's implementation was originally the responsibility of the Yukon Economic Council, representing organizations with a significant or influential interest in the

Yukon economy. By 1989, however, it had become clear that the implications of translating this strategy into action required a broader base of representation to guide its implementation. With the pending future release of the Yukon Conservation Strategy and a similar requirement for review and monitoring of its implementation, the Yukon Government established the new Yukon Council on the Economy and Environment as agency of implementation oversight for both Strategies.

### ***Council Terms of Reference & Legislated Roles and Responsibilities***

The Terms of Reference established by the Yukon Government to guide the Council's work were clarified with the passage of the *Yukon Environment Act* in 1991, and the (Yukon) *Economic Development Act* in 1992. Each Act outlines the specific roles and responsibilities of the Council under the legislation.

With a legislated basis for its existence and responsibilities under the *Environment Act*, the Council achieved status as Canada's first round table on the economy and the environment to be so recognized.

See Attachment 1 for Terms of Reference, and relevant *Environment Act* and *Economic Development Act* details.

### ***Council Membership***

From the outset various Yukon organizations deemed to hold a key interest in matters pertaining to the Yukon economy and the environment have comprised the YCEE's membership. Membership-composition on the Council evolved between 1989 and 1993 - the table below illustrates the Council composition changes that occurred between November 1991<sup>1</sup>, and September 1993:

1991	1993
Chair	
Vice-Chair	
Association of Yukon Communities	
Council for Yukon Indians	
Yukon Chamber of Commerce	Yukon Chamber of Commerce / Tourism Industry Association
Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon	Association
Whitehorse and Yukon Building and Construction Trade Council	
Yukon Chamber of Mines	
Yukon Conservation Society	
Yukon Federation of Labour	
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	
Yukon Status of Women	
	Yukon Indian Women's Association

<sup>1</sup> YCEE's first Term Report (November 1989-November 1991) details Council's member-organizations/designates in this period. In 1991, the (new) *Environment Act*, sec. 40(3) outlined the interests from which YCEE's members were to be selected.

Nominated by their respective organizations, members were and continue to be appointed by the Yukon Government (Cabinet)<sup>2</sup>. The actual number of members of the YCEE has been at the discretion of the government and has varied from 14 to 10. With the 1993 restructuring, representation by the Council for Yukon Indians on the Council was reduced from three to two members, with all other organizations remaining at 1 representative member on the YCEE.

In 1997, the Yukon Status of Women Council regained a member-seat at the Council table, with one member-at-large also joining the YCEE membership-ranks.

It has been a standard practice since Council establishment that member-organizations also designate an alternate-representative to Council, to ensure continuity in the event that their appointed representative is unable to participate in meetings or other important Council business.

The 1999 enactment of regulations under the *Yukon Environment Act*<sup>3</sup> entrenched in law the Yukon Government's goal of achieving consistency with Sec. 22.7.1 of the Umbrella Final Agreement<sup>4</sup> and assuring gender balance and cultural diversity on the Council. Sec. 2 stipulates that the Council shall be composed of not less than eight and not more than twelve members, and, to the extent possible:

- at least one-quarter of the members shall be Yukon Indian People; and
- women and men shall be equally represented on the Council.

Since Council's inception the Ministers of the departments of Economic Development and Renewable Resources have served as ex-officio members of the Council.

#### Membership Appointments

Prior to 1999, members were appointed for a minimum of two years. The enactment of Council-membership regulations under the *Yukon Environment Act* established 3-year terms of appointment for all members<sup>5</sup>, with an option for member reappointment to the Council in the same or in a different capacity.

See Attachment 2 for YCEE Member-Appointment & Tenure information.

#### ***Secretariat and Budget Support***

Since inception, Council's Secretariat and budget support has been provided by the Yukon Government. Executive Council Office retains primary responsibility for the Council's secretariat services, with Economic Development and Renewable Resources providing similar support over the years to various Council subcommittees and ad hoc working groups.

Financial Statements contained in YCEE's Term Reports<sup>6</sup> indicate that budget support for the Council has fluctuated substantially over the years:

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<sup>2</sup> The 1993 appointments were the first to be established by OIC.

<sup>3</sup> OIC 1999/26; March 3, 1996

<sup>4</sup> Signed in 1993 by the Council for Yukon Indians, the Yukon government and the federal government

<sup>5</sup> The regulations authorized that the first members appointed under the new regulations could be appointed for terms less than 3 years

<sup>6</sup> Term Report for the December/91-September/93 period is n/a

<i>Report Period</i>	<i>Nov/89- Nov/91</i>	<i>Oct/93- Mar/95</i>	<i>Apr/95- Mar/98</i>	<i>Apr/98- Mar/99</i>	<i>Apr/99- Dec/00</i>
	2 years	1.5 years	3 years	1 year	1 year
Budget	not identified	\$60,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00
Expenditures	\$361,297.54	\$47,660.38	\$55,765.728	\$132,639.00	\$126,724.14

At \$30,000/yr, budgets for the Council were at their lowest levels between 1993/94 - 1996/97. The core budget was increased in 1997/98 to \$40,000 for that year. In 1998/99 and 1999/00, the Council saw increases in its core budgets to \$70,000.00/yr., with an additional allocation of \$70,000/yr in each of these two years for planning and conducting territory-wide community conferences.

### ***Council Operating Procedures***

The operating procedures of the Council have evolved over time as the Council gained both knowledge and experience in fulfilling its various roles and responsibilities.

The first consolidated set of Council operating procedures appears in May 1990, with subsequent consolidations reflecting interim revisions appearing in February 1991, and June 1994<sup>7</sup>.

Council again revisited consolidation of its operating procedures in early 1998, with the last consolidation occurring in October 1998<sup>8</sup>. At that time, Council requested Secretariat distribution of the procedures to the Yukon Government's Boards & Committees Secretariat for use as a model by others in developing or revising their own operating procedures.

<sup>7</sup> Source: Box #1999-0113 File : YCEE Administration – Operating Procedures

<sup>8</sup> Source Document: Box #3; YCEE Regulations/Operating Procedures

## *Major Activities Overview 1989 – 2001*

Over the years Council has engaged in numerous activities towards fulfilling its mandate, including:

- Regular Council meetings – this has extended to hosting open houses, receiving presentations, or opening discussions at Council meetings, for members of the general public, government and other interests to meet with Council and discuss issues of local significance
- Periodic Subcommittee, Steering Committee and ad hoc Working Group meetings
- Reviews of existing or proposed government directions, programs, legislation and policies
- Reviews of government's implementation of the Yukon Economic Strategy and Yukon Conservation Strategy and assistance in Strategy-revisions processes
- Participation in joint meetings of federal/provincial/territorial Round Tables on the Environment and Economy
- Sponsoring panel discussions, public speaker events, and various workshops and conferences on a wide range of issues
- Collaborating with various government departments and non-government agencies on specific projects or initiatives
- Undertaking research projects aimed at better enabling the Council to fulfill its mandated responsibilities
- Performing as “honest-broker” in various public consultations and discussions on government, industry, and other initiatives, serving to bring forward the concerns and desires of Yukon people and Yukon communities to government and other public-interest agencies.

The following summary, drawn from Council's<sup>9</sup> meeting minutes, Term Reports, and other historical records, presents an overview of the Council's major activities since 1989. The information is grouped consistent with the time-intervals of the Council's periodic Term Reports and is structured, as applicable, under the following headings:

- Term Report Period
- Council Meeting Dates & Locations
- Rural Community Consultations at Council Meetings
- Mandate
- Administration
- Government Policy, Programs and Legislation
- Workshop & Conferences
- Education Initiatives
- Other

Attachment 3 contains a (calendar) year-by-year synopsis of the Council's meeting minutes.

Attachment 4 contains a YCEE-publications and reports listing.

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<sup>9</sup> full-Council meeting minutes

*November 1989 – November 1991*

***Council Meetings***

**1989:**

Nov 3                      Whitehorse

**1990:**

Feb 10-11                Marsh Lake  
Apr 18                     Whitehorse  
May 25-26                Dawson City  
Sept 6-7                  Whitehorse  
Nov 22-24                Teslin

**1991:**

Feb 7-9                    Whitehorse  
Mar 14                    Whitehorse (special meeting to review *Environment Act*)  
Apr 10                    Whitehorse (special meeting to review *Environment Act*)  
April 15                  Whitehorse (special meeting to review *Environment Act*)  
Jun 7-8                   Haines Junction  
Sept 12-14                Carmacks/Mayo  
Oct 28                    Whitehorse  
Nov 15                    Whitehorse

***Rural Community Consultations at Council Meetings***

Teslin: Council held a public session for residents of the area and members of the Village Council. Issues of concern raised by the community were subsequently discussed by Council with decisions made to further investigate the issues, and/or forward relevant letters to the appropriate agencies for their information and action as applicable. Council members also attended the official opening of the Teslin Tlingit First Nation's Traditional Longhouse.

Haines Junction: Council received a presentation by the Village Mayor. Issues of concern raised by the community were subsequently discussed by Council with a decision made to forward a relevant letter to the Premier for information and action as applicable.

Carmacks/Mayo: Council met with members of the Carmacks/Little Salmon First Nation, and subsequently, with members of the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation. Issues of concern raised by the First Nations were subsequently discussed by Council with a decision made to forward relevant letters to the Premier, and the Yukon's Chief Medical Officer, for their information and action as applicable.

See Attachment 1 meeting minutes for community-issues details.

## **Administration**

### ◆ Council Goals and Procedures

At its first full meeting, Council formulated the following goals statements as an expression of the Council's own view of the direction it should pursue, and developed a set of initial operating procedures, most notably choosing *consensus* as the basis for all its decisions.

#### *Goals Statements:*

- "The Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment was established to advocate and promote sustainable development in the Yukon."
- "The Council's goal is to promote and advocate development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
- "The Council understands development to encompass economic, environmental, social and cultural concerns."

### ◆ Council Subcommittees

Council established three standing committees: Policy committee; Sustainable Development committee; and the Education and Communications committee.

The committee mandates were formulated and approved by Council, to whom the committees were to regularly report. Committee workplans and budgets were subject to Council approval.

## **Government Policy, Programs and Legislation**

### ◆ Draft *Yukon Environment Act*

Council decided to contribute to this initiative as a participant in the design and delivery of public consultations on the Act, established an ad hoc working group for this purpose, and organized a series of sectoral workshops on the draft Act. These involved the public and invited guests from sectors of the Yukon economy including agriculture, business, municipal government, renewable resources, tourism, forestry, mining and First Nations. The purpose of the workshops was to provide a public forum for public discussion of the draft Act separate from the meetings conducted by government, and to assist the Council in formulating an informed and independent review of the proposed legislation.

Council compiled its consultation findings in a major document "*A Summary of Sector Meetings on the Draft Yukon Environment Act*"<sup>10</sup> which served as the basis for Council's own discussions on the draft Act. Council's subsequent 10-page report on the draft Act was entitled "*Our Sustainable Future: A Shared Responsibility*"<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> copy not file-located

<sup>11</sup> April 1991. Source: Box: 1999-0111; File: YCEE Response to Government on *Environment Act*

The report noted that Yukoners believed the environment to be vitally important and must be protected and, at least in part, that this should be accomplished through effective and comprehensive legislation. Council considered that evident sectoral-differences of opinion on the appropriate extent and means of legal protection for the environment could be traced to a number of broad concerns, largely arising from ambiguity and a lack of certainty in the draft Act itself.

Identified themes and related broad recommendations in the report were:

*"The Right Spirit, The Right Tone"*: Council expressed the view that the draft Act resisted the efforts of the lay reader to understand it, and suggested that the Act ought to be written in simple, accessible terms easily understood by the public, with a tone that promoted compliance rather than threatened punishment, and that removed uncertainties and ambiguities in applicability and definitions. Council identified a need for introducing additional definitions for some terms.

*"More Public Involvement"*: Council identified a need for the Act to clearly reflect a government commitment to the public's ongoing involvement in environmental matters, and for public education. In this context, Council suggested that it would be helpful if the Act were to specify more fully the roles and responsibilities of the Council itself. Council also suggested that the Act should enshrine the right of the public to be involved in the development of regulations to the Act, and in monitoring their subsequent enforcement.

*"The Importance of First Nations"*: Council noted its support for the sections of the draft Act that addressed the needs and concerns of Yukon First Nations people. However, Council also suggested that "...Government must continue to do everything possible to ensure that, while the legislation does not prejudice land claims, jurisdictional uncertainty be kept to a minimum."

*"The Costs of Implementation"*: Council suggested that the Government needed to reasonably assess, as quickly as possible, the direct and indirect costs of implementation of the legislation, and that these costs should be regularly communicated to the public. Council suggested that if this information was not shared, voluntary compliance with the legislation would be difficult or impossible to attain.

*"Fairness"*: Council expressed the view that everything possible must be done to ensure that innocent people were not hurt, directly or indirectly, by the enactment or enforcement of the Act and subsequent regulations. In this regard, Council recommended that:

- the Act should describe the high standards of conduct that it would expect from those it charged with the administration and enforcement of the Act;
- officers should be instructed, whenever reasonably possible, to strive for congenial and voluntary compliance; and
- officer-training should set clear and high standards for enforcement practices, especially in enforcement matters where there were certain discretionary powers.

Council also suggested that the Government should seriously consider financial restitution to those charged, but subsequently acquitted, under the Act.

Council also urged:

- that private and public sectors should be treated equally under the Act, and that liability, like responsibility should be shared; and
- that there must be a right to efficient and impartial appeal for persons charged with committing an offence under the Act.

◆ Review, Draft Agriculture Policy

At the request of the Yukon Government, the Council reviewed the government's draft policy early in the process of developing the policy. After meeting with officials to discuss the draft policy at length, the Council prepared and submitted to the government a formal commentary<sup>12</sup>, identifying four areas of particular concern:

- economic viability;
- highest and best use of land;
- land alienation and Yukon First Nations; and
- environmental impacts associated with certain agricultural uses.

Over the course of the draft policy review and development process, Council also participated in discussions relating to the proposed construction of an abattoir in the Yukon. Council's interest in the project was largely limited to advancing its view that an abattoir, if it was to be constructed, should flow from, rather than precede, a sound agriculture policy. Council's work on this issue continued into 1991.

◆ Arctic Environmental Strategy

Council's concern over the federal government's lack of public consultation, communications, and local involvement associated with this strategy's development under the federal Green Plan prompted the Council to initiate related discussions with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Council's followup work on this matter continued into 1992.

◆ Discussion Paper – State of the Environment Reporting

As a first step in developing a useful state of the environment reporting system for the Yukon, and in cooperation with the Department of Renewable Resources, the Council commissioned a framework discussion paper entitled "*Towards a Yukon State of the Environment Reporting Framework*". The paper outlined environmental factors that could be monitored and determined how the data could most effectively be collected and used by both government and non-government agencies.

◆ Yukon Supplemental Accounts

The Council and the department of Economic Development began work to explore a new supplemental (territorial) accounts system with a view to capturing, evaluating and reporting on significant economic activities not traditionally accounted for in the market system (such as subsistence activity, housework and volunteer work), and the occurrence of resource depletion and environmental degradation associated with all forms of economic activity.

This work paralleled initiatives by Statistics Canada and the United Nations.

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<sup>12</sup> November 1990 – copy not file-located

### **Workshops & Conferences**

- ◆ September 7-9, 1990

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Review Conference, Whitehorse**

The fall conference was the initial vehicle used by the Yukon Government and the Council as a basis for reviewing progress of implementation of the Yukon Economic and the Yukon Conservation Strategies. The first fall review conference was held in 1989, immediately before the creation of the YCEE. The theme of the 1990 conference, the first organized by the YCEE, was "Sustainable Development: Yukon's Challenge of Implementation; What We Intend to Do!" About 130 participants representing a broad cross-section of Yukon people attended the conference.

In conjunction with the conference the Council launched a Sustainable Development Challenge as a means of clarifying the concept of sustainable development. Participants in the conference were "challenged" to define in concrete terms what "sustainable development" meant to them and the organizations or industries they represented. They were then challenged to identify steps they would take to achieve sustainable development. Post-conference, Council sent follow-up letters soliciting responses from the conference participants, organizations, First Nations, municipalities, and from mining, tourism and forestry groups. This initiative carried over to the next year.

A detailed report to YCEE on the conference, reflecting conference delegates' deliberations and recommendations was published in November 1990<sup>13</sup>.

- ◆ May 1991

Council sponsored three youth to represent the Yukon at the YOUTHQUAKE conference (Vancouver) – the youth were subsequently part of a steering committee established to organize a Yukon Youth Conference. (held Oct/91)

- ◆ August 1991

The **Indian Bush Economy Workshop** (held at Airport Lake, near Carmacks) addressed the traditional lifestyle within the context of the global state of the environment and examining the role of Yukon First Nations in the development of a sustainable economy and in working with the Council. The workshop report, commissioned by the Yukon Indian Development Corporation and Renewable Resources was subsequently released in June 1992.

- ◆ October 1991

The **Voices of Yukon Youth Conference** was a 3-day co-operative effort sponsored by the Council with financial support and assistance from several Yukon and federal government agencies and national organizations. Sixty-eight young people attended to learn about and discuss environmental and social issues (Lake Lebarge).

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<sup>13</sup> Box 2000-0909; File: YCEE Policy Subcommittee

- ◆ November 1991
  - Building on the Indian Bush Economy Workshop, the **Current State of the Indian Economy Workshop** (held at Lake Laberge) examined the Indian economy, the interrelationship of the Indian and larger economies, and how they relate to the development of a sustainable economy. The workshop report, commissioned by the Yukon Indian Development Corporation and Renewable Resources, was subsequently released in June 1992.
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Review Conference**, November 16-17, 1991, Whitehorse

The theme of this conference was sustainable energy. A report entitled "*Energy for Tomorrow*" was prepared as a basis for the conference discussions. Delegates examined the historical and (then) existing Yukon energy system, the difficulties of predicting future energy needs, possible sources of energy, and the impact of energy on the economy, environment and social fabric of the territory. A report on the conference discussions was published in spring of 1992<sup>14</sup>.

### ***Education Initiatives***

- ◆ Public Communication Materials

Council developed a logo for use on its communications materials, and a brochure.

- ◆ Computer modelling project

As an educational tool designed to allow a fuller understanding and appreciation of environment/economy connections, the Council initiated a computer-modelling project beginning with a two-day workshop where the key components of the Yukon's land-based economy and its effect on the environment were identified.

- ◆ Development of an Environmental Report Card

In cooperation with the Yukon Department of Education, Council developed an Environmental Report Card for distribution through Yukon school students to businesses, organizations, communities and families throughout the territory. The project was designed to increase awareness of economic and environmental issues among the children and the community at large and to encourage good environmental citizenship.

- ◆ Public Speaker and Panel Discussion Series

May 1990:

- Thomas Berger on "Conservation and Development on the Yukon's North Slope" (Whitehorse)

September 1990:

- Panel Discussion, members of the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy (Whitehorse)
- Panel Discussion, members of the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy and YCEE (Haines Junction)

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<sup>14</sup> copy not file-located

- Public meetings associated with the Annual Review Conference (Whitehorse), featuring John Wright (Angus Reid Group), Bill Wilson (British Columbia First Nations Congress); Derek Stephenson (Resource Integrations Systems Ltd.)

May 1991:

- Panel Discussion on the Sparrow decision and its impact on renewable resource harvesting in the Yukon; led by lawyers Ian Binnie and Andrew Thompson (Whitehorse)
- Discussion on "The Greening of Business in Canada" with representatives from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, and Friends of the Earth, Canada (Whitehorse)
- Panel Discussion on How Mining Can Remain Competitive in the 1990s; featuring representatives from the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, Curragh Resources, and Aurum Geological Consultants (Whitehorse)

November 1991:

- Public Meeting associated with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Review Conference, featuring Mark Jaccard on "Energy for Tomorrow" (Whitehorse)

***Other Major Meetings/Events attended by YCEE Members***

March 1990:

- Globe '90 conference and trade show, Vancouver: Tourism Stream Conference, focusing on Tourism and Sustainable Development

April 1990:

- Joint Meeting of federal, provincial and territorial Round Tables on Environment and Economy (Winnipeg)

September 1990:

- Opening of Boreal Alternate Energy Centre's solar monitoring installation (Whitehorse)
- Yukon Development Corporation information session on utility issues (Whitehorse)

November 1991:

- Joint meeting of federal, provincial and territorial Round Tables on Environment and Economy with Yukon delegates leading a workshop on First Nations Land Claims and Sustainable Development (Vancouver)

*December 1991 – September 1993*

***Council Meetings***

**1992:**

Feb 14-15	Whitehorse
Apr 15	Whitehorse ( <i>Employment Standards Act</i> amendments)
Apr 29	Whitehorse ( <i>Employment Standards Act</i> amendments)
Apr 23-24	Whitehorse ( <i>Employment Standards Act</i> amendments)
Jun 25-27	Watson Lake
Sept 17	Whitehorse

**1993:**

Mar 31	Whitehorse
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In the latter part of this Council's term a territorial election was held with a resulting change in government. Uncertainties associated with the outcome of the election process, YCEE's mandate under a possible new government, and a subsequent hold placed on all YCEE projects pending government transition, resulted in this Council's activities being curtailed over this period.

***Rural Community Consultations at Council Meeting***

Watson Lake: Council held an open house for interested members of the community. Council subsequently discussed the various issues raised, with a decision made to forward a letter to DIAND encouraging appointment of a federal negotiator to expedite forestry devolution to the Yukon government.

See Attachment 1 meeting minutes for community-issues details.

***Administration***

◆ SubCommittees

Due to difficulties associated with its committee arrangements, Council folded the Education/Communication subcommittee into the Policy and Sustainable Development committees; secretariat responsibilities were realigned to the remaining committees.

***Government Policy, Programs and Legislation***

◆ Review of *Economic Development Act*

Council reviewed the government's discussion paper on the proposed Act and sent the paper to committee for further consideration, with any subsequent response to be reviewed by Council for comment before transmittal<sup>15</sup>. The Act was passed in 1992.

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<sup>15</sup> Subsequent minutes do not identify that Council issued a formal response to the draft Act; June minutes only note that a copy of the Act was to be distributed to Council when available.

◆ Review of *Employment Standards Act* (ESA)

At the request of Cabinet, Council engaged in a review of the proposed Act amendments, (including a line by line review of the amendments), with a report<sup>16</sup> and press release subsequently issued. Council's experience with this review led to a decision to outline to the Premier issues related to the ESA review, with an accompanying request for clearer terms of reference for future reviews.

◆ Review of Beverage Container Regulations

In September 1991 Council was invited to sit as a member of a (proposed) advisory committee to review regulations developed under the new *Environment Act*, with the Beverage Container Regulations the first such regulations planned to be developed. In June 1992 Council was informed that all *Environment Act* regulations would be forwarded to the Council for its review. The YCEE Sustainable Development committee was tasked with monitoring implementation of all regulations under the Act.

◆ Yukon Conservation Strategy and Yukon Economic Strategy Review

In 1992 and as followup to the fall conference held in November 1991, YCEE developed a technical report to the Yukon government on the "*Progress of Implementation of the YCS and YES*". In its report introduction, Council noted that "Another version of this report incorporating the observations, suggestions and recommendations contained herein will be available in the fall of 1992 for public distribution."<sup>17</sup> The Introduction also made reference to Yukon First Nations' limited involvement in the development of the YCS and YES and to YCEE's First Nation members' continuing limited involvement in the development of comments on implementation of the strategies.

The report reflected a review of over 600 commitments outlined in the YCS and YES. In its review, the Council used as references the government's implementation reports of the YCS and YES and the public consultation report entitled "*The Things that Matter: A Report of Yukoners' Views on the Future of their Economy and their Society*."<sup>18</sup> A comprehensive and far-reaching document, the report contained over 145 general comments and recommendations on every related sector, industry and area of interest within Yukon.

This report reflected a conclusion/recommendation that over ensuing years would continue to be a major theme in Council's work and discussions, namely, the benefit of revising the economic and conservation strategies as one strategy to address overlapping concerns, and in the interest of ensuring more effective implementation.

◆ Aishihik Watershed Review

Yukon Energy Corporation's (YEC) power-generation operations at Aishihik Lake were the subject of considerable public interest in 1992, with simultaneous processes planned by the Yukon Utilities Board (YUB), the Yukon Territorial Water Board and the YCEE towards reviewing those

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<sup>16</sup> copy not file-located

<sup>17</sup> June/92 report Draft located: Box #2000-0909; File: YES/YCS Ad Hoc Committee. It is not certain that this report was submitted to the YG, or, whether Council later produced a report overview for public distribution, as agreed at Council's June/92 meeting and as noted in the (draft) report.

<sup>18</sup> unknown whether this was a YG document or a YCEE-commissioned report.

operations in relation to YEC's upcoming Cost of Service and Rate Hearings. YCEE's involvement originated with a May 1992 letter of request from the Minister of Economic Development that Council "...review the operation of the Aishihik Lake generating system and the economic and environmental impacts associated with management of the system."<sup>19</sup>

Over ensuing months, Council devoted extensive efforts towards defining the scope of its review, and sourcing resources to support its work on this issue. YCEE also took steps to encourage the extension of YUB deliberations on YEC's proposed Capital Plan until such time as the YCEE review was complete and its recommendations would be available for YUB's consideration.

The YCEE review project was later cancelled due to a transition in government and new directions received from the (new) Government Leader.

***Workshops & Conferences***

n/a

***Educational Initiatives***

n/a

***Other Major Meetings/Events Attended by YCEE<sup>20</sup>***

November 1992:

Joint Meeting of federal/provincial/territorial Round Tables on Environment and Economy (New Brunswick)

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<sup>19</sup> Source: Box #1999-0110; File: Aishihik Watershed Review

<sup>20</sup> see June/92 minutes re: National (Sustainable Development) Education Committee invitation - unknown whether YCEE participated and if so, when.

*October 1993 – March 1995*

***Council Meetings:***

**1993:**

Nov 9	Whitehorse
Nov 17	Whitehorse
Nov 25	Whitehorse
Dec 9	Whitehorse
Dec 20	Whitehorse

**1994:**

Feb 3	Whitehorse
Apr 7	Whitehorse (minutes incomplete)
Apr 12	minutes n/a
Apr 20	Whitehorse
May 2	minutes n/a
May 17	Whitehorse
May 31	Whitehorse
Jun 23	Whitehorse
Jul 4	Whitehorse
Jul 26	Whitehorse
Sept 20	Whitehorse
Oct 4	Whitehorse
Oct 14	Whitehorse
Oct 18	Whitehorse
Oct 25	Whitehorse (special meeting – <i>Environment Act</i> )
Oct 27	Whitehorse (special meeting – <i>Environment Act</i> )
Nov 1	Whitehorse (special meeting – <i>Environment Act</i> )
Nov 16	Whitehorse
Dec 6	Whitehorse

**1995:**

Jan 17	Whitehorse
Feb 21	Whitehorse

***Mandate Review and Orientation***

The first meeting of the newly appointed Council focused around a mandate review, budget review and member-orientation, with early term meetings involving presentations by representatives of the departments of Economic Development, Renewable Resources, Finance and Tourism. These presentations were requested by the Council to provide a foundation to proceeding with priority projects identified by the (new) Government Leader, namely to:

- begin planning for an economic conference; and
- consider the introduction of Video Lottery Terminals and expanded casino gambling in the Yukon.

***Government Policy, Programs and Legislation***

- ◆ Public Consultation on the Introduction of Video Lottery Terminals and the Expansion of Casino Gambling in the Yukon

Council first received a presentation from the Yukon government's Inter-departmental Committee on Gambling in preparation for launching related public consultations on this issue. The Council's consultations process included encouraging the public to make written submissions, members' participation on an open-line CBC talk show and hosting public meetings in Whitehorse, Dawson City, Faro, Watson Lake and Haines Junction.

In July, 1994, the Council submitted to the Government Leader its report summarizing its consultation findings, concluding that:

- the Yukon government should not introduce VLTs in the Yukon (at this time.) Council suggested that the government may choose to revisit the matter at sometime in the future when more information might be available, particularly in regard to the addictive nature of the VLTs and the effectiveness that controls on their use in other jurisdictions had in limiting negative social impacts;
  - although the YCEE was unable to reach a consensus on the (question as to whether to permit) expansion of casino gambling in the Yukon, YCEE had reached consensus that if the Yukon government decided to proceed with expanded casino gambling, it should do so with consideration for the following:
    - Yukon First Nations should have equal involvement regarding the policies, legislation and regulations which give effect to this gambling activity;
    - a percentage of revenues generated through the operation of a casino be earmarked to assist in the alleviation of any problems that may occur due to any addictive behavior with respect to gambling activities;
    - a policy be established on the objectives to be accomplished with respect to all aspects of gambling in conjunction with its Yukon tourism policy and economic development policy;
    - a policy should be developed and implemented with respect to the expansion of casino gambling, including ownership, management, operation and profits distribution; and
    - available resource materials received and acquired by the YCEE in the course of its public consultations that related to the potential operational problems that could result from a casino should be thoroughly reviewed by the government should it decide to proceed with expanded casino gambling in the Yukon.
- ◆ State of the Environment Report (SOER)

Under the *Environment Act* the YCEE is required to review the Yukon government's periodic State of the Environment Report(s). The YCEE vice-chair served as liaison to the government SOE Steering Committee established to develop the Yukon's 1<sup>st</sup> SOER, participated in related report-outline development and approach workshop(s) (held Nov/94 and Jan/95) and subsequently,

brought to the attention of Council and the Committee several concerns respecting the conceptual framework for the Report.<sup>21</sup> Council's work on the SOER continued into the next term-report period, during which time Council continued to raise concerns on the report's conceptual framework. (See related item, next term period.)

◆ *Environment Act Review*

The Government Leader requested that Council undertake a detailed review of a document entitled "*Recommended Amendments to the Environment Act*" (the "Guide"). The Council received briefings from Renewable Resources on the recommended amendments and the rationale for the changes within the context of the statute and program administration. Council solicited written submissions from key stakeholder groups and YCEE member-organizations.

The Council's report<sup>22</sup> and recommendations were submitted to the Government Leader in February 1995. Part 1 of the Guide, entitled Editorial Amendments, addressed misspellings, typographical errors, incorrect section references and similar matters. These suggestions were not deemed controversial and the Council recommended that the Yukon government proceed with these amendments.

Part II of the Guide entitled Amendments for Clarification Purposes, addressed matters in various sections of the Act that were considered either unclear with potential for causing confusion, or were subject to more than one interpretation. With one exception, these proposed amendments were not deemed controversial and the Council recommended that the Yukon government proceed with those amendments.

The exception related to proposed amendments to sections 29-37. These recommended amendments suggested changes to the rule making provisions of the Act to:

- improve certainty on how to conduct public consultations;
- improve the capability of administering these sections;
- provide more cost-effective and timely regulations development; and
- enhance flexibility for public participation in rule making.

The Council stated that these objectives were desirable and in principle, amendments to address these issues was sound. However, the Council concluded that it was unable to make a specific recommendation in the absence of the wording of the draft amendments.

Council noted that several concerns had been raised regarding many of the recommended amendments in Part III of the Guide, entitled Policy and Significant Amendments, and in particular, that diverse views were expressed regarding the "environmental rights" part of the Act, sections 8-11. Again, however, because the Guide did not provide the specific wording proposed for the legislative amendments, and there was no consensus in direction received from the stakeholders consulted, the Council concluded that it was unable to reach a consensus on the proposed amendment.

Council also concluded that sections 63(3) and 108(7) were not contentious and recommended the Yukon Government proceed with those amendments.

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<sup>21</sup> Meeting minutes review yields no evidence that YCEE submitted a report of its review of the subsequent SOER.

<sup>22</sup> Source: Box 1999-0113; File: Gambling

The Council also recommended that:

- the Yukon Government examine the entire legislative agenda relating to environmental matters and coordinate any changes to the dates in sec 8(2) with the implementation of other environmentally related legislation or regulations;
- draft legislation be prepared for proposed amendments pertaining to sections 14(1), 14(2), 22(1), 22(2), 34, 81 to 93, 96 and 97;
- the Yukon government undertake further consultation, once draft amendments for the above-noted amendments had been prepared, to obtain First Nations' and stakeholder views; and
- that the Yukon Government consider a broader review of the Act and gain more input from stakeholders on such a review.

◆ Yukon Industrial Support Policy

The Council was requested to review and provide comments to the department of Economic Development on a draft version of this policy. With further background information on the policy provided by the department, the Council concluded that:

- the policy was a small part of a big picture;
- the policy did not consider other energy sources such as natural gas; and that
- discussion on issues such as community-based economic development, transportation, infrastructure development and link(s) to sustainable development had been omitted from the draft.<sup>23</sup>

The department subsequently advised YCEE that its comments and those of the public, would be considered in the Policy revision-process.<sup>24</sup>

### ***Workshops and Conferences***

◆ Mining Conference, November, 1994

Consideration of the Government Leader's request for the YCEE to hold an economic conference that would provide Yukoners with the greatest opportunity to make their views known to the Council led to a Council decision to host a series of mini-sectoral conferences, rather than one large multi-sectoral conference. The first sectoral conference, on mining, held in November 1994, was preceded by solicitation of written submissions from the public and industry stakeholders to assist the Council in determining an appropriate conference agenda. Based on the sectoral conference, the Council produced a report entitled "*Yukon Mining: The Next Century*" containing the conference proceedings summary, and associated recommendations for YCEE consideration in developing its recommendations to Cabinet. Council's subsequent report to Cabinet, bearing the same name as its conference report, was produced in July 1995.

Discussion planning for other economic sector conferences in spring and fall of 1995 was also undertaken over this period.

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<sup>23</sup> Meeting minutes: July 26/94.

<sup>24</sup> Meeting minutes review yields no evidence that Council later revisited this Policy.

*April 1995 – March 1998*

***Council Meetings***

**1995:**

Apr 11	Whitehorse
Sept 14	Whitehorse
Oct 26	Whitehorse

**1996:**

Feb 7	Whitehorse
Feb 27	minutes n/a
Feb 29	Whitehorse

**1997:**

Dec 2	Whitehorse
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**1998:**

Feb 13-14	Whitehorse
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This term was marked by a period of dormancy in the activities of the Council from March 1996 through to its re-invigoration in late-1997, when a new chair and several new members were appointed following the 2<sup>nd</sup> territorial election held since Council's establishment.

***Mandate Review, 1997***

The (new) Government Leader requested the newly-appointed Council to give priority to:

- fulfilling its legislated mandate under the *Environment Act* and *Economic Development Act*;
- reviewing the Yukon Conservation Strategy and Yukon Economic Strategy, including a review of the relevancy of their underlying principles;
- working with the department of Economic Development to develop an economic diversification strategy for Yukon; and
- stimulating public interest in sustainable development through public education.

***Administration***

◆ Working Groups

In 1997/98, the newly-appointed Council established three working committees to focus on these areas:

- Annual review of Implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy
- Economic Diversification Strategy
- Regulations and Operating Procedures

◆ Operating Procedures

The newly-appointed Council reviewed and revised its operating procedures to make them more consistent with proposed draft *Environment Act* regulations to govern the YCEE, and to include a section on conflict of interest guidelines. These guidelines, developed with the assistance of the Yukon's Conflicts Commissioner Ted Hughes, were composed in general terms so they could be considered for adoption by other Boards and Committees.

◆ Meetings

The newly-appointed Council decided to hold at least four, two-day meetings per year, with two of those to be held in rural communities.

***Government Policy, Programs and Legislation***

◆ Review of Yukon Government Implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy 1990-1995

With the assistance of the department of Renewable Resources, the Council reviewed the government's progress made in implementing this Strategy and produced a report entitled "*Making Progress: Yukon Government Implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy 1990-1995*".<sup>25</sup> The report concluded that a recent review of Yukon government programs and policies showed that more than 95% of Yukon government commitments under the Strategy had been met or were being implemented and that further implementation was dependent on the settlement of land claims and the transfer of federal programs such as forestry.

◆ Review of Yukon Government Implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy 1996 and 1997

Council members established a working group to work with staff from the department of Renewable Resources to prepare this next Strategy review. Council members determined that the process used in the past both to develop revisions to the YCS and to review the government's implementation of the strategy did not provide a strong link between actions and objectives. The working committee initiated work to develop a set of indicators to provide a more effective and objective review of progress. The resulting YCEE report entitled "*Annual Review of the Yukon Conservation Strategy 1996 and 1997*" (May 1998) was tabled in the Legislature in December, 1998. (See related item, next term-report period)

◆ Yukon State of the Environment Report

▪ SOER 1995<sup>26</sup>

Council's involvement in the development of Yukon's 1<sup>st</sup> SOE Report continued in this term-period. A sub-committee of the YCEE assisted staff from the Yukon and Canada governments to develop the 1995 Report which was subsequently published in 1996.

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<sup>25</sup> September 1/year? (Draft) report copy located: box #1999-0108; loose

<sup>26</sup> 1995 SOER not yet located. File research also yields no evidence of a YCEE review or response on this report.

▪ SOER (interim) 1997

At the request of the department of Renewable Resources, Council also reviewed a draft of the 1997 (Interim) State of the Environment Report, subsequently released by the Yukon government in April 1998. The 1997 report focused on air quality and climate change. On its review of the draft report (submitted by Renewable Resources), Council noted that its members were impressed with the draft, agreed it was a well-written document and suggested the following improvements in the preparation of the final report<sup>27</sup>:

- integration of traditional knowledge throughout the document rather than isolating this into one section;
- a need for further work, or more accessible consolidation of existing research into the wide range of implications of climate change for the Yukon;
- a need for accessible information on these issues to increase the level of public education, awareness and (hopeful) action on these issues. Council noted its interest in exploring how best this could be done.

◆ Economic Diversification Strategy Development

Council's working committee developed a definition of a diversified economy<sup>28</sup> and a set of objectives for diversification which were subsequently accepted by Council. Council also started work on developing a set of indicators by which the level of economic diversification could be gauged, reviewed material prepared on the topic by the department of Economic development, and discussed issues requiring more in-depth research.

◆ *Environment Act*, Regulations to Govern the YCEE

The 1997 *Report on the Audit of the Yukon Government's performance under the Environment Act* reported that regulations to govern the YCEE, as required under the Act (sec 41 (4)), had not been enacted by Cabinet. The Council worked with the department of Renewable Resources to draft the required regulations and reviewed these at the Council's last meeting in 1997/98.

### ***Workshops & Conferences***

◆ **Energy Conference**, April 1995

The Council organized a mini-conference entitled "Energy for Tomorrow". Held in Whitehorse, the conference involved discussions on a wide range of energy issues including coal generation, alternate energy sources, demand side management and wood as an energy source.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Source: Feb 19/98 letter, J. Mauro to E. Fairclough. Box # 3 (Renewable); File: YCEE SOE Mar/97-Apr/01

<sup>28</sup> definition not provided in Council-meeting minutes or Term Report

<sup>29</sup> File research does not yield a copy of the (final) YCEE conference report or a related YCEE report to Cabinet. A draft of a report (dated January 1996) attached to a letter from ECO to YCEE (dated December 7, 1995) has been located (box: 1999-0111| File: YCEE Energy Conference); however revisions-marking on this draft suggests that this document should not be referred to for either conclusions or recommendations. Feb 7/96 Council meeting minutes note that Council approved the "Energy for Tomorrow" report...and the Chair committed to attach a letter of transmittal to the report and provide it to the Government Leader.

◆ **Forestry Conference**, November 4-5, 1995

The Council organized a conference attended by over 100 people on "The Future of Yukon's Forests", held in Watson Lake. Conference participants advocated for a small, locally owned forestry industry, completion of forest inventories, devolution of forestry from the federal the Yukon government, the establishment of a board to build a consensus on a vision for the forest sector, and development of a forest ecosystem management plan.

Council produced a summary of the conference proceedings (bearing the same name as the conference) and established a Forestry SubCommittee to follow up on the conference delegates' recommendations<sup>30</sup>.

◆ **Sectoral Conferences, Followup and Planning**

Mining

Council produced a report (July 1995) entitled "*Yukon Mining: The Next Century*" based on the sectoral conference held in November 1994. This report summarized the key themes and comments noted by conference delegates as documented in the proceedings summary, offered YCEE's general conclusions, and a few specific recommendations. Noting that much of the discussion at the conference did not readily translate into recommendations to the Yukon government (due to the federal government's substantial role in regulation of the mining industry) Council specifically recommended:

- the Yukon Government should use its influence to ensure that stakeholders were included in the processes that would determine the structure and requirements of the (pending) Development Assessment Act;
- early adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the Yukon Mining Advisory Committee on land use regulation of exploration activities on claims;
- through Yukon College and where practical through community campus organizations, training courses should continue to be developed that would enable Yukon people to acquire the skills to enable them to be a part of the skilled (mining) labour force.

Other suggestions/comments noted by the Council included:

- hastening of Yukon government inventories of critical wildlife habitats and populations, and making this information widely available and compatible with that produced by the Geoscience Office;
- support for devolution of the management control over mineral resources;
- the merits of completing inventories of areas with significant social, scenic or wildlife habitat values
- the benefits of establishing a committee to oversee industry issues and to report regularly to the public via the legislature, similar to the *Environment Act* provision regarding the State of the Environment Report. It was noted that this commission should:
  - include industry, First Nations government and other stakeholder representatives;
  - monitor the progress of mine developments and exploration, helping to identify and remove roadblocks to progress; and

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<sup>30</sup> File research yields no evidence that YCEE subsequently prepared for Cabinet a summary report containing YCEE's comments/recommendations

- monitor the implementation of regulatory measures affecting mining to ensure they effectively protected the environment without unduly burdening industry.

### Arts

Over this term-period, Council engaged in a review of the contribution of the Arts community to the Yukon economy. With the department of Tourism conducting its own consultations on a new Yukon Arts Policy, Council concluded that there was little value to undertaking a separate consultation on the Arts (via a YCEE mini-conference), viewing Tourism's consultation approach as meeting the requirements for economic discussions with this sector.

### ***Education Initiatives***

In 1997/98, Council began planning for organizing a series of public education activities including organizing public speaking sessions featuring participants invited to the Circumpolar Conference on Sustainable Development in the Arctic (held in Whitehorse in May 1998).

*April 1998 - March 1999*

***Council Meetings***

**1998:**

Apr 3-4	Dawson City
Jun 5-6	Whitehorse
Oct 9	Whitehorse (Special meeting - Government Leader re: mandate)
Oct 30-31	Whitehorse
Nov 19	Whitehorse (Special Meeting - Development Assessment Process)

**1999:**

Jan 8	Whitehorse (Special Meeting - Development Assessment Process)
Feb 5-6	Whitehorse

***Government Policy, Programs and Legislation***

◆ Yukon Conservation Strategy Implementation Review 1996-1997

In cooperation with staff from the department of Renewable Resources, Council completed a review of the Strategy for the years 1996 and 1997. This review focused on a select number of "Actions" from the Yukon government's 1996 "Staying on Track" Yukon Conservation Strategy revisions document. The actions selected for the review were considered, as a group, to represent a cross-section of the goals defined in the YCS, as well as an issue-specific approach to the day-to-day work being done towards sustainable development.

The Council concluded that the government was operating in good faith using the principles set out in the "Staying on Track" document, and that the Yukon legislative system was keeping up with the demand for changing environmental legislation and policy further to First Nation Final Agreements, the *Environment Act* and related regulations.

However, the Council also reported that the management of the implementation of "actions" could use more focus and a need existed to establish clear linkages between actions outlined, underlying goals and principles, and desired outcomes. The report's broad recommendations to the Yukon Government<sup>31</sup> were to:

- maintain efforts to ensure that all students receive some conservation-based education;
- improve methods for evaluating the success of its conservation programs
- develop a system for monitoring the diversion of waste from landfills;
- improve the energy efficiency of government's operations;
- continue efforts to make land use planning an effective process; and
- place a high priority on implementation of the Protected Areas Strategy.

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<sup>31</sup> Source: December 15/98 YCEE News Release; (Renewable Resources) Box #3; File: YCEE Yukon Conservation Strategy Review May/98-Feb/01

Dr. Tony Hodge, a highly-respected consultant whose expertise in the area of sustainable development had been recognized by the United Nations, was brought to Whitehorse to assist the Council and the department in considering how to effect needed Strategy and implementation changes.

◆ State of the Environment Report 1999

As with the previous (1995) SOE Report, Council took an active interest in the development of the SOE Report planned for release by the Yukon government in late 1999<sup>32</sup>. On review of early drafts of the Report, Council made a number of recommendations<sup>33</sup> for consideration in the drafting of the final 1999 Report, namely to:

- maintain its value as a main source of information on the Yukon environment and environmental factors;
- maintain its integrity as a source to view the environment as a whole;
- set it out in such a way as to ensure a strong link between the report and the Yukon Conservation strategy;
- integrate traditional knowledge and local knowledge in a more comprehensive manner throughout the report;
- include the technical information available through the First Nations responsible for their land and resources; and
- identify emerging problems and long term cumulative effects on the environment.

The (final) 1999 SOER was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 8, 2000. Council reviewed the report and reported its findings to the legislative Assembly in April, 2001. (see related item, next term-report periods, pages 31 and 33).

◆ Review of the Yukon Economic Strategy

Over this period, Council initiated a review of this Strategy and found that, similar to the Conservation strategy, there were few, if any, clear linkages or performance assessment criteria defined for the Strategy's principles and goals. Council's newly established Working Group on Diversification was charged with the task of considering options on how to develop an appropriate evaluation framework for the Strategy. Work on this review continued into 1999/2000.

◆ *Environment Act*, Regulations to Govern the YCEE

The Council continued its work with the department of Renewable Resources to draft the required regulations for subsequent public review. The regulations were enacted in March 1999.

◆ Review of the draft Development Assessment Process (DAP)

Council held a number of meetings in this period to review the proposed DAP legislation, and in February 1999, released "*Building an Effective Yukon Development Assessment Process: Report on the Draft Yukon Development Assessment Act.*" The report identified key issues and concerns surrounding the impacts of the draft Act, and contained 44 recommendations to assist in consideration of how some of the issues and concerns might be addressed.

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<sup>32</sup> An interim 1998 SOER was not undertaken

<sup>33</sup> page 5, 1998/99 Term Report

Council's foremost concern was identified as the need for an improved, collaborative consultation process to help ensure that the views and suggestions of Yukon people and organizations were recognized and incorporated into the final legislation. The basic premise for the YCEE's review was that, to be most effective and efficient, development assessment should:

- be a proactive process, encouraging enlightened planning;
- establish clarity in its application and certainty in its procedures for development proponents, and the public
- encourage early discussion and public consultation.

The Council also facilitated the first face-to-face meeting of industry and environmental interests on the subject of DAP. Involving the Chamber of Mines, Yukon Conservation Society and the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, the meeting focused on the need for involvement of stakeholders in the development of DAP.

◆ Sustainable Economic Diversification

Over this period, Council examined other issues of relevance to Yukon's economic development, sustainability and diversification, notably, issues of access to capital, and the Yukon tax regime.

- Yukon Government Fund Limited (Immigrant Investor Fund)

Recognizing that a diverse approach to access to capital is imperative to stimulate sustainable economic development, the Council was interested to review the government's Immigrant Investor Fund. While Council expressed its support-in-principle for the program concept, Council also expressed some concerns regarding:

- the lack of clear and appropriate objectives and guidelines, including ethical guidelines, for both the source and the distribution of the funds;
- ensuring financial accountability in the management and administration of the funds; and
- ensuring that the new funds address gaps in the availability of financing facing to those most in need of new sources of capital in the Yukon.

These concerns were reiterated by the Council in the course of various meetings and correspondence on this topic. The last meeting minutes entry on this item occurs in June/99, at which time Council reviewed the Chair's related letter of concerns forwarded to the Minister of Economic Development.

- Tax Regime

In May 1998, the Council retained a local accounting firm to explore the use of the tax regime as a way of supporting sustainable economic diversification of the Yukon economy. On review of the resulting report "*Tax Incentives to Increase Access to Financing for Yukon Businesses*", Council made several recommendations to the Yukon government on how to develop a more dynamic and competitive tax regime and suggested that further exploration be done in the following areas: research & development; film and video productions; manufacturing and processing; access to capital for equity financing; and green initiatives.

### ***Workshops and Conferences***

#### ◆ Sustainable Communities & Economic Diversification, Conference Planning

At the request of the (new) Government Leader, the Council began planning in January 1999 for a series of conferences to be held in 14 communities in April and May 1999, under the banner "Focus on the Future: Building Sustainable Communities". The intent of the series was to bring together diverse community interests to discuss the economy in the widest possible context (including unpaid work; families; volunteer and other work that also contribute to community sustainability); to share information on Yukon and circumpolar sustainable and economic development initiatives; and to stimulate discussion on alternatives to dependency on the traditional Yukon government, mining and tourism economic sectors.

Research that began in conjunction with YCEE's conference planning included:

- development of community profiles and trends
- development of a series of profiles of profit and not-for-profit initiatives, not directly related to mining and government
- a summary of an economic development conference held in Whitehorse in May 1998; and
- a precis of projects in the circumpolar north that would be characterized as sustainable development projects.

### ***Education Initiatives***<sup>34</sup>

#### ◆ Speaker Series

Globalization and its impact on the Yukon was the focus of the Council's speaker series in the latter part of this Council's term.

- Honorable Audrey McLaughlin, Yukon's Circumpolar Envoy, was enlisted to speak in Whitehorse and Haines Junction on the "Vitality of the Circumpolar North"
- Elizabeth Dowdeswell, former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program and Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, spoke in Whitehorse on "Lessons Learned in Sustainable Development."
- Dr. Tony Hodge, Engineering Consultant and co-chair of the British Columbia Council for Sustainability, former Director of Research for the International Joint Commission on the Great Lake Waters, and author of two books, delivered a seminar for federal, territorial, Council of Yukon First Nation, and non-government organization policy officials interested in sustainable development performance measurement.

#### ◆ Student-Led Seminar

Council sponsored a Student-led seminar at Yukon College to give students a forum to discuss and share what they were learning about sustainable development.

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<sup>34</sup> event dates undetermined

◆ Public Communications

The Council launched a web-site containing information on the YCEE's mandate and membership, links to Council publications and meetings, and links to Yukon, national, and international resources on sustainable development.

Council's promotional pamphlet was also updated.

A Communications Strategy commissioned by the YCEE to raise the profile of the Council and enhance public education of sustainable development continued to be implemented.

*April 1999 – December 2000*

***Council Meetings***

**1999:**

Jun 10-12      Whitehorse (10<sup>th</sup>); Haines Junction (11-12<sup>th</sup>)  
Nov 26-27      Whitehorse

**2000:**

Mar 17-18      Whitehorse  
Sept 8-9        Whitehorse  
Dec 1-2         Whitehorse

***Government Policy, Programs and Legislation***

Sustainable Progress Indicators

◆ Yukon Economic Strategy

In the fall of 1999, YCEE contracted the Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development to develop sustainable development indicators to measure progress on the Yukon Economic Strategy. Following several meetings, lengthy and comprehensive stakeholder interviews and many rounds of revisions, Council adopted in September 2000 the Institute's March 31<sup>st</sup> report entitled "*Yukon Sustainable Progress Indicators: Framework, Indicators and Implementation Approach for Reviewing the Yukon Economic Strategy*".

The 68 indicators contained in the report measure progress in three distinct areas: economy; environment; and the health of people and communities. They provide for a more refined measure of progress than that which is possible by examination of changes in the Gross Domestic Product, which is simply a measure of the amount of money being spent and circulating in the economy.

Council held preliminary discussions with the Yukon government and determined that data being collected by the government already supported a majority of these indicators and that with some changes in the way the data was collected, the framework could be fully implemented.

Council recommended widespread acceptance and use of Sustainable Progress indicators by the Yukon government and decided to work with government agencies over the next year to bring about their widespread use.

◆ Yukon Conservation Strategy Revisions

Council invested a significant amount of time to assist Renewable Resources in meeting its statutory obligations to revise the Yukon Conservation Strategy, including working closely with the department and their consultants to update the Strategy goals and include measurable indicators.

Over the years, Council had observed the difficulties the department had experienced in meeting this legislative requirement. Similarly, the Council was questioning the "value-added" in meeting their own obligations for evaluating government's implementation of the Strategy, especially in light

of changing priorities on the environment front that were not included in previous Strategy revisions.

Council concluded that the SPI model, as an alternative to measuring progress on legislatively-driven documents that do not reflect current priorities, afforded the compilation of the Yukon Economic Strategy and the Yukon Conservation Strategy with a focus on a Sustainable Development Strategy.

Council recommended that the legislated requirement for review and subsequent revision of the Yukon Conservation Strategy and the Yukon Economic Strategy be reconsidered with the aim of developing a Sustainable Development Strategy based on the Sustainable Progress indicators Model.

- ◆ Review of the Yukon State of the Environment Report 1999

The Council worked with the department of Renewable Resources to assist it in meeting its legislated requirement to complete the 1999 Report. Council then completed a full review of the SOER, submitting its report to the Legislative Assembly (via the Premier) on April 18th, 2001.

In this period's term report, Council noted: "Overall...the 1999 SOER met the requirements of the *Environment Act* in that it adequately addressed the purposes and requirements of the Act. At the same time, and consistent with the Council's view on the required changes to the Yukon Conservation Strategy and the Yukon Economic Strategy, some changes to the function and use of the SOER appear to be warranted."

Council recommended that the mandate of the SOER be revisited to consider including the collecting of data required to support the use of the Sustainable Progress Indicators.

- ◆ Complaints under the *Environment Act*

Although not in receipt of any complaints under this Act, the Council expressed some concern that the public may not be aware of the section of the Act that provides for the registering of a complaint.

The Council recommended to the department of Renewable Resources that it develop a public communications plan outlining how complaints are handled under the Act and that the plan be forwarded to the Council for placement on the YCEE web-site.

## ***Workshops & Conferences***

### **Focus on the Future Community Conferences**

Between April to May, 1999, YCEE conducted the "Focus on the Future-Building Sustainable Communities" series of conferences in 14 rural Yukon communities. While these conferences were not intended as a way to come up with solutions, and the resulting conferences report<sup>35</sup> did not make recommendations for change, the report did offer a conclusions section which, among other things, noted: "...Yukon people are innovative and do many things to sustain themselves in their communities. The ultimate challenge, however, is to bridge the gap between an opportunity or idea

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<sup>35</sup> Report publication/release date unknown – March 2000 Council meeting minutes refer to a review of a draft of the report

and the action that it takes to develop sustainable economic opportunities....Change and growth will take time. Consistent effort and a common sense of direction mean that ideas and opportunities can become sustainable options for Yukon communities.”

### ***Education Initiatives***<sup>36</sup>

#### ◆ Public Communications

Council updated its web-site to include its new members and documents, and the address was changed to a more user-friendly format: [www.ycee.yk.net](http://www.ycee.yk.net)

#### ◆ Contributions to Community-Education Initiatives:

The Council provided varying levels of support to the following activities that had as a focus, the promotion of understanding and awareness of the goals of sustainable development:

- Co-sponsored with the Learning Disabilities Association of the Yukon - Dr. Fraser Mustard, physician, medical scientist and founding President of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, on the “Link Between a Healthy Population and Healthy Economy”, and the importance of nurturing and providing early support for children, and especially when dealing with learning disabilities.
- Contribution to the Yukon Development Education Centre, Speaker series - Maude Barlow, national chairperson of the Council of Canadians, on “Globalization at the Crossroads”, exploring the effects of globalization without representation on jobs, human rights, social programs, culture and the environment.
- Contribution to the Circumpolar Women’s Conference, by way of a financial contribution intended to assist people in need who wished to attend the conference.
- Support for the Reel to Reel Film Festival, sponsored by the Yukon Development Education Centre.

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<sup>36</sup> Events dates undetermined

*January 2001-*

**2001:**

Feb 8-10	Destruction Bay
Apr 6	minutes n/a

***Community Consultations at Council Meeting***

Council received a presentation from representatives of:

- Parks Canada, on ecological integrity and sustainable economic development in Kluane Park; and
- Champagne & Aishihik First Nation, on economic, social, capacity-building and land-claims completion challenges, and the importance of Kluane Park to the First Nation

***Administration***

Council decided to engage a consultant to compile a chronology of YCEE's major activities and documents since 1989 with intention to provide this document to YCEE members and Cabinet for their information.

***Government Policy, Programs, and Legislation***

- ◆ Sustainable Progress Indicators

Council was briefed on the Chair's meeting and presentation to the Yukon government's Deputy Minister's Review Committee on the SPI, and Council's related recommendations for use of the SPI.

- Yukon Economic and Yukon Conservation Strategy Reviews

The Council decided to approach the annual review of the Yukon Conservation Strategy and a review of the Yukon Economic Strategy in conjunction with a view to linking these together in the form of a sustainable development review. Council agreed that a "team-consulting" approach to the review(s) would be beneficial, set a September 15/01 target deadline for completion of the project, and requested the Secretariat to prepare an invitational request for project proposals.

Council also decided to step back and review work undertaken by the department of Renewable Resources rather than remaining heavily involved in project work as was the case with the department's revisions to the Conservation Strategy.

- Review, (1999) State of the Environment Report

Council completed its review of the 1999 SOER and presented its review report to the Legislative Assembly, via the Premier, on April 18, 2001. The report's conclusion states:

"In general, the 1999...Report does an adequate job at addressing the 'purposes' and 'requirements' of the *Environment Act*, although it falls short of the mark in a number of key areas. Shortfalls occur in the areas of incorporation of First Nation traditional knowledge and in providing useful baseline

knowledge to environmental planners, assessors and regulators. In addition, the SOER fails to adequately profile the importance of economic activity to the overall health of the environment...required by the *Environment Act* definition of the 'environment.' The YCEE is concerned that the failure of the SOER to adequately consider economic elements of the environment may be attributable to an institutional bias on the part of reporting agencies.

The SOER provides good general background information on the Yukon environment, and will facilitate YCEE's work in public awareness and education, and to encourage public participation in processes related to environmental management. However, its failure to adequately profile the importance of economic activity to the overall health of the environment represents a significant limitation of its potential for assisting the YCEE in addressing mandated 'powers and duties' pursuant to the *Environment Act*, particularly given that the principal purpose of the YCEE is to "encourage sustainable development in the Yukon. (Section 41(1), *Environment Act*).

From a YCEE perspective, the SOER would be a more useful instrument for the Council and government purposes if it were drafted in a manner that more directly addressed the significance of environmental activities and trends from the perspective of sustainable development."

- Yukon Protected Area Strategy (YPAS)

Council discussed the status of the YPAS process and recent events and the possible role of YCEE. The Council decided to offer to the Yukon government its assistance with the YPAS, such as through a review of related legislation.

- Alaska Highway Pipeline

Council determined that this initiative merited YCEE involvement and discussed the benefit of a joint meeting with the Health & Social Services Council on related issue(s). The Secretariat was requested to convey Council's interest to the Pipeline Unit (YG) and to research specialists in the field who could potentially speak to the YCEE and H&SSC and possibly be part of a public speaker series.

### ***Education Initiatives***

- ◆ Alaska Highway Pipeline Presentation

The Yukon Government's Pipeline Unit, in conjunction with YCEE, held a well-attended public presentation on the proposed project in Destruction Bay on the evening of Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>

*Attachment 1 - YCEE Terms of Reference and Related Legislation*

## YCEE Terms of Reference<sup>37</sup>

### Role and Responsibilities

1. Act as a forum for economic and environmental issues in the Yukon, reviewing major policy, strategic, legislative, and program initiatives and providing advice to government;
2. Take a leadership role in working with various sectors towards stable, and in the case of the renewable resource sector, sustainable development, particularly through identifying significant opportunities for advancing *Economic Development Activities* that are environmentally sound;
3. Function as the central advisory group on the Yukon Economic Strategy and monitor progress on the implementation of the actions in the strategy and evaluate their success in guiding environmentally sound economic development and diversification in the Yukon;
4. Function as a central advisory group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy and monitor progress on the implementation of actions outlined in the strategy and evaluate their success in guiding sustainable development of the renewable resource sector and environmentally sound and stable economic development of the non-renewable resource sector in the Yukon;
5. Encourage the development by industry, government, labour and aboriginal and non-governmental organizations of projects that demonstrate environmentally sound economic development;
6. At the call of the responsible ministers, arrange public symposia on major economic and environmental issues;
7. Promote, in cooperation with the Government of the Yukon, public awareness and understanding of the linkages between the environment and economy and the importance of environment-economy integration and sustainable development;
8. Recommend research that may, as appropriate, be funded by government to further understanding of the Yukon's economy and environment and environment-economy linkages; and
9. Review and comment on any reports that address the state of the Yukon's economy, environment and resources.

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<sup>37</sup> Notes:

a) File Box #1999-0111; File Name: YCEE Initial Submission 1989  
Source documents: Cabinet Submission July 1, 1989 proposal; and Cabinet Minute #89-36 (re: Item 8)

b) Secretariat "Black Binder"  
Contains Terms of Reference reflecting Cabinet #89-36 instructions

Environment Act (s. 41)

41. (1) The purpose of the Council is to encourage sustainable development in the Yukon.

(2) Without restricting the generality of subsection (1), the Council may:

- (a) undertake and encourage public discussion of the economy and the environment and their inter-relationship;
- (b) review the policies of the Government of the Yukon and evaluate their implementation in relation to the objectives of this Act;
- (c) conduct research on the economy and the environment; and
- (d) promote public awareness of the importance of sustainable development.

Mandated Council responsibilities under the Act include:

- an annual report to the Legislative Assembly detailing its activities and expenditures;
- an annual review of the performance of the Yukon Government in the implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy and reporting its findings to the Legislative Assembly;
- a report of its review of the triennial Yukon State of the Environment Report to the Legislative Assembly; and
- review, reporting, and recommendations regarding complaints submitted under s.22 of the *Environment Act*.

Economic Development Act (s. 10(1))

This act outlines additional functions for the Council:

- a) review policy, strategic, legislative and program initiatives and provide advice about them to Cabinet;
- b) monitor progress on the implementation of the Yukon Economic Strategy;
- c) encourage environmentally sound economic development by industry, government, labour, and aboriginal and non-governmental organizations;
- d) at the call of the Minister, arrange public symposiums on major economic issues;
- e) promote public awareness and understanding of the links between the environment and the economy, and the importance of integrating economic and environmental policies and sustainable development;
- f) recommend research on the economy or links between the economy and the environment;

- g) carry out or supervise projects assigned by the Commissioner in Executive Council;
- h) review and comment on any reports that address the state of the Yukon economy.

*Attachment 2 - YCEE Member Appointments*

*The Yukon Council on the Economy and Environment  
Attachment 2 – Member Appointments*

Members	November 1989- November 1991	November 1991 – 1993	November 1993	1995	1997/1998	2000/2001
			OIC 1993/150; OIC 1993/157			
Chair	Lindsay Staples	Lindsay Staples resigned Apr/93	Tim Preston app: Nov 8; 3-year term		March 11/97 memo to Cabinet noting Chair vacancy  Jennifer Mauro app: Jul 3/97 OIC 1997/107 revoked Mar 1/00 OIC 2000/33	Rick Buchan app: Mar 1/00; OIC 2000/33
Vice-Chair	Viola Mullet	Viola Mullet vacant at Apr 30/93	Mary Reddoch app: member Nov 2/93; Vice-chair Nov 8/93	Elaine Smart app: April/95 revoked Dec 8/97 OIC 1997/191	Daryn Leas app: Dec 8/97 OIC 1997/191	
Association of Yukon Communities	Don Branigan  then  Bill Weigand resigned Aug/92		Kathy Watson app: Nov 2/93 OIC 1993/150 resigned Sept/00 revoked Jan 12/01 OIC 2001/03			Ernie Bourassa app: Jan 12/01 OIC 2001/03
Council for Yukon Indians / Council for Yukon First Nations	Dayle MacDonald (resigned May 1991)  Marilyn VanBibber  Mark Wedge app: May 16/91	all vacant at April 30/93	Victor Mitander app: Nov 2/93 resigned July/95 revoked Sept/95  Mark Wedge app: Nov 2/93	Daryn Leas app: Sept 11/95 OIC 1995/160	George Johnson app: Feb 18/98 OIC 1998/23 resigned May 13/99 revoked July 29/99 OIC/124	Roger Alfred app: Aug 17/00 OIC 2000/138
Yukon Chamber of Commerce	Ray Wells		Denny Kobayashi app: Nov 2/93 resigned July 13/95 revoked Nov 21/95 OIC 1995/190	Duane Morgan app: Nov 21/95 OIC 1995/190	John Carrol app: Nov 3/97 OIC 1997/173 resigned Mar/00 revoked 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov/00 OIC 2000/201	
Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon	Dave Loeks  then  Phil Dyke					James Gratton app: Nov 29/00 OIC 2000/201
Whitehorse and Yukon Building and Construction Trade Council	Todd Hardy					

**The Yukon Council on the Economy and Environment**  
**Attachment 2 – Member Appointments**

Members	November 1989- November 1991	November 1991 – 1993	November 1993	1995	1997/1998	2000/2001
			OIC 1993/150; OIC 1993/157			
Yukon Chamber of Mines	Bruce Patnode  then  Dave Waugh resigned June 1990	vacant at April 30/93	Gregg Jilson app: Nov 2/93		Dave Austin app: Nov 3/97 OIC 1997/173 resigned Nov 22/99 revoked Aug 17/00 OIC 2000/138	Bill Mann app: Aug 17/00 OIC 2000/138
Yukon Conservation Society	Skeeter Verlaine-Wright resigned March 1991  then  Hector Mackenzie		Andy Williams app: Nov 2/93 OIC 1993/150			
Yukon Federation of Labour	Ron MacDonald resigned March 1990  then  Dwayne Pauls resigned Aug 5/1991  then  Mark Timm		Mark Timm app: Nov 2/93 resigned January 1995	Arla Repka Sept/95 -	Louise Ranger app: Nov 3/97 OIC 1997/173 resigned Feb/01	
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	Hector MacKenzie resigned by April May/91 as YF&WMB Rep – becomes YCS rep.  then  Lorrina Mitchell					
Yukon Status of Women	Suzanne Bertrand resigned June 1990  then  Laurie Henderson (term expiry Nov/91)  then  Chris Scherbarth				Lucy Van Oldenbarneveld app: Nov 3/97 OIC 1997/173 revoked Nov 24/98 OIC 1998/209	Natalie Edelson app: Nov 24/98 OIC 1998/209

*The Yukon Council on the Economy and Environment  
Attachment 2 – Member Appointments*

Members	November 1989- November 1991	November 1991 – 1993	November 1993	1995	1997/1998	2000/2001
			OIC 1993/150; OIC 1993/157			
Yukon Indian Women's Association			Louise Bouvier app: Nov 2/93 OIC 1993/150			
Member at Large					Ralph Nordling app: Dec 8/97 OIC 1997/191	

*Attachment 3 - YCEE Meeting Minutes Synopsis 1989-2001*

*As a supplement to the major activities overview this summary more fully illustrates the scope, nature and diversity of Council's discussions and activities over the years.*

*Agenda items of a recurring nature, such as discussion on workplans, YCEE annual reports, and other similar topics, may not be detailed in all cases.*

YCEE Meetings 1989-2001

**1990**

Feb 10-11	Marsh Lake
Apr 18	Whitehorse
May 25-26	Dawson City
Sept 6-7	Whitehorse
Nov 22-24	Teslin

**1991**

Feb 7-9	Whitehorse
Mar 14	Whitehorse (Special meeting to review <i>Environment Act</i> )
Apr 10	Whitehorse (Special meeting to review <i>Environment Act</i> )
April 15	Whitehorse (Special meeting to review <i>Environment Act</i> )
Jun 7-8	Haines Junction
Sept 12-14	Carmacks/Mayo
Oct 28	Whitehorse
Nov 15	Whitehorse

**1992**

Feb 14-15	Whitehorse
Apr 15	Whitehorse (Special meeting - <i>Employment Standards Act</i> amendments)
Apr 29	Whitehorse (Special Meeting - <i>Employment Standards Act</i> amendments)
Apr 23-24	Whitehorse (Special Meeting - <i>Employment Standards Act</i> amendments)
Jun 25-27	Watson Lake
Sep 17	Whitehorse

**1993**

Mar 31	Whitehorse
Nov 9	Whitehorse
Nov 17	Whitehorse
Nov 25	Whitehorse
Dec 9	Whitehorse
Dec 20	Whitehorse

**1994**

Feb 3	Whitehorse
Apr 7	Whitehorse (minutes incomplete)
Apr 12	minutes n/a
Apr 20	Whitehorse
May 2	minutes n/a
May 17	Whitehorse
May 31	Whitehorse

**1994** continued....

Jun 23	Whitehorse
Jul 4	Whitehorse
Jul 26	Whitehorse
Sept 20	Whitehorse
Oct 4	Whitehorse
Oct 14	Whitehorse
Oct 18	Whitehorse
Oct 25	Whitehorse (Special meeting - <i>Environment Act</i> )
Oct 27	Whitehorse (Special meeting - <i>Environment Act</i> )
Nov 1	Whitehorse (Special meeting - <i>Environment Act</i> )
Nov 16	Whitehorse
Dec 6	Whitehorse

**1995**

Jan 17	Whitehorse
Feb 21	Whitehorse
Apr 11	Whitehorse
Sept 14	Whitehorse
Oct 26	Whitehorse

**1996**

Feb 7	Whitehorse
Feb 27	minutes n/a
Feb 29	Whitehorse

**1997**

Dec 2	Whitehorse
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**1998**

Feb 13-14	Whitehorse
Apr 3-4	Dawson City
Jun 5-6	Whitehorse
Oct 9	Whitehorse (Special meeting - Government Leader re: mandate)
Oct 30-31	Whitehorse
Nov 19	Whitehorse (Special Meeting - Development Assessment Process)

**1999**

Jan 8	Whitehorse (Special Meeting - Development Assessment Process)
Feb 5-6	Whitehorse
Jun 10-12	Whitehorse (10 <sup>th</sup> ); Haines Junction (11-12 <sup>th</sup> )
Nov 26-27	Whitehorse

**2000**

Mar 17-18	Whitehorse
Sept 8-9	Whitehorse
Dec 1-2	Whitehorse

**2001**

Feb 8-10	Destruction Bay
Apr 6	minutes n/a

## **YCEE Meeting Minutes Synopsis**

### 1989

#### ♦ Nov 3, 1989

Organizational Meeting of the newly-established Council. Minutes n/a. Term Report identifies this was an incomplete meeting.

### 1990

#### ♦ Feb 10-11, 1990 (Marsh Lake)

*Mandate: Council Goals: Council approved 3 goals statements*

**Operating Procedures:** Council set procedures to govern its operations, including but not limited to: decision-making approach (consensus); minutes preparation and distribution/approval process; member alternates; meetings frequency (at least quarterly, minimum of two in rural communities), and requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft of the procedures for review at the next meeting.

**Subcommittees:** Council established Policy; Sustainable Development; and Education subcommittees; defined their scope of work; and discussed application of honoraria for subcommittee and related meetings.

**Public Communications:** Council agreed to develop an identity logo and YCEE letterhead; prepare news releases at the end of each meeting for distribution and agreed that Council's first annual Report would include 1989 activities.

**Workshops/Speakers/Conferences:** Council agreed to bring in speakers and coordinate speaker-events with other organizations. The Secretariat was requested to compile for Council's consideration a list of upcoming conferences being held in the Yukon.

#### ♦ Apr 18, 1990

**Mandate:** The Chair tabled the Cabinet-approved Council Terms of Reference

**SubCommittee Workplans:** Draft workplans were reviewed, with a decision that Committees were to each develop a written proposal for one substantive project, to be submitted to Secretariat by May 16th for circulation to members for discussion at the next Council meeting.

**Draft Agriculture Policy:** Council was informed it had been requested to review and comment on this draft policy; item was placed on the May meeting agenda.

**Green Plan:** Council discussed this federal Plan and agreed to discuss at its May meeting whether and how Council should be involved in the pending consultations on the federal discussion paper "A Framework for Discussion on the Environment" (previously circulated to members).

**Public Speaker:** Council's first sponsored speaker was announced - Thomas Berger on "Conservation and Development of the Yukon's North Slope" (held May 11<sup>th</sup>, Whitehorse)

◆ **May 25-25, 1990**

**Conference/Lecture Reports:**

- Globe '90 (Vancouver) Conference & Trade Show: 3 Council members provided their verbal (delegate) reports on the conference
- Berger Lecture: 150 attended; lecture was videotaped.

**Budget:** Council discussed and approved its (proposed) core budget; Subcommittee (proposed) projects & budgets were not approved. Subcommittees were requested to develop a comprehensive workplan and related budget(s) for Council consideration.

**Committee Project Proposals:** Subcommittees presented overviews of proposed projects:

- Education focusing on a Sustainable Development Challenge Project; Speaker's List; development of a brochure, and exploring other communication options (e.g. CBC TV). The logo designed by 2 members was Council-approved.
- Sustainable Development: initial project identified as examining Economic Accounting model in use by government, involving a review of the (traditional) economic accounts vs. "non-market" activities. Council agreed that this subject was at the heart of the Council's mandate, and approved the draft workplan. The Committee suggested modelling exercise and state of environment reporting would logically follow initial work on economic accounts. The Secretariat was requested to keep committee members informed about national progress on state of environment reporting.
- Policy: identified that it would be undertaking planning for the (fall) review of the Yukon Economic and Yukon Conservation strategies and would be reviewing strategies to develop indicators to help measure progress on government implementation of the strategies. The Committee identified as a possible concern the requirement/need for comprehensive yearly implementation reviews, due to associated scope/time implications.

**YES/YCS Review Conference:** Council approved as the main theme for the Sept 8-9 conference a sector-specific examination of sustainable development. Sectors identified: mining; tourism; forestry; wildlife industries; Indian economy; small business; and public sector (all levels of government), with workshop groups to consist mainly of same-industry members with the following primary questions to be answered: what is achievable and what can industry commit to towards achieving sustainable development.

Planning and Logistics: Policy Committee would begin detailed conference-planning work at its June 11th meeting; the Secretariat was requested to provide information on possible meeting participants; and Economic Development was identified as responsible-agency for conference logistics.

**Policy Reviews: Review Mechanisms/Operating Procedures:** Council agreed it would address policy review requests and determine appropriate review mechanisms (I.e. full Council review from outset or committee review for subsequent Council consideration) on a case-by-case basis. Council agreed it would review this procedure in future to determine whether this approach is effective.

**Green Plan:** Council agreed it would not comment on the federal discussion plan due to the June 9 deadline for submissions, and that the Chair would notify Environment Canada that individual member organizations would instead make their own individual submissions. Member-organizations were asked to submit their responses to the Secretariat for tabling with Council members, with Council members to be updated by Renewable Resources on progress on the Green Plan, at the September meeting.

**Draft Agricultural Policy:** Council deferred discussion on this item to its September meeting, and agreed that Agriculture Branch officials would be invited to this meeting to brief members on the draft policy. The Secretariat was requested to solicit additional information from the Branch: i.e. background information substantiating the (policy) statement that "agriculture can be an important part of the Yukon's economy"; and on the minimum area required for a viable farm unit and the basis for the 65-hectare figure set out in the policy.

**National Round Table on the Economy and the Environment (NRTEE) Meeting:** Scheduled to be held in the Yukon Sept 6-7. The Chair informed members about his discussions with Barry Stuart, (National) northern representative, about holding a public panel discussion Sept. 5 involving 3-4 members of the national round table. The concept was endorsed by Council.

**Operating Procedures:** Council held honoraria-related and other procedures refinement discussions

♦ Sept 6-7, 1990

**Green Plan/Arctic Environmental Strategy:** Council decided to send a letter to the federal Minister (DIAND) expressing concern about the lack of specific consultation on Strategy (being developed under Green Plan); and requesting specific information on process; status and federal agencies' responsibilities; with copy of letter to go to A/Minister of Environment.

**NRTEE:** The Chair & members reported on the public panel discussions held Sept 5 (Whitehorse) and Sept 6 (Haines Junction) with NRTEE, noting a low turnout in Whitehorse but a good turnout in Haines Junction. The Education Committee was requested to review promotion for this and other events.

**Draft Agriculture Policy:** Council received a presentation from representatives of the YG departments of Community & Transportation Services and Renewable Resources, with a Q&A

following. Council questions/concerns focused on issues related to: economic development; land use/allocation; evaluation/consultation of land applications. The Secretariat was requested to draft Council's response to government with the final to be submitted to the YG in October.

**Projects Budget:** The Chair reported on a meeting with the Premier and Ministers of Economic Development & Renewable Resources on proposed Council projects; projects received support. The Secretariat identified project funding was available from these 2 departments, Community & Transportation Services, and Executive Council Office. Council noted its concern about delays in obtaining project funding.

**Committee Reports:** Council received progress/update reports from each committee further to previous Council discussions and new items.

**Operating Procedures:** Council agreed to implement a member-attendance policy, effective Sept 7/90, and made decisions/refinements to other procedures previously discussed, including honoraria; member-alternates; committee participation; committee meeting agendas; and committee reports.

**Draft Yukon Environment Act:** Council was briefed by Renewable Resources on proposed Act content, consultation timetable, and development process. Council raised issue of federal government authority/responsibility for some natural resources in relation to Act. Renewable Resources agreed to prepare a compendium of legislation governing environmental issues in the Yukon. Council decided to review the Act discussion paper at its November meeting. Each committee was requested to review and provide comments on the paper to the Secretariat by Nov. 9th for circulation to all Council members prior to the meeting.

**YES Review Conference:** Council was briefed by Economic Development on the 2nd Annual YES Review Conference being held in Whitehorse on the weekend. It was agreed the Policy Committee would conduct at its next meeting a postmortem on the conference logistics.

**YES Annual Progress Report:** The report prepared by the Yukon Government was tabled for Council members' information, noting that the Report was to be released at the weekend conference.

♦ Nov 22-24, 1990 Teslin

**Teslin Community Meeting:** Council discussed residents'/Village issues brought forward at the (council's) public meeting: Teslin Wetlands sewage disposal; unauthorized highway (sewage) dumping; waste management; and economic development funding decision-making by the Yukon government. Council decided to respond to issues in a variety of ways – see minutes for details.

**Committee Reports:** Council received updates with a new item, a possible Water Conservation Project with the City of Whitehorse, noted.

**YES & YCS Strategy Reviews:** The Policy Committee background paper was circulated for discussion. Council members discussed and identified several general topics and the need for clearer

definitions on several terms as items to be addressed as part of future work plans. Other Council member comments were requested to be forwarded to the Secretariat by Dec 10 for inclusion in a draft report reviewing the two strategies. It was agreed the Draft was to be circulated to members in advance of the February meeting.

**Agriculture Policy/Abattoir:** Council's strategy review discussions prompted notice that work on construction of an abattoir was continuing. Council agreed that the Chair should write to the Minister of Renewable Resources to reiterate concerns Council raised in its response to the draft agricultural policy and asking for a status report on the abattoir issue.

**Sustainable Development Discussions:** Council held a general discussion to enable members to gain a better appreciation of various perspectives and to enhance consensus-building within the Council. (One-page document outlining the principles of sustainability circulated to members prior to discussion.) Council concluded the discussion revealed a strong basis for consensus on the issues.

**Green Plan:** Council was briefed by Renewable Resources on recent developments on federal Green Plan. i.e. Plan is scheduled to be released in next month or so. Document will contain about 20 chapters, one devoted to the north (Arctic Environmental Strategy); with funding for the plan initiatives to be announced. Council reiterated concerns about lack of federal consultation on the Plan. Council decided to send letter to DIAND Minister and (federal) Minister of Environment reiterating concerns; with blind copies to be sent to other round tables (of environment & economy).

**Draft Yukon Environment Act:** Council was briefed by Renewable Resources on the timetable, process and status of Act development, noting that the draft legislation was to be tabled in the legislature in two weeks. Council agreed it would contribute to the initiative as a participant in the design and delivery of public consultation on the Act and established an ad hoc working group for this purpose. The working group was asked to produce a report on the results of consultation for Council's review. Actual and potential working group members were identified, with the first meeting set for Dec 4; secretariat support to be provided by Renewable. Council agreed that non-working group Council members were to be involved in (public consultation) workshops, and the draft Act and working-group agendas/minutes were to be circulated to all Council members.

**Possible 1991 Initiatives:** Potential project topics were identified by each committee. Council determined a need to focus in 1991 on economic and sociocultural dimensions of sustainable development, including implications for small business and labor; committees to consider issues in developing work plans. Committee were requested to prepare workplans and budgets for review/approval at Feb. meeting.

1991 <sup>38</sup>

♦ Feb 7-9, 1991

**Committee Reports:** The Policy Committee solicited clarification on YCEE views on taking public positions on controversial matters. It was agreed that Council's consensus-building nature would occasionally preclude Council from making pronouncements due to a lack of consensus between members - members speaking on such issues would therefore do so either as representatives of organizations they represent (on the Council), or, as individuals.

**Yukon Environment Act:** Council was advised that a consultant had been engaged to assist in Act consultations. The format and process of YCEE consultations, as agreed to at a Dec./90 special meeting of the working group, were reviewed. It was agreed that notes & summaries were to be prepared from each workshop and would be used in preparing recommendations to Yukon government on the draft Act. The Workshops schedule, and "lead" YCEE members for each workshop, were established. It was also agreed that YCEE would hold a special meeting March 14th to prepare interim comments on draft Act based on workshops held to that date. Council discussed and agreed upon groups to be invited to participate in workshops; also to be publicly advertised. Renewable Resources briefed Council on the Act to assist YCEE in preparing for undertaking public consultations.

**Green Plan:** Renewable Resources briefed Council on the Plan, and details of Arctic Environmental Strategy funding.

**Presentation, Yukon Livestock & Agricultural Association:** Council received a presentation by two Association representatives on Yukon agriculture history; YLAA activities; planned circumpolar conference to be held in Whitehorse in 1992; and offered information/comments regarding the proposed abattoir. Following the presentation, Council discussed broad issues that were agreed to be detailed in a letter from Council to the Ministers of Economic Development and Renewable Resources; copies to be sent to YLAA representatives.

**Operating Procedures:** Council approved two amendments pertaining to Honoraria-payments, and the preparation of the annual YCEE report.

**Canada-Yukon Economic Development Agreement:** Council was briefed on Yukon Government negotiations underway to establish a new 5-year Agreement with Canada

**National Round Table on Tourism:** Council *decided* to send a letter to the NRTT expressing interest in being involved with this initiative due to the importance of tourism to Yukon economy.

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<sup>38</sup> Committee updates generally remained a standard feature of most Council meetings from this point forward. Except where an item of particular significance to Council's mandate or operations was discussed, or a substantive decision was made on a particular issue, mention of Committee updates at Council meetings is excluded from the balance of the summary report.

♦ **Mar 14, 1991**

**Special Meeting, Yukon Environment Act:** Council/ad hoc working group members reviewed and endorsed the proposed format for recording information from industry consultation sessions. Council agreed to meet April 6 to review the consultant's report and recommendations to government and to request Government resources to be available for this meeting.

♦ **Apr 10, 1991**

**Council Discussion on Planned/Potential Future Events:**

- Sparrow Workshop: The Chair identified a need for Council to hold sectoral workshops over the year instead of only at Fall conference. Council discussed sponsoring a workshop featuring the Sparrow "case" - re: aboriginal rights; third party interests in resources; and relation to Yukon economic/social situation.
- Cultural Workshop: YCEE scheduled for May 9-11, with Bertha Blondin as speaker. Council planned to sponsor an evening public event in addition to a workshop for Council.
- Greening of Business: YCEE scheduled this public event for May 16<sup>th</sup>, featuring representative(s) of Canadian Federation of Independent Business, and Friends of the Earth Canada, on the costs associated with greening of business, and green audits of business.
- Labour/Management Workshop: Council discussed the possibility of sponsoring a workshop/panel discussion speaking to the challenges labour faces in the '90s
- Mining Workshop: Council discussed the possibility of hosting a panel discussion of mining company CEOs expected to be in Yukon in May, along with the federal (Mines) minister, focussing on the small, family-oriented (mining) operation.
- Garbage Summit: Council had previously indicated to the Yukon Government that it would sponsor an evening presentation for the public in conjunction with a summit planned by the YG
- Youth Conference: Council had received funding from YG to assist in sending 3 youth to the Youthquake conference in Vancouver. It was Council's understanding that these youth would form the steering committee for a Yukon youth conference on the economy & environment that Council planned to host in the fall.

**Yukon Environment Act:** Council worked on preparing a report to YG on its review of the draft *Yukon Environment Act*. Council agreed to meet Apr 15th to complete any revisions.

♦ **Apr 15, 1991**

Special Meeting, *Environment Act*, identified in Term Report – minutes n/a

♦ **Jun 7-8, 1991 (Haines Junction)**

**Report on Workshops/Events:** Council discussed the sessions/events sponsored (Sparrow; Greening of Business: Mining; Youth Conference), noting that the Labour/Management Workshop and Garbage Summit were being deferred to the fall.

**Sustainable Development Challenge:** Minutes suggest there was a poor response rate to the Challenge letter issued by Council as followup to the "challenge" issued at the previous fall conference. Council discussed that a different approach may be more effective in determining the level of community commitments to sustainable development.

**Abattoir:** Council decided to send another letter to the Ministers of Economic Development and Renewable Resources restating its concern that the economic viability of an abattoir should be clearly defined in the proposed feasibility study under consideration by the Economic Development Agreement committee and that Council would like to be informed on this issue as information on the feasibility study became available.

**Presentation – Mayor, Village of Haines Junction:** Council was provided with an overview of community projects; perspectives on government (year-round) vs. business (seasonal) employment environment and associated "polarization"; community interest and support for sustainable development initiatives (helped by the NRTEE meeting held in the community in the fall); community concerns with the YG's decentralization initiative; and the lack of YG consultation on other major issues. Council subsequently decided to send a letter to the Premier regarding decentralization, community-based economic diversification; community consultations, and public vs. private sector opportunities/involvement.

**YES/YCS Implementation Review:** Council reviewed the draft statement(s) and adopted the draft comments on the strategies. Council discussed that future statements should be more focused on certain aspects of the strategies in order to make Council's comments to government more meaningful. Council's motion noted support for opportunity for First Nations to address the strategies and how they will affect, and be affected by, land claims implementation. It was agreed the Policy Committee would continue to assess government's strategy implementation status reports, with future reviews to focus on certain sections of the strategies and highlight other area to address.

**Yukon Environment Act:** Council was briefed on updates/amendments to the Act following its tabling in the legislature. Council was advised that its role as defined in the Act places it in the role of watchdog in the complaints process and as responsible for reviewing the YCS and reporting annually on the strategy implementation and review process. Council was also advised that its role in reviewing Act regulations was as yet undefined. Council agreed to address this issue at its September meeting and requested the Secretariat to detail options on Council's role in reviewing regulations.

Council noted that the Act's reference to establishment of the YCEE should also be noted in the anticipated *Economic Development Act* - Council requested a letter be sent to the Premier enquiring on the status of this proposed new Act.

**Council Review of Environment Act Process:** Council discussed and identified 5 key areas for (internal) review-process improvements:

1. Council literature should be made available at all meetings
2. Collective report-writing exercises should be reviewed to ensure fair and representative discussion and reflection in the report
3. Council should be kept current on proposed legislative changes
4. Council members' roles at (public) meetings - to be impartial observers and offer comments to clarify issues (not state opinions) – demands that members be clear about their role
5. Council members making statements at public meetings, should be clear on YCEE mandate.

**Arctic Environment Strategy:** Council was advised that the (federal) Chief of Conservation and Land Use Planning had been invited to brief Council on the AES, with such briefing possibly occurring in August or early September. Renewable Resources noted that it also had some concerns about AES from a YG perspective, although Renewable Resources was encouraging communities to pursue program funding. Council discussed the AES, and decided to send a letter to DIAND (Whitehorse) expressing Council interest in advising or assisting in setting up mechanisms for programs implementation; and a letter to DIAND Minister stressing concern that AES is "long on studies and short on action" and that northern institutions with proven technical capabilities should be encouraged to complete the necessary work.

**NWT Round Table:** Council was advised that the Chair had been invited to attend a meeting of the NWT Round Table, which was just starting up. Council agreed to share information and possibly speakers. The AES was identified as a specific example of an issue of common interest for information-sharing.

♦ **Sept 12-14, 1991 (Carmacks/Mayo)**

**Arctic Environmental Strategy:** Council again discussed and reiterated concerns over AES, implementation and communication issues. Council reiterated its request for letters to be sent to both Ottawa and the regional office noting Council's concerns and requesting information on program uptake and specific funds allocated to the Yukon.

**Economic Development Act:** Economic Development had indicated to Council that interest in development of the Act remains; there was some consideration being given to stakeholder consultations; and YCEE would likely play a role in development of the Act.

**Fall Speaker Series/Events:**

- Marilyn Waring - Council expressed interest in hosting a luncheon when the YG hosts a public discussion with this speaker on Dec. 2, and requested the Secretariat to confirm arrangements. Waring authored "If Women Counted", examining the ineffectiveness of the international accounting system in recognizing much of the work done by women.
- Labour/Management Workshop - The Education/Communications committee was requested to meet to confirm interest in sponsoring a fall workshop to include some type of appropriate event in Faro.
- Small Mining – Council deferred to Spring '92

**Yukon Environment Act Regulations:** Council discussed the invitation received from Renewable Resources to participate in the 1st advisory committee to establish regulations under the Act. Council agreed to maintain a global perspective on the development of regulations and not participate on the advisory committee. Council agreed to send a letter to the Minister requesting the timeframe for regulations development, and anticipated activity level, noting Council's interest in commenting on the priorities and timing. Council agreed it would consider the draft regulations during the public review period and submit comments as necessary. Council noted its letter should emphasize the need to articulate the values to be upheld through the regulations and supporting education programs.

**Agriculture Policy & Abattoir:** The Chair provided an overview of previous Council discussions/decisions/actions regarding the draft Policy and proposed abattoir. i.e. In response to a request from Economic Development for Council participation on an advisory committee to assess the economic viability of the abattoir project, Council had reiterated, via letter, its 4 primary areas of concern with the Policy: viability; highest and best use of land; land claims; and environmental impacts associated with certain agriculture uses. Council had clearly stated its interest in providing comments on the policy and its disinterest in deciding on the abattoir issue. Council decided to send a letter to the Ministers of Community & Transportation Services and Renewable Resources encouraging adoption of an agriculture policy, prior to deciding on an abattoir, with the letter to note the Council's concern for Yukon First Nations' rights on selected and non-selected lands given the serious problems with the interim (lands) protection process (under the Umbrella Final Agreement).

**Territorial Accounts:** YG Bureau of Statistics provided an overview of the existing territorial accounts system. Council discussed a wide range of issues based on the accounting system's inaccuracies in presenting a fair snapshot of the Yukon economy, particularly in relation to the value of the environment and the non-wage or subsistence economy (i.e. not accounted for). Council discussed inviting Ms. Waring, author of "If Women Counted" to a lunch meeting to discuss the issue with Council member organizations.

**Meeting: Carmacks/Little Salmon First Nation** Chief and some Councilors joined YCEE for dinner and informal discussions. Issues raised highlighted the need for more information on water quality standards; community concerns about garbage being deposited by river travellers; community interest in cooperation on enforcement of litter management regulations; and related requirements for education/communication efforts. Council decided to send a letter to the Chief Medical officer requesting consideration of water quality workshops for communities; and a letter to Premier reporting on its discussions with the First Nation.

Minister of Renewable Resources: Briefings/Information Exchange:

**Yukon Environment Act:** Council was advised of the schedule for regulations development (Year 1 & 2) and the 3-part process associated with regulations enactment and that the deadline for all regulations to become effective was slated as Oct. 1/96.

**Arctic Environmental Strategy:** The Minister expressed support for Council's proposed efforts on this issue, noting similar concerns by the YG about the lack of local activity and suggested YG

would be making efforts to encourage more effective use of federal funds (to be announced in fall budget)

**Agriculture Policy:** The Chair reiterated to the Minister the points raised in Council's earlier discussions on this issue.

**Energy Discussion Paper:** A draft was circulated for comments. Council was advised that the 2nd draft would incorporate member comments, and serve as the background paper for the Fall Conference and general public information.

**Annual Review YES/YCS Fall Conference:** The Conference format was outlined by the Chair. The Conference will review overall implementation of the YES/YCS with a special focus on the energy sector.

**YES/YCS Implementation Report:** Economic Development circulated the YES implementation report. Council requested assurance from the Minister of Renewable Resources that a status report on the YCS be made available immediately given the short timeline for Council to review/produce meaningful comments for the fall conference. Council established an ad hoc committee to analyze the YES/YCS status reports and requested the committee to report to Council by mid-October. Council decided to prepare a final report for publication by Nov. 1 and circulation to conference participants.

**Meeting: Na-cho Nyak Dun First Nation:** Council traveled to Mayo and met with First Nation representatives. Issues raised/discussed included: subsistence economy and need to improve territorial accounts system; agriculture project in Mayo; acute need for baseline data collection/information on water quality and other natural resources; need for reflection of community-based values in YG priorities and plans for communities (e.g. Forest Management Plan - Mayo considered management based on habitat and fuelwood; YG bases plan on marketable wood); need for information and low uptake on the Environmental Partners Fund; and community concerns over the lack of YG response to repeated concerns expressed about outfitting potentially jeopardizing Mayo subsistence economy. Council decided to send a letter to Premier summarizing issues, with a copy to the Fish & Wildlife Management Board. Council also discussed inviting Mayo Renewable Resources Council to the next YCEE meeting to further discuss the First Nation's harvesting concerns.

◆ **Oct 28, 1991**

**Energy Discussion Paper:** The Policy Committee reported that it had reviewed the document in various drafts with the consultant. Council was advised that it would be asked to respond with comments by Oct 30th so the final document could be included in the fall conference mail-out on Nov 1.

**YES/YCS Implementation Review:** Copies of the YCS Implementation Report were circulated. Council was advised that its ad hoc working group had reviewed the status reports; related notes were circulated. Council was advised that these notes were to be used as a tool for the conference to focus group discussions, with the conference report to be based on these notes and conference

workshops. Council members were asked to review the notes from the perspective of evaluating efforts made on the strategies, not achievements. Members were asked to submit their comments by Nov 1.

**Indian Economy Workshop:** scheduled for Nov 4-6/91. Council discussed that this workshop would be used as a forum to review YES/YCS recommendations and response/relationship to strategy directions, and that the ad hoc working group would consider the workshop discussions as part of the strategy review process.

Council discussed the approach to development and the focus of the review; the requirement for consideration of qualitative vs. quantitative assessments; and Council's role in the review.

♦ **Nov 15, 1991**

**Arctic Environmental Strategy:** Council was advised that a DIAND (Ottawa) representative had offered to provide a formal briefing to Council members attending the joint meeting of Round Tables in Vancouver next week and that the Minister of Renewable Resources had sent letter to the federal Minister DIAND outlining Yukon concerns about the Strategy/program.

AES Presentation to Council by local DIAND officials: Council received a briefing and raised issues, made suggestions, requested additional information; and offered assistance in establishment of an advisory committees to oversee AES program elements. Council decided to send letter(s) to Ottawa outlining issues and reiterating its AES concerns, with additional notes on the program budget and apparent excessive overhead costs.

**Fall Speaker Series:**

- Labour/Management Workshop: Council was advised that this was tentatively scheduled for the last week in March; to be confirmed.
- Marilyn Waring: Council was advised that it had received a letter of invitation (circulated) from the Premier to attend a joint workshop with Yukon Health & Social Services on Dec 2; members to confirm as soon as possible.

**Yukon Environment Act Regulations:** Council discussed a letter from the Minister of Renewable Resources (circulated) providing the timetable for development of the regulations and asking for YCEE comments throughout the process. Renewable Resources advised that collaborative work with YG Education would ensure development of educational programs to support the regulatory framework.

**Agriculture Policy:** Council was informed that the Policy was expected to be released by the end of November/early December.

**YCEE Annual Report:** Council decided to produce a term report every two years.

**Joint Round Table Meeting, Vancouver:** Council was updated on its sponsorship of a workshop on First Peoples' land claims and sustainable development at the Meeting. Judy Gingell would be serving as keynote speaker, with a panel discussion involving members of 3-4 other Round tables.

This Workshop was considered to be part of the Indian economy work of the Council. Three YCEE members would present and record the workshop discussions as part of the Indian Economy project and on behalf of YCEE, with 2 other YCEE members, already scheduled to be in Vancouver, also planning to attend.

**Correspondence, MLA Watson Lake re: Export of Raw Logs:** Council discussed the letter-content and decided to respond with a statement of support for (Kaska First Nation) efforts to diversify their local economy and by referencing the YCS/YES draft comments on implementation. Council also decided to write to the Premier to encourage additional work in the area to ensure a balance between long-term environmental sustainability (healthy forests) and short term economic stability. The federal role in issuance of Timber Harvesting Agreement was acknowledged - Council noted support for changes in these agreements to reflect sustainable forestry and noted that it encourages YG to incorporate this principle post-forestry devolution.

**Review of YCEE's 1st Term:** Council members engaged in an informal self-assessment of the Council's activities/effectiveness over its first term. Members generally considered the Council's role as important and beneficial. Support was expressed for continued emphasis on cultural-aspects of YCEE work and appreciation was noted both for contributions of CYI members to Council, and government departments for their support.

Council noted challenges to meeting its commitments, associated with a lack of staff support for the Education/Communication committee, member vacancies on the Sustainable Development committee and staff shortages/vacancies in the Secretariat.

Members noted their difficulties in keeping their member-organizations well-informed at times given the level of knowledge/understanding necessary on various issues - a suggestion was made to invite member-organizations to make presentations to Council, similar to approach taken in the communities.

Members raised concern over the difficulties in fulfilling its mandate to review implementation of YES/YCS, with various (non-specified) suggestions offered for better managing the process.

Concern was raised over the level of support required for the Council to conduct its business and a query arose as to whether there was opportunity for some process changes.

Suggestion were made to incorporate other organizations into the Council membership; consider rotation of member-organizations; and staggering member-terms to ensure continuity on Council.

1992

♦ Feb 14-15, 1992

**Mandate:** Council discussed its lower productivity over the past few months, attributed to the amount of time required to plan events for past fall, and the expanding mandate of the Council which was taxing the capacity of the Secretariat and members. Council agreed that alternative support arrangements needed to be explored if the Council was to be able to effectively respond to the increasing mandate and consequential demands.

**Arctic Environmental Strategy:** Council agreed the Secretariat should write a letter to DIAND, again requesting a copy of the list of funded community projects and to acknowledge DIAND's efforts to involve more community groups on the funds-allocation committee.

Council was briefed by Renewable Resources on the status of AES programs (Contaminants; Waste Program; Water Program; Sustainable Development in communities), and was advised that while YCEE had been effective in changing the program (more community/First Nations involvement), more work at the ground level was yet required to ensure funds were expended in the communities.

Council decided to request from DIAND a twice-yearly report detailing how the funds were allocated, amount spent on administration, projects data, etc. The letter was to emphasize Council's interest in ensuring northern voices were program-involved; Council also wanted to know whether there had been any movement to transfer the program to the Yukon and/or First nation governments.

**Interim Land Protection:** Further to letter previously sent by Council members were advised that a response from the Minister of Renewable Resources indicated the issue continued to remain under review, and Council would be update at the next meeting. Council First Nation members were requested to review the response.

**Joint Meeting of Round Tables, Vancouver:** Council was provided with a verbal report on the meeting by members that attended – the Yukon-sponsored workshop was very well-received and the Yukon was instrumental in ensuring the ongoing participation of the youth delegate. The Secretariat was requested to obtain a copy of the video of the First Nations workshop.

**Fall Conference:** Council held general discussion on the past fall conference, noting the dwindling level of interest in annual conferences, and the:

- need to focus on theme topic areas while developing a different approach for soliciting strategy input;
- need to develop a stronger relationship with the conference coordinators;
- the importance of ensuring the coordinators had the necessary experience for the job; and
- the importance of working with the recommendations from previous conferences to build on the current year.

**YES/YCS Implementation Report:** Council discussed the status of the report-preparation by the consultant, the importance of ensuring that this first report clearly explained Council's role and that consideration should be given to establishing a planning cycle for the annual reviews.

**Yukon Training Strategy:** Department of Education (Advanced Education) provided an overview to the draft strategy and suggested Council may want to provide input given the strategy implications for economic development in the Yukon. Council deferred discussion on this to committee.

**Yukon Economic Development Act:** Council held a general discussion on the discussion paper on the draft Act which was being drafted for the spring legislative session. Following a lengthy discussion, Council sent the review to committee for further consideration with direction that if a response was developed, it was to be circulated to members for comment.

**Animal Protection Act:** Council discussed the request it had received to attend a workshop to review options on animal health and protection. Council agreed that that it would not attend given the short notice, timing, and its peripheral interest in the issue. However, Council decided to send a letter commenting on the short notice and tight timing of the public consultation on this issue.

**Youth Conservation Corp:** Council was provided with an update on this initiative.

**Water Resources Workshop:** A previous request to Council to attend this had been declined given the extensive list of invitees covering the major stakeholders.

**Environmental Report Card Project:** Council briefly discussed this project, initiated a year ago in cooperation with the department of Education and decided to send a letter to the department to encourage project continuation.

**Conference on the Economy:** Council was advised that it may be asked to participate to some extent on this conference being planned by the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Futures Working Group.

**Environment Act Regulations:** Renewable Resources briefed Council on the requirement to establish regulations for the YCEE's terms of reference. Council approved the regulations-drafting by Renewable Resources and stressed the necessity for appropriate (regulations) cross-referencing to the *Economic Development Act* to ensure the recognition of the Council under both acts.

**Recycling Fund, Advisory Committee:** Renewable Resources provided an overview of this Fund and requested the Council to consider acting as the advisory committee on allocation of the funds. Council referred detailed review and discussion on this to committee.

**Employment Standards Act Consultations:** Council members expressed concern that YCEE had not been requested to participate in this review and agreed that it would not participate in the review. However, the Secretariat was requested to generally inform YG departments of the role that YCEE could play in review and public consultations on policy.

**Internal Restructuring:**

- Secretariat and Budget: The Chair reviewed YCEE's current modus operandi re: committees; secretariat support and budget arrangements, and proposed that the Council was at a point that it required additional support if it was to carry out its responsibilities and actions in a timely manner. Two options were presented as meeting this need: a dedicated, part-time staff person (for secretariat support); and early government commitment on the annual workplan and budget. Council decided to approach government to develop an agreement enabling the Council to secure the necessary resources to fulfill its mandate.
- Committees: Due to difficulties with current arrangements, Council discussed and agreed to fold the Education subcommittee into the other 2 committees, that the Policy committee would cover the responsibilities stated in the *Environment Act* Sec 41 (2) (a) and (b), while the Sustainable Development committee would assume responsibilities as outlined in Section 41 (2) (c) and (d). The committees were tasked with creating more appropriate names for the committees and working out related chair issues. It was agreed that the 'policy' committee would receive secretariat support through Economic Development; while the 'sustainable development' committee would be supported by Renewable Resources.

Council discussed each committee's workplan priorities for 1991/92, and 1992/93.

**Alternates:** Council discussed the importance of having alternates to cover for absent members and agreed that the voices on the Council were not fully representative of the member organizations. It was noted that it is the responsibility of member organizations to choose and identify their member-alternates.

**Other:**

- Member(s) expressed interest in opportunities for receiving member updates on a regular basis at meetings.
- Council indicated general support for a consensus building workshop over the next year.

♦ **Apr 15, 1992**

Special Meeting, *Employment Standards Act (ESA) amendments*

The meeting was called in response to a Cabinet request for a detailed review by YCEE of the proposed ESA amendments, including a line by line review of those amendments, by the end of April. The Chair advised the Council members that consistent with its consensus-decision making approach, the exercise was not one of negotiations among Council members – where consensus could be achieved, the Council could comment and identify concerns to Cabinet. The Council could also choose to advise Cabinet of certain sensitivities and to proceed cautiously in particular areas.

The department of Justice provided an overview of the ESA amendments public consultations process and the status of the initiative.

Council discussed possible approaches to the review, and decided to review all original submissions (received by Justice) and any additional information received by Justice, up until a meeting scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April at which time Council would begin its detailed review work.

Council also agreed that it would circulate immediately to all members a one-page fact sheet outlining the details of the YCEE review process and that the Chair would informally contact the media to outline Council's approach on this review.

Council confirmed the use of an independent writer to assist with the drafting of the YCEE report.

♦ **Apr 23-24, 1992**

Special Meeting, *Employment Standards Act (ESA) amendments*

Council conducted the requested detailed review of the amendments. A report (minutes state report was attached to the minutes) detailing Council's recommendations and comments was agreed to form part of the meeting minutes.

Council agreed to meet April 29<sup>th</sup> to review the draft report and ratify any changes.

**Other:**

**Yukon Utilities Board:** Council discussed and agreed that the Policy Committee should continue to develop material for a possible presentation before the YUB at the upcoming Cost of Service and Rate Hearings, with such draft presentation material to be circulated for Council's review/approval.

♦ **Apr 29, 1992**

Special Meeting, *Employment Standards Act (ESA) amendments*

Council reviewed its draft report. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved so as to include all the changes (to the report) noted during the discussion.

Council approved a draft press release for circulation. Council agreed that the report and press release would be widely circulated and include all groups and individuals who submitted comments on the draft amendments.

♦ **Jun 25-27, 1992 (Watson Lake)**

This rural meeting included an open house for interested members of the community at which time numerous issues were discussed, including: housing for Sa Dena Hess workers; government involvement in loans for housing construction, local employment and advancement within the mine;

life expectancy of the mine; life in Watson Lake after the mine; forestry; and economic diversification. Council later discussed these issues, and to focus a response on the forestry issue - see below.

**Members Briefing:** as previously agreed, members provided updates on issues that their organizations were currently working on, and offered comments on their organizations' reactions to the ESA review and subsequent reaction of the Yukon government (non-specified).

AYC concerns respecting the consensus-decision making approach of the Council, and its frustrations with the slow pace of the Sustainable Development committee, were discussed by Council, with agreement that:

- a consensus-building workshop, involving regular and alternate organization-members, should be held (Secretariat was requested to arrange this); and
- a letter would be sent to AYC restating YCEE's commitment to consensus-decision making, and indicating efforts would be made to improve the operations of the Sustainable Development committee.

Council also decided to send a letter to the Premier, articulating:

- concerns over the ESA, and noting that in future, the Council would like very clear terms of (review) reference identifying any non-negotiable issues
- Council's commitment to consensus-decision making and the need for government sensitivity to compromises made throughout the drafting of recommendations
- a request that Council be formally notified of Cabinet's response to any future reviews undertaken by the Council.

Council received updates on the following:

- **YCEE (*Environment Act*) regulations** – not yet drafted by Renewable Resources
- **Recycling Fund** – Sustainable Development Committee will consider Council's possible role as funding-allocation advisory body
- **Economic Development Act** – copies to be distributed when available.
- **Yukon Training Strategy** – Council's review and proposed workshop were cancelled due to the ESA amendment review requirements.
- **Arctic Environmental Strategy** – In response to concerns raised that DIAND was rolling AES funds into existing programs and not separating out the funds for community projects (i.e. funds were being used to "top-up" DIAND programs), Council decided to send a letter to DIAND requesting clarification on how funds were being invested in the communities.
- **Implementation Report:** A final draft was circulated. Members were advised that the report, to be submitted to the government by the end of June, would be for internal government use only due to (contained) references to confidential documents and that Council would produce an overview of comments by the fall for public distribution. Members were reminded that the report did not reflect First nation concerns and that a special note would be contained to this effect in the report introduction.
- **Indian Economy Report:** a final copy was circulated.
- **Consensus-Building Workshop:** Workshop to be held in conjunction with a meeting on the Aishihik review. Members discussed the possibility of also conducting workshops on land claims and self-government – to be discussed at the next quarterly meeting.

**Aishihik Lake Review:** The terms of reference for this review were previously circulated. Following a related presentation by Renewable Resources (Fisheries) and Yukon Energy Corporation, Council discussed its possible approach to its review of the issue, agreed that a public process was essential for this review and identified the fall conference as an opportunity for the Council to use the Aishihik as a case study.

Council established an ad hoc working group for this review, with the group's first meeting set for July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Beverage Container Regulations:** Council was informed that, as per its request, all regulations would be forwarded to the Council for review, with turn-around for comments to the Secretariat within 2 weeks. It was agreed the Sustainable Development committee would monitor implementation of all regulations.

**Game Farming Policy:** Council was informed of the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board's concerns on this proposed policy, of the Board's request for a moratorium on issuance of new licenses at least until the policy review was completed and of the Board's request for an independent analysis of the proposed policy.

Council supported the Board's overall proposal and decided to send a letter to the Minister focusing on the concerns with the policy consultation process, with such letter to identify the need to:

- improve the overall the tone and style of the discussion paper;
- link the policy to an overall management regime;
- be proactive on the policy consultations, including directly approaching users such as trappers and other community people;
- consider the implementation of the policy within the framework and spirit of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

**Yukon Mining Advisory Committee Report:** Council discussed and agreed that while it would not review this (available) report as all key stakeholders were represented on the committee, a letter would be sent to the YMAC supporting its consensus-decision making approach.

**Draft Surface Rights Legislation:** Council discussed and agreed to decline the invitation it had received to comment on this draft legislation. (rationale not specified in minutes)

**National Education Committee:** Council agreed to accept the invitation it had received to send a YCEE member to meetings of joint Round Table (on the economy and the environment) sustainable development education committee representatives, and asked its designated representative to prepare a short report on how the YCEE could incorporate the education component back into committee work.

Council also agreed to:

- move YCEE's growing library of resource materials to the public library; and
- invite representatives of the department of Education and Public Affairs to the next Council meeting, to discuss the need for a YCEE education strategy to keep the public informed and updated on sustainable development issues.

**Watson Lake Community Open House: Forestry** - Council decided to send a letter, in consultation with First Nation members, to DIAND noting the potential for the industry; how economic diversification in the region could be linked to forestry opportunities; and encouraging DIAND to quickly appoint a person to enable (stalled) devolution negotiations to proceed.

**Liard Basin Task Force:** Council received a presentation from the Task Force, and subsequently decided to write letters, copied to the Chamber of Commerce, to the:

- Premier, and Minister of Health & Social Services, encouraging support for the Task Force initiative;
- Watson Lake Town Council, and communities in the region, encouraging greater support for the project; and
- Sa Dena Hess mine, encouraging use of its socio-economic agreement to support the (Task Force's proposed) human resource training project.

**Long Term Benefits Proposal:** Council briefly discussed the Yukon government's work with an industry group to develop a Yukon pension plan for employees that would otherwise not have a group plan, with those funds to be directed by Yukon people, and preferably invested in the Yukon. Council agreed to defer fuller discussion on this to its next quarterly meeting.

**Economic Strategy Discussion:** Economic Development informed Council that the YES commitments, dating back to 1988, were almost 80% underway with the department examining ways to move forward with the strategy, and requested YCEE input. Council deferred discussion on this to an early meeting of the policy committee, with its recommendations to be returned to Council for consideration.

**Water Quality Workshop(s):** Further to Council's September 1991 meeting with residents of Carmacks/Mayo, a subsequent letter sent to the Chief Medical Officer, and associated response from the Officer, Council decided to write to Water Resources suggesting that the Yukon Conservation Society and or the Council for Yukon Indians, may be interested in a collaborative effort, coordinated by Water Resources, to conduct water quality workshops in Yukon rural communities.

**Indian Economy Workshop II:** The report from the second workshop was circulated. The responsible (YCEE) committee reported that it would be making a presentation to the CYI leadership to gain support for a fall conference to link the work completed to date with the development of an Indian economy strategy, and land claims agreements.

♦ **Sept 17, 1992**

**Member Briefings:** as previously agreed, members provided updates on issues that their organizations were currently working on.

**Mandate & Operating Procedures:** The Chair proposed that the YCEE mandate should be rewritten to more accurately reflect the expanded role and responsibilities of the Council as per the Economic Development and *Environment Acts*, with reference to the consensus decision making process used by the Council.

Council agreed that an insert should be produced to be placed inside the existing brochure and that the annual report should elaborate on the expanded role.

Council also agreed to formalize an amendment to its operating procedures, to reflect the current practice of having minutes of a quarterly meeting approved by the Council and signed off by the Chair at the subsequent quarterly meeting, after which the minutes would be circulated and be made available to the public.

**Defining 'Environment':** Council discussed the need to define 'environment', in discussion with the Yukon Health & Social Services Council (YHSSC) who was invited to participate in a discussion on the Councils' overlapping definitions. Council requested the Secretariat to develop an operational statement to define 'environment' for discussion at the next meeting. The sustainable development Committee advised it would attempt to coordinate with the YHSSC on the proposed community state of the environment project and the Policy Committee committed to reviewing the timing for its review of the YES/YCS to possibly incorporate the Health Status reports into an overall statement from both Councils.

**Aishihik Lake Review:** Joined by ex-officio council member and Minister of the Yukon Energy Corporation (M. Byblow), Council engaged in a comprehensive overview of its work on this issue. Members were advised that the Terms of Reference for the review had been developed by the YCEE working group and reflected an integrated resource management approach to the issue, with three scenarios.

The consultant "search" was noted as in-process, with plans to hold a project scoping session with the consultants (in Haines Junction) to further develop the economic models and identify any additional issues considered important in the review. Deeming public input as vital to the project, a workshop was also planned to be held in Haines Junction in late November.

Council agreed that the terms of reference for the review be approved as presented, with a wording change to reflect 'top storage' under the alternatives.

Council was informed of other processes being undertaken simultaneous to the YCEE review (Yukon Utilities Board and Yukon territorial Water Board reviews of issues directly related to the water management regime of the Lake). The Minister, acknowledging the overlapping processes, indicated support for any efforts to avoid decision-making until all recommendations were received by the various review bodies.

Council decided to write to the YUB to outline the YCEE review and timeline and to suggest that the YUB extend its deliberations on the (Yukon Energy) Capital Plan until the YCEE's review was complete and its recommendations could be considered by the YUB.

**Annual Joint Meeting of Round Tables:** Council discussed and agreed to support a request for two YCEE members to attend the mid-November meeting (in New Brunswick) and the pre-meeting seminar on Consensus Decision Making (CDM). On review of the Meeting agenda, Council also agreed that the Chair and Secretariat should make contact with various people involved in organizing the meeting to suggest that, with the focus on CDM, the proposed meeting workshops and speakers did not represent the range of interests necessary to work towards consensus.

**YES/YCS Review (Policy Committee):** The Chair noted that the Policy committee had recommended a delay in their review of the YES/YCS to winter/spring given that the implementation reports would not be available until the *new* government was in place and that the Aishihik Review was occupying many of the members' time. (note: minutes do not reflect a motion or decision).

**Various (Sustainable Development Committee):** Council briefly discussed committee's workplan and project(s) status. Council was also referred to a recent (YG) advertisement for a senior statistician for supplemental accounts – this person would work directly on the creation of accounting systems for non-wage economies. Council decided to send a letter to the Executive Council Office indicating ongoing interest in the project and requesting that a YCEE member sit on the project steering committee.

**Indian Economy Ad Hoc Committee:** Committee reported that a background paper on the YCEE and the Indian Economy Workshops were presented to the leadership (CYI), and that work on a proposal to include examination of the land claim and the CAEDS program in conjunction with the Yukon Economic Strategy was in process with a view to holding a community-based discussion during the winter.

1993

♦ Mar 31, 1993

The (new) Government Leader had previously advised that all projects had been placed on hold pending government transition and budget reviews. At a subsequent meeting between the Chair and Government Leader, the YCEE was requested to meet in Whitehorse only and not to initiate any new projects.

**Mandate:** At this meeting, Council held a general discussion of its legislated mandate and the value of the Council for both the government and community at large. Council agreed that the Government Leader and ex-officio members should be invited to meet with Council to broadly discuss the role Council has played and the abilities it has as a tool of government.

The Chair's resignation, submitted prior to this meeting, was effective April 1, 1993.

♦ Nov 6, 1993

**Mandate:** This first meeting of the newly appointed Council focused around a mandate review, budget review and member-orientation. *"This Council's budget is quite different from the previous YCEE and it was noted that this will determine the Council's activities."* Council also discussed the instructions received from the Government Leader to sponsor a Yukon Economic Conference and to conduct public consultations on the introduction of Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) and expanded gambling casinos in the Yukon.

♦ Nov 17, 1993

**Overview:** Council received an overview of the Yukon government's department of Economic Development and programs, and related federal/territorial initiatives.

**Operating Procedures:** The Council's consensus decision-making (CDM) policy and the CDM approach adopted by the National Round Table on the Economy and the Environment (NRTEE) was a subject of general discussion at this meeting. Members discussed the importance of taking members' views back to their constituent-organizations and bringing views from constituents to Council. The integrity and value of CDM and Council as representing groups and an instrument for public consultation, were also raised in relation to adoption of Council recommendations by government.

♦ **Nov 25, 1993**

**Overviews:** Council received overviews by various Yukon government officials on:  
- the Employment Task Force (Economic Development)  
- renewable resource issues: forestry; federal; devolution negotiations; abattoir and funding (Renewable Resources)  
- Yukon government's financial situation; budget; and formula financing (Finance)

♦ **Dec 9, 1993**

**Mandate:** John Devries, Minister of Economic Development, highlighted portions of the budget debate in the Legislative Assembly and stressed the need for Economic Development & YCEE to work together to improve the economy. The role of government was identified as providing a friendly environment for business activity through infrastructure, roads, energy and supply. The importance of collaboration to conduct the proposed economic conference was noted.

Council received a presentation from Barry Stuart, co-chair of the NRTEE, on the CDM process adopted by NRTEE.

**VLTs/Gambling:** Council received an overview of the Yukon government's interdepartmental VLTs and Casinos task force mandate and draft report and held a general discussion on the consultation approach to be taken by YCEE on this initiative.

**Overview:** Council received an overview of the department of Tourism and related programs/initiatives.

♦ **Dec 20, 1993**

**Operating Procedures:** The Secretariat, noting that some YCEE members has indicated a wish to forgo their honoraria, advised that such requests must be made in writing.

**VLTs/Gambling:** Council discussed the VLTs/Gambling consultation process and timelines. It was determined that YCEE would release a press release on Dec 24 advising that public consultations would then commence via written submissions, with public meetings to start in February 1994.

**Economic Summit** – Council reviewed the terms of reference and budget, held a general discussion on format options, and decided to hold a number of meetings over time geared to specific sectors rather than one large meeting/summit. Council also agreed that groups/individuals would not be funded by YCEE to attend the meetings.

♦ **Other Meetings:** Apr/93 - Joint RTEE meeting, Montreal – 1 YCEE delegate attended

1994

♦ Feb 3, 1994

**Operating Procedures:** Further to a letter received from the BC/Yukon Hotel Association regarding a YCEE member's statement (alleged to have been made) at a public meeting on the VLTs/Gambling initiative, the minutes state that "...expression of personal views under active consideration by the Council does not constitute conflict of interest."

**Economic Sectoral Conferences - Mining Sector:** Council held Economic Conference planning discussions for the mining sector.

**VLTs/Gambling:** Council was advised that the Yukon Government's Health & Social Services Council had established a committee to review the VLTs/gambling issue and that the Chair of that Council had requested a subcommittee meeting with YCEE apart from public consultation. Council then engaged in further YCEE consultation planning discussions regarding the public meetings format; logistics; and schedule (Whitehorse; Dawson City; Faro; Watson Lake; Haines Junction;) between February/March.

**Abattoir:** Further to a letter from the Yukon Agriculture Society, the Council decides it will not/cannot provide the requested letter of support for the proposed abattoir project (note: rationale for Council decision is not contained in meeting minutes).

♦ Feb 10, 1994

**VLTs/Gambling:** Council members participated in a CBC radio open-line talk show to gain views from the public on VLTs and expanded casino gambling.

♦ Feb 16, 1994

**Yukon State of the Environment Report (SOER):** Council member forwarded a letter of concern to lead-members of the Steering Committee, noting particular concerns on the conceptual framework to the Report's development.

♦ Apr 7, 1994<sup>39</sup>

**VLTs/Gambling:** Council received a presentation on Casino expansion in Saskatchewan.

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<sup>39</sup> Minutes incomplete

♦ **Apr 20, 1994**

**Game Farming and YCEE Mandate:** At this meeting, Council decided to solicit more information from the Yukon government about its new Game Farming Policy, particularly in relation to the government's public consultation process. This decision was made further to an enquiry received by the Council about the YCEE's role in the policy review and Council's own related discussions on its role in review of Yukon government policies in general. *Members were urged to consider including comments on government policy, as per section 41 of the EA, in the Council's Annual Report.*

**Operating Procedures:** Council decided that its meeting minutes would not be made available to the general public. Instead, a quarterly Report on Issues was to be prepared and distributed. (note: this decision was rescinded at the next Council meeting.)

Council also discussed the need to revisit its operating procedures and established a sub-committee for this purpose. *"Operating Procedures for previous councils may not be practical or desirable for Council as currently constituted (e.g. 8 members required for quorum after membership has been reduced from 14 to 10).*

**VLTs/Gambling:** Council reviewed a draft report on VLTs/gambling expansion and established a sub-committee to work with the Secretariat on drafting the next version.

♦ **May 17, 1994**

**Operating Procedures:** YCEE rescinded its earlier decision on minutes distribution and decided to follow the previous Council's procedure i.e. minutes will be made public after Council review of the draft. Council also confirmed its policy that meetings are to remain open to the public, but that YCEE may hold in-camera sessions, as appropriate.

♦ **May 31, 1994**

**Game Farming and YCEE Mandate:** Further to correspondence received from the YF&GA registering a complaint under sec. 22 of the EA regarding the Yukon government's new Game Farming Policy and related correspondence from Renewable Resources to YCEE regarding the Yukon government's public consultations on the Policy and draft regulations, the Council decided that it could not take any action on the complaint since it had only been filed with the YCEE and not with the Yukon government.

**Yukon SOE Report:** Council held a general discussion about YCEE's ongoing participation on the Report Steering Committee given that the report preparation phase had moved from the conceptual framework to scientific/technical aspects. Council determined that its members should be canvassed for a decision on YCEE's continued Committee involvement.

**Economic Sectoral Conferences:** Council received Sectoral Conferences Planning Reports for the following sectors: Arts; Energy; Mining; First Nations and Economic Activity in Communities; and Renewable Resources

**Yukon Industrial Support Policy (YISP):** Further to receipt of a draft copy and form letter on this draft Policy, YCEE determined that it required confirmation as to whether it was being asked to review/provide comments on the draft Policy

◆ **Jun 23, 1994**

**VLTs/Gambling:** Council discussed how it was to interpret the information provided to it via written and oral presentations. Council reached consensus that it would recommend against the introduction of VLTs in a non-Casino setting, with a draft report to be reviewed at the next meeting.

◆ **Jul 4, 1994**

**YISP:** The Chair confirmed that YCEE has received a request from Economic Development to provide input on the draft policy.

**VLTs/Gambling:** Council discussed the latest draft, reached consensus on final recommendations for incorporation into the report and determined that the Final report would be submitted to the Government Leader on July 8/94.

◆ **Jul 26, 1994**

**Operating Procedures:** Council held a brief discussion on the (June/94) draft operating procedures and suggested consideration be given to deleting the section on "location of meetings".

**YISP:** Council held a discussion with the general view expressed that: the policy was a small part of big picture; the policy did not consider other energy sources such as natural gas; and that discussion on issues such as community-based economic development, transportation, infrastructure development, and link(s) to sustainable development, had also been omitted from the draft.

◆ **Sept 20, 1994**

**YCEE Annual Report:** Council requested the Secretariat to begin preparation of the Council's annual report

**Game Farming Regulations Review:** Council discussed its role in review of the proposed regulations and determined that individual members could comment but that Council as a whole would not undertake a review.

**EA Review:** Council was informed of this upcoming review. Terms of Reference were not yet available.

◆ **Oct 4, 1994**

**Environment Act<sup>40</sup> Review** – Council discussed the terms of reference for YCEE's report to the Yukon government on Recommended Amendments to the EA. The Chair committed to seek government clarification on the scope of the YCEE review.

Council discussed the process it should follow to meet the timelines prescribed in the Terms. The Secretariat was requested to distribute the recommended EA amendments to the stakeholders listed in the Terms (noting the October 24<sup>th</sup>/94 deadline for YCEE receipt of written submissions) and to set up a meeting between YCEE and Renewable Resources for Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> to get additional information on the initiative. Council members were also asked to consult with their constituents to ascertain their views on the recommended amendments.

◆ **Oct 14, 1994**

**YISP:** only agenda item. Economic Development presented an outline of the basic principles of the policy and reviewed results from the related consultation process. The department noted that comments from the public and YCEE would be considered in the Policy revisions, with the draft policy to be presented to Cabinet for final approval. A general discussion followed on the context, scope and content of the policy in relation to existing Yukon government programming and emerging technology-based markets.

◆ **Oct 18, 1994**

**YISP:** Chair provided a summary of a meeting with Economic Development on the draft policy. Council discussed the recent release of economic statistics from Statistics Canada in relation to the policy and requested the Secretariat to arrange a meeting with the Department's economist to provide YCEE with background information to the economic news.

**Economic Sectoral Conferences:** Council discussed topics to be covered, and further to October 11<sup>th</sup> correspondence received from Sport Yukon requesting recognition of the economic contribution that sport and recreation make to the Yukon economy, agreed that a Tourism conference could be broadened to include impact of sporting activities on Yukon economy. Council

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<sup>40</sup> hereinafter may be referred to as the EA

also decided to add Agriculture to the list of sectoral conferences, and determined that the next conference held would be on energy.

Council held general discussions on planning for the Mining Sector Economic Conference, tentatively scheduled for Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – agenda to be finalized once written submissions from public were received and reviewed. Advertising for mining and other conferences was discussed.

**YCEE Annual Report:** Council approved an outline for the 1993/94 report. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a draft for YCEE review.

**EA Review:** Council was advised that a YCEE and Renewable Resources meeting on Oct 25th has been set-up to discuss recommended amendments to the Act.

**Mandate, & Review of Statutory Obligations:** Council held a general discussion on its requirement under the *Environment Act* to promote awareness of sustainable development. The Secretariat was requested to the NRTEE to determine if information was available that could be adapted to the Yukon context and presented to Yukoners through newspaper ads.

◆ **Oct 25, 1994**

**EA Review:** only agenda item. Council received a presentation from Renewable Resources on the Recommended Amendments to the Act. The department was requested to provide additional information at Council's next meeting regarding the rationale for certain recommended amendments.

◆ **Oct 27, 1994**

**EA Review:** only agenda item. Council held discussions with Renewable Resources on the scope of the provisions under the EA, and the application of the Act in relation to the UFA for a Development Assessment Process and the coming Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

◆ **Nov 1, 1994**

**EA Review:** only agenda item – Council held general discussions on the recommended amendments, with Renewable Resources providing additional information on Part III (Policy and Significant Amendments).

◆ **Nov 16, 1994**

**Operating Procedures:** Council “reviewed and approved with few changes” the draft discussed.

♦ Dec 6, 1994

**EA Review:** Council held general discussions, considered some options (non-specified) for recommendation to the Yukon government, and agreed that its recommendations would stress the importance of economic development and environmental protection balance.

1995

♦ Jan 17, 1995

**Economic Sectoral Conferences, Updates:**

**Mining Conference:** Council held a general discussion on the Nov. 30/94 conference. The Secretariat circulated a draft report and a Subcommittee was struck to provide direction to the Secretariat in drafting the Report.

**(Yukon College) Forestry Conference:** Council was advised that Yukon College was sponsoring a forestry conference on Feb. 2-4. This conference would address technical aspects, but not the policy perspectives, associated with the Yukon forest management. Council agreed that a YCEE sponsored sectoral conference could build upon the College event/information.

**Energy Conference:** Council received a planning progress update from its subcommittee.

**Environment Act Review:** Council reviewed "Recommended Amendments to the *Environment Act*" and requested the Secretariat to incorporate amendments discussed by YCEE into the draft report.

♦ Feb 21, 1995

**Presentation by Economic Development:** Council received an overview of new initiatives and held a discussion on the expanded role YCEE might play in development or review of the direction. There was general agreement among members that YCEE would consider working on initiatives in context to its overall workload, noting YCEE's preference to provide advice on specific initiatives rather than comment on broad questions or general direction.

**Economic Sectoral Conferences Updates:**

**Mining Conference:** Council received an update on the progress of the report's development.

**Energy Conference:** Council received a planning update on the conference to be held April 29/95

**Forestry Conference:** Council held a general discussion on related issues such as: policy; devolution; harvesting; and economic activity in the industry, especially in Watson Lake. The Chair advised that an enquiry would be made about the availability of YG resources to host a YCEE-conference in June.

**Arts:** Council was advised that Tourism's consultation plans on the draft Arts policy, (pending Cabinet approval) would include meetings in Dawson & Whitehorse, which YCEE members could attend.

**Yukon State of the Environment Report:** Council discussed its role in review of the Report. Members agreed to provide written comments on the most recent draft to the Secretariat by Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>, and requested compilation and circulation of the comments for review.

♦ **Apr 11, 1995**

**Economic Conferences Updates:**

**Mining Conference, Report:** Council reviewed the conclusions and recommendations section of the Subcommittee's drafted report and provided the Secretariat with drafting instructions for the balance of the report.

**Energy Conference** The final agenda was reviewed and approved.

**Forestry Conference** Council discussed focus; logistics (support); and devolution. Members were encouraged to review the YG Forestry Framework Discussion Paper.

**Arts** Council was advised of the status quo, as per its last meeting

**State of the Environment Report** Council held a general discussion on YCEE's role in review of report, and discussed a possible meeting with the Report Management Team.

**Yukon Electrical Company Ltd.** Council was informed of YECL plans to charge commercial rates for residences with a home-based business and discussed the negative impact of this plan on small business, particularly, part-time consultants. The Council agreed that any such decision by YECL was not an issue in which YCEE should become involved.

♦ **Sept 14, 1995**

**YCS Implementation Report 1990-1995** Council held a brief discussion about the requirement for Council review of the Report and asked the Secretariat to arrange a briefing session between YCEE and Renewable Resources.

**State of the Environment Report** Council held a general discussion on the briefing provided on the report by Renewable Resources, noting that the report would be finalized shortly and that YCEE must review this and provide its own report to the Legislative Assembly.

**Economic Conferences Updates:**

Council held a brief discussion on possible topics for future conferences.

**Energy Conference** Council held a general discussion on the conference, and was advised that the Subcommittee formed to draft the conference paper would bring forward the document for YCEE review.

**(YCEE) Forestry Conference** Council received a planning progress update and held discussion on draft agenda topics and proposed/confirmed speakers.

**Arts** Council held a general discussion and requested the Secretariat to provide at the next meeting an update on the YG's consultation plan on the draft Arts Policy.

♦ **Oct 26, 1995**

The Chair reviewed and summarized information received during various meetings held in conjunction with the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment meetings in Whitehorse (date(s) not specified). D. Miller, an environmental pollster, made a presentation outlining trends in public perception. A brief discussion was held about the federal government's intent to proceed with bilateral cooperation talks with the provinces/territories, rather than implementing (environmental) harmonization stands throughout the country.

**YCS Implementation** The Council Subcommittee's recommendations for amendments/additions to the draft Report (prepared by YG) were discussed and approved by Council (note: recommendations not specified in minutes) and the Secretariat was asked to communicate these to the drafters of the final document.

**Economic Sectoral Conferences Updates**

**Energy Conference, Report** Council received an update and held general/related discussions on the Subcommittee's continuing work on the conference document for YCEE's final approval.

**Forestry Conference** Council held general discussions on the agenda, logistical, and related issues for the conference, scheduled for Nov 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Arts** Council was informed that the Arts Branch would soon review the YG's draft Policy with stakeholders. The Council confirmed their approach to the Arts Sector Conference and endorsed using this process to prepare a document based on the final consultation.

**Community Economic Development** The AYC member noted that Council is already considering these and suggested that a sectoral conference on this topic should not proceed at this time (minutes do not reflect any decisions made further to this suggestion)

**1996**

♦ **Feb 7, 1996**

**Forestry Policy** Council received a presentation from and held a general discussion with a YG staff member (on behalf of M. Fisher, Minister of both Renewable Resources and Economic Development) on YG plans for development of a Yukon forest policy and YCEE's possible role in this. The Council agreed to consider the information and make a decision at its next meeting on participation in the departments' proposed sub-committee.

**Energy Conference, Report** Subcommittee members that prepared the document reviewed the process and Conclusions and Recommendations section. Council approved the "Energy for Tomorrow"<sup>41</sup> report prepared by the subcommittee, and the Chair committed to attach a letter of transmittal to the report and provide it to the Government Leader.

**Forestry Conference, Proceedings Summary** Council reviewed "The Future of Yukon's Forests – Conference Summary" and approved release of document, once a summary of written submissions were finalized and appended. A Subcommittee was struck to prepare a document to be provided to the YG that was to include information received by the Council before and during conference and provide conclusions and recommendations.

**Review, YCS Implementation Report** Council reviewed and approved the (amended) draft and asked the Secretariat to so notify Renewable Resources so that the Minister could table the report in the Legislature.

**Sectoral conferences – other** Council held a general discussion on topics for future conferences and Council's ability to undertake further conferences given its anticipated workload. Council agreed that if its expected workload was confirmed in coming weeks, the Council would not be able to organize a sectoral conference for spring 1996.

▪ **Feb 22/96<sup>42</sup>**

▪ **Feb 27/96<sup>43</sup>**

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<sup>41</sup> Note: discussion paper of same name was published in Nov '91. The 1996 report is not file-located.

<sup>42</sup> Feb 7 minutes identify the 22<sup>nd</sup> as the next meeting date, but next (located) minutes are dated 29 Feb. These minutes refer to approval of minutes of a Feb 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Minutes for a meeting either on the 22<sup>nd</sup> or the 27<sup>th</sup> have not been file-located.

<sup>43</sup> see above

▪ Feb 29, 1996

**Forestry (Policy) Subcommittee** Council reviewed the YG's request to have the YCEE participate on a (government-formed) forestry subcommittee. Council agreed to strike its own (separate) forestry sub-committee, as a means to providing additional public consultation on development of a forest policy. Council agreed that the preferred structure for its subcommittee was to leave it open to all members of YCEE to attend (meetings), with interest groups being called upon, *on ad hoc basis*, to provide advice on particular issues submitted to the subcommittee by Renewable Resources. The Chair & Vice-Chair agreed to meet with the Minister to inform him of YCEE's decision and discuss related budget and technical support issues.

1997

♦ Dec 2, 1997

**Mandate Review & Ministerial Address** (new) Ministers of Renewable Resources and Economic Development welcomed members and briefly outlined suggested roles that YCEE could play and the various issues it could address. (non-specified)

The Chair (later in meeting) provided to Council an overview of directions given by the (new) Government Leader to YCEE: review of the YES and YCS to ensure principles were still relevant; fulfill legislated mandate; and stimulate public interest in sustainable development through public education.

Council discussed the need to determine timelines and YCEE's level of involvement in each task and mandate:

- A) **Legislated under *Environment Act***: Renewable Resources noted that certain tasks part of YCEE mandate had not been kept up to date (e.g. revisions to YCS and regulations for YCEE)
1. YCS Annual (Implementation) Review – Council agreed it would take a more active role in review of YCS Implementation and a working group would meet to consider the review process and benchmarks
  2. YCS Revisions – Renewable Resources noted that revisions to the YCS are due every 3 years, with the next revision due in 1999
  3. State of the Environment Report – Renewable Resources distributed the 1995 SOE Report. Council was advised of the *Environment Act* requirement for a report to be completed (by YG) every 3 years (with interim reports prepared in intervening years), that the Council was required to review triennial reports and prepare a report if its review and that the Council was not required to review interim SOE reports.

Council requested Renewable Resources to provide at the Council's next meeting information on the timeframe and proposed process for the next SOE Report due in 1998.

- B) **Legislated under *Economic Development Act*** Economic Development reviewed YCEE's mandate under this Act. YCEE agreed to work with the department to develop an Economic Diversification Strategy for the Yukon. Economic Development provided background information and a proposed approach to Strategy development. Council decided to set up a working group to look into diversification and possible strategy development approaches
- C) **Regulations under *Environment Act*** Council reviewed the requirement for development of regulations for the YCEE under sec. 41.4 of the Act, and was advised that the regulations, expected to be completed in the near future, would likely have to go to a 60-day public review. Council requested that the draft regulations be presented at its next meeting, including an outline of the administrative/consultative processes associated with sec 22-28 of the Act – Complaints.

**EA Complaints** - The Council held a brief discussion on “what qualifies as a complaint”, noting that letters to ministers have not been considered “complaints”, and the Act does not define “complaint”. Renewable Resources committed to look into the department’s understanding of these sections of the Act, and to report back in writing to Council.

**Picture of Yukon** Council received demographic, economic and environmental overviews of Yukon from YG representatives of Statistics Bureau, Economic Development and Renewable Resources. Council agreed that it would consider indicators that might provide the “best” picture of the Yukon. An “environmental scan” is to be provided bi-annually to the Council.

**Annual Report** Council confirmed that its Secretariat was responsible for preparing YCEE’s annual report(s).

**Arctic Council Conference on Sustainable Development** Council discussed this upcoming (non-YCEE) event scheduled for May in Whitehorse and what role YCEE might play in this area, such as organizing small regional conferences or workshops after the conference. Council requested the Secretariat to provide at the next meetings the agenda and additional information on conference, and an outline of a proposal to “localize’ the conference.

**Operating Procedures** Council agreed:

- to hold 5 two-day meetings over the next year;
- that quorum would require 5 members, plus the Chair or Vice-chair;
- that minutes would be prepared on a non-attributed basis and would be publicly distributed once approved;
- that meetings would be open to the public, with an option for in-camera Council meetings
- that senior staff from Renewable Resources and Economic Development would be requested to attend meetings, especially at early meetings of the (new) Council, given that mandated material was likely to be dealt with.

Councils also established these Working Groups: YCS Annual Review; Diversification Strategy; YCEE regulations; with members of YES Review; SOER review, Picture of Yukon and Arctic Council groups to be determined.

1998

♦ Feb 13-14, 1998

**YCS Implementation Review** Council discussed its Working Group's proposed approach to conducting the review. Noting that there was no clear definition on how the review was to be conducted; that current processes did not provide a strong link between actions and objectives; and there was a need for effective indicators to assist in the review, the working group decided to focus on 9 themes and development of performance indicators for the actions in these areas.

Council agreed with the working group's suggested approach:

- to combine reviews for two years 1996/97 into one report
- limit the number of actions to be reviewed to one or two in each theme area
- to develop indicator for actions chosen
- have indicators reviewed by YCEE prior to further work
- final report to be completed in April/98

**Revisions to the YCS:** Council was advised that the next YCS revisions were scheduled to be tabled in 1999; it was suggested that the Council should begin work on the revisions project after its Review of YCS Implementation Report was tabled.

**Interim (1997) State of the Environment Report:** Council received a presentation from Renewable Resources and noted its general satisfaction with the draft report, but also suggested that information on First Nations traditional knowledge should be interwoven within the report instead of contained as a separate section. Members discussed how YCEE could use public education to make the document more useful; discussed issues of climate change and air quality and the lack of Yukon-wide information and a lack of knowledge of climate change impacts; and agreed was supportive of further work being done on the subject in future.

Council decided to send a letter to the Minister of Renewable Resources outlining Council's comments on the Interim Report.

**Economic Diversification** Council reviewed a memo from its working group and agreed to the addition of additional/new wording in the "objectives" section and to additional/complementary areas/issues for the group to consider in its work.

**Sec 41.4 Environment Act Regulations:** Council discussed the draft regulations and recommended incorporation of the following:

- a maximum of 12 members on Council
- 3-year terms of office, but staggered initially to ensure regular turnover
- remuneration and expenses reflective of the boards & committees honorarium policy in the (YG) General Administration Manual
- Standards to include reference to "good behavior" (following operating procedures) and regular attendance (not more than three consecutive meetings missed).

- conflict of interest provisions, to at least apply to the Chair.

The working group committed to meet with departmental officials to develop draft regulations for review at Council's next meeting.

**Sec 22-28 Regulations for Complaints under *Environment Act*:** Council discussed its (future) participation in developing these regulations and agreed that its Regulations Working Group would work with Renewable Resources to help develop a Complaints Review/Response Procedure.

**Operating Procedures:** Members reviewed the draft Procedures presented by the Secretariat, proposed a number of changes and requested the Secretariat to incorporate changes into a revised draft for review at the next meeting. Members were also asked to advise the Chair of their attendance at Working Group meetings, by the end of each month.

**Sustainable Development Conference (non-YCEE event):** Council was updated on conference plans and discussed the possibility of YCEE organizing public speaking sessions and holding related regional workshops. The Secretariat was requested to look into possible ways for Council members to attend the conference and to obtain a list of participants who could act as public speakers. The Chair committed to form a group through Executive Council Office to flesh-out options regarding the regional workshops.

**Oil & Gas Act Review:** Members were advised that the Minister of Economic Development had requested YCEE's comments on the Act. Council approved engaging a consultant to assist with review.

**YCEE Communications Strategy** Council agreed to hire a consultant to prepare a strategy for Council's consideration.

**Public Education** The Secretariat enquired as to whether Council members were interested in receiving policy/topic updates. The possibility of having lunch-hour briefings and various topics for public education, were discussed. Council agreed that a list of Options would be prepared for discussion at the next meeting.

**Yukon Protected Areas Strategy** Council received a background paper and noted the relation of protected areas to special management areas and the need for public education as Strategy issues for consideration. Council agreed to having the Secretariat bring these issues to the YPAS Working Group's attention. Members were also asked to discuss YPAS with their organizations and bring related input to the next meeting.

♦ **Apr 3-4, 1998** Dawson City

**Community Briefings:** Ed Kormendy of Trondek Hwech'in, and P. Jenkins, MLA for Klondike, briefed Council on various issues and concerns in the Dawson area. (no detail provided in minutes)

**Draft *Environment Act* (YCEE) Regulations** The Secretariat presented a "Discussion Draft" of the YCEE regulations. YCEE suggested combining #3.3 and #3.4 as one item; rewording of #3.6

to read Minister, not Commissioner in Ex. Council; and approved the timetable for the regulations. Councils suggested the draft regulations be forwarded to member-organizations on the Council. The Regulations Subcommittee indicated a desire for final review of the regulations following their review by the department of Justice.

**Operating Procedures:** Council reviewed the draft and agreed to 7 changes. The Secretariat was requested to provide a finalized copy at the next meeting.

**Review of YCS Implementation:** The Council reviewed the "Discussion Draft", found the draft difficult to review and made suggestions for improvements to the energy; oil and gas; forestry; waste management and education and consultation sections. It was agreed the review was to be rewritten and sent to YCEE for comment, with the goal to have final draft out by end of April.

**Initiative Updates, various** Council received briefings and/or updates on the following:

- **Environment Audit** next audit scheduled for year 2000
- **Yukon Protected Areas Strategy** Council discussed management of the plan including First Nation involvement; and the relation of YPAS to Special Management areas. Council was advised that YPAS should be ready by the end of April/98.
- **Energy Consultation Plan** on various consultations and aspects of energy initiatives. Council indicated that it would like a briefing on government's energy consultations.
- **Mining Tour** overview on tour being conducted by Chamber of Mines

**Diversification Update:**

- a) **Performance Indicators:** Council reviewed material prepared by Economic Development for the Council's Working Group on Indicators. Council then developed an ideal list of indicators reflecting different objectives for diversification identified by the working group.
- b) **Barriers:** A background paper "Diversification Strategy Backgrounder II - Barriers" prepared for YCEE's Working Group on Diversification was reviewed/discussed.

Council agreed that the Working Group in conjunction with Economic Development would work towards determining the components of financial services available and need to maintain capital in the Yukon as well as look at various investment options available for capital from outside Yukon. The Group would also explore different options for including tax incentives/credits and alternatives.

**Public Education Forums**

**Arctic Council Conference:**

- Interest was expressed by some members to attend the workshop on sustained forestry and the sustainable development conference. The Secretariat was requested to send out registration forms and members attending members agreed to meet before/after to brief/debrief.

- Speakers - YCEE decided to try and get speakers out to the communities, focusing on microcredit, youth alternate economies, mineral resources, protected areas, and sustainable development. YCEE decided to invite YG, federal, and First Nation governments to send representatives to a policy discussion with Tony Hodge on Performance Measurement/Progress Assessment.

**Delgamuukw Forum** YCEE discussed a proposal for public forums (one for lay people and an advanced session) on this legal decision to provide clarity of the decision and information on its effects/implications for the Yukon

**Communications Strategy** Council set a date for meeting/teleconference to review the draft strategy. Note: "Discussion Points on Communications" are attached to the minutes.

**Annual Report** Council agreed it should submit a report to cover the April 1995-March 1998, that the Secretariat should look into establishing a YCEE, web-site and send out the previous Report for members' reference. A draft of the annual report was requested to be reviewed, commented on, and prepared for final review at Council's next meeting.

**Press Releases** Council agreed that press releases should be completed following every meeting, and receive Chair approval before distribution.

♦ **Jun 5-6, 1998**

**Yukon State of the Environment Report** Renewable Resources presented possible options and sought input for developing the next SOE Report, tentatively scheduled for presentation to the Legislature in Fall of '99. i.e. update the '95 Report, or focus on a topic with a scaled down update. YCEE put forth several suggestions, and it was agreed that, taking into account YCEE comments, and after doing an assessment of availability of data over the summer, Renewable would present another proposal for an approach to the '98 Report for discussion at the next YCEE meeting.

**Development Assessment Process** Council received an overview and update on the progress of DAP by the DAP Commission representative. Council decided to write to the DAP Commission expressing YCEE's desire for the process to be streamlined, transparent and simplified.

**Yukon Training Strategy** Council received an overview of the Strategy by a department of Education representative. Council was advised that the strategy was to be redrafted and forwarded to Cabinet by summer end '98.

**Operating Procedures** Council approved the next draft, with these changes:

- Sec 2.1.5 – quorum: a minimum of 50% of the total membership, with provision for a higher quorum number at YCEE's discretion.
- Sec. 6.1 – recommendation for member suspension/removal – include "in writing" after Council may recommend...

Council agreed that the YCEE procedures should be made available to other Boards & Committees and requested the Secretariat to prepare the correspondence.

**YCEE Reading File** Council agreed that the Secretariat would maintain a YCEE reading file, that Council would be periodically informed of file contents and that documents would be made available to members upon request.

**Diversification Updates:**

**Canada-Yukon Business Services Centre** Council received an overview of services and updates on the Centre's development since Apr 1977.

**Trade & Investment Diversification Strategy** Council received an Economic Development overview of initiatives being planned under this Strategy: Immigrant Investors Fund; Business Reform Packages; FAM/Investor Tours; Prospectus of Investment Opportunities and Import Substitution.

Council raised, among other concerns, the question of a Code of Ethics for the Immigrant Investor Fund and decided to write to the Minister expressing YCEE comments and concerns.

Economic Development offered to provide more details on each initiative to YCEE, including a draft of the import substitution paper, in several weeks.

**Review of Tax Regime** Council received a presentation from MacKay & Partners on the related paper prepared by the firm at YCEE's request. Council agreed its Working Group on Diversification would explore options from the paper presented and flesh out details for related recommendations, and that Council would become more involved in the overall Diversification Strategy.

**Yukon Conservation Strategy Revisions** Council held a lengthy discussion on YCEE's task in reviewing and recommending revisions to the YCS. Dr. Tony Hodge, Consultant, attended the meeting to assist YCEE with the process of assessing sustainability using the YCS as the tool.<sup>44</sup> It was agreed that Renewable Resources would advise YCEE's Working Group of "next steps", and would assist the group in developing a plan for implementation in September. The possibility of combining the government mandate with the legislated mandate for revisions was discussed.

**Communications Strategy** Council received a presentation from its consultant on the proposed YCEE Communication Strategy for '98/99 (attached to minutes). Council agreed to finalization and implementation of the Strategy, with the Chair to finalize budget issues before June-end.

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<sup>44</sup> Attached one-page overview notes: next revisions to YCS must be tabled in 1999; 1st revisions document called Staying on Track, was tabled Feb '96 as a draft to go out for public review/input – final was distributed in Aug '96, but never tabled. Revisions written by government, with limited input from YCEE

♦ Oct 9, 1998

**Mandate & Sustainable Development**

This meeting was called at the Government Leader's request to address the possibility of YCEE conducting community consultations on sustainable development. The Government Leader made a presentation to YCEE providing an overview of Yukon's economic picture and noting Yukoners' interest in knowing more about what other communities are doing and having a forum for discussing/expressing ideas. YCEE was advised that the Yukon government wanted to focus on encouraging communities to become more involved in, and take leadership on, sustainable development on a local level.

YCEE's challenge was identified as to provide a forum moderated in a fair manner and to receive ideas in a way that encouraged creative thinking.

The Council discussed the proposal and expressed several concerns. Nonetheless, YCEE accepted the opportunity to discuss sustainable development with communities as laid out by the Government Leader, scheduled a detailed planning session to be held week of Oct 12<sup>th</sup> and struck a Steering Committee to lead this YCEE initiative.

**Immigrant Investor Fund** The Government Leader presented an update on the Fund and other trade & investment initiatives.

The Council reiterated its concerns about the need for a code of ethics for the Fund and a desire for government to have a better understanding of the roles and capacity of YCEE.

♦ Oct 30-31, 1998

**Forestry Strategy** Council received an overview of the newly released strategy by the Yukon Forest Commission. In general discussion, Council noted its concern with First Nations' lack of concurrence with the Strategy and decided to send a letter to the Forest Commission noting Council's view that the issue should be rectified and partnerships should be restored in implementation of the Strategy.

**YCS Revisions** Renewable Recourse delivered a presentation of 3 options for revision to the Strategy. Council recommended: Option 2 (broader revisions, including revisions to goals and objectives, with additional expertise (consultant) and public input through YCEE and target groups. Council formed a Working Group to work with the department and hire a consultant to expedite the process. Council requested funding for this purpose from the department and the Working Group committed to meet with the department and complete a plan of action for presentation at Council's next meeting.

**YCS Implementation Review** Renewable Resources outlined the legislated requirement for the Review and scheduled tabling of YCEE's review in the Legislature in fall '99. It was agreed the department would contact YCEE to begin the review.

**YCEE Regulations** Council was advised that no substantive changes were being made to the draft regulations further to public comments received and that some finalization work was required to be done by Justice/Renewable before the regulations were sent to Cabinet.

**Operating Procedures** Council received the finalized YCEE Operating Procedures, generically-written so as to be of use to other boards/councils. The Secretariat was requested to forward a copy to other boards/councils.

**Development Assessment Process** Council received a status update/overview of the DAP Commission's work i.e. now conducting public consultations (scheduled for completion in December) with the legislation scheduled for tabling (federally) in Feb '99.

Council held a general discussion on the DAP, ending the session with "...confusion around the table especially on "gray" areas to be assessed.."

Council deemed that it was unable to comment on the proposed legislation and that it required more details/information. Council agreed that a meeting with federal, Yukon government and First Nation (DAP) officials should be set up for November, after which YCEE would prepare its comments.

**1998 State of the Environment Report** Renewable Resources presented a draft outline of the '99 Report to be completed in late '99 or early 2000 and proposed adding an additional "special focus" section for the report. The Council expressed support for this concept and the department committed to return to Council with an outline of the objectives and purpose of the "special focus". Council agreed that it would make its recommendations based on what was trying to be achieved with a special focus. Council also reiterated the importance of ensuring traditional knowledge was not an "add-on" and was integrated throughout report.

**YG Economic Initiatives & Immigrant Investor Fund** Economic Development and the Secretariat presented a summary of various job initiatives planned by the Yukon government (see minutes for list). Council again raised questions regarding the source and management of money associated with the Immigrant Investor Fund and again asked whether a code of ethics had been developed for acquisition, management and distribution of these funds. Council was advised that work was in process in this area, with some work completed

Council requested Economic Development to provide a copy of the Code of Ethics and Guidelines associated with the Fund.

**Mandate, & Sustainable Development Community Consultations** Council discussed the proposed framework as outlined in a memo further to the Chair's meeting with the Government Leader and the Working Group meetings. The Memo was accepted. i.e. It was agreed that Council's mandate would be to provide information and create the setting for stimulating discussions among individuals not just once, but on a continuous basis. Council discussed the consultation format (day sessions, broken into topics yet to be defined) and the need to ensure

community-specific agendas. Council determined that the consultations would take place between March-May, with a final report in June '99. The Chair committed to prepare a job description and budget.

### **Community & Public Education**

- **YCEE Communications Strategy** Council was advised that the budget/implementation details would be available for the next meeting
- **YCEE Website** Council was informed that the website was now functional and could be found at [www.yukonweb.yk.ca/community/ycee](http://www.yukonweb.yk.ca/community/ycee). Members suggested some additional links for inclusion on the website: minutes; annual report; (MacKay & Partners) Tax Paper
- **YCEE Pamphlet** Council reviewed the proposed content and members were requested to advise the Secretariat of comments or potential photos for inclusion
- **College (Student-Led) Seminar** Council reviewed a memo prepared by the Chair (not attached) advising of the Dec 1<sup>st</sup> student-led session with Yukon College Environmental Perspectives class
- **Women's Circumpolar Conference** Council received an update on this conference planned to be held in Whitehorse in Nov /99. Councils agreed that a collaborative effort with other womens' agencies and non-government organizations would be beneficial, and discussed as possible topics for consideration: Access to Capital, and Northern First Nation culture.
- **Public Speaker Series** Council was briefed on upcoming (non-YCEE) community talks, and discussed other topics for a series.
- **YCEE Annual Report** Council approved the report, pending any further comments by Nov 4/98.

**YCEE Representation on internal/other government Advisory Boards** Council discussed how it should respond to invitations by other groups for representation on those bodies. Council agreed that such requests were not part of its existing or historical mandate, that Council's consensus decision making approach would present considerable time and cost challenges to participating on any such bodies and that it would be more appropriate for Council to review a draft of a product to assist in providing a broad perspective. Council decided to write related letters of response to the Anti-Poverty Board, Agriculture & Grazing Policy Board and the Tax Reform Board.

### ♦ Nov 19, 1998

Council received a DAP overview by representatives of the DAP Commission, CYFN and Canada, including a summary of the history and background of the draft DAP Act; legislative development process and next steps.

Council agreed that it should provide comments and suggestions on the proposed DAP legislation, and the Working Group was tasked with developing a proposed “best approach” to be taken by Council to provide its comments and suggestions.

1999

♦ **Jan 8, 1999**

**Review of (YCEE) Draft DAP Framework Document** Council engaged in an in-depth review of the proposed DAP legislation and process. Council agreed that the draft should be considered as a good first draft with further consultation, discussion, changes and education needing to be done. (Several comments/concerns noted – see minutes). Council agreed that it would recommend the need for greater clarity or changes in these areas: definition; purpose of act; authority; project declaration; institutional issues; assessment process; class assessment; reviews.

Further Council discussion resulted in agreement on the basic contents/focus of YCEE's future report, and to meet again to continue work on the review. The Consultant was requested to prepare a draft report based on Council's discussions with such report to be forwarded to members for their review before the next meeting.

♦ **Feb 5-6, 1999**

**Review of Draft DAP Framework Document** Council continued its review and agreed that the four major themes for its future report were:

- effectiveness
- efficiency and certainty
- fairness
- consultation and review process.

(Minutes provide a summary of the points reached by consensus to be made in the final draft of the Review. see minutes for details).

Council decided to independently review the next report draft, requested to be made available by the consultant within a week. The need for quick turnaround and release of the report was stressed to all members.

**Update on Business Summit** YCEE members that attended this affair provided Council with a general Summit overview, noting that the Summit Report would be forwarded to all members once released.

**YCEE Review of YES** Council decided to proceed with a review of the YES and agreed to proceed with preparing a report on the progress made towards the four general goals and 17 sectoral and industry areas listed in the YES (Modified Option 2 - see Options for a Review of the YES document , attached to minutes). The Working Groups was requested to present a related plan, including timeframes for review of the YES, to Council via email or at the next meeting.

**Yukon State of the Environment Report** Renewable Resources provided a Report-preparation update, noting that due to budget constraints the planned focus on a “special” topic had been dropped. There followed a brief discussion on approaches to ensuring that traditional knowledge could be incorporated in a more comprehensive way into the report. Informed that the budget cuts meant that original plans would be changed, Council offered suggestions to Renewable Resources for potential contacts/resources/support on this issue. The Chair also offered the assistance of the Environmental Working Group involved the YCS review.

**YCS Review/Revisions** Council was advised that a draft of the '98 Annual Review and a complete update on the YCS revisions-project was to be presented at the June meeting.

**Community Sustainable Development Conferences** Council discussed planning progress on the conferences and agreed on 3 research project-undertakings as a foundation for the conferences: circumpolar sustainable development; examples of diversification throughout Yukon by industry and community; and community profiles analyzing formal and informal economies. It was agreed that the Steering Committee would meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> week for approvals/input and the Chair would speak to the Yukon's Circumpolar Envoy (A. McLaughlin) to finalize her level of commitment to conference-participation. Council also agreed to leave scheduling of the community conferences to an identified YG staff member and the community coordinators.

**Economic Diversification Indicators** Council discussed the idea of using municipal business licences and surveys as a method/tool to capture information on business interests in the territory. The Chair and one other member committed to discuss, evaluate, and work out related details, and to consider the types of information that would be needed for the YES review.

**Yukon Mineral Exploration Tax Credit** Council discussed the recently announced tax credit, and decided that while the credit sounded good in theory, Council required more information on who was being targeted and why, and additional details on the credit to determine its effectiveness in meeting the stated objective. Council decided to send a related letter soliciting this information.

**Yukon Immigrant Investor Fund** Council again discussed issues of governance, accountability and transparency of the funds, and decided to send a letter inquiring how the funds were to be used, and requesting clarification on accountability and transparency. The Chair and one other member committed to study the Fund prospectus in more detail.

♦ **Jun 10-12, 1999** Whitehorse (10<sup>th</sup>); Haines Junction (11-12<sup>th</sup>)

**Presentations to Council** Council received the following presentations/addresses:

- **YG Women's Directorate** – overview of its recently released publication “Counting Us In”
- **Dr. F. Timmermans**, Yukon Medical Officer for Health – YG Health Status Report 1998, and a discussion on the linkage between healthy people and a healthy economy.

- **Champagne & Aishihik First Nation** - recent development within the First Nation's area including a look at the frustrations/setbacks still being encountered by the First Nation with reiteration of the message on the healthy people/economy linkage.

**YCS Annual Review** Council agreed to a review of items not reviewed last year. Council agreed to its Working Group's completion of content for each action by mid-July, to enable Renewable Resources to complete its work by September.

**YCS Revisions** Renewable Resources provided an update on the project status, noting that Phase 1 was complete and a consultant has been engaged to complete revisions. In response to concerns raised by the Council, Renewable Resources committed to provide the Chair with Phase I and II Reports and discuss arrangements for YCEE input – see minutes for details.

**Review of YES** Council reviewed the draft Terms of Reference prepared by its Working Group, discussed areas for improvement or additions, and noted a desire to see Phase I ready for review at the fall meeting, with completion of the review by Nov. 30/99. Council set an early-July timeline for completion of certain related project tasks, and requested the Secretariat to contact the YG Statistics Bureau, and to continue to touch base with Economic Development on the status of their project.

**YCEE Annual Report** Council reviewed and approved in principle, with some additions, the draft of the 1998/99 Report. Council decided to work with the Secretariat to finalize the report and to verify whether the Report could be released to the public before being tabled in the Legislature.

**YG Fund Limited/Yukon Immigrant Investor Fund** Council reviewed the Chair's letter to the Minister of Economic Development outlining YCEE concerns with the Fund. It was agreed that the Minister's reply, once received, would be forwarded to all members and that the Chair would write a letter to member organizations explaining YCEE concerns.

**Yukon Mineral Exploration Tax Credit** Council briefly discussed and agreed that there were limited merits to the credit, and that no further action by YCEE was deemed required at this point.

**Review of the Focus of the Future (Sustainable Development) Community Conferences Report** Council discussed conferences completed to date and its approach to development of an Interim Report. It was agreed that a completed draft Interim Report would be forwarded to members for their input/comments, and that decisions on appropriate followup on the conferences would be determined once the (final) Report was done.

**Updates:** Council received the following updates:

- **DAP** - update
- **YCS Complaint's Process** It was agreed that the YCS Working Group would study this for discussion with the Council at the fall meeting – see records sheet for listing.
- **H&SS Council** The Chair informed that a meeting was held with the H&SS Council on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and agreement was reached that a joint planning meeting (of the Councils) would be arranged in early fall

- **Yukon Mineral Strategy** Council discussed and agreed that a review of the Strategy should be undertaken - tabled until fall meeting.

♦ **Nov 26-27, 1999**

**Guest Speaker** Council heard from **Dr. Fraser Mustard**, founding President of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, sharing his ideas on ways to attract economic development to the Yukon without jeopardizing Yukon's lifestyle.

**YG Fund Limited/Yukon Immigrant Investor Fund** Council discussed a request from CBC for copies of YCEE correspondence with government, and agreed that CBC should go through the Access to Information and Privacy Policy process to obtain this information. Council confirmed its earlier decision to send a letter from the Council to its member organizations explaining YCEE's concerns with the Fund - the Acting Chair committed to undertaking this task.

**Community (Sustainable Development) Conferences** Council was informed that the *former* Chair was rewriting the report, with completion scheduled for December 1999. Council agreed that the former Chair should be compensated for the report rewrite and requested the Secretariat to prepare the necessary contract documents.

**YCEE Review of YES** YCEE's Working Group updated Council on responses received to the Request for Proposal to establish development indicators to be used in YCEE's periodic review of the YES, and on the procedure followed in evaluating proposals. **Pembina Institute** was awarded the contract. The Working Group was tasked with finalizing the project specifications, with the contract to be completed by March 31/00. Council agreed to be informed of project progress and development via email or mail.

**YCEE Story Boards** Council agreed to make the storyboards prepared for the Community (Sustainable Development) Conferences and the Women's Circumpolar Conference available to the public and government, discussed a requirement for deposits to ensure replacement of damaged boards, and instead of developing a booklet as initially proposed, to placement of electronic copies on the website with the possibility of scanning in the pictures.

**Revisions to YCS** Council was presented with the Interim Report on revisions to the YCS and the YCS Revision Phase II report (by consulting group), received a related briefing on work to date, and discussed next steps. Renewable Resources advised the revisions should be linked to the State of the Environment Report. Pending Renewable Resource's confirmation of date(s) with its consultants, Council agreed to consider meeting Feb 4/5 to allow for participation in the workshop proposed to set goals and identify indicators for each goal.

**Annual Review of YCS** Council was advised that there had been limited progress on the review made to date. A member agreed to take on this project with the help of the acting Chair. It was agreed that the project involved completion of sections for each action item. Renewable Resources committed to provide a list of contacts in the department who could provide information pertinent to the review.

**Community Conferences/Economic Forums** Council received an update from the YG ECO staff member coordinating the conferences, who expressed interest in working with YCEE on a Sustainable Development topic. Council provided feedback on what seemed to be working well with the Forums, as well as suggestions for improvement. Council agreed to hold a Whitehorse conference in Spring 2000 and agreed that it would like to contract the former (YCEE) Chair to organize the conference with the assistance of A. McLaughlin and the Economic Forum Resources. The acting-Chair committed to contact the former YCEE Chair about possible interest in accepting a contract to organize the conference.

**Regulations for “Complaints” under *Environment Act*** Council determined that it would like Renewable Resources to attend the next meeting to provide an update, explain the process needed to complete the regulations and to inform Council of their role in the process.

**Kyoto Protocol and Credit Options** Council received an overview by Economic Development and Yukon Development Corporation and expressed its interest in receiving an update in 2000.

**Community Profiles** Council discussed updating and finalizing profiles prepared for the “Focus on the Future” community conferences and agreed not to spend further funds on this project. Council instead agreed to discuss with HRDC, who was also compiling community profiles, information-sharing possibilities and requested the Secretariat to draft a related letter.

**Yukon State of the Environment Report** Renewable Resources presented Council with an advance copy of the report for review. Council’s review highlighted several inaccuracies in the report and made suggestions for improvement as noted on attached background sheet (see minutes attachment for detail).

**Review of Draft Oil & Gas Royalty Regulations** Council received an overview by Economic Development.

**Yukon Mineral Strategy** Council reviewed this strategy with Economic Development.

**Yukon Youth Strategy** Council reviewed and discussed a Nov 22/99 letter from the department of Education requesting youth representation on the Council. Council expressed support in principle for a youth appointment to YCEE, with a member-suggestion for a “youth shadow group” also put forward. Council decided to write to the Government Leader (with copy to Education) advising that youth representation would be beneficial to Council and to request the Government Leader to move quickly on filling existing Council vacancies.

2000

♦ **Mar 17-18, 2000**

**Devolution** Council agreed to discuss this item at its next meeting.

**Kyoto Protocol** Council discussed the Protocol merits noting the credit option possibilities for the Yukon. The Secretariat was tasked with ensuring YCEE remained current on development of the Protocol and the possibility of credit options.

**Regulations for Complaints under *Environment Act*** Council discussed its role in mediating complaints under the Act, and decided to write to Renewable Resources requesting a communications plan for the complaints process and suggesting circulation of this information to the public. Council also agreed this information should be included on the YCEE web-site.

**Revisions to YCS Strategy** Council reviewed the goals, objectives and broad indicators outlined in the draft Phase II Report, and offered related recommendations to the consulting group – outlined in (minutes) Appendix A. YCEE advised that it would also like to see a number of its suggestions implemented – see minutes for details.

Council agreed to form a Working Group to review the report once the recommendations had been implemented and to offer recommendations on the priority of the goals.

**Review of YES Strategy** The YCEE consultant (Pembina Institute) provided Council with an overview on how the task of identifying sustainable development indicators had been undertaken to date. Council suggested wider consultation on the project, noting specific groups. YCEE also advised the consultant to consult with the (Renewable Resources) consulting group working on the revisions to the YCS, to share information and ensure language and reference points were consistent in both documents. Council reviewed the draft paper and made several comments and recommendations – see Appendix B (attached to minutes). It was agreed that the consultant, taking into account Council's suggestions, would complete the project by Mar 31/00.

**Annual YCS Review** The Secretariat was requested to contact the former Chair to determine the status of the review.

**Community Conferences/Economic Forums** Council reviewed the draft Community Conferences Report and made recommendations for the report-finalization (see minutes). Council agreed that the final draft was to be submitted to all members for their review/approval and that the report would be distributed to all conference participants.

**Other:**

**Council Vacancies** Council agreed to write following the (upcoming) election to the Government Leader about the Council's various member-vacancies.

**Community Profiles** Council agreed to link HRDC's community profiles to the YCEE website and requested the Secretariat to look into the possibility of updating the sites links and changing the web address to [www.ycee.com](http://www.ycee.com)

♦ **Sept 8-9, 2000**

**Mandate & Orientation** The Chair introduced new members and provided an overview of Council's mandate and initiatives underway.

**YCEE Website** Council was informed that its (updated) web-site was up, at [www.ycee.yk.net](http://www.ycee.yk.net)

**YCEE Overview Document** Council discussed and agreed that to facilitate orientation of new members, the Secretariat should compile an index of historical YCEE reports/activities.

**Sustainable Progress Indicators Report** Council received, discussed and accepted the Pembina Institute's final report on Sustainable Progress Indicators: Framework, Indicators and Implementation Approach for reviewing the YES.

**Statistical Data Collection** Statistics Bureau provided an overview of statistics currently collected by the YG that could implement YCEE's sustainable development indicators. Council held a general discussion on alternate sources of statistics, and was informed that "...data from the Federal government could be used, but (it would) require the Yukon government to enact a Statistics Act first."

**Devolution** Council received a YG presentation and update on this issue.

**Northern Climate Exchange** Council received an overview of Exchange activities and an update on two upcoming events: (September 2000) Climate Change Workshop; (March 2001) Trade Show/Summit.

**Discussions with Premier** The Premier presented several topics for YCEE to consider in its work: e-commerce/knowledge; wilderness tourism; economic development in communities; post-secondary education; and Alaska Highway Pipeline.

**H&SS Council** Council received a presentation on this Council's upcoming projects. Members acknowledged the importance of collaboration between the Councils and decided to invite the H&SS Council to meetings where agenda items are specific to social issues.

**Sustainable Development Indicators** Council discussed possible use of the indicators for reviewing both the YCS and the YES, and that the mandate of YCEE should include regular review of the indicators. Council decided to write to the Premier asking for adoption of the report and for support in collecting-needed data.

**Yukon State of the Environment Report** Council discussed the need to review the report and provide comments, by letter, to the Legislature. The Secretariat was requested to bring the report to Council's next meeting for review.

**E-Commerce** Council discussed how it should pursue this item and agreed that YCEE could not undertake a full review process. Council also discussed the number of programs in this area and the need to avoid duplication. The Secretariat was requested to examine what work had been done, with a view to further discussing this item again at Council's next meeting.

**Wilderness Tourism** Council requested the Secretariat to identify a speaker to address this issue.

**Alaska Highway Pipeline** Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for a presentation at Council's next meeting.

◆ **Dec 1-2, 2000**

**Sustainable Progress Indicators Report** Council was advised the report would be presented to the YG's Deputy Ministers Review Committee in early January, that the Chair had met with the Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources and the A/Deputy Minister of Economic Development to discuss possible use of the report as a common tool to measure sustainable progress from both departmental perspectives, and that both departments had indicated a willingness to consider the idea.

**Revisions to the YCS** Renewable Resources provided an update on the YCS revisions noting that while the goals from the YCEE sustainable progress indicators work had been included, only some of the indicators had been included due to some information not being available. The department added other indicators, for a total of 99 indicators. The department indicated that it wished to proceed with a public review and table final revisions to the YCS during the spring sitting of the legislature.

Council offered several suggestions to Renewable Resources for further consideration in finalizing the report for public review. (see minutes) Renewable Resources identified how it would respond to those suggestions.

Council and Renewable Resources discussed the difficulties encountered in meeting the mandated completion of Strategy revisions every 3 years, and discussed possible options to assist the department and YCEE in meeting the timeline.

Renewable agreed to incorporate YCEE's suggestion, ensure that the language was linked to goals and objectives, and to re-organize the Report to identify goals and address how they refer to environment, economy and social aspects of society.

Council agreed to continue work towards generating government support to incorporate the YCS and YES into one Sustainable Development Strategy.

**YCS Review/State of the Environment Report** Council discussed its mandate to review these, with discussion focusing on making the process useful. Council noted its desire to revisit the legislative mandate with an aim to achieve 3 outcomes:

- gain government support for the use of the sustainable progress indicators work;
- generate support for the development of a Sustainable Development Strategy, to be updated by government every 3 years to reflect key priorities; and
- use the SOER exercise to collect data required to support the sustainable progress indicators.

The Secretariat was requested to incorporate in the YCEE's annual report and workplan a review of the legislative mandate for the YCS review and SOE report.

**E-Commerce** Economic Development provided a presentation on the government's e-comm initiative, including the new legislative framework. YCEE declined the request to review the proposed new e-comm regulations on the understanding that they will comply with national standards, and Council's view that it had little to add to the process. The Secretariat was requested to provide Council with a copy of the regulations, when finalized.

**Alaska Highway Pipeline** Council received a presentation by the YG's Pipeline Unit.

**Review, State of the Environment Report** Council reviewed the consultant's draft, and agreed that the matrix should be left off the final report and that more detailed work was yet required to evaluate sectors and make them more specific and comprehensive.

The Secretariat was requested to contact the members to solicit their input and arrange for additions to the report by the consultant. Council agreed that the report was to be finalized/reviewed by members for tabling in the Legislature in Feb. 2001.

**YCEE Annual Report and Workplan** Council discussed its mandate and considered a number of options for the next year. YCEE agreed it would like to remove clutter from its agenda and focus on its mandate.

The YES, the relevance of a related business survey, and a YCEE review of YES implementation, were also discussed.

Council agreed to include public education in its workplan, especially in relation to the pipeline and socio-economic impacts of project this size.

It was also agreed that the Council's report/workplan should:

- reflect YCEE's desire to work with the YG to move towards completion and adoption of a Sustainable Development Strategy to replace the currently outdated YCS and YES; and
- articulate difficulties YCEE has experienced with the process of reviewing an outdated YCS and its desire to work with the YG to consider amendments to its mandate that would better reflect value-added work.

The Secretariat was requested to arrange for a pipeline presentation for residents in Destruction Bay and possibly Haines Junction in conjunction with the Feb 9/10, 2001 Council meeting.

2001

♦ **Feb 8-10, 2001** Destruction Bay

**Alaska Highway Pipeline** The YG's Pipeline Unit in conjunction with YCEE held a well-attended public presentation on the proposed project in Destruction Bay on the evening of Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>

**Sustainable Progress Indicators** The Chair provided a summary of his presentation on the Pembina Report on Yukon Sustainable Indicators to DMRC. At the meeting, Deputy Ministers were encouraged to:

- have their departments examine and measure programs with reference to indicators criteria;
- recognize the document not as a final product but as a tool that could be tailored to better serve public and private sectors; and
- move towards adoption to a sustainable development strategy to replace the YCS and YES.

**Review of State of the Environment Report** Council reviewed the draft report with the consultant (via teleconference), agreed the report would be more useful if drafted to address the significance of environmental activities/trends from a sustainable development perspective, and advised the consultant to incorporate this message into the review and to incorporate Councils comments.(see minutes for details).

It was agreed that the consultant would incorporate YCEE's suggestions and present a final report to the Chair by Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, and that the Secretariat would arrange for SOER tabling during the Spring sitting of the Legislature.

**Yukon Protected Areas Strategy** Council discussed the Feb 8<sup>th</sup> walkout of seven committee members at the public advisory meeting, agreed the YPAS issues were at too high a level for YCEE's direct involvement, and agreed to offer their services where appropriate to the YG. The Secretariat was requested to offer YCEE's assistance with the YPAS process (i.e. review of legislation).

**YCEE Overview Document** Council agreed to engage a consultant to compile a chronological index and summarization of YCEE reports, minutes and documents from 1989 to present, with a view to providing this index to Cabinet. The Secretariat was requested to arrange the contract and work with the individual to coordinate the historical chronological compilation of YCEE documents.

**Annual Review of YCS and Review of YES** Council discussed and agreed to approach the annual review of the YG's implementation of the YCS in conjunction with a review of the YES, with such overview to summarize departmental initiatives and look at comparisons/relations with the ultimate goal of linking these together in the form of a sustainable development review. It was further agreed that a "team consulting" approach to the review would be beneficial and should take into account the sustainable development indicators framework. The project deadline was established as September 15<sup>th</sup>, with the project budget set at \$15000.

YCEE also agreed that in future Council preferred to review Renewable Resource's work instead of being so heavily involved from the start as was case with the Revisions to the YCS.

The Secretariat was requested to draft Terms of Reference for the project and prepare an invitational request for proposals from two consultants to act as a team to review government's implementation of the YCS and YES, based on the sustainable progress indicators framework.

**Alaska Highway Pipeline Project** Council agreed that a joint meeting with the H&SS Council would be beneficial to address social and economic implications of the proposed project (short and long-term), and to discuss preparedness of communities for coping and capitalizing on long-term possibilities. The Secretariat was requested to consult with the Pipeline Unit regarding YCEE's desire to be involved in the development of the proposed project (especially in regards to the social and economic implications) and to research specialists in the field who could speak to YCEE and the H&SS Council and possibly be part of public speaker series.

**YCEE Annual Report** Council reviewed the draft report and agreed that once suggestions from this meeting were incorporated into the proposed workplan and minor technical/formatting changes were made to the report it would be approved for tabling in the Legislature.

**Local Talk: Kluane National Park** Council received a Parks Canada presentation on maintaining ecological integrity while having a sustainable economy in the Park.

**Local Talk: Kluane First Nation** Council received a presentation on the economic, social, capacity-building and land claims challenges facing the First Nation. The importance of Kluane Park to the First Nation was also discussed.

♦ April 6, 2001<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Minutes not available

*Attachment 4 - YCEE Publications & Reports*

**Reports & Publications:**

YCEE Term Reports:

Source: ECO/Renewable Resources

*November 1989-November 1991*

*October 1993-March 1995*

*April 1995-March 1998*

*April 1998-March 1999*

*April 1999-December 2000*

Other Reports, Publications and Presentations:

***YCEE Report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, September 7-9, 1990***

prepared for YCEE; author unknown

Publish Date November 1990

Source: box # 2000-0909 (loose)

YCEE Discussion Paper: ***Energy For Tomorrow***

prepared for YCEE; author unknown

Publish Date November 1991

Source: box # 1999-0108 (loose)

YCEE Report ***“Our Sustainable Future: A Shared Responsibility”***

Publish Date: April 1991.

Source: Box: 1999-0111; File: YCEE Response to Government on *Environment Act*

YCEE (Draft) Report to the Yukon Government on the ***Progress of Implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy and the Yukon Economic Strategy***

Draft date: June 1992

Source; box #2000-0909; File: YES/YCS Ad Hoc Committee

***YCEE Report on The Introduction of Video Lottery Terminals and Expanded Casino Gambling in the Yukon***

Publish date: July 8 1994

Source: box #1999-0113; File: Gambling Report & Press Releases

***YCEE Report on the Proposed Amendments to the Environment Act S.Y. 1991, c.5***

Publish Date: February 15, 1995

Source: box #1999-0113; File: Gambling

***Yukon Mining: The Next Century***

(summary of the November 30, 1994 conference proceedings)

Publish Date: July 1995

Source: box # 1999-0113; (loose)

***The Future of Yukon's Forests***

(summary of the November 4-5, 1995 conference proceedings)

Publish Date: unknown

Source: box # 1999-0113; File: YCEE Information

(Draft) ***Energy for Tomorrow***<sup>46</sup>

(summary of April 1995 conference proceedings)

Publish Date: unknown

Source: box # 1999-0111; File: YCEE Energy Conference

(Draft) ***Making Progress: Yukon Government Implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy 1990-1995***

Publish date unknown

Source: box #1999-0108; (loose)

***Annual Review of the Yukon Conservation Strategy 1996 and 1997***

Publish date: May 1998; Release date December 1998 (news release Dec 15/98)

Source(s): 1. ECO/Renewable Resources (Policy)  
2. Box # 3; file: YCEE Yukon Conservation Strategy Review May/98-Feb/01

***Diversification Strategy Backgrounder II – Barriers***

Author: Economic Development and Executive Council Office, prepared for YCEE

Source: Box #2; File: April 3-4/98 meeting

***Diversification Strategy Backgrounder III – Multi Year Development Plans***

Author: Economic Development and Executive Council Office, prepared for YCEE

Source: Box #2; File: April 3-4/98 meeting

Proposed (YCEE) ***Communications Plan*** for 1998/99

Author: Lindsay Staples, Consultant, for YCEE

Source: Box #2; File: June 5-6/98 meeting

***Tax Incentives to Increase Access to Financing for Yukon Businesses,***

May 26, 1998

Author: MacKay and Partners, for YCEE

Source: Box #2; File: June 5-6/98 meeting

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<sup>46</sup> note: not recommended for consideration as representative of final report. Feb/96 Council meeting minutes notes approval of a draft for transmittal to the Government Leader – this final draft has not been file-located.

**Draft Framework for YCEE Report on the Proposed Yukon Development Assessment Act,**  
December 1998

Author: Lindsay Staples, consultant, for YCEE

Source: Box #2; File: YCEE Meeting January 8/99

***Building an Effective Yukon Development Assessment Process: Report on the Draft Yukon  
Development Assessment Act***

Publish date: February 1999

Source: ECO/Renewable Resources

**(Draft) Revising the YCS 1999 Interim Report,** November 1999

Author: Pembina Institute, for YCEE

Source: Box #2

File: November 26-27/99 Meeting

**(RFP) Terms of Reference – Development Indicators Framework for Review of the YES**  
October 1999

Author: YCEE

Source: Box #2; File: November 26-27/99 Meeting

**YCEE Sustainable Development Indicators Project**

Background Material for Key Contacts

Author: Pembina Institute, for YCEE

Source: Box #2; File: YCEE Meeting March 17-18/00

Extracts:

- ***YCS Interim Report, Suggested Goals and Broad Indicators***
- ***YCS Revision Paper Phase II Report***

Author: Mattanda Resources Ltd/Graham & associates/Luigi Zanasi, for YCEE

Source: Box #2; File: Meeting March 17-18/00

**Devolution: Overview for YCEE**

September 8, 2000

Source: Box #2; File: September 8-9/00 meeting

**Sustainable Progress Indicators: Presentation,** September 8/00

Author: YG Bureau of Statistics

Source: Box #2; File: Meeting Sept 8-9/00

**Outline of YCEE Discussions regarding SOE Report 1998-2000**

Author: Renewable Resources

Source: Box #2; File: YCEE Meeting September 8-9/00

***YCEE Review of 1999 SOE Report,***

January 29/01

Author: YCEE

Source: Box #2; File: YCEE February 8-10/01 Meeting

***Yukon Sustainable Progress Indicators: Framework, Indicators and Implementation  
Approach for Reviewing the Yukon Economic Strategy***

Prepared for YCEE; author: Pembina Institute

Publish Date: March 31, 2000

Source: ECO/Renewable Resources

***Presentation to YCEE: Yukon E-Commerce, April 6, 2001***

Author: Government Services; Economic Development

Source: Box #2; File: YCEE April 6 & 7/01 Meeting

***Focus on the Future – Building Sustainable Communities***

Community Conferences 1999 Final Report

Publish date: unknown

Source: Renewable Resources

***Review of the 1999 Yukon State of the Environment Report***

Publish date: April 2001

Source: Renewable Resources