

# YUKON LAND USE PLANNING COUNCIL

## Annual Activity Report 2004-2005

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### **Mission**

*The Yukon Land Use Planning Council advocates land use planning as a comprehensive means of addressing cultural, social, economic and environmental sustainability. The Yukon Land Use Planning Council promotes an open, fair and public process that involves all Yukoners, as set out in Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.*

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### **Message from the Council**

2004-05 was another year of progress in regional planning in the Yukon. The Council is very pleased to see the establishment of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission and the success and speed by which the Commission completed its “start-up phase”. The North Yukon Planning Commission made tremendous progress in 2004-05, completing much of the information gathering component of the planning process. The Council appreciates the close working relationships that the North Yukon Commission has fostered with the Council, and plan approval Parties and the encouragement they gave the Peel Watershed Planning Commission to do the same. In July 2004, the 3-year terms of the Teslin Regional Planning Commission came to an end and the Council would like to thank the members for their commitment and hard work. The Commission completed much of the information gathering and analysis phase of their 3-year work plan.

Finally, 2004-2005 represents the first full year of Council activities with Doug Phillips and Ian D. Robertson as members. The Council successfully tackled many challenges that face the implementation of regional planning. Continued success will take the participation of all stakeholders in the planning processes and the ongoing support of the Parties.

Albert Peter  
Chair

**YUKON LAND USE PLANNING COUNCIL (YLUPC)**  
**Annual Activity Report 2004-2005**

## **1. Introduction**

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

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

The Council has had a very active 2004-2005, with three planning Commissions in the process of producing land use plans in the territory during the year. Highlights of the 2004-2005 implementation year include the following:

- Developing close and productive working relationships with the North Yukon and Peel Planning Commissions;
- Providing direct assistance to planning commissions with the production of their land use plans, including sharing technical staff, work plan and budget development, and integration of financial and administrative arrangements to reduce overhead costs;
- Developing a supplementary submission to the 10-year review of the Yukon land claim implementation plans regarding the past and future of regional planning in the Yukon;
- Addressing issues associated with end of the appointment terms of the Teslin Regional Planning Commission (TRPC) and providing clear and unequivocal advice to the Parties regarding to future of the TRPC;
- Successfully fulfilling the requirements of the land claim agreements to review and submitted work plans and budgets for the regional planning commissions and administering funds to the commissions.

## **2.1 Completing the 2004-2005 Work plan**

The activities listed in this section correspond to the Council's work plan for 2004-2005 and the following is a report on the Council's work completing these tasks.

### **2.1.1 Support the North Yukon Planning Commission and the Teslin Regional Planning Commission**

The work of the North Yukon Planning Commission was very well supported by Council through 2004-2005. This support included shared office space and equipment, a half time seconded staff, senior administration support, Geographic Information Systems, computer support and website development and hosting. The Council also developed a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the North Yukon Planning Commission that strengthened and defined the working relationship between the two agencies.

The Teslin Regional Planning Commission chose to operate in a more independent manner and did not accept the assistance offered by Council. However, the Council did attempt to assist the Commission through a period of internal operating difficulties and developed a transition strategy for the period that the Commission was waiting for decisions on new appointments. The Council also reviewed an internal TRPC report entitled "*Land A Living Space*" document and attempted to coordinate a review by both the Yukon Government and the Teslin Tlingit Council. After the Commission member's appointment period expired, the Council handled all TRPC financial and administrative matters.

### **2.1.2 Prepare for the Creation of the Peel Watershed Commission and guide the Peel Watershed Planning Commission through its first year of operation**

To prepare the Peel Region for the creation of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission, Council's staff:

- attended and addressed the Gwich'in Tribal Council General Assembly in Ft. McPherson;
- met with the Chief of the Nacho Nyak Dun and attended their General Assembly;
- began developing working relations with the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (Inuvik);
- hosted an all Parties meeting in Eagle Plains to develop a list of "good ideas" for the implementation of the General Terms of Reference by the Commission.

Once the Minister appointed the Commission October 15, 2005, the Council:

- organized and lead the Training and Orientation for the Commission;
- produced the Commission's first budget and work plan;
- assisted the Commission with the development of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission policies and procedures;
- organized and facilitated Commission's meetings;
- developed a Memorandum of Understanding that strengthened and defined working relationships between the Council and the Peel Commission.

### **2.1.3 Prepare for the establishment of new commissions through the development of General Terms of References (Northern Tutchone, Dakh Ka);**

The Carcross/Tagish First Nation did not settle their land claim agreement and therefore it was not possible to make progress with respect to the General Terms of Reference that would lead to the creation of the Dakh Ka planning region. No further progress was made with respect to the creation of the Northern Tutchone Planning Commission. The development of the Northern Tutchone Planning Region's General Terms of Reference is dependant on the Northern Tutchone First Nations (NND, LSCFN and SFN) ability to reach an agreement on an acceptable planning boundary in the areas of overlap with the surrounding settled First Nations (Kluane, Champagne & Aishihik Tr'ondek Hwech'in, Kwanlin Dun, Ta'an Kwach'an). This work has not yet occurred and is the responsibility of the First Nations to resolve.

### **2.1.4 Linking the Regional Planning Process and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Process;**

Council sought to clarify the relationship between the land use planning process and the processes associated with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act. In August 2004, the Council reviewed the YESAA district boundaries and recognized the potential for harmonizing YESAA district boundaries and regional planning boundaries. This would improve the integration of planning and assessment processes. Delays in implementing the YESAA legislation caused the Council to delay the delineation of further integration until 2005-2006.

To understand more about impact assessment, the Director attended the International Association of Impact Assessment Conference and presented at the British Columbia Land Summit. Both conferences had presentations and papers presented that identified the need to integrate Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and regional land use planning.

### **2.1.5 Communicate the provisions of Chapter 11 and the benefits of regional planning to Yukoners;**

In its role communicating the provisions of Chapter 11, the Council attended four First Nations General Assemblies (CYFN, GTC, NND and LSCFN). The Council addressed the Gwich'in Tribal Council assembly in Ft McPherson as a means of preparing the region for the coming of the Peel Commission. The Council's staff had a display booth at both the First Nations Mineral Exploration and Development Symposium and at the Geoscience Forum (both Whitehorse). The Chair also presented at the CYFN leadership meeting in November. The Council's staff prepared a newspaper article that ran the Yukon News and maintained and updating its website.

### **2.1.6 Administering funds to Planning Commissions and improving the efficiency of the annual budgeting cycle**

The Council transferred funds to the North Yukon Planning Commission, Peel Watershed Planning Commission and the Teslin Regional Planning Commission. The administration of these funds was handled by the Council for the North Yukon and PWPC throughout the year. The Council assumed the responsibility for the TRPC's administration as of August 1, 2004 through to April 1, 2005.

The administrative and financial decision making process improvements included:

- advancing the date of submission for budgets and work plans from YLUPC to the Yukon Government to allow the Yukon Government a period of review and alteration before submission to Canada;
- integrating of the financial administration system by the North Yukon and Peel Planning Commission with the Council's system. This greatly reduced the time expended by planning commissions on administrative matters and ensured that reports to the Council were done in consistent and complete manner.

### **2.1.7 Support the work of the Implementation Review Group as it prepares for regional planning in the next 10-year period**

In November 2003, the YLUPC submitted to the Implementation Review Group (IRG) a document entitled "A Review of the Umbrella Final Agreement and Yukon First Nation Final Agreement Implementation Plans: Chapter 11: Land Use Planning". In December 2004, the IRG responded to this submission and the Council met with the Land Use Planning sub-committee of IWG regarding their review.

The Council then produced a supplementary submission entitled "Supplementary Submission to the Implementation Review Group, Review of the Implementation of Chapter 11, Land Use Planning", March 2005. This document summarized the past 10 years of implementing land use planning in the Yukon and provided projections as to the next 10 years. These projections focused upon the timing and funding required to complete plans in areas where land claims are settled. The Council summarized the main points from its submission for the First Nation General Assemblies (GTC, NTC, CYFN and LSC) and for meetings with the Yukon Government.

## 2.2 Summary of Activities

The following table summarizes activities throughout the past fiscal year. Most significant activities appear in bold.

<b>ACTIVITY - APRIL 2004</b>
<b>Appointment of Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC) members Ian D. Robertson and Doug Phillips</b>
<b>Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC) General Terms of Reference Approved by Parties</b>
Nomination process for PWPC members begun
YLUPC staff member working for North Yukon Planning Commission (NYPC)
Assisting NYPC developing a Regional Land Designation System.
Update a brochure called ' Guide for Prospective Commission Members'.
Maintained website for YLUPC and Commissions (throughout year)
Provided financial and administrative support to the NYPC

<b>ACTIVITY - MAY 2004</b>
YLUPC met with Nacho Nyak Dun FN in Mayo, Yukon and Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board in Fort McPherson to discuss the 9 Year Review and Land Designation System.
Attended NYPC Open House in Whitehorse, Yukon.
Received a letter from YG regarding ' <b>A Strategic Regional Land Designation System</b> '
YLUPC staff presented at the B.C Land Summit and attended the International Association of Impact Assessments in Vancouver.
May 21 <sup>st</sup> – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting

<b>ACTIVITY - JUNE 2004</b>
YLUPC presented at the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Societies workshop in Mayo, Yukon.
<b>June 17<sup>th</sup> – YLUPC Special Board Meeting – the Council was updated on the Teslin Regional Planning Commission status (TRPC) by a Commission Member</b>
YLUPC set up a booth at the Little Salmon & Carmacks General Assembly.
YLUPC staff attended an 'Open Source Conference' held in Ottawa, Ontario.

<b>ACTIVITY - JULY 2004</b>
<b>YLUPC attended TRPC Board Meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> in Teslin, Yukon. (No quorum was reached and the meeting did not occur)</b>
<b>Developed a 'Transition Strategy for the TRP'C</b>
Assisting TRPC – staff contracts expired June 30, 2005 and the <b>Commission appointments expired on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005.</b>
Developed a series of newspaper article to appear every other month to educate and raise public awareness of the land use planning process
Completed Annual Activity Report for 2003/2004
<b>Albert Peter was reappointed to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council.</b>

**ACTIVITY - AUGUST 2004**

YLUPC assumed responsibility of TRPC Administration

Reviewed the Development Assessment Process (DAP) regarding district boundaries

Sent letter to Energy, Mines and Resources Minister of the Yukon Government RE: Outlining recommendations for standard policies and procedures for a land designation system.

YLUPC presented at the Gwich'in Tribal Council General Assembly in NWT

YLUPC staff traveled to Inuvik for consultation regarding information gathering.

**ACTIVITY - SEPTEMBER 2004**

YLUPC set up booth at the Council for Yukon Indian General Assembly.

Peel Parties Meeting

Attempted an "Exit Survey" to the TRPC members the information to help produce a 'Lessons Learned' document.

**Preparing for the Peel Commission Meeting (Eagle Plains, Yukon)**

**ACTIVITY - OCTOBER 2004**

October 7<sup>th</sup> – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting

October 8<sup>th</sup> – YLUPC Strategic Planning Session

Nominations for the PWPC finalized.

Assisting the NYPC with resource inventory compilation and GIS

Considering possible linkages with DAP process, sent letter requesting the same land boundaries be used for both.

**ACTIVITY - NOVEMBER 2004**

November 5<sup>th</sup> – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting

**Hosted the PWPC Orientation Session**

YLUPC presented at the Renewable Resource Council and Yukon Fish and Wildlife Workshop, encouraging a more integrated process.

YLUPC information booth at the Geoscience Forum in Whitehorse.

**Presented at the Council for Yukon First Nations Leadership Meeting**

Coordinated a Peel Teleconference Meeting

**ACTIVITY - DECEMBER 2004**

December 6<sup>th</sup> – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting

NYPC requested the YLUPC administer all their Human Resources for the Commission using a Staff Sharing Agreement

YLUPC coordinating the PWPC first official board meeting

Council received letter from YG regarding the 'Contents of a Land Use Plan'

**Letter to Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC) & YG indicating the YLUPC will prepare a 05/06 Workplan & Budget for Teslin only if nominations are completed by January 15, 2005**

Appointment of three of the six TRPC members (three pending)

<b>ACTIVITY - JANUARY 2005</b>
January 19 <sup>th</sup> – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting
Contractor hired to assist with a 9 Year Review Supplementary Report
YLUPC Letter to TTC and YG reiterating that YLUPC will not submit TRPC 05/06 Work plan and Budget Funding without nominations
PWPC requests YLUPC to administer all their Human Resources for the Commission using a Staff Sharing Agreement
YLUPC review of the Land A Living Space completed
January 19 <sup>th</sup> – Annual Chairs Meeting (NYPC, PWPC and YLUPC)

<b>ACTIVITY - FEBRUARY 2005</b>
February 10 <sup>th</sup> – YLUPC Working Session
2005/2006 Workplan & Budgets submitted to the Yukon Government
<b>YLUPC letter to YG, TTC re: appointments of TRPC taking too long; regional planning efforts in Teslin region should be abandoned and refocused on another region</b>
<b>9 Year Review Supplementary Report completed</b>
Interviewing, advertising, and screening staff for the PWPC & NYPC

<b>ACTIVITY - MARCH 2005</b>
March 30 <sup>th</sup> – YLUPC Regular Board Meeting
Hired PWPC Senior Planner and Office Administrator
<b>Traveled to Teslin to close the office and move contents to Whitehorse</b>
Renewed office space lease at 307 Jarvis St in Whitehorse

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### 3.0 Assessment of Implementation

The YLUPC and the regional planning commissions continue to make progress in implementing Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements, with the Commissions now producing the products associated with the Common Land Use Planning Process (CLUPP) developed by the Council. The Council views the most important implementation success in 2004-2005 to be the building of effective working relationships between the Plan Approval bodies (Yukon, First Nations), the Council and the Planning Commissions. The Council believes that the best means to ensure the eventual approval of the regional plans is to create the integrated working environment that has evolved in 2004-2005. The Council will recommend future Planning Commissions create these types of relationships.

The Council also believes that the “10 - Year Review” of the land claim agreements is an excellent opportunity to address problems associated with claims implementation. In 2004-2005, the Council developed a supplementary submission to the Implementation Review Group, recommending improvements that could be made regarding implementation activities for the next ten- year period.

Key recommendations included:

- a) Memorandum of Understandings between YLUPC and the Commission should be developed shortly after the Commission commences its work:
- b) General Terms of References for Planning Commissions should contain greater detail with respect to roles and responsibilities;
- c) Funding for Planning Commissions must include funding for Plan Production, Plan Implementation, Review and Amendment. Funding decisions should be work plan based done on a 10 year, 3 year and annual basis;
- d) Planning region boundaries should, wherever possible, YESAB District Boundaries.
- f) The commission member appointment process should contain “hard” timelines.

This work is the first step in bringing about needed improvements and the Council looks forward to the Parties (Yukon Government and Yukon First Nations) endorsing these recommendations.

A final implementation highlight of 2004-2005 was the establishment and successful orientation of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. Along with the North Yukon and Teslin regions, over 30% of the Yukon’s land base is undergoing regional planning, bringing the Yukon closer to the vision created by those who signed the land claim agreements.

# North Yukon Planning Commission 2004-2005 Annual Report

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## 1. Introduction

This report summarizes the activities of the North Yukon Planning Commission (NYPC) for the 2004-2005 fiscal period, as required by the Yukon Government in its flexible transfer payment contribution agreement. The annual activity report contains the following information:

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

The audited financial statements follow this annual activity report and together they will create the annual report.

## 2. Description and Timing of Activities, Results and Achievements

Commission member nominations to the NYPC were accepted in late June 2003. Major commission operations began in fall 2004. The NYPC spent the majority of the 2003-2004 fiscal period focusing on start-up activities and organizational matters. The 2004-2005 fiscal period focused on issues and information gathering (*Planning Phases 2 and 3 of the NYPC Precise Terms of Reference: 3 year work plan*). The following sections provide an update on the results and achievements of the 2004-2005 NYPC annual work plan.

### 2.1. Commission Meetings

Four NYPC regular commission meetings, two special meetings and one teleconference call were held during the 2004 – 2005 fiscal period (meetings listed in chronological order):

1. Update Teleconference Call #1, April 19, 2004
2. Board Meeting #4, Old Crow, April 30, 2004
3. Board Meeting #5, Old Crow, August 4, 2004
4. Special Meeting #1 (by teleconference), September 30, 2004
5. Board Meeting #6, Whitehorse, November 27, 2004
6. Special Meeting #2 (by teleconference), February 1, 2005
7. Board Meeting #7, Whitehorse, March 3, 2005

## 2.2. Planning Tasks and Products

The following planning tasks and products were completed during the 2004 – 2005 fiscal period:

### Community Workshops

1. May, 2004. Co-hosted Old Crow **Wetlands Information Workshop** with Ducks Unlimited, Canadian Wildlife Service, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, North Yukon Renewable Resources Council and Yukon Environment. Purpose of workshop was community information gathering and mapping of cultural and ecological values in wetlands. Result: NYPC compiled digital GIS database of community information for use in development of regional land use plan.
2. October, 2004. Co-hosted Old Crow **Heritage Information Workshop** with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Heritage Department. Purpose of workshop was to discuss and validate important cultural and heritage resources as compiled by Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation from elder and community member interviews. Result: GIS database of important VGFN cultural and heritage resources for use in regional land use plan.
3. November, 2004. Hosted Old Crow **Fisheries Information Workshop** with assistance from Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and North Yukon Renewable Resources Council. Purpose of workshop was to discuss and validate fisheries information summary and maps with community members. Result: GIS database of important fisheries values and habitats for use in regional land use plan.
4. November, 2004. Hosted Old Crow **Wildlife Information Workshop** with assistance from Ducks Unlimited, Canadian Wildlife Service, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, North Yukon Renewable Resources Council and Yukon Environment. Purpose of workshop was to gather, discuss and validate wildlife information with community members. Results of May 2004 Wetlands workshop were presented to participants. Result: GIS database of important wildlife values and habitats for use in regional land use plan.
5. January, 2005. Hosted Old Crow **Wildlife Habitat Suitability Workshop** with assistance from Yukon Environment, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and North Yukon Renewable Resources Council. Purpose of workshop was to discuss wildlife habitat values for development of habitat suitability models for regional land use plan focal wildlife species (caribou, moose and marten). Result: Database of relative wildlife habitat suitability ranks for North Yukon biophysical units. This information provided the ability to develop regional habitat suitability maps for the North Yukon Planning Region.

### Internal Workshops

1. March, 2005. Hosted **North Yukon Planning Region Information Workshop**. Purpose of workshop was to provide full-day forum for commission members and plan partners to discuss results of information gathering and GIS-databases (ecosystems, wildlife, fisheries, heritage, land use/transportation, tourism, forest resources, minerals, and oil and gas). Result: A full understanding by plan partners on scope and nature of regional information. This workshop provided the necessary framework for development of the Resource Assessment Report.

## Reports

1. **Final Precise Terms of Reference** (October 2004). After a six-month period of consultation, the NYPC updated its February 2004 draft Precise Terms of Reference. Based on the results of the consultation, a large amount of detail was included on information product methods and associated management authority. The final Precise Terms of Reference has acted as an important process guide for the North Yukon regional land use planning process.

## Data Products

1. **Regional Bioclimate Zone / Terrain Map.** 1:250,000 scale regional bioclimate zone/terrain map was produced for North Yukon and Peel Watershed Planning Regions, and Yukon North Slope. Funding for project provided jointly by NYPC, Yukon Environment, and Yukon Oil and Gas Management Branch.
2. **Regional Biophysical Map.** 1:250,000 regional biophysical map created through inputs of regional bioclimate zones, terrain units and supervised satellite imagery. Primary technical resources provided by NYPC, Yukon Land Use Planning Council and Yukon Environment.
3. **North Yukon Planning Region Wildlife Database.** Important Old Crow community member-identified wildlife values identified during workshops were digitized and compiled by NYPC.
4. **North Yukon Planning Region Wildlife Suitability Maps.** Based on the biophysical units developed in regional biophysical mapping, relative seasonal habitat suitability maps were created for focal species. Primary technical resources provided by NYPC, Yukon Land Use Planning Council and Yukon Environment.
5. Updated **Watershed Map.** NYPC produced an updated 1:250,000 scale watershed map for North Yukon Planning Region through contractor assistance.
6. **Porcupine River Watershed Fisheries Information Summary.** NYPC produced a comprehensive fisheries information summary for the Porcupine River Watershed based on local and scientific knowledge through contractor assistance.
7. **Heritage and Cultural Values Database.** NYPC provided funding assistance to VGFN Heritage Department to document and map important heritage and cultural values.
8. **Tourism and Recreation Values.** Yukon Tourism Branch compiled tourism information for North Yukon Planning Region.
9. **Oil and Gas Assessment.** Yukon Geological Survey compiled oil and gas assessment information for the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan, based on previous reports and mapping.
10. **Mineral Potential Assessment.** Yukon Geological Survey produced an updated mineral potential database and map for use in the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan. This work incorporated new stream geochemistry information and interpretations.

## 2.3. Consultation and Special Events

The NYPC staff and members participated in the following consultation and special events:

### Public Consultation - Open Houses

1. April, 2004. Hosted **Old Crow Open House #1** and Community Supper. Purpose of Open House was to introduce the draft NYPC Precise Terms of Reference (3-year work plan) and provide overview of proposed planning process.
2. April, 2004. Hosted **Whitehorse Open House #1**. Purpose of Open House was to introduce NYPC Precise Terms of Reference (3-year work plan) and provide overview of proposed planning process.
3. November, 2004. Hosted **Old Crow Open House #2** and Community Supper. Purpose of Open House was to update community of Old Crow on information gathering progress. Several presentations from plan partners (Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Yukon Government) staff provided preliminary results of data products.

### Senior Advisory Consultation – Senior Liaison Committee

1. September, 2004. NYPC Coordinator/Land Use Planner and Chair participate in first North Yukon **Senior Liaison Committee (SLC) meeting**. Purpose of meeting was to provide update to senior approval agency staff and gain input on proposed work plan, approach and progress.

### Public Consultation – Community Visits and Newsletters

1. All NYPC members attended the **VGFN General Assembly in Old Crow** (August, 2004). The purpose of the Commission attendance was to gain views and perspectives from community members and VGFN leadership, and to provide an update on NYPC activities.
2. NYPC produced two **newsletters** for distribution to general public and plan partners, Newsletter #1 (May 2004) and Newsletter #2 (October 2004).

Numerous staff-level meetings with agency and non-government staff occurred throughout the 2004-2005 fiscal period – these are not represented in the above listing of events.

## 3. Overall Assessment of 2004-2005 Implementation Activities

### 3.1. Commission Operations

The NYPC membership remained intact and cohesive throughout the 2004-2005 fiscal period. The focused start-up activities and organizational support mechanisms established during the 2003-2004 start-up phase were key to the success of the 2004-2005 operating period. An important contributing factor to the successful commission operations during 2004-2005 was effective partnerships and communications with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Yukon Government and associated plan partners.

The planning model (i.e. how the plan is being produced) being used by NYPC has proven to be effective, and was further enhanced by the start-up of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. The NYPC and Peel Watershed Planning Commission, with administrative support from the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, entered into a new staff and resource-sharing model. The NYPC and Peel Watershed Planning Commission established common office space and jointly hired administrative and technical staff resources. This approach is

anticipated to result in increased planning capacity, enhanced technical support and a higher probability of applying the lessons learned from one planning region to another. A realization of this objective was that during the period January – March 2005, the NYPC Coordinator/Land Use Planner, with assistance from the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, also acted as the interim coordinator for the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. Many of the administrative and commission start-up lessons learned from the NYPC start-up were applied successfully to the Peel Watershed Planning Commission, allowing that group to become established and functional within a six-month time-frame.

### **3.2. Partnerships**

The creation and maintenance of partnerships continues to be a core operating philosophy of the NYPC. During the 2004-2005 fiscal period, important plan partners included Yukon Government, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Ducks Unlimited, Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada and Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Yukon Land Use Planning Council. The amount of time required to create effective partnerships and carry out joint-work planning is sometimes challenging, but the benefits of this approach during plan approval and implementation stages are anticipated to be substantial. The Commission continues to seek input from other stakeholders and the formation of new planning partnerships.

The Northern Ecosystems Initiative Integrated Cumulative Effects Thresholds Project Team is a new plan partner for the NYPC. A formal partnership with this group was established in December 2004 – a portion of the NEI funds and project team will directly assist the NYPC during *Planning Phase 4: Plan Scenarios* and *Planning Phase 6: Plan Implementation Strategies*. The NYPC has chosen the ALCES computer simulation model to examine future potential land use scenarios during the 2005-2006 fiscal period. The majority of technical assistance provided by the Northern Ecosystems Initiative project will be directed towards this portion of the North Yukon regional land use plan, to assist the NYPC in evaluating different potential land use scenarios.

The North Yukon biophysical mapping project was an ambitious initiative undertaken jointly by the NYPC and Yukon Environment. The creation of the North Yukon regional biophysical map was co-funded by NYPC, Yukon Environment and Yukon Oil and Gas Management Branch. Continued funding partnerships are anticipated for the 2005-2006 fiscal period.

### **3.3. Community Involvement**

The land users in Old Crow and Whitehorse have been directly engaged in the North Yukon regional land use planning process. The development of several important regional information databases would not have been possible without the spirited contributions of Old Crow community member local knowledge. The NYPC continues to alternate Commission meetings and important consultation events between Old Crow and Whitehorse.

## **Teslin Regional Planning Commission 2004 – 2005 Annual Activity Report**

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### **1. Purpose:**

This document is the annual activity report for the Teslin Regional Planning Commission, as required by the Flexible Transfer Agreement signed between the Yukon Land Use Planning Council and Yukon Government, June 4, 2004. On July 31, 2004 the appointment term of the Teslin Regional Planning Commission ended and there was no commission in existence between August 1, 2005 and the March 31, 2005. In the absence of a Commission, the Council has taken on the task of producing the annual activity report.

The annual activity report contains the following information:

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### **2. Context for 2004-2005: Teslin Regional Planning Commission**

At the beginning of the 2004-05 year, the Flexible Transfer Payment Agreement between the Yukon Land Use Planning Council and Yukon Government was delayed as the Canada/Yukon Contribution Agreement was finalized. As a result, the Flexible Transfer Payment Agreements between the Council and Teslin Regional Planning Commission was not ready for signing until June 2004. The Commission had prepared its work plan and budget earlier in the year but by June, the Council had become aware that the Commission would not be operational once their terms ended July 31, 2004. Therefore, their work plan assumptions would have been significantly different than that signed by the Commission (but not Council) June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The Council asked for input from the Commission on developing a "transition strategy" for the reappointment period. However, the Commission was struggling with a number of internal operational issues at that time and was unable to assist the Council.

To address these matters, the Council met with the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Yukon Government and developed a short term financial and work plan strategy that would ensure the Commission met its operational commitments until the end of its term (July 31, 2004) and through the anticipated reappointment period (90 days). However, the Parties (Yukon and TTC) did not agree on the nominees for the Commission between August 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005. The Council wrote letters to the Parties stating that the 2005-2006 work plan would not be submitted if they had not resolved membership issues by January 15, 2005. (letter in December 2004, deadline extension letter mid-January, 2005). When it became apparent that the Parties were not reaching consensus on the appointment names, and the January 31, 2005 deadline had past, the Council recommended

that regional planning in the Teslin Regional be abandoned and other planning regions be considered as candidates for the implementation of regional planning.

### **3. Activity Report (April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005)**

#### **General Statement of Activities:**

The Commission produced the *Land A Living Space* document in May 2004. This document represents the major product from the first three years of the Planning Commission's existence. *Land A Living Space* was intended to represent Phase 2, Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the seven phase planning process identified in the Precise Terms of Reference (3 Year Work plan):

Phase 1: Program Start-up;

**Phase 2: Identify Issues;**

**Phase 3: Develop Plan Goals;**

**Phase 4: Analyze and Evaluate Land Capabilities;**

Phase 5: Develop Scenarios;

Phase 6: Form Consensus;

Phase 7: Implementation

The Commission requested comments from the Parties (TTC, YG) and the Council in the May - June period but these agencies were unable to provide feedback before the Commission's term ended in August. The Yukon Government and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council did produce written reviews of the document in October and November, with the Teslin Tlingit Council not producing a written response in 2004-2005.

#### **Administration**

The Commission maintained an office and a half time administrative staff person through the first 6 months and completed its financial audit for 2003-2004. The Teslin office continued at a reduced level for August, September, October and November. The Yukon Land Use Planning Council became responsible for the administration of the Commission August 1, 2004 and met the Commission's operating obligations until March 31, 2005. The office was shut down and all equipment was moved to the Council's office in March, 2005.

#### **Commission Activity**

The Commission held 3 meetings where quorum was reached and one meeting where quorum was not reached. They also did not have full participation by the Commission members at the meetings that were held.

## **Planning**

The Commission's executive director was primarily involved with working with the contractor and Commission regarding *Land A Living Space*. The level of planning activity that would normally follow the production of a major planning product did not occur, as the Executive Director's contract and the Commission member's terms expired. No further planning work was possible without a commission in place.

### **4. Overall Assessment of the Claims Implementation Progress**

The Teslin Regional Planning Commission is the first post-land claim planning Commission in the Yukon to make progress with respect to the initial stages of producing a regional land use plan. This progress is represented by the *Land A Living Space* document, which is the main product from the Commission's first three years of operations. Reviews by the Council and the Yukon Government indicate that *Land A Living Space* will require considerable re-evaluation by any future planning commission that may take place in the Teslin Planning Region. The challenges associated with the TRPC has resulted in the recognition of the importance of integrating the work of the regional planning commissions with that of Yukon Land Use Planning Council, the Yukon Government and Yukon First Nations involved in the region. This includes developing consensus with respect to the members being nominated and the work and products of the Commission.

The inability of the Parties to reach consensus on Commission reappointments in a timely manner lead to Council's recommendation in January 2005 to abandon planning in the region. The Parties have yet to act on this recommendation or resolve the differences that lead to a dysfunctional Commission.

# Peel Watershed Planning Commission 2004-2005 Annual Activity Report

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## 1. Introduction

This report summarizes the activities of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC) for the 2004-2005 fiscal period, as required by the Yukon Government in its flexible transfer payment contribution agreement with the Yukon Land Use Planning Council. The annual activity report contains the following information:

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

## 2. Description and Timing of Activities, Results and Achievements

Commission member nominations to the Peel Watershed Planning Commission were accepted in October 2004. From October 2004 to February 2005, the Peel Watershed Planning Commission spent the majority of their time focusing on start-up activities and organizational matters. Major commission operations began in spring 2005, with preparations for the public consultation sessions in the "Issues and Information Gathering" phase (*Planning Phases 2 and 3* of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission *Precise Terms of Reference*). The following sections provide an update on the results and achievements of the 2004-2005 Peel Watershed Planning Commission annual work plan.

### 2.1. Commission Meetings

Two Peel Watershed Planning Commission regular commission meetings and two special meetings were held during the 2004 – 2005 fiscal period (meetings listed in chronological order):

- Special Meeting #1, Teleconference, October 28, 2004
- Orientation Session, Whitehorse, November 15-16, 2004
- Board Meeting #1, Whitehorse, December 18, 2004
- Special Meeting #2, Whitehorse, February 4, 2005
- Board Meeting #2, Whitehorse, March 4, 2005

### 2.2. Meeting Highlights and Products

The following meeting highlights and products were completed during the 2004 – 2005 fiscal period:

#### **Special Meeting #1 – Teleconference, October 28, 2004**

- The 2004-05 Annual Budget / Work Plan was approved by the Commission, and recommended to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council.

### **Orientation Session, Whitehorse, November 15-16, 2004**

- The Peel Watershed Planning Commission members and the members of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council attended a two-day orientation session in Whitehorse. Presentation topics included:
  - Introduction of participants
  - Umbrella Final Agreement
  - Peel Watershed Planning Commission General Terms of Reference
  - Common Land Use Planning Process
  - Agency Roles / Responsibilities
  - Introduction to Organization Training
  - Tips for New Commission Members
  - Planning Experiences of Adjacent Commissions
  - Road Map for Peel Watershed Planning Commission during the next 6 months

### **Board Meeting #1 – Whitehorse, December 18, 2004**

- Discussion of contents of the 3-year work plan
- Discussion of the 2005-06 Annual Budget / Work Plan.

### **Special Meeting #2 – Whitehorse, February 4, 2005**

- The 2005-06 Annual Budget / Work Plan was approved by the Commission, and recommended to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council.

### **Board Meeting #2 – Whitehorse, March 4, 2005**

- Discussion of the draft Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Discussion of the Draft 3 Year Work Plan (Draft Precise Terms of Reference)

## **3. Overall Assessment of 2004-2005 Activities**

### **3.1. Commission Operations**

The Peel Watershed Planning Commission membership was active and cohesive throughout the 2004-2005 fiscal period. These start-up activities and organizational support mechanisms that were established during the 2004-2005 start-up phase will be key to the success of the 2005-2006 operating period. The Commission has laid a strong foundation for the forthcoming implementation of the planning process. An important contributing factor to the successful commission operations during 2004-2005 was effective partnerships and communications with the First Nations, Yukon Government and associated plan partners. As well, the experience of the North Yukon Planning Commission has provided important guidance to the Peel Watershed Planning Commission.

The planning model (i.e. how the plan is being produced) being used by Peel Watershed Planning Commission has proven to be effective. The North Yukon Planning Commission and Peel Watershed Planning Commission, with administrative support from the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, entered into a new staff and resource-sharing model. The North Yukon Planning Commission and Peel Watershed Planning Commission established common office space and jointly hired administrative and technical staff resources. Preparations were made in 2004-05 for the hiring of new staff that would be dedicated to the Peel Watershed Planning Commission or jointly with the Peel Watershed Planning Commission and North Yukon Planning Commission. This approach is anticipated to result in increased planning capacity, enhanced technical support and a higher probability of applying the lessons learned from one planning region to another.

Many of the administrative and commission start-up lessons learned from the North Yukon Planning Commission start-up were applied successfully to the Peel Watershed Planning Commission, allowing the Peel Watershed Planning Commission to become established and functional within a six-month time-frame.

## **3.2. Partnerships**

The creation and maintenance of partnerships continues to be a core operating philosophy of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. During the 2004-2005 fiscal period, important plan partners included Yukon Government, Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondek Hwech'in Han Nation, Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council. The amount of time required creating effective partnerships and carry out joint-work planning is sometimes challenging, but the benefits of this approach during plan approval and implementation stages are anticipated to be substantial.

## **3.3. Community Involvement**

The 3 Year Work Plan, developed in the last quarter of the year, delineates a process by which the land users in Mayo, Old Crow, Dawson City, Fort McPherson and elsewhere in the territory are to be directly involved in the regional planning process. Community and territory wide consultation sessions were identified to take place in May and June, 2005.