

YUKON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Y U K O N · 2 0 0 0

Building the Future

Yukon
Government

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INTRODUCTION

The Yukon Government has initiated a planning process that will provide a basis for sound economic development into the 1990's and beyond. YUKON 2000 is to be a comprehensive economic development strategy.

YUKON 2000 includes the following three components:

1. Community Consultation
2. Sectoral Reviews
3. Linkage Studies

A detailed description of the overall process along with extensive background information is provided in the public discussion paper entitled YUKON 2000: Building the Future.

The purpose of this paper is to provide a report summarizing the **Community Consultation** component between early September and the end of October.

PROCESS DESCRIPTION

Community consultation is taking place in two distinct phases.

Phase 1, involving preliminary meetings with community groups involved in and concerned with economic planning, is now complete. A listing of all community meetings is contained in Table 1.

Representatives of community groups have been invited to the Development Strategy Fall Conference, to be held in Whitehorse on October 31 - November 2. At this time, participants will be able to see the results of the sectoral reviews, obtain both abstracts and the complete linkage studies, participate in a number of workshops key to the Development Strategy, and meet with other community representatives.

Phase 11, to be conducted over the winter of 1986-1987, will follow the recommendations received during Phase 1, as to formats and suggested meeting times. In addition, preliminary areas of concern identified during Phase 1 will guide more detailed discussions to take place over the winter. With the information obtained from the fall conference, a well informed economic discussion will be possible.

GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The purpose of consulting with community groups is to provide a community specific viewpoint that identifies priorities and concerns about economic activity within that geographic area. The perspective to be taken is one of balancing economic growth across the territory and within each community.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: PHASE I

1. to provide a general overview of the Yukon Development Strategy;
2. to clarify points raised by the Public Discussion Paper;
3. to describe alternative community consultation processes;
4. to note any preliminary development issues and concerns within communities;
5. to identify community representatives for the Fall conference; and
6. to determine an appropriate Phase 11 process for each community, reflecting meeting formats, times, community participation

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Economic Development Issues

- Many communities expressed interest in working on a complete economic development plan, or on specific initiatives i.e. a recreation plan
- The link between training and economic development was mentioned at almost every community meeting. Issues such as the need for management skills, more apprentices, decentralization of Yukon College, lack of identifiable job opportunities and therefore a related lack of incentive to train, the need for training for the settlement of land claims, the need for skilled and semi-skilled workers, the need for Grade 12, the need for more consultation on the Training Strategy with native people, and the need for clear and accessible funding sources were all mentioned at more than one meeting.
- The need for local economic development, in order to provide job opportunities for local people, was expressed.
- The role of government in economic development also surfaced as a major issue in most of the meetings. Concern over government intervention in the private sector was expressed. The need for decentralization of permanent government offices to rural communities was suggested, as well as the need to continue contracting out government work to the private sector. The spending of government dollars, in areas such as tourism, must be distributed more equitably to all communities. The Business Development Office is viewed by some communities as a welcome service; other communities expressed a great deal of concern about the effectiveness and relevance of this initiative.
- The need for more local decision making autonomy is seen as critical to development of a strong territorial economy.

- Many community groups have strong concerns about development in specific sectors. Two areas that were mentioned were forestry and resource management. The need for native ownership and involvement in mining was also expressed. Protection of activities in the non-wage sector, construction and housing, agriculture, hunting and trapping is also a priority.

Related Issues

- The relationship between the settlement of land claims and the Development Strategy is seen to be a major issue by most bands in the territory. There is a particular concern that planning the management of resources should involve the bands.
- The availability of land for development e.g. agriculture, use and access is another major concern across the territory.
- The difficulty of obtaining financial services, including small business loans, access to capital, and ordinary banking services, was underlined in a number of communities. In addition, the need for alternate venture capital sources (e.g. Dana Naye) was stressed in at least one community.
- Access to services, and the quality of services, i.e. transportation and communication, continues to be problematic for many of the more geographically remote communities.
- The need to stabilize the population in small communities is seen as critical. Since government is often the largest employer, it can make a major contribution to the development of a community through encouraging opportunities to stay. The need for professional and community services is also extreme in many of the rural communities; and these services could more easily be provided to a stable population.
- The need for a clear analysis of external forces affecting the economy of the Yukon was expressed in a number of meetings.
- One community mentioned the need to balance environmental concerns with development.
- The education system was described as not meeting the needs of native people in a number of meetings.

Yukon 2000 Process Issues

- The short time frame allowed for the initial community meetings is constraining the consultation process with almost every group consulted. Participation in the community consultation has been affected by difficulty in arranging meetings and difficulty in community groups having time to read the background information.
- The Discussion Paper has been described as too lengthy and difficult to read. Its effectiveness is being hampered for these reasons.
- The date of the Fall Conference is inconvenient for many communities due to conflicts with both community and family Halloween activities. In addition, working people must take two days off to travel to the conference. However, the timing of the conference was seen as convenient for people involved in seasonal economic activities.
- Questions about selection of participants for the Faro workshop were raised at many community meetings.
- A number of communities are interested in the approach to economic development and the response to the Development Strategy by other communities.
- The need for a cooperative approach, with government and the private sector working together on the Development Strategy, was stressed in many meetings.
- A few community groups have expressed interest in joint council meetings, i.e. band and municipal councils, regarding the Development strategy.
- One community group expressed some concern that the sectoral reviews and linkage studies would not be covered in sufficient depth to be as useful as they could be. In addition, concern was expressed that the facilitators of the sectoral workshops would influence the results of the workshops.

- The difficulty in motivating community members to become involved in this type of process was mentioned in a number of meetings. Many participants in the initial community consultations are already over committed with community responsibilities. However, all groups welcomed the opportunity to be consulted and provide input to the Strategy.

YUKON 2000
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

October 7
Kwanlin Dun
Shirley Smith Councillor
Dorothy Sam Band Manager
Ken Mulloy Project Manager
Al Fromme Tagish Kwan

October 9
Faro Town Council
Phyllis Forbes Advisory Council member
Dave Power Town Manager

October 9
Faro Chamber of Commerce
Anna Bartsch Member
Marilyn Harris Member

October 9
Ross River Community Association
Jack Pauls President
Brian Hemsley Vice President
Bonnie Bennett Secretary

October 10
Ross River Indian Band
Millie Pauls Councillor

October 14
Selkirk Indian Band
Lucy McBinty Councillor
Frank Turner Band Manager

October 14
Mayo Economic Development Steering Committee
Ken Cooper Mayor
Hal Mehaffey Band Manager
Jean Clifford Town Manager
Virginia Hundt Town Clerk
Vera McBinty Band Councillor
Jim Boyde Committee Member
Joyce Ronaghan Silver Trails Tourism
Holly Hosack Councillor

October 15
Carmacks Village Council
Luke Lacasse Mayor
Shirley Belmore Councillor
Charlotte Barker Village Clerk

October 16
Keno City Community Club
Leslie Doucet President

October 16
Elsa Hamlet Council
Claire Briand Councillor
Chico Scholz Councillor

October 17
Carmacks/Little Salmon Band
Roddy Blackjack Chief
Danny Skookum Councillor
Shirley Belmore Councillor
Viola Mullett Councillor
Marlene Cochrane Band Manager
Johnny Sam Resource Worker
Billy Peter Resource Worker
Mary Charlie Councillor
Roger Blackjack Councillor

October 22
Haines Junction Village Council
Sue Berton Mayor
Doug Thomas Councillor
Rhoda Istchenko Councillor
Boyd Campbell Councillor
Joanne Feenstra Village Manager
Isobel Zimmer Clerk

October 23
Whitehorse City Council
Don Branigan Mayor
Doug Gallup Councillor
Gerry Thicke Councillor
Art Deer Councillor
Marilyn King Councillor
Bryce Walt Administrator

October 29
Carcross/Tagish Band

Southern Lakes Chamber of Commerce