

Greetings, panel folks!

I appreciate the work you are leading to help provide long-term guidance for a “successful and responsible mining industry in Yukon.” I would very much like to see the government deal with the following issues as part of the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy:

- 1 Begin immediate, meaningful work on the **successor legislation** to the *Placer Mining Act* and *Quartz Mining Acts*, as set out in the Devolution Transfer Agreement almost 20 years ago. The goal here is to put in place modern measures that meet the needs of the Yukon public, Yukon First Nations AND the mining industry – not just the mining industry.
- 2 Put in place a process to assess the adequacy of **security deposits** and, where they are found lacking, implement solutions immediately. YG can and should do better than the federally-run system pre-devolution. The goal here is to minimize the risk to the public of paying for costs that should be borne under the “polluter pays” doctrine that the mining industry allegedly supports. I like the Yukon Conservation Society’s suggestion for an independent third party to do this, with results open to public review.
- 3 Rethink the **free-entry staking system**, which is a continuing source of friction for many. The Yukon government has already put in measures that limit this to some extent, so it is clear that we are – and must – continue heading this way.
- 4 Start ramping up the **royalties charged on placer gold**. At a minimum, set the limit so that the amount collected each year exceeds the amount

collected in campground fees by YG that year. Isn't that an embarrassing target? How about 2x the amount collected? Would that really cripple the placer industry here?

- 5 Look at putting in a **payroll tax** of some sort so that the Yukon Government can collect some revenue from the fly-in-fly-out workers in the mining industry here. Sort of like the fee Alaskan town charge the cruise ships, yes? YG provides health care and other social services for these folks, especially those who choose to get a Yukon Health Insurance Plan card even though they don't live here.
- 6 Beef up the **penalties** – fines and/or jail time – for environmental damage caused by mining activities. Hold boards accountable for the actions of their companies, good AND bad.
- 7 Make it standard operating procedure that claim staking in an area will be banned or limited in some way two years in advance of a **regional land use planning process**. It makes it impossible for the planning commission to set out a reasoned, fact-based plan when the ground is literally changing below them (e.g. Dawson Regional Planning Process).

Thank you all for undertaking this important work, especially with the extra challenges posed this year by COVID-restrictions.

Sincerely

Nancy Campbell