



## YUKON LAND USE PLANNING COUNCIL

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September 3, 2020

Yukon Mineral Development Strategy  
PO Box 372  
108 Elliott Street  
Whitehorse, YT  
Y1A 6C4

Dear Math'ieya Alatini, Angus Robertson and Doug Eaton, Yukon Mineral Development Panel:

### **Re: YLUPC submission to the Mineral Development Strategy Engagement**

The Yukon Land Use Planning Council appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy. It is timely for a new strategy, in particular given the many linkages that impact the use and protection of Yukon resources. We have identified our interests and provided some recommendations below for your consideration.

The Council's mandate is to make recommendations on a range of regional land use planning matters including policies and priorities, as well as assist regional commissions through their regional land use planning processes. The regional commissions develop and recommend a regional land use plan to the affected Yukon First Nations and Yukon Government. These plans are based upon the land claim agreements and a Terms of Reference agreed to by both governments.

Plans produced through the implementation of our Chapter consider a range of land uses, including mineral development, and evaluate the outcomes of future land uses against a set of values which embrace sustainable development and other key principles and interests as identified in UFA Chapter 11 and First Nation Final Agreements. By creating a vision for the future land uses of a region, the regional plans help identify the best use of the land over a specified period of time and reduce land use conflicts. Regional plans strengthen sustainable communities, promote the well being of all Yukoners including Yukon First Nation citizens, improve the integration of resource management initiatives and provide an opportunity to improve the management of cumulative effects (including climate change).

Chapter 11 based plans are developed using a wide array of knowledge and experience, including that of First Nations in the area where planning is being undertaken. Plans are to specifically recognize the

cultural values of First Nations. These processes also provide many opportunities for public and land user engagement, including representation and input from the mineral sector.

Regional land use plans benefit from sound government policies, strategies and programs. We look forward to recommendations which further strengthen collaboration and governance between Yukon First Nations and Yukon Government. Attached are recommendations associated with Land Use Planning, Yukon First Nation Relations, Integrated Land Management and Cumulative Effects Management and Climate Change. If further dialogue would be beneficial, we are available to meet with you again before you finish your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DZ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dennis Zimmermann,  
Alternating Chair, YLUPC

cc

Debbie Nagano, Chair, Dawson Regional Planning Commission  
Minister Ranj Pillai, Energy, Mines and Resources  
Grand Chief Peter Johnston, Council of Yukon First Nations

## Recommendations for the Mineral Development Strategy:

### Regional Land Use Planning (RLUP)

- Support the creation and approval of regional plans and sub regional plans, utilizing the framework and core elements of Chapter 11 of the UFA and Yukon First Nation Final Agreements when desired by Yukon First Nations. These plans provide the mining industry and other land users a future vision for the region and areas within, as well as context for where and how activity might occur. Further, land use plans also assist the development assessment process (“social licence” and contributes to timely screening where the activity aligns with the land use plan);
- As discussed, when we met, you may wish to recommend that plan implementation strategies identify clear processes for amending and reviewing approved land use plans. As information and values change over time, plans need to incorporate these changes as they become apparent;
- Work with the Yukon Land Use Planning Council and governments to educate land users about approved land use plans so they become familiar with relevant sections of a land use plan that pertain to proposed activities;
- The absence of agreed upon Interim Measures has been a flash point for the preparation of the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan. We encourage the mining industry to work collaboratively with the Parties to a regional land use plan to identify key interim measures pertaining to the mining sector, where the Parties to the regional land use plan agree such measures would assist the planning process. Ideally this would occur early in the planning phase prior to commencement of work by the appointed Commission. With several First Nations indicating interest in now proceeding with regional land use planning, your work, recommendations and collaborative approaches will be both timely and helpful.

### First Nations Relations

- Recognize historic use and values and consider ways to work with First Nations to promote continued traditional land use, cultural values and indigenous planning. Give these full considerations in all phases of mining (exploration to closure/post closure monitoring);
- Work with FNs on FN planning priorities (e.g. traditional land use studies, socio economic & socio- cultural monitoring programs including cumulative effects).

### Integrated Land Management

- Utilizing existing tools and processes, recommend improving the integration of planning and resource management initiatives occurring at different scales, in different places and by different agencies (i.e. vertical and horizontal integration). For example, some form of a planning framework for the territory could help integrate local, sub-regional (and district) plans, regional, territorial (and sometime national) planning initiatives. This approach would be consistent with the various scales of mining development (e.g. from planning for small single

mine through to planning for multiple larger mines in a mining district or complex over a large landscape) and other jurisdictions;

- Modernize the mineral tenure system and mineral legislation in a manner which fosters integrated resource management planning and the sustainability of key regional resources and communities;
- Encourage activity/developments which demonstrate net long- term benefit to human and ecosystem well- being, in addition to economic well being i.e. positive contributions to all pillars of sustainable development rather than being primarily focussed on mitigation of negative effects and results i.e. social license in addition to regulatory licences;
- Track performance and support the monitoring of effects including cumulative effects, short and long term, on ecosystems, communities and economy – this would be an invaluable contribution to regional LUPs;
- Assess whether /how and who best coordinate use of data generated by various sectors, land claim bodies and governments i.e. whether to make this information accessible to groups with similar information needs.

#### Cumulative Effects and Climate Change

- The Mineral Development Strategy should consider recommending that regional mineral development scenarios for up to 20 years be prepared for key mining regions including all phases of mining (exploration, development, closure phases), for mining related activity. This would assist regional land use planning commissions as they consider the long-term vision for a region, along with possible cumulative effects of activities. Different scenarios on a landscape scale, over long periods and including other potential land uses in this modeling would help identify ways to maximize best uses via model comparisons;
- Support the collection of key baseline regional information and long-term monitoring programs, in particular given changing landscapes and ecosystems due to climate change i.e. plan for adaptation by the mining industry and related land uses due to the impacts of climate change.