

In excess of 60% of mineral deposits are discovered and investigated by under financed prospectors and junior exploration companies.

- To achieve discovery, access to land for exploration is essential. With 53% of Yukon land being withdrawn, many of Yukon's best prospectors and junior exploration companies are already working in more favourable Canadian, United States, and foreign jurisdictions. The land use planning processes have resulted in this huge land removal. The completion of land use planning in the proposed five years is most unlikely and can only exacerbate the situation. Whatever "reconciliation" is, having the ability to prohibit exploration could remove entry to the entire Yukon. These will again result in the curtailment of exploration spending as seen from 1989 to 2004 (16 of the 31 years graphed; \$35 M/yr.) during the disastrous Penikett/McDonald and Pat Duncan governments.

Investments are made in the expectation of making more money. The panel's rose-coloured glasses view on ethical investment is highly improbable, a fast and large return on investment will kick it to the curb every time.

- Making more money is NOT achieved by greatly increased expenses and time to get through the regulatory processes; historic, heritage and water resources studies; increased staking, recording, and assessment fees; increased royalties, imposition of payroll and "water" taxes, and whatever a "First Nations Resource Charge" is. There is every likelihood the Yukon will see investment flee, as we did during the horrific years of 1989 to 2004, to more favourable world jurisdictions.

Many submissions described negative legacy of mining, including "erosion of Indigenous rights and cultures and adverse social effects" including "violence against women and family disruption".

- THIS IS PATENTLY UNTRUE. This may have been true during the original Klondike Gold Rush and a time afterwards; however, for the last 25 years, agreements containing employment, training, education, and other socio-economic benefits for First Nations have been a component for any advanced mineral project.

Of course, not all of the recommendations are unfavourable.

- Lip service is paid to the spin-off jobs and Yukon-wide economic benefits provided by mineral development, but are not given sufficient emphasis.
- Removal of the need for Decision Bodies to review minor changes to established mining plans in nearby areas of similar mineralization to an existing operation.
- Excluding low impact and non-mechanized programs from Class 1 notification; increased funding for the Yukon Geological Survey (YGS) and the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program (YMEP); establishing compensation for mineral claims stranded by land use planning; and efforts to improve public awareness of the mineral industries activities and benefits are recommendations worth support. However, I fear they are not likely going to stem the fleeing of investment from the Yukon, should most of these recommendations be instituted.