



Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan Recommendations

Whitehorse Public
Consultation Meeting
September 15, 2010



The Yukon Chamber of Commerce thanks all those who have contributed and participated in the development of the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan.

We recognize the unique and sensitive environmental and cultural values of the Peel Watershed.

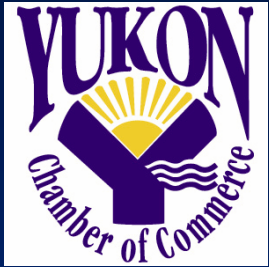
We also support respectful and responsible development that maintains the integrity of the environment.



Who we are

What we do

A Balanced Perspective

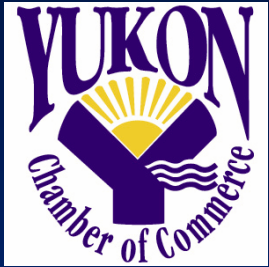


The Yukon Chamber of Commerce is the umbrella organization for chambers of commerce in the Territory effectively representing over 800 businesses.

Through collaborative and cooperative efforts with Yukon community chambers, we are able to present a strong, effective message on specific issues as they pertain to business and the economy.

Our business and community chamber interests and needs are varied and represent all sectors within Yukon's economy.

This diverse feedback provides the Yukon Chamber of Commerce with the ability to hold a reasonable and balanced perspective on the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan.



The Yukon Chamber of Commerce represents the business community in the Yukon, and it is clear that as with the general population, this is an extremely divisive issue, with members sitting at both ends of the continuum of support for the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan Recommendations as presented to Governments.

Where our membership does agree is on the process utilized to arrive at the recommended plan; that it is fundamentally flawed.

Specifically, with respect to the contradictions in the definition of what 'sustainable development means and the engagement of stakeholders and Yukoners.



The Yukon Chamber of Commerce has a disconnect with the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan due to what we believe are fundamental flaws within the process.

- The engagement of stakeholders and Yukoners was flawed leading to a less than impartial product and has created divisiveness amongst Yukoners
- We believe the interpretation of sustainable development is inconsistent with the definition of sustainable development as defined in the Umbrella Final Agreement
- By using the precautionary principle of protection, we have lost the opportunity to manage Yukon's lands in a responsible and sustainable manner, a basic right attained through Devolution



- The Plan is not consistent with the definition of sustainable development as defined in the Umbrella Final Agreement

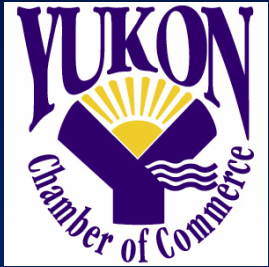
- “Sustainable Development means beneficial socio-economic change that does not undermine the ecological and social systems upon which communities and societies are dependent.” suggesting a model that is inclusive

- The interpretation used by the Commission “suggests that renewable and non-renewable land uses should be allowed only if ecosystems and social systems can be sustained at the same time.” suggesting a model that is exclusive



- Currently, over 14% of Yukon's land have been withdrawn from industrial activity
- The addition of 80.6% of the Peel Watershed will bring that total to over 26% - double the national average
- There are six more land use management plans to develop all potentially containing unique environmental and cultural values as well as economic opportunities

Is the process of developing these plans consecutively the best approach?



The Yukon Chamber of Commerce encourages the Yukon government to adopt a Peel Watershed Land Use Plan that considers the principles of modern sustainable development models, existing permitting and regulatory regimes, the environmental, social and economic well-being of all Yukoners and is consistent with the intent of Chapter 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreement.



THANK YOU

Yukon Chamber of Commerce

September 15, 2010