

**Mayo Public Engagement
Community Conversation
October 14, 2021 at Mayo Recreation Hall**

Time: 3-8pm

Date: October 14, 2021

On October 14, the Commission held a public session in the gymnasium of the Mayo Recreation Hall, between 3:00pm and 8:00pm. The purpose was to inform the community of the Draft Plan, answer questions, and listen to any feedback. The event was advertised on the DRPC Facebook page, posters put up in the recreation hall, and sent to NND Lands and Implementation staff. In total there were about 8 people that participated in the engagement.

The format was open and informal. Display panels with maps, charts, feedback to date, and plan highlights were placed around the room. Tables were set up to encourage a group discussion.

1.1 Wetlands

- Wetlands are a filter of contaminants, such as cyanide.
- Wetlands absorb the chemical spills
- Valuable medicine at wetland areas. Participant have seen areas that used to be abundant in the medicine now all dried up. Cannot harvest in these areas any more. The plants have dried up. The mining sector doesn't understand this.
- Dawson used to have way more wetlands pre-contact so the baseline is off.

1.2 Plan Implementation

- Ensure the Plan is a "living Document" to adapt to things like climate change
- Concerned about enforcement
 - Applications say one thing will be done, but developers do something else. They propose a D-7, then use a D-11
 - Capacity gaps in government to monitor.

1.3 Final Agreements

- LUP in YG was supposed to happen right after the land claims were settled – this did not happen. Long overdue.
- Succession: future generations need to get involved with planning now
 - Youth Planning Council?
- First Nations protect the land
- Reconciliation – Drugs, cultural erosion

- Youth are important – Keep the land safe for the future
- “We want a better life for our people”
- The elders do not understand the money aspect – the richness is in the land
- Land Selections and SMAs:
 - Were limited by the government (Fed and YG?) during negotiation because the implication of them was that they restricted hunting. NND wanted to do more but ‘Gov’ cut them off from having all the ones that they wanted.
- First Nation Land Selections rationale:
 - Richness
 - Good living
 - Health
 - Vegetation

1.4 Wildlife / Caribou

- The Clear Creek Caribou intermingle with the Klondike caribou herds.
- Clear Creek Caribou – there is concern
 - There is a lot of mining there too
- The animals always go high to look down for food.
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1.5 Mining

- Of course mining has impact: that’s why the animals leave due to noise and dust
- Not against mining, just needs to be done right
- Save the land for our children
 - Issues include cyanide, access, noise
 - When the big machinery comes in, the animals leave
- Mining sector does not understand that medicine comes from the land
- At the end it feels like a mess and no animals
- The moose have moved from Victoria Gold area
 - This is an effect of the mine
- We are not against mining. We’ve dealt with it for 100 years. But it needs to be done right. For our children” Otherwise, they will have to fly 1000s of kms to hunt
- Once you ‘open it up’ (provide access into an area) you open up everything else
- Drinking water: Issues with the Keno Hill mining area – the water was making them sick and they had to move.
- Need mining industry to sit down with us to understand the spirit and intent of the agreements
- We have to watch what is happening to the land

- “when the big machinery comes in the animals move away”
- What about using resources from a mining bond to float additional enforcement?

1.6 Hunting

- Outfitters are an issue too
 - Overhunting,
 - hunting of moose breeding stock,
 - “disgusting”
- Outfitters – bring a lot of people in to hunt and we have no say

1.7 Other Issues

- Food security:
 - Let's take the land, animals and water seriously
- Water quality
 - Water is the #1 medicine
 - If you pollute the water – it will affect everything. All connected
 - Water → Plants → Animals = we get sick
 - Everything gets sick
- Beaver River process has soured planning
- Roads are destructive: if flying is too expensive, well too bad. You are the wrong company or the commodity prices aren't high enough to support proper processes

1.8 Quality of Life

- We want a better life for our people

1.9 Traditional Knowledge

- FN people used to travel like the animals, up high along water bodies so that they could see down if there was any food

1.10 Stewardship:

- You can't change others, only yourself