

BACKGROUND: Draft Dawson Regional Plan

About the Planning Region

- The Dawson planning region covers about 40,000 km² in the northwestern part of the Yukon. The region excludes an area in the upper Miner and Whitestone watersheds, which will be planned for in a separate process.
- Also excluded are lands within the Dawson municipal boundaries, land that is already managed under a Local Area Plan (e.g., West Dawson/Sunnydale) or existing protected areas (e.g., Tombstone Territorial Park). However, the Commission does consider these lands and existing management plans when providing direction for the rest of the region.

Why is Land Use Planning Important?

- Creating a regional Land Use Plan is in the best interests of everyone in Yukon. It is important not only for the present but for future generations.
- Land use planning is a process that enables us to make educated judgments about how land should be shared and used. The process helps us to understand the land and its users, and to make decisions about how to manage that land.
- An approved plan helps create certainty for land users and assists in avoiding future land use conflicts.

Dawson Regional Planning Commission - History

- In 1998, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon signed the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.
- In November 2005, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government requested the establishment of a regional land use planning commission.
- The Dawson Regional Planning Commission was established in 2011.
- The Commission operated until 2014, when legal proceedings regarding the Peel Watershed planning process began. The Dawson planning process was suspended until the legal proceedings were resolved.
- In 2018, the Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Governments renewed the process and subsequently established a new Commission in early 2019.

Development of the Draft Plan for the Dawson Region

- In 2019, the Commission launched an engagement strategy to help guide public participation through the planning process. The Commission gathered input from anyone interested in the Dawson region from October 2019 to June 2020, releasing summary reports in the summer of 2020.

- Over the fall and winter of 2020/21, the Commission began developing a Draft Land Use Plan based on the Commission's vision statement, draft goals, technical information, and public input.
- The Draft Land Use Plan was released on June 15, 2021.
- Public engagement on the Draft Plan will occur from June to November 2021.
- The Commission will rewrite the Draft Plan as a Recommended Plan, considering the feedback it receives from public consultations.
- The Recommended Plan will be released in 2022.
- The Recommended Plan will then be considered by Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

About the Dawson Regional Planning Commission

- The Commission members are Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in nominees Alice McCulley, Angie Joseph-Rear, and Debbie Nagano (Chair), and Government of Yukon nominees Jesse Cooke, Dan Reynolds, and John Flynn.
- The Commission is supported by its staff and is assisted by the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, as well as technical staff from Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Governments.

Land Use Planning in Yukon

- Regional land use planning in Yukon is guided by Chapter 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA). The Yukon Land Use Planning Council was created through the signing of the UFA.
- One of the Council's key roles is to assist the Government of Yukon and respective Yukon First Nations in establishing Regional Land Use Planning Commissions to develop recommended land use plans that are viable and meaningful for each region.
- A recommended land use plan represents a vision for future use, development, and conservation of land in the region, and provides recommendations to governments on how to manage land and renewable and non-renewable resources.
- The respective First Nation and the Yukon Government make the final decision on whether a recommended plan is approved, modified, or rejected. These Parties are responsible for implementing an approved plan.

About the Draft Plan:

- Our Plan, which we call 'On the Land We Walk Together'/'Nän kāk ndä tr'ädäl', reflects our planning philosophy.

- It is meant to reflect community values and to strike a balance within the Dawson planning region between a sustainable economy and ecological and cultural preservation.
- Our Plan will guide the integrated use and management of land, water, and resources.
- This Draft Plan will be the starting point for the next phase of the planning process, which will be to develop a Recommended Plan.