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Dawson Regional Planning Commission – Member Biographies

Alice McCulley

Alice McCulley, a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen, has lived and worked in Dawson City for 15 years. After a 14-year career with Yukon Parks, she is currently employed with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as a Fish & Wildlife Projects Coordinator. She has served on various boards and committees over the years and is currently a TH representative on both the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and the Tombstone Territorial Park Management Committee. She is also co-owner of Endurance Automotive and Small Engine Service & Repair, a successful small business that has operated in Dawson City since 2010. In her spare time, she enjoys land-based activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and camping.

Angie Joseph-Rear

Angie Joseph-Rear was active in the self-government process as a Chief, councillor and community member. Her work ensured the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's land claims agreement reflected the values and aspirations of the Hän people.

Angie was the Hän language teacher at Dawson City's Robert Service School for nearly a decade before becoming the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's language coordinator. Angie is a survivor of residential school and, along with her peers, has helped others deal with their residential school experience through the K'änächá group, a Dawson City-based group of former residential school students. Even with her busy schedule, Angie still finds time to enjoy the land that has sustained her culture for thousands of years.

Art Webster

During his forty-some years as a Yukoner, Art has enjoyed a wide variety of work experiences in small business, politics, and special event management in both Whitehorse and Dawson City. He appreciates the high quality of wilderness adventure the Territory offers, and takes advantage of opportunities to explore its land and waters whenever possible. Art has two daughters working in Whitehorse, which is where he resides.

Dan Reynolds

My family moved to the Yukon in 1967 from British Columbia and have lived in the Dawson area since 1971. My father purchased an Outfitting Concession in 1967 which is located northwest of Dawson City in the Ogilvie Mountains, so I have been an active trapper and Outfitter/guide all my life. We still own and operate Outfitting Concession #1 and Trapping Concession #4 which I took over from my dad in 1990. I also own agriculture land 25 miles from Dawson City and have been the only hay producer for the past 20 years in the Dawson, supplying all the hay for everyone that owns livestock in the Dawson area.

I also own an Air Charter company and have logged over 15,000 hrs of flying time in the Ogilvie Mountains. For years I have conducted areal game surveys monitoring the wildlife populations within my 6,000 square-mile Outfitting Concession in order to properly manage the wildlife within. This Concession covers a large portion of the northern section of the Dawson Regional Planning Area and my knowledge of this area could be very beneficial to the planning process. I have worked with the regional biologists mapping Dall sheep winter ranges and lambing areas within my Concession, ensuring that these important areas are properly identified.

For the past 13 years I have been a member on the Dawson District Renewable Resource Council. As a member of the DDRRC, I have worked with TH on important issues and have a good understanding of their Final Agreements and culture. The DDRRC has also worked closely with local trappers, regional biologists and the public when dealing with regional wildlife and habitat issues.

Debbie Nagano

Debbie Nagano is a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen and a member of the Wolf Clan. Debbie was raised by her parents, Peggy (Semple) Kormendy and Steve Kormendy and her many Aunties and Uncles. The family made their living on the land hunting, trapping, and commercial salmon fishing. Debbie and her husband Richard Nagano have three children, RJ, Kyrie, and Waylin. They raised their children by spending significant amounts of time on the land and continue to do so today. Debbie and Richard live in Dawson City and have a cabin at Cache Creek in the Blackstone Uplands. They also spend time at their family's fish camp on the Yukon River in the Twelvemile area. Debbie is a skilled artist who makes beautiful hats, mitts, ruffs and more with the furs that the family traps each winter.

Debbie has worked for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government for most of her adult life, primarily in areas with a focus on culture and well-being. Debbie is currently the Director of Heritage.

Debbie's lifelong connection with the land has given her a breadth or knowledge about our role in maintaining its integrity. She is committed to upholding her responsibilities in ensuring that the land remains a vital and healthy home for generations to come. Debbie believes that working together in a good way and understanding and respecting the knowledge that we all bring to the process will allow us to move forward, leaving an intact homeland that will support and care for future generations.

Lajit dedha'a ts'a lighe tr edaho ay. Respect one another in working together.

John Flynn

John was born and raised in Dawson City. He manages a successful mining business and is a member of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation. He has participated in seven Arctic Winter Games as an athlete and coach beginning with the 1974 Games held in Anchorage, Alaska. John has been active in Dawson City and the Yukon as a sport volunteer for over thirty years and was inducted into the Sport Yukon Hall of Fame in 2012.

Tim Van Hinte, Senior Land Use Planner

Tim has over 13 years of professional planning experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors in Ontario, New Brunswick and British Columbia. In 2005, Tim received a master's degree in Resource and Environmental Management from Simon Fraser University where he specialized in collaborative land use planning and environmental impact assessment. He has coauthored major reports on oil and gas development and impact assessment for the Coastal First Nations Turning Point Initiative in Vancouver. Before joining the YLUPC in 2018, he worked as a regional planner for the Region of Waterloo in Kitchener, Ontario. In his spare time, Tim likes to play and coach hockey, and explore the outdoors with his wife and two boys.

Yukon Land Use Planning Council – Member Biographies

Pearl Callaghan, Chair – Council of Yukon First Nations Nominee

Pearl brings a valuable and varied skill set to the Council. She is a citizen of the Teslin Tlingit Council (TCC) and has participated on the TTC General Council, the TTC Constitutional Review Committee, the TTC Investment Committee, and currently sits on the TTC Justice Council. Among others, Pearl has been part of the First Nations Environmental Steering Committee, the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council, the Yukon Anniversaries Commission, the Yukon First Nations Tourism Association, Indian and Northern Affairs National Sustainable Development Working Group, the Dispute Resolution Board, the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council. Pearl currently sits on the Board of the Northern Cultural Expressions Society and participates where she can with the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) organization.

Pearl has extensive experience representing aboriginal interests and working with First Nation governments, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Government of Yukon, and local environmental and economic development organizations. She was also the Executive Director for the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board for over five years and she then went on to serve as the Renewable Resources Manager for the Teslin Tlingit Council for six years. She demonstrated Operations Leadership skills in her position with the Alaska Highway Aboriginal Pipeline Coalition from September 2008- March 2013.

Her education includes an Environmental Science and Renewable Resource Management from Lethbridge Community College, first year Business Management from Malaspina College and a number of small courses focusing on Aboriginal leadership, Final and Self Government Agreements, Land Claims implementation Plans, negotiations, communications, and conflict management.

Lois Craig, Council Member – Yukon Government Nominee

I have enjoyed life in the Yukon for thirty-three years. My working career spans forty years including the public government sector and in recent years consulting.

Yukon work has primarily focused on sustainable development/ natural resource management, land claims preparedness and implementation, devolution of resource management programs from Canada to Yukon, multi-party negotiations and agreements, as well as partnerships and shared initiatives to facilitate responsible development. Work with First Nations and public governments, resource industry, and in multi-party arrangements have all been enriching and fulfilling.

I worked with Yukon Government from 2000 to 2006 in Economic Development and Energy Mines and Resources on senior management teams. Recent work has included collaboration in the design and implementation of a comprehensive multi-party socio-economic monitoring program working with Selkirk First Nation, Yukon government and Minto Explorations Ltd.

Work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada during the eighties and nineties included renewable resource management; environmental assessment of Yukon major projects; economic development through multi- party agreements; and work with negotiators to conclude Umbrella Final Agreement negotiations and prepare for devolution and land claims implementation.

Education and other

Master of Applied Environmental Studies (MAES) University of Waterloo, 2000.

Bachelor of Commerce (B. Comm. Honours), Applied Economics and Statistics, Carleton University, 1975

Coaching certificate- 2007

Completed many work-related courses and seminars

Volunteer Experience and memberships

Rotarian since 2001; currently Assistant Governor Yukon and Alaska, former Past President Rendezvous Rotary Club

Member: Friends of McIntyre Creek and Yukon Bird Club and periodically Yukon Science Institute

Board member, Whitehorse Church of Nazarene since 2009

Previously worked on other community boards and projects such as United Way, Arctic Winter Games

Dennis Zimmermann, Council Member – Government of Canada Nominee

Dennis Zimmermann has over 20 years of professional experience in the North. His Master's of Science Degree in Rural Planning with a focus on community-based planning and engagement brought him to the Western Arctic of the Northwest Territories. In Inuvik, he became a local Economic Development Officer, ran an Inuit tour company and developed tourism plans for all the Inuvialuit communities in the region.

After moving south to Whitehorse, he established the Yukon Wild Marketing Program with the Wilderness Tourism Association and became the first Product Development Officer at the Department of Tourism and Culture. His next few years involved promoting small business, mining, tourism and international investment as Senior Business Advisor for the department of Economic Development. Dennis also has extensive experience in marketing and communication as past Vice-President of Client Services with Outcrop Yukon and Associate Interactive Strategist with Outside the Cube.

The last decade of work has revolved around the intersection of community, fish, wildlife and habitat. Dennis was the Executive Director of the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee and Trust Manager for the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust for five years. For the last few years Dennis has been self-employed with Big Fish Little Fish Consultants working on a variety of salmon and caribou management planning efforts, indigenous land use planning, facilitation, environmental education and communications and outreach projects.

Dennis is married with two teenage boys and enjoys, fishing, hunting, camping and traveling throughout the Yukon and around the world.

Yukon Land Use Planning Council – Staff Biographies

Ron Cruikshank, Director

Ron has 28 years of professional planning experience in northern Canada. These included living for three years with Chief Hyacinthe Andre in Tsiigehtchic NWT. For four years, he was the Senior Land Use Planner/Coordinator for the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board in the NWT. This work led to the approved Gwich'in Settlement Area Land Use Plan. For the past 18 years, he has assisted and coordinated the implementation of Chapter 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreement, Land Use Planning in the Yukon. This work has included the approved North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan and the controversial Peel Watershed Region Land Use Plan. Through his professional experience, he has become familiar with regional planning under both the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) and the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements. Ron received his Master of Arts (Geography) from the University of Waterloo in 1990.

Heidi Hansen, Senior Financial Administrator

In the small office of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, everyone has several roles. As the Council's full-time Senior Financial Administrator, Heidi has a hand in most of the Council's activities. Whether it is sorting out the logistics of a planning event in Old Crow, forecasting the expenses of the next planning commission, or looking after the payroll, Heidi is there.

In 2007, Heidi was hired by the Peel Watershed Planning Commission as an administrator. Over the last half of that process, Heidi was involved in organising public consultations, meetings with stakeholders, and Yukon and Yukon First Nation Government representatives, as well as managing the Commission's finances. Her experience there gave her a better understanding of Yukon Final Agreements and made her transition to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council smooth.

As a staff member of the Council, Heidi assisted the Dawson Regional Planning Commission with financial and administrative matters. Her work helped the Commission focus on their central planning tasks and less on human resources and administration. This arrangement proved to be so effective that the Council is considering increasing their assistance for future commissions. One of her roles now is ensuring the smooth training and orientation of the new Dawson Regional Planning Commission.

Joe Copper Jack, Senior Planning & Policy Advisor

Joe Copper Jack, is the grandson of Chief Jim Boss (Kishwoot) of the Ta'an Mun (Headwaters People) of Lake Lebarge, Yukon, and of Copper Jack of Chitina, Alaska. As a former Council for Yukon Indians Vice-Chairman, Yukon First Nation (YFN) Chief, senior self-government negotiator, aboriginal relations manager, economic development manager and tourism businessman, Jack brings to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC) a very good understanding of YFN cultural, economic and political issues regarding land and resource development activities in Yukon. As a team player, he looks forward to working with the YLUPC and senior staff, Governments' officials, industry and community peoples to achieve the Yukon Land Use Planning goals & objectives. Joe possess a two-year Renewable Resource Diploma, Yukon College Business Administration Certificate, Justice Institute of British Columbia Conflict Resolution Certificate and is completing an MBA Degree program in Community Economic Development.

Overall, Copper has 25 years of Land Claims Agreement & Self-Government Agreement negotiations experience (12 years Table time) that includes governance, program & services, and resource development agreements. His negotiation experience also includes leading complex, multi-party negotiations between First Nation, Territorial/Provincial and Federal Governments in the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA), Gwich'in Tribal Council SGA, and Northern Shuswap Tribal Council negotiations processes.

In the area of governance, Jack has thirty years' experience in leadership and management roles with YFNs, at the local and regional levels. At the local level, his governance experience includes being elected Chief for two different YFNs. At the regional level, Joe's experience includes being elected Vice-Chairman to the Council for Yukon Indians (CYI) for three consecutive two-year terms (1977-1982). As Vice-Chairman, he managed and directed the Land Claims, Economic Development and Social Programs Departments' portfolios. Presently, Copper is one of the TKC Family Headmen representing the Chief Jim Boss family. The role and responsibility of a Headman is to represent a traditional family, as it pertains to governance decisions within the TKC traditional territory.

In economic development, Joe advised northern First Nations of potential impacts and benefits of the Alaska Highway and Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline projects. In 1977, he travelled ahead of the Alaska Highway Pipeline Inquiry panel advising YFN communities about the effects of a proposed Alaska Highway Pipeline. In January, 2000, he was a participant in the formation of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group that represented aboriginal peoples of the NWT who wished to participate in the building of a proposed Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline. In 1982-83, Copper advised Amax, an American-owned multinational mining corporation, on YFN people's involvement in mining. Consequentially, Amax signed one of the first Impact Benefit Agreements in Canada with a YFN community. In 1988, Joe coordinated the Whitehorse Trough Oil and Gas Project for the City of Whitehorse and the KDFN. The project conducted a participatory research survey among KDFN and TKC elders regarding their traditional knowledge of the possibility of hydrocarbon presence in the Whitehorse/Lake Lebarge areas. Copper also owned and operated a small adventure travel and cultural tourism business in the Yukon, called Atsi Tan (Grandpa's Trails) Tours that included elders' home visits, entertainment shows, high-mountain trekking and river canoe trips.

Sam Skinner, Senior Land Use Planner

Sam holds a Masters degree in Ecology from the University of Alberta, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Ecology from the University of British Columbia. He worked throughout B.C. ground truthing a number of ecosystem and habitat mapping projects before returning to Whitehorse, his birthplace, to lead several mapping projects in the private and non-governmental sectors. He transitioned into the world of planning by joining the Peel Watershed Planning Commission staff to help with developing their Conservation Priorities Assessment Report. He went on to help develop the Commission's land-use plans. Currently, he attends to many of the planning tasks at the YLUPC. His varied interests include: landscape ecology, ecosystem & habitat modeling, conservation network planning, botany, mycology (the study of fungi), sea kayaking, and gardening.