



# Dawson Regional Planning Commission

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## Annual Activity Report 2011-2012

This report summarizes the activities of the Dawson Regional Planning Commission for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, as required by the Yukon Government in its Transfer Payment Funding Agreement with the Commission. The annual activity report contains the following:

1. Introduction
2. Commission Members
3. DRPC staff
4. Planning Activity
5. Meetings
6. Next Steps

### 1. Introduction

The Minister of Energy Mines and Resources, Yukon Government appointed the Dawson Regional Planning Commission on August 1, 2010. The Commission is mandated to recommend a regional land use plan for Dawson Planning Region following a three-year process as defined in the Commission's Terms of Reference. The Final Recommended Land Use Plan is to be completed by end of December 2013.

The Commission is fully staffed with a Senior Planner, a Land Use Planner and an Office Administrator working from the Commission's office in Dawson City. The Commission receives support from YLUPC to ensure financial, human resource and resource data information is consistent with Council's standards for long-term records management.

This was the first full year of operation for the Commission. In this fiscal year, the Commission:

- Opened a Planning Office in the Region
- Relocated the Senior Planner from Whitehorse to the Dawson Office
- Staffed administrative and planning positions in the Dawson office
- Created a Logo and slogan ("Moving Forward - Nän kāk ndä tr'ädäl")
- Produced a Regional Base Map
- Conducted Community Consultations in Old Crow, Dawson and Whitehorse,
- Hosted a Yukon-wide Planning Conference in Dawson City
- Released an Interest and Issues Report
- Established a regional information database
- Developed Vision and Goals for the Regional Land Use Plan

The Commission maintains a web site (<http://dawson.planyukon.ca>) for distribution of maps, information products and to provide notice of upcoming planning events.



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## 2. Commission Members

The Dawson Regional Planning Commission is:

- Scott Casselman, Chair
- Bill Bowie, Member
- Roger Ellis, Member
- Will Fellers, Member
- Chester Kelly, Member
- Steve Taylor, Member

## 3. DPRC Staff

The Dawson Regional Planning Secretariat is:

- Jeff Hamm, Senior Planner
- Monica Krieger, Land Use Planner
- Guy Chan, Office Administrator

## 4. Planning Activity

During the spring 2011, the Commission conducted community consultations and solicited written submission to identify issues and interests in the planning region. In November 2011, the Commission released an **Issues and Interests Report**. Management of cumulative effects, promotion of economic diversity and maintenance of ecological integrity were common concerns across a wide range of perspectives. Access was clearly identified as a significant management issue, either as an opportunity for realizing development of mineral potential or as a threat to sensitive areas and vulnerable wildlife populations.

In February (Meeting #4), the Commission developed a **Vision and Goal Statement** to focus preparations for the recommended Regional Land Use Plan. The Goals identify Economic Prosperity, Active Management, Equitable Balance and Stewardship as desirable outcomes for the Plan.

“Best available” resource management information was requested from Plan Partners, industry stakeholder groups and resource users and incorporated into a **Regional Database**. The Commission acknowledges the efforts of both Yukon and Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in officials in providing information in a timely fashion. However, the timeframe for preparation of resource information by all parties appears to have been overly optimistic, as several key inputs were still unavailable at year end, including: Ecologically Important Areas, Mineral and Placer Potential, Preliminary Conservation Values Assessment, Traditional Economic Model and Habitat Suitability for selected species. As a result, the draft **Resource Assessment Report** was not completed by March 2012 as expected (see **Table 1**).

With agreement from the Parties, a Dawson City Planning Office was established in May rather than October as originally planned. Creating an early presence in the community was key to the successful start-up of the Commission.



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**Table 1: Summary of Plan Deliverables**

PRODUCT	DUE DATE	ACTUAL DATE	RATIONALE
<i>Issues and Interest Summary</i>	Oct, 2011	Nov, 2011	TH submission not received until mid-Oct, delaying Commission review of draft
<i>Plan Vision &amp; Goals</i>	Oct, 2011	Feb, 2012	Developed at first Commission meeting following release of I&I Report
<i>Regional Database</i>	Nov, 2011	Mar 2012	Some key datasets were not available until early 2012 (ELC, F&W Summary).
<i>Draft Resource Assessment Report</i>	Mar, 2012	Sept, 2012	Delay in receipt of information from parties; complexity and volume of information; technical problems.

## 5. Meetings in FY2011-2012:

### Commission

Meetings of the Commission were held on:

- April 27 & 28, 2011
- October 12 & 13, 2011
- November 15, 2011
- February 16 & 17, 2012

### Technical Working Group

Meetings (via teleconference) of the TWG were held:

- April 15, 2011
- June 16, 2011
- November 7, 2011

### Senior Liaison Committee

The SLC did not meet during this fiscal year.

### Workshops and Conferences

The Commission attended and set-up a booth at the **Dawson City International Gold Show** in Dawson City in May 2011.

The Senior Planner attended the **FOSS4G** Conference (Free Open Source Software for Geospatial Application) in Denver in September 2011.

The Commission Chair and Senior Planner attended and presented at the **Yukon Geoscience Forum** in Whitehorse in November 2011.



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The Commission Chair and Senior Planner attended the YLUPC Strategic Planning session in November 2011.

In January 2012, the Commission co-hosted a *Yukon Planning Conference* in Dawson City. About 80 participants discussed planning approaches for consideration of trade-offs, frameworks for conservation assessment, and economic and social consequences of resource development.

The Commission Chair attended to regular meetings of the *Yukon Land Use Planning Council* to provide progress updates, receive feedback on Commission activities and obtain clarification on expectations of the Council and Plan Partners.

## 6. Next Steps

The Commission will complete the *Final Resource Assessment Report and Summary Maps* by Fall 2012. *Scenario Evaluation Criteria* will be designed and Plan Scenarios developed in Fall 2012 to illustrate and evaluate possible outcomes of alternative planning strategies for conservation, development and management of land and water resources. A *Final Scenarios Report* will be produced by March 2013. In January 2013, work will begin on the *Draft Regional Land Use Plan*.

*Public participation events* are planned for September and January to present findings of the Resource Assessment, solicit input on Evaluation Criteria and provide feedback on Scenarios. Opportunity for engagement of the public, resource users and others interested in discussions on the Land Use Plan will be explored through participation in *conferences and workshops* conducted in collaboration with our Plan Partners.