



August 25, 2011

Re: Yukon Chamber of Mines and Klondike Placer Miners' Association
Submission: Interests and Issues - Dawson Regional Land Use Plan

Overview

The Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM) and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association (KPMA) thank the Dawson Regional Planning Commission for the opportunity to express the preliminary interests and issues of the Yukon Chamber of Mines, the KPMA and their members regarding to the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning process.

The YCM represents a dynamic membership and since its creation almost 70 years ago, has worked to serve its valued members and advance the interests of all those involved in the Yukon mining industry.

Membership has burgeoned over the years from a dozen founding members in 1943 to more than 400 today. This strong and diverse group includes exploration, mining and service and supply companies, contractors and individuals that have a direct or indirect interest in the mining industry.

In 2010, Yukon mining and exploration directly contributed over \$200 million to the territory's economy, while providing jobs, training opportunities and positive social impacts - particularly in Yukon rural communities.

Significant discoveries, newly opened mines and a commitment to responsibility place the Yukon at the forefront of the mining industry.

As the trusted voice of mining, the YCM thrives on the government, community, First Nation and individual partnerships it forges to help facilitate an environment of responsible development - one in which its members can continue to contribute to.

The KPMA was established in 1974 by 56 placer miners whom gathered in Dawson City to promote and protect the interests of their industry.

Since that time, the KPMA has flourished and includes almost 100 family-owned and operated placer mines across several regions of the territory. It is a member-driven, non-profit advocacy group that continues to advance the Yukon's placer mining industry on all fronts.

The Dawson Regional Land Use Plan will have significant implications for the development of the mineral industry in the region. The YCM, KPMA and their members support an approach to mineral development in the Dawson region that balances economic benefits, environmental protection and the interests of all Yukon residents and society at large. We acknowledge the important role of land use planning in achieving a balanced approach and we intend to actively support the process

Generating Benefits

Currently there is considerable activity and interest in the Dawson region related to quartz exploration. Additionally, the region has significant historical and continued interest and activity in the placer mining industry. The quartz and placer mining sectors provide direct and indirect (i.e. spinoff) economic benefits to Yukon residents and the territory as a whole. Arguably, no other industry in the Yukon has the potential to generate as much wealth for Yukoners.

In addition to the jobs and wealth directly created by the industry, significant economic benefits are realized by the numerous local and/or Yukon based businesses and individuals that support these industries including, but not limited to:

- Expediting Companies
- Fuel Suppliers
- Grocery Suppliers
- Environmental Consulting Companies
- Airline and Air Charter Companies
- Car/Truck Rental Companies
- Hotels and Restaurants
- Hardware and Lumber Suppliers
- Construction Companies
- Engineering and Surveying Companies
- Heavy Equipment and Parts Suppliers

Much of the investment required to undertake mineral exploration programs comes from outside the Yukon, but a substantial amount of the resulting value is accruing to Yukoners and Yukon businesses.

A Regulated Industry

Mineral exploration and mining is a highly regulated industry in the Yukon. The sector is subject to legislation designed to ensure the proposed activity will not result in long-term harmful impacts to the environment. The regulatory system affords a high level of protection to the environment while allowing the industry to develop. Acts and regulations that govern mineral development include, but are not limited to:

- *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*
- *Quartz Mining Act* and Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation
- *Placer Mining Act* and Placer Mining Land Use Regulation
- *Yukon Placer Secretariat*
- *Waters Act* and Waters Regulation
- *Fisheries Act* and Metal Mining Effluent Regulations
- *Territorial Lands Act* and Land Use Regulation
- *Yukon Environment Act*
- *Species at Risk Act*

One of the requirements of the land use planning process is that it be *linked to all other land and water planning and management processes established by Government and Yukon First Nations minimizing where practicable any overlap or redundancy between the land use process and those other processes.*

The YCM and the KPMA supports this objective and believes they can play an important role in ensuring the existing assessment and regulatory mechanisms for resource management applied to the industry are incorporated into all land use planning processes.

Mineral Development Interests

Mineral development requires access to considerable tracts of land and water, as the mineral wealth of an area cannot be delineated until extensive exploration is conducted.

It is interesting to note that the extent of mineral wealth potential in the Dawson region has only recently been identified as a result of developments in exploration technology. Still, there may be more resource potential that has not yet been uncovered.

The intensity of land/resource use required depends on the stage of exploration or development and *not all land that is explored will be turned into a mine.* Although there is substantial exploration currently underway in the Dawson region, this will not likely translate directly into the establishment of numerous mines in the area. A significant exploration effort is required for each resulting mine developed.

Once a significant resource is identified the feasibility to develop an operation and extract the mineral and transport it to processing facilities may rely heavily on having or being able to develop road and/or power-line access to the site. Therefore it will be important that large land areas with mineral potential are not isolated from existing road and power-line infrastructure as a result of the planning process. Placer mining is a well-established industry in the Dawson region. It is critical that the existing rights and interests of placer miners, including further development of the industry, be taken into consideration in the land use planning process.

Closing

The Yukon Chamber of Mines and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association appreciates the opportunity to provide preliminary input to the Dawson Regional Planning Commission on the issues and interests of the mineral industry in the Dawson region.

We look forward to working with the Commission and stakeholders on developing the Dawson Region Land Use Plan.



August 26, 2011

Scott Casselman
Chair, Dawson Regional Planning Commission
PO Box 8010
Dawson City, Yukon Y0B 1G0

Re: Yukon Chamber of Mines and KPMA Submission of Issues and Interests

Dear Mr. Casselman,

Attached, please find the joint issues and interests submission of the Yukon Chamber of Mines and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association for the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan.

The Yukon Chamber of Mines and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association represent over 500 industry members and offer a combined and experienced voice for the mining, exploration, service and supply and placer industries that collectively spans almost 120 years.

The Dawson region is of significant interest to all of our members.

To this end, we look forward to working with the Dawson Regional Planning Commission to ensure a fair and balanced land use planning process that allows for the continued growth and sustainability of the Yukon economy - one in which our members - and all Yukon residents - can contribute to and prosper.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide preliminary input on the issues and interests in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Kokiw".

Michael Kokiw
Executive Director
Yukon Chamber of Mines
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Kent".

Scott Kent
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