



April 30, 2024

Dawson Regional Planning Commission  
201 - 307 Jarvis Street  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 2H3

via email: Dawson@planyukon.ca

Dear Dawson Regional Planning Commission,

**Re: Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's Submission to the Dawson Planning Commission**

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Please find attached Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in proposed modifications to your Recommended Plan for the Dawson Planning Region, submitted in accordance with 11.6.4 and 11.6.5 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.

Thank you very much for the excellent work you've done in recommending a comprehensive Plan for the Dawson Region. We believe your Recommended Plan honours the spirit and intent of our Final Agreement and fulfills the Objectives of Chapter 11. We support most of the Recommended Plan. However, TH believes it can be improved in places to better protect the irreplaceable cultural and environmental values in our planning region. Accordingly, we are proposing several modifications. Please consider them as constructive additions to the strong foundation you laid in the Recommended Plan.

There are concerns that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is not submitting the proposed modifications at the same time as Yukon Government (YG). From the outset of the renewed Dawson planning process in 2018, we tried to work in close collaboration with YG to find consensus on as much of the Plan as possible and submit simultaneous proposals to yourselves. Last September we accommodated YG's request to extend intergovernmental consultation and submit our respective notices to yourselves at the end of March 2024. That target date was communicated to you by email last October. We accommodated another request from YG for an extension in December and agreed to delay our submission until the end of April. However, to our dismay YG says it needs several more months to complete their own submission.

We have been waiting for a land use plan for many years. The Dawson planning process was first initiated in 2010. From 2014 to 2018, it was paused while the Peel litigation wound its way through the Courts. When the Dawson planning process re-commenced in 2018, we felt optimistic that the clarity provided by the Supreme Court and a new spirit of cooperation would result in a timely and productive planning process for the Dawson region.

As per the Final Agreement and our intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding, TH and YG representatives consulted on the Plan over the past 16 months with a view to reaching as much consensus as possible. This included a meeting between TH Council and the YG Premier and Ministers in December. We didn't find as much common ground as we'd hoped, but we did find

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some. TH and YG are currently completing a consensus document that we will share with you within the next month.

TH's views have been fully shared with YG as part of consultation on the Plan. To the extent that we have received them, we have striven to give full and fair consideration to the views shared by YG. We are not confident that YG has shared all its views with us, but neither do we think that extending the consultation time further will provide any additional insight or breakthrough.

We understand YG intends to consult with White River First Nation (WRFN) regarding their asserted claims in the Dawson planning region, but we do not believe that should slow down the process any further. TH has established rights in the planning region. WRFN's rights are asserted. The Dawson Regional Land Use Planning process is taking place pursuant to Chapter 11 of the TH Final Agreement. WRFN is not a party to a Final Agreement. WRFN consultation cannot be allowed to compromise the implementation of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.

For the sake of our land and the integrity of the Regional Land Use Planning process, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is moving to the next stage in the planning process. We ask you to do the same. Please carry out your responsibilities without further delay, pursuant to the Final Agreement and your Terms of Reference. To be clear, the proposed modifications we are sending you today conclude the Intergovernmental Consultation stage of the process.

Please note that our submission contains a narrative and several supporting documents. If you have any questions about anything in our submission, please don't hesitate to ask. Please address any questions to [Katie.Fraser@trondek.ca](mailto:Katie.Fraser@trondek.ca).

Otherwise, we look forward to receiving your Final Recommended Plan and proceeding to work with YG to approve and implement a Plan for the Dawson area that promotes our cultural values, ensures sustainable development, and provides Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in meaningful participation in the management of lands, waters, and resources in our homeland.

Mähsj Cho,



Darren Taylor  
Hähke, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

cc. Honourable Minister John Streicker, YG Minister of EMR  
Honourable Minister Nils Clarke, YG Minister of Environment  
Honourable Minister Gary Anandasangaree, Canada Minister of CIRNA  
Honourable Minister Steven Guilbeault, Canada Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Honourable Minister Diane Lebouthillier, Canada Minister of Fisheries and Oceans  
Dawna Hope, Chief First Nation of Na-cho Nyak Dun  
Yukon Land Use Planning Council  
Heather Mills, YG SLC Representative  
Shehnaz Ali, YG SLC Representative  
Tim Gerberding, TH SLC Representative  
Katie Fraser, TH SLC Representative

Attachments: TH Submission to Commission on Recommended Plan  
TH Proposed Modifications (spreadsheet)  
Map of TH Proposed LMU modifications  
TH Working Definition of Reclamation and Restoration  
TH Placer-Specific Reclamation Guidelines  
Chinook Rebuilding Plan PowerPoint presented to Yukon River Panel  
Canada/USA Agreement of April 1, 2024, regarding Canadian-origin Yukon River  
Chinook Salmon  
Hart River Caribou Calving Ground Map  
TH Climate Change Review of Plan  
TH Speaking Notes from December 12 meeting of the principals (Hähkè & TH  
Council and YG Premier & Ministers)  
February 26 letter from Hähkè Taylor to YG Ministers  
TH Citizen Consultation Report