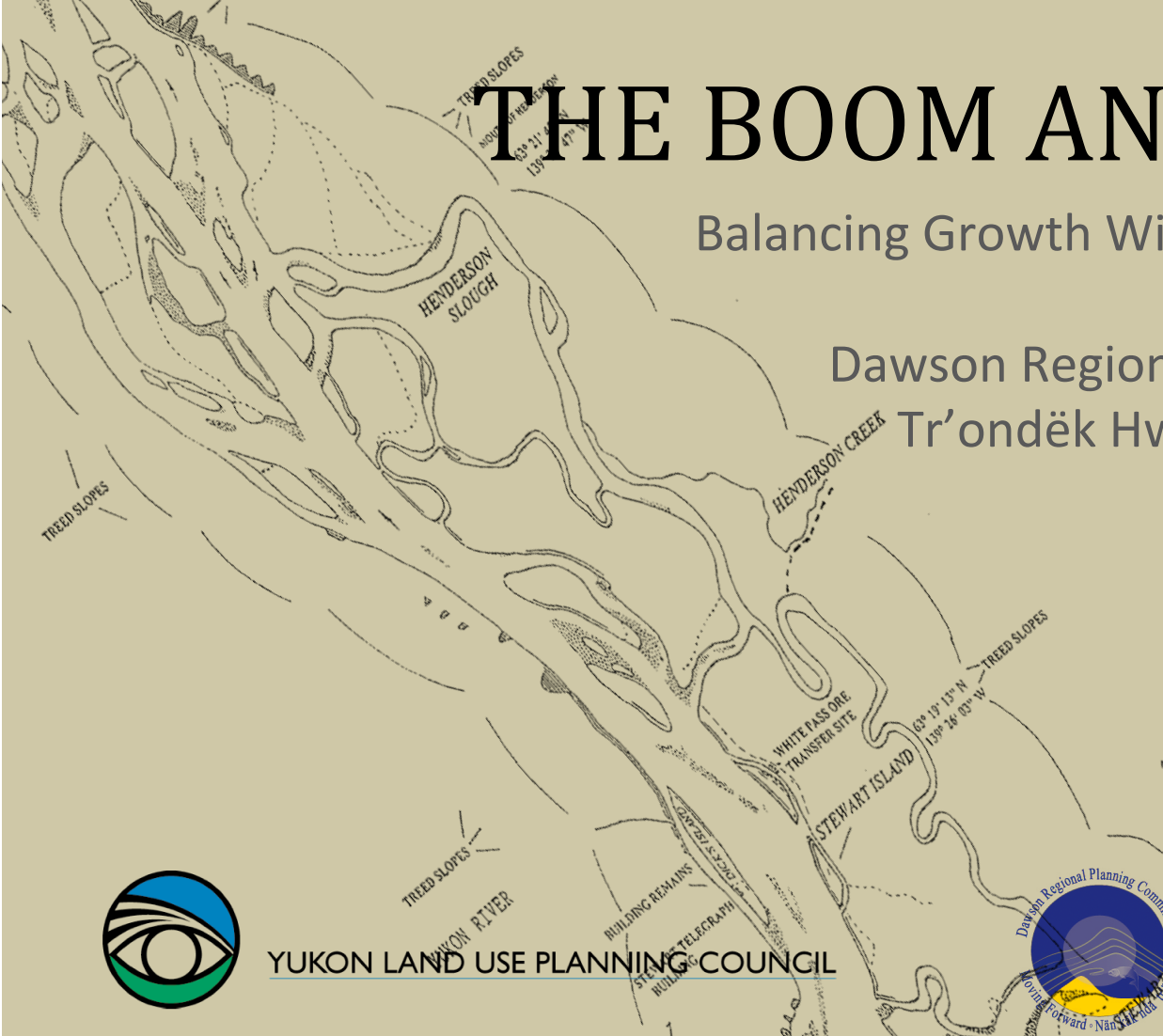




THE BOOM AND BEYOND

Balancing Growth With A Sustainable Future

Dawson Regional Planning Conference
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Hall
January 18 & 19, 2012



YUKON LAND USE PLANNING COUNCIL



**Dawson Regional
Planning Commission**

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LOCATION MAP



Important Phone Numbers

DRPC Office	993-4400
TH Community Hall	993-6224
Danoja Zho Cultural Center	993-6768
Eldorado Hotel	993-5451
Downtown Hotel	993-5346
Aurora Inn	993-6860
Air North	993-5110
RCMP	993 -5555
Ambulance	993-4444

The Community Hall and Cultural Center are a short walk from the hotels. Aside from transportation from the Airport (check with your Hotel for a shuttle), it's easy enough to get around on foot.

Although most restaurants are closed, both hotels as well as the Drunken Goat Tavern are open for food service. Several shops along Front Street and Second Avenue are also open on a reduced winter hour schedule.

Pedestrian trails along the river are in reasonable winter walking condition, there's lots of snow for anyone wanting to ski! Dress warm though, temperatures are expected to be in the -30C range.

THE BOOM AND BEYOND

Balancing Growth With A Sustainable Future

Dawson Regional Planning Conference

Dawson City, Yukon

Wednesday Morning, January 18

8:30 AM	<u>Opening Prayer</u>
8:35 AM	Welcome – Chief Eddie Taylor Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in
8:45 AM	<u>Opening Remarks</u> – Ian D. Robertson, Chair Yukon Land Use Planning Council
	<u>Morning Presentations</u> Moving Forward – Footprints on the Pathway Moderator: Jeff Hamm Planning can engage communities in a process of defining alternative futures in terms of acceptable limits of environmental and social change. Minimizing land use conflict and identifying acceptable “trade-offs” between values are important outcomes for a regional plan.
8:50 AM	Evaluating Trade-offs – Thinking Outside the Black Box Steven Kennett – Independent Policy Consultant
9:30 AM	Social License for Energy Development in the North Yukon Land Use Plan Shawn Francis – S. Francis Consulting, Inc.
10:00 AM	Cumulative Effects in the White Gold District Graeme Pelchat – EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc.
10:30 AM	Morning Refreshment Break
11:00 AM	<u>Workshop</u> – How Much Is Too Much? A discussion of approaches to evaluating economic, ecological and social trade-offs for balanced growth.
12:00 PM	Lunch (Provided at the TH Community Hall)



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THE BOOM AND BEYOND

Balancing Growth With A Sustainable Future

Dawson Regional Planning Conference

Dawson City, Yukon

Wednesday Afternoon, January 18

1:00 PM	<p><u>Afternoon Presentations</u></p> <p>Moving Forward – Finding the Sweet Spot Moderator:</p> <p>Regional land-use planning provides a framework for the protection of areas of significant ecological and cultural value. Candidate areas for protection in Yukon regional land use plans must consider traditional First Nation values, be representative of northern ecosystems and achieve broad conservation objectives. Planning proactively for conservation requires a precautionary approach, recognizing the need to balance natural and cultural values with enhanced economic opportunity.</p>
1:15 PM	<p>Conservation Assessment for Regional Planning Fiona Schmiegelow – University of Alberta (Yukon College)</p>
2:00 PM	<p>Dawson Region Ecological Landscape Model Nadele Flynn – Environmental Planning, Yukon Environment</p>
2:30 PM	<p>Ecological Benchmarks of the Boreal Cordillera: Priority Areas for Conserving Yukon’s Ecological Values Hilary Cooke – Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada</p>
3:00 PM	<p>Afternoon Refreshment Break</p>
3:30 PM	<p><u>Workshop</u> How Much Is Enough?</p> <p>Participants will discuss priorities for identification of conservation areas within the Dawson Planning Region</p>
4:30 PM	<p>Adjournment</p>



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THE BOOM AND BEYOND

Balancing Growth With A Sustainable Future

Dawson Regional Planning Conference Dawson City, Yukon

Thursday Morning, January 19

9:00 AM	<p><u>Welcome</u> Scott Casselman - Chair, Dawson Regional Planning Commission</p>
9:05 AM	<p><u>Morning Presentations</u> Moving Forward - Corridors and Crossroads Moderator: Regional plans attempt to balance objectives for economic growth, ecological conservation and cultural promotion.</p>
9:15 AM	<p>Dawson Regional Economic Development Plan Michael Earl – Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in</p>
9:45 AM	<p>Mapping Habitat Suitability in the Dawson Region Heather Clarke – Habitat Programs, Yukon Environment</p>
10:15 AM	<p>Morning Refreshment Break</p>
10:45 AM	<p>Tourism Values along the Yukon River Corridor Neil Hartling – Tourism Industry Association of Yukon</p>
11:15 AM	<p>Panel Discussion – “A River Runs Through It” The Yukon River is well used by a variety of people and industries. A Panel will discuss the impact of human activity along this special corridor, and the significance of the river to economic, cultural and ecological values. Panel Members – Gerry Couture, Peggy Kormendy, Ben Warnsby, Wally Hidingier</p>
12:30 PM	<p>Closing Prayer</p>



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Dawson Regional Planning Commission

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PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Wednesday Morning, January 18

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Hall

Evaluating Trade-offs – Thinking Outside the Black Box

Steven Kennett

Trade-off decisions involving compromises between different values and interests are at the heart of regional planning when increasing levels of activity result in land-use conflicts and cumulative environmental effects. It is unfortunate, therefore, that making trade-offs is often viewed as a 'black box' process. This presentation argues that trade-off decision making can and should be structured, rigorous and transparent. It reviews the risks of black box processes, offers some suggestions for making better trade-off decisions in planning, and provides a brief introduction to a structured decision-making process that combines analysis and deliberation.

Social License for Energy Development in the North Yukon Land Use Plan

Shawn Francis

In areas with poorly defined landscape objectives, obtaining social license, or broad societal support, for natural resource development activities can be challenging. The Yukon regulatory system, particularly the free entry mineral staking system, is built on the premise that resource development activities are desirable, acceptable and provide benefits to residents of the territory. However, project proponents often discover during the project review phase that some residents do have significant concerns about activities occurring in certain locations. Project proponents, particularly in the case of larger projects, are then asked how they will mitigate public concerns—many of which deal with cumulative effects or landscape-level conservation planning—issues which are very challenging, if not impossible to deal with, at the project scale. Regional planning provides an opportunity to address these landscape-level issues.

In northern Yukon, potential oil and gas development in Eagle Plain and its potential impact on the Porcupine Caribou Herd was the central issue for residents of Old Crow, governments and stakeholders. There was a strong desire for the Commission to 'solve' the Eagle Plain oil and gas issue. This talk will examine how the classic trade-off of 'development versus conservation' was addressed in the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan. Cumulative effects modeling, human disturbance mapping and zoning that identified acceptable levels of human-caused disturbance, was used to gain broad support for establishing landscape-level development and conservation objectives. The landscape management framework established through the Plan was also designed to provide specific guidance to project proponents and regulatory agencies.

Cumulative Effects in the White Gold Area	
Graeme Pelchat	
	<p>A relatively high number of project proposals for quartz exploration activities within and adjacent to the Dawson Planning Region were submitted to YESAB beginning in early 2010. Many of the projects are proposed to occur at the same time. Assessments under the Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) require the consideration of cumulative environmental and socio-economic effects. To assist with the compilation, synthesis and analysis of information in support of their cumulative effects assessment related to wildlife in this area, YESAB commissioned a cumulative effects report focused on potential impacts to wildlife. The report summarizes selected cumulative anthropogenic disturbance metrics related to wildlife within the assessment area and provides a tool for assessors to determine potential projects effects in a regional context.</p>
Conservation Assessment for Regional Planning	
Fiona Schmiegelow	
	<p>The Yukon supports some of the world's most pristine ecological systems, reflected in a high level of natural integrity and resilience. In contrast, ecosystem degradation in most other parts of the world has led to increases in numbers of species and ecosystems at risk, and disruption of ecological processes that regulate these systems. A consequence of these changes is that resource-based economies become difficult to sustain, valued ecosystem services are compromised or lost, and socio-economic conditions decline. Conventional approaches to conservation assessment have often led to the mistaken impression that conservation is a cost to resource development, rather than a fundamental component of sustainability. This talk will explore a new approach that exploits the strengths of systematic conservation planning and adaptive resource management through a systems perspective, and offers great potential to maintain a full range of natural and cultural values, in balance with enhanced economic opportunities.</p>
Dawson Regional Ecological Landscape Model	
Nadele Flynn	
	<p>Nadele will describe principle components of Yukon's bioclimatic ecosystem classification schema and present the mapping techniques used to delineate broad ecosystem units in the Dawson Regional Planning Region. Nadele will also review practical ways the bioclimatic ecosystem classification and resultant map products could be used for addressing resource management and planning questions in the areas of: cumulative effects assessment, habitat and land capability, climate change scenarios, infrastructure planning, identifying special elements in the landscape etc.</p>

Knowledge-Based Habitat Suitability Mapping in the Dawson Regional Plan	
Heather Clarke	
	Local knowledge is highly valuable in assessing the suitability of habitat for a particular species. This presentation will provide an overview of the process involved in collecting, assessing, and applying this knowledge to land-use planning. Particular topics covered will include an explanation of methods used to gather this information, details on how information from multiple sources can be combined to provide an overall description of the importance of different habitat types, and the methods used to present this information in a map format that can then be used in land-use planning. Previous examples of habitat suitability maps generated using local knowledge will be presented.
Ecological Benchmarks of the Boreal Cordillera: Priority Areas for Conserving Yukon's Ecological Values	
Hilary Cooke and Don Reid	
	Ecological benchmarks are intact areas (i.e. with little or no human footprint), representative of natural environmental variation, and sufficiently large to maintain natural ecosystem dynamics, ecologically functional wildlife populations, and terrestrial and hydrologic connectivity. Benchmark areas can serve as reference sites for understanding the natural dynamics of ecosystems, and their response to human activities, through comparison with areas managed for resource development. Using the BEACONS (Boreal Ecosystems Analysis for Conservation Networks) conservation planning approach and software, we identified networks of ecological benchmarks for the Boreal Cordillera of Yukon and British Columbia under various land use planning scenarios. We will highlight benchmark areas and watersheds across central and southern Yukon, and within the Dawson Land Use Planning Region, that could be considered priorities for special management in land use plans.

WORKSHOP #1

How Much Is Too Much?

This workshop will examine challenges Commissions face at the options/scenario stage, where they must choose between potential future states for the region and develop the draft plan. The potential use of modeling, cumulative effects assessment and land designation ratios are tools for creating and expressing “the workable” balance that appears in the draft plan.



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WORKSHOP #1

How Much Is Too Much?

- Q 1: What are some of the key points from the presentations you just heard that would help a Commission define “a workable balance”?
- Q 2: How might a Commission determine: “What is an acceptable trade-off?”
- Q 3: What approaches or tools do you feel have the most potential to express the “balance” the Commission desires for the region? How might you measure “workable balance” once the plan is implemented?
- Q 4: What are four messages about “defining a workable balance” and “trade-offs” would you like to leave with the facilitator? (wrap up question)



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WORKSHOP #2

How Much Is Enough?

This workshop session will examine challenges commission's face as it develops a framework for the protection of areas of significant ecological and cultural values. The questions in the break-out session are intended to have the participants consider the consequences of the conservation assessment work a commission does and the its relationship with the cumulative effects management strategies of the morning session.



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WORKSHOP #2

How Much Is Enough?

- Q 1: What are some of the key points from the presentations you just heard that would help a Commission inform conservation assessment work?
- Q 2: How might a Commission consider the economic or development potential of areas that are identified as having high conservation value?
- Q 3: How might a Commission use a combination of concepts from Cumulative Effects Management (from the morning presentations) and with those associated with Conservation Assessment? (afternoon sessions presentation). If you manage your cumulative effects, do you need protected areas?
- Q 4: What are four messages about “conservation assessment” would you like to leave with the facilitator”? (wrap up question)



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A River Runs Through It

- Panel Discussion on land use within the Yukon River corridor (Gerry Couture, Ben Warnsby, Peggy Kormendy, Wally Hidinger)
 - How has the Yukon River corridor changed over your lifetime/career? What affects have you observed from Climate Change? Human Activity?
 - What do you hope to see along the Yukon River corridor in the next 20-50 years? Hope not to see?
 - How should we make choices to achieve a balance of industry, recreation, traditional use and ecology along the Yukon River?
 - What should be our next steps to promote and enhance the quality of the Yukon River corridor?



MENUS

Wednesday, January 18

TH Community Hall

LUNCH

Caterer – Nora Van Bibber

Soup and Sandwich (meat / veg / tuna)

Chicken Rice soup / Tomato Veg soup

Coffee and Tea

Thursday, January 19

TH Cultural Centre

MORNING SNACK

Caterer – Maneephen Stange

Thai Sandwich – BBQ pork, tangy sauce

Spring Rolls

Muffins – selection, Cashews and fruit compote

Crepes – Banana

Coffee, Tea, Assorted Juices and Bottled

Water will be available.



YUKON LAND USE PLANNING COUNCIL



**Dawson Regional
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ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

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Scott Casselman

Professional Geologist,
Casselman Geological Services Ltd.
Whitehorse, Yukon

Scott Casselman is Chair of Dawson Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Casselman is a registered professional geologist with 25 years of experience, having worked mostly in northern and western Canada, but including work in Turkey, Alaska, Indonesia and Argentina. Scott was a director of Yukon Chamber of Mines for a number of years and acted as President of the association in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Scott was also on the Mineral Advisory Board, reporting to the Minister of Energy Mines and Resources, in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Heather Clarke

Habitat Biologist
Yukon Environment
Whitehorse, Yukon

Heather completed a BSc degree in Ecology at the University of Calgary, where her honours research involved assessing the influence of habitat conditions on the echolocation call structure of bats. Following this, Heather completed an MSc degree in Ecology at the University of Alberta. Her thesis research involved investigating the effect of timber harvesting in riparian areas on the abundance and community structure of cavity-nesting birds. This work occurred throughout the boreal-plains eco-region in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Heather's other professional work has included assessing the environmental impact of oil and gas activity in northern Alberta, working as a Natural Resource and Public Safety Officer for Parks Canada, and conducting various wildlife inventories across western Canada.

Hilary Cooke

Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
Whitehorse, Yukon

Hilary Cooke is a Research Associate with Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, based in Whitehorse. WCS Canada is a science-based conservation organization that conducts field studies on wildlife and brings scientific expertise to partners and stakeholders to support conservation of wildlife and wild-lands. Hilary has 15 years experience studying wildlife and resource management across western US and Canada, including a PhD on cavity users and forest management in boreal Alberta and Saskatchewan. Her current work with WCS includes field research on best management practices for lowland boreal forest and riparian areas in southern Yukon.



ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Michael Earl

Executive Director
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
Dawson City, Yukon

Michael Earl is Executive Director, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in Dawson City, Yukon. Michael has worked with TH since 2006, ensuring Council, Senior Management and TH citizens are informed and engaged. Prior to moving to Dawson, Michael worked with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources developing and promoting Land Information products and services to internal and external clients.

Shawn Francis, M.Sc., P.Biol

Landscape Ecologist, Land-Use Planner
S. Francis Consulting Inc.
Drumheller, Alberta

Shawn Francis is a landscape ecologist and land-use planner with fifteen years of professional experience. In Yukon, Shawn was the Senior Planner for the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan, provided technical support to the later stages of the Peel Watershed planning process, and performed conservation assessments in support of the former Yukon Protected Areas Strategy. He has also been a contributor to the Yukon Ecosystem Landscape and Classification (ELC) Framework. In Alberta, as part of the Alberta Land-Use Framework, he is an advisor/project manager for the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan cumulative effects modeling team, and also provided modeling support to the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan. In Saskatchewan, he was the project manager for a regional cumulative effects assessment in the northwest planning area. In his early years in Yukon, he was the manager of an environmental and GIS consulting firm providing services to governments, First Nations and industry in northern and western Canada. Shawn and his family currently reside in Drumheller, AB, and in his community he serves as a member of the Drumheller Municipal Planning Commission.



ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Neil Hartling

President,
Tourism Industry Association of Yukon
Whitehorse, Yukon

Neil Hartling is the owner of Canadian River Expeditions, offering multi day expeditions on 20 different rivers across the north from Alaska to Nunavut. Almost 30 years ago he established Nahanni River Adventures and has also owned an operation in Jasper, Alberta. In the summer he employs up to 50 staff. His companies are the go-to source for high-profile travellers from around the world, including Heads of State, Nobel Laureates, artists and celebrities but Neil's favourite group are the high percentage of "average Canadians" who select his trips for their "trip of a lifetime".

Neil is the author of 3 books of Northern Rivers and has played a leadership role in significant northern conservation efforts. He is President of the Tourism Association of the Yukon, Past President of the Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon, former Chair of the Senior Marketing Committee of Yukon Tourism, and sits on Committees of the Canadian Tourism Commission. In 2008 Neil was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus.

Nahanni River Adventures has won the Yahoo! Big Ideas Award for the "Best Tourism Website in Canada", and has been designated by National Geographic as one of the Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth, and in 2010: one of the National Geographic 50 Tours of a Lifetime Neil was awarded the Tourism Industry of Association of Canada, Parks Canada, Sustainable Tourism Award in 2011.

Neil's home (and "world headquarters") is Whitehorse Yukon where he lives with his family.

Graeme Pelchat

Wildlife Biologist
EDI Environmental Dynamics, Inc.
Whitehorse, Yukon

Graeme Pelchat, MSc, is a wildlife biologist with EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. He has five years of experience working as a wildlife biologist for private consulting firms, academics institutions and governments in Yukon. His recent work has been primarily within the resource extraction industries in Yukon, Nunavut and northern BC. He has participated in preparing baseline and impact assessments for major projects in northern Canada, including project submissions to YESAB and the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB). Graeme has written or updated caribou habitat protection guidelines, thimhorn sheep population management guidelines, and moose survey and status reports for the Yukon Government. Graeme was raised and currently lives in Whitehorse.



ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Steven A. Kennett

Independent Policy Consultant
Calgary, Alberta

Steve Kennett is an independent policy consultant based in Calgary. His contract work and publications have examined topics in natural resources and environmental law and policy, including land-use planning, cumulative effects assessment and management, integrated resource management, environmental governance, regulatory processes in Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Yukon, renewable energy and climate change. Policy and legislative aspects of the Government of Alberta's Land-use Framework have been a primary focus of his recent work. In 2010 he was a Scholar in Residence at the Conference Board of Canada and co-author of the publication Canada's North: What's the Plan? Steve was a Senior Policy Analyst with the Pembina Institute from 2007-2009. From 1992-2007 he was a Research Associate with the Canadian Institute of Resources Law at the University of Calgary. Steve holds a BA (Hons) in Politics and Economics from Queen's University, an M.Phil. in Politics from Oxford University, an LL.B. from the University of Toronto and an LL.M. from Queen's University.

Ian D. Robertson, MCIP

Principal & Senior Planner
Inukshuk Planning and Development Ltd
Whitehorse, Yukon

Ian D. Robertson is the Chair of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council. Ian has over 30 years of diverse planning and management experience in both the public and private sector. A planner by profession, he has worked in five provinces and three territories and has volunteered for many organizations, ranging from resource management and conservation to economic development. Ian was nominated to the Council by the Government of Canada.

Fiona Schmiegelow

Landscape Ecology, Modeling and large-scale conservation planning of boreal avifauna
University of Alberta and Yukon College
Whitehorse, Yukon

Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow is currently a professor at the University of Alberta, where she directs the Northern Environmental and Conservation Science Program. Based in the Yukon Territory, Canada, where the program is being delivered, Fiona has unique opportunities to experience some of the most pristine environments remaining in the northern hemisphere. For the past 20 years, Fiona has been fascinated by boreal systems, with her initial passion sparked by boreal bird communities and their response to landscape change in more southern regions of Canada. Her research into these questions is characterized by large-scale experimental field studies and complementary, collaborative modeling initiatives involving extensive datasets. Increasingly, Dr. Schmiegelow's interests lie at the interface of science and policy, and she welcomes opportunities to engage in related processes to identify tractable solutions to pressing conservation challenges facing boreal systems and the species that depend on them. In 2010, Dr. Schmiegelow co-authored a book with Malcolm I. Hunter Jr. Entitled 'Wildlife, Forests And Forestry: Principles Of Managing Forests For Biological Diversity'.

