



PEEL WATERSHED
PLANNING COMMISSION
TOGETHER FOR THE PEEL • CHUU TL'TI GEENJIT KHETOK

PRESS RELEASE

“Peel Watershed Land-Use Planning Process Moves To Public Engagement Phase” October 16, 2008

With the launch of its Land-Use Scenario development process, the Peel Watershed Planning Commission has just taken a major step forward towards preparation of a regional land use plan for the Peel Watershed region. Working in association with the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, its Technical Working Group, and Senior Liaison Committee, the PWPC serves as an independent body comprised of four First Nations and two Yukon Government representatives. PWPC Chair Albert Genier appreciates the considerable effort taken in the past few years to develop the necessary baseline information that has enabled the Commission to move forward to the next stage of planning: *“Considerable research has been needed to paint a picture about resource values and interests in the Peel. With that now complete, we look forward to engaging the public in a fair and transparent approach to create a land-use plan that will serve Yukoners and all Canadians well into the future”*.

The current Scenarios phase is aimed at understanding current land-use interests, resource values and potential development into a set of options for preparation of a Draft Land-Use Plan over the next six months. As part of this process, focus group workshops are being scheduled this fall to consider how best to manage a range of interests. The net result will be a Recommended Land-Use Plan, next year that is intended to guide resource-use decisions over a projected 10-15 year horizon. Future opportunities will also exist to review the Plan as required to reflect changing land-use management needs and conditions.

The PWPC’s new Senior Planner, Reg Whiten expressed confidence in the process: *“I appreciate that there are highly-valued resources, existing land-uses, and potential new development activities in the Peel that have significance in the Yukon, and also well beyond its borders. Our planning team will work hard to bring a balanced, interest-based approach in considering all relevant information and input received to achieve Plan objectives”*. Operating under its 2004 Terms of Reference, the Commission has been mandated to prepare a Draft and then Recommended Land-Use Plan for consideration by the Parties including the Yukon Government, and the First Nation Governments of Na-Cho Nyak Dun, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, Vuntut Gwichin, and the Gwich’in Tribal Council.

To date, the Commission has held various consultation and information sessions in Mayo, Dawson, Old Crow, Fort McPherson and Whitehorse. A variety of planning and supporting documents are available on our new website, www.peel.planyukon.ca. Recent reports include an Interests and Issues Summary, Resource Assessment Report, and Conservation Priorities Assessment Report. Public feedback on these, and new documents, will be encouraged throughout the planning process.

If you have any questions or comments, we invite you to contact the Peel Watershed Planning Commission at (867) 667-2374 or 1-866-353-2374.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Albert Genier



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Aberdeen Canyon, Peel River



A north-facing view of the Bonnet Plume
and Wind River confluence



Some existing Commission members at Goz Lake
(Chair: Albert Genier – centre)