



June 29, 2009

JUN 30 2009

Peel Watershed Planning Commission
Suite #201 – 307 Jarvis Street
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 2H3

Office
Dave Austin
President
Suite 101-307 Jarvis Street
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2H3
tel 867.667.2000
fax 867.667.2001
toll free 800.661.0543
ycc@yukonchamber.com
www.yukonchamber.com

To Whom It May Concern,

The following submission was approved at the Annual General Meeting of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce on June 22, 2009.

The Yukon Chamber of Commerce (YCC) is the leading voice of Yukon's business community, providing advocacy and representation on issues affecting business. YCC focuses on issues that impact the following areas:

- Economic Initiatives & Business Development
- Infrastructure Development
- Business Legislation & Regulations

Michael Brandt
Chair

Jerome Babyn
1st Vice-Chair

Christine Duke
2nd Vice-Chair

Andy Carvill
Vice-Chair at Large

Wayne McLennan
Honorary

Andy Stouffer
Secretary

Rob McIntyre
Past Chair

2008/2009 Board of Directors
Dino Graham
Norm Griffith
Rick Kapp
Aime Leche
Chris McQuay
Rod Taylor
Lynette van den Hoona
Wes Walsh

The draft Peel Watershed Land Use Plan has the potential to strongly and negatively impact the Yukon business community and as such YCC deems it important to provide comment.

YCC appreciates the extreme difficulty faced by the Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC) in devising a plan that will achieve all of the objectives noted in Chapter 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA). At the same time, however, YCC has serious concerns that the approach being taken by the PWPC unreasonably limits the potential for sustainable and balanced development within the Peel Watershed region. Specifically we are concerned that:

- The plan as proposed would result in the closure of an important part of Yukon's mineral endowment, jeopardizing sustainable economic development opportunities for future generations of all Yukoners. It is the interests of **all** Yukoners that are to be considered and protected under the UFA.

Ref: UFA (11.1.1.6 – to ensure that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management, protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner so as to ensure sustainable development.)

- Our existing laws and processes such as YESAA, Mining Land Use Permitting, Quartz Mining Licensing and the Water Board Licensing mechanisms are in place to ensure that appropriate environmental and socioeconomic conditions are being met by any development before it is allowed to proceed. As such, the broad restrictions on resource development under the proposed plan should not be necessary.

The Voice of
Yukon Business

- Depriving claim holders in the Peel River area of their ability to move their projects through the existing approval processes would amount to expropriation without compensation – a very dangerous and potentially litigious action for any government to take in our Canadian democracy.
- Quartz mineral claims are a unique form of land tenure ownership akin to chattels, recognized in a substantial body of case law and the claim holder's rights must be acknowledged.

Based on these statements, YCC believes that a balance can be attained. However YCC is very concerned that should the proposed plan as currently drafted proceed to implementation, the rights of legitimate claim holders would be extinguished.

The quality of life that we enjoy as First Nations, Yukoners and Canadians, is and will continue to be made possible by a strong and sustainable economy, with diverse development, conducted in an environmentally and socially responsible manner for the benefit of all.

If we arbitrarily close the door on sustainable development in the Peel Watershed without the opportunity to develop potential projects within the confines of existing approval mechanisms and processes, we eliminate significant economic opportunities for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Jerome Babyn
Chair
Yukon Chamber of Commerce