

Yukon Prospectors' Association
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Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 1G1

Received
April 28/06
[Signature]

April 27, 2006

Peel Watershed Planning Commission
201 -- 307 Jarvis Street
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2H3

Attention: Brian Johnston

The Yukon Prospectors' Association (YPA) wants the final plan for the Peel Watershed to not stop prospectors and mining exploration companies from prospecting, claim staking and doing low-level exploration.

The Peel Watershed Commission "Issues and Interests Report" indicates a potential for coal and iron deposits in the land use planning area. The YPA feels other mineral deposits will be found. The Peel area has high mineral potential but has had low levels of exploration (under explored) and has an inadequate data base at present. No one knows where and when the next mine will be found and developed.

We need development (done in an environmentally sensitive way) for good jobs, a tax base for First Nation governments, hospitals, schools, roads, police, old age pensions, etc. Good jobs and training will keep the youth of the Yukon at home and keep them from going to southern Canada. Mines produce highly paid, year-round jobs, a high tax base and a large number of spin-off jobs and value-added work.

Low level exploration leaves almost no footprint and helps the local economy through jobs, supplies and services. Higher level exploration does have a foot print but is very highly and adequately regulated by YESSA, Yukon Water Board, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Mining Land Use Regulations, Placer Mining Authorization, Yukon Fish and Game Regulations, Canada Mine Effluent and Discharge Regulations, Department of the Environment. These regulations and procedures, along with local consultation, can mitigate issues arising from exploration, access and development.

Beware of "areas of no mineral potential". Every year in Canada new mineral deposits or mines are found in these "areas of no mineral potential".

1. At least three diamond mines in granite rocks in the Northwest Territories
2. The zinc-lead deposits of Faro, Yukon
3. At least three gold mines in Hemlo, Ontario

In the past, parks have been proclaimed that have ignored mineral potential. Examples are:

1. Kluane Park (gold, copper, nickel, platinum and coal potential)
2. Tombstone Park (gold and uranium potential)
3. Tuktut Nogait Park, NWT (diamonds, gold and copper potential)

4. Tatshenshini Park, B.C. (the world's largest massive sulphide deposit, copper, cobalt, gold) and a large mineral belt comparable to the Timmins, Ontario – Val D'Or, Quebec mineral belt.

The YPA has concerns with the Peel Watershed Commission "Issues and Interests Report".

- **Page 10** states your goal is: "provide land status certainty".
Your report does not do this.
- **Page 9** states "need for special management areas (SMA's) or protected areas within the Peel watershed"
- **Page 14** states "17 areas with conservation values"
- **Page 15** states "Bonnet Plume caribou herd's range should be protected"
"intact large mammal ecosystems should be a priority"
"Special Management Areas (SMAs), including a Territorial Park, should be considered for the protection of the Wind, Bonnet Plume and Snake watersheds".
"Protected areas will be considered in the planning region."
"Zoning for protected areas..."
"...seasonal closures"
"...core areas and buffer zones..."
"...restriction of human activities..."

The YPA knows there are world-class deposits of iron and coal on the Snake and Bonnet Plume Rivers, access to these deposits is essential.

To the YPA and investors this sounds like the B.C. NDP Government (1992 – 2000) policies that destroyed the B.C. economy and its tax base.

The YPA would like the present B.C. land use policy applied to Yukon. B.C. has a two zone system: 1 zone allows no development and the other allows development under the existing regulations. This system has proven to be very successful in attracting investment.

In 1987, the "Brundtland Report", Our Common Future – the World Commission on Environment and Development, recommended 12% as a rough guide for protected areas (PAS), pg. 147, 166

The Federal Green Plan in Canada in 1990 stated: "Goal 3 = Protection of Special Spaces and Species Target (setting aside 12% of Canada as protected space) pg. 13, 80, 82.

The Whitehorse Mining Initiative in 1994 also recommended 12% for parks and protected areas, pg. 3 "B.C. (NDP Government) will work towards a goal of 12% protection as established in PAS.

The last three references were round-table discussions with input from industry, public, First Nations, scientists, environmentalists, etc.

The Yukon now has more than 14% withdrawn from development. We have surpassed the Brundtland Report target of 12% PAS. The 12% figure was derived by 22 world-famous scientists, two from Canada.

The Brundtland Report had two warnings:

- less than 12% for PAS was inadequate;
- more than 12% would damage the economy

The YPA wants to see multi-use of the area by all stakeholders that will be governed by existing regulations and a two zone system, similar to that existing in B.C.

Please do not destroy the economic future of the Yukon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim McFaul". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Jim McFaul
President,
Yukon Prospectors' Association