No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it: collaborative land use planning in the NWT
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Outline

This presentation will demonstrate:

- history of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement
- developing the Tłı̨chǫ Weneł' (Land Use Plan)
- uniqueness of the Wek'èezhii Management Area
- evolving role of land use planning
The Dene Way

Yamozha (Yamória) on the Mackenzie River by Archie Beaulieu
“As long as the sun rises, the river flows, and the land does not move, we will not be restricted from our way of life.”

– Chief Kw’ahtideè Zephirin Mowhi
Tłı̨chǫ Agreement

“Today, our people have continued the work begun by our great Chief Mọwhì by approving this Agreement. I’m overwhelmed by the support of our people, for the work of our negotiators and cannot begin to express what a proud day this is for the Tłı̨chǫ.”
- former Grand Chief Joe Rabesca
"The Land Use Plan’s purpose is also to protect the Tłı̨chǫ traditional way of life passed down from our ancestors to let others know our way of life is protected”

- Tłı̨chǫ LUPWG quote
Collaboration

- Traditional Knowledge foundation
- Elders from each community
- Men, Women & Youth
- Land Use Planning Working Group
- Leadership of Chiefs & Council
- One landowner

Workshop in Gamêti - one stop along the Land Use Plan Community Tour (2007-2013)
"The Land Use Plan’s purpose is also to protect the Tłı̨chǫ traditional way of life passed down from our ancestors to let others know our way of life is protected"

- Tłı̨chǫ LUPWG quote
No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it: collaborative land use planning in the NWT.
Planning for public land in the Wek’èezhìi Management Area
Thloco Agreement

22.5.1. Government may establish a mechanism for the preparation, approval and implementation of a land use plan that applies to all parts of the M'itk-wachi, other than Thloco lands, national parks and lands in a community.

Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

24.1. A board shall coordinate its activities, including hearings, with the activities of:

(i) land use planning bodies established for the M'itk-wachi or any part of the M'itk-wachi.

Land Use and Sustainability Framework

Considers regional land-use plans to be the primary framework to define where certain activities can take place.

Prioritize and support effective land-use planning in all regions in the NWT.
Tłı̨chǫ Agreement

22.5.1 Government may establish a mechanism for the preparation, approval and implementation of a land use plan that applies to all parts of the Wek’èezhìi, other than Tłı̨chǫ lands, national parks and lands in a community.
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(f) land use planning bodies established for Wek’èezhìi or any part of Wek’èezhìi.
Land Use and Sustainability Framework

Considers regional land-use plans to be the primary instrument to define where certain activities can take place.

Priority to promote and support effective land-use planning in all regions in the NWT.
Scoping Study (2014-15)

GNWT (Lands), coordinating with the Tłı̨chǫ Government, managed a contractor for a scoping study of the Wek'èezhìi Contractor interviewed regulators, government, ENGOs, and non-profits

GNWT provided funding to 4 AGOs in order to undertake land use planning research

Community workshops were held in Whatì, Wekweètì, Gamètì, and Behchokò

Two Elders workshops with elders from each of the above communities
Unique aspects

Unsettled and/or asserted land claims

Large number of parties expecting decision-making authority

Several concurrent processes (range plans, conservation area establishment, environmental assessments)

All parties expect Government to initiate, manage, and fund the planning process

Other NWT regional planning processes have taken 10-15 years at an average cost of $15 million
Evolution

- Respect
- Trust
- Collaborate
- Engage
- Share