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YUKON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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To: **Bob Kuiper**, Chair, YPAS Advisory Committee

From: **Grant Bossenberry**, Executive Director, YCC

RE: **YCC 's Proposed Vision Statement for the YPAS**

Please accept this as the Yukon Chamber of Commerce's submission for discussion, regarding the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy's vision statement. We have also listed our most important needs and concerns we would like to have addressed.

"The Yukon Protected Areas Strategy provides a set of commonly agreed upon guidelines that assist in the identification, selection, designation, management and protection of unique and special Yukon land areas. The application of the guidelines will make best efforts to balance the needs for ecological integrity, economic development and cultural significance with the objective of providing future generations of Canadians with a rich mix of wilderness activity, cultural enrichment and economic sustainability."

The following elements are essential for Yukon Chamber of Commerce support;

- 1) The systematic identification of unique and special areas to be designated by the completion of a resource inventory;
- 2) The development of an agreed upon "set" of selection guidelines that balance the interests of all stakeholders;
- 3) The definition of what interim designation and designation means for stakeholders;
- 4) The time limited development of a management regime for a protected area that addresses the need for a balance between protection and use; and, amongst economic development, cultural significance and economic sustainability.

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Other important factors include;

- 1) The need for greater public awareness of impacts and benefits of the YPAS regime;
- 2) Community based (local, regional, territorial, national) participation in selection of Protected Areas;
- 3) Clear, performance based time frames for evaluation after interim designation;
- 4) Simplicity of process throughout the identification, selection, designation, management and protection activities so that the whole process is transparent to all Yukoners.

We are looking forward to the workshop on February 5 – 7th for further discussion on this very important strategy.

Regards,

Grant Bossenberry
Executive Director
Yukon Chamber of Commerce

c.c. Yukon Chamber of Commerce Membership