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From: Jerome.McIntyre
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2002 12:15 PM
To: Bob.Kuiper; Wally.Hidinger; Cathryn.Paish; Katie.Hayhurst; Karen.Clyde; Val.Loewen; Beth.Hawkings; Randy.Lamb;
 Ruth.Gotthardt; Chuck.Hubert; Jon.Bowen; Rob.Florkiewicz; George.Stetkiewicz; Ella.LeGresley;
 jbconsulting@canada.com
Cc: Don.Hutton; Rick.Lemaire
Subject: FYI - Status of Teslin and Vuntut Planning Commissions

To the Members of the N.Yukon and Teslin Regional Land Use Planning Working Groups:

Below is a brief update on the status and activities of the two Commissions that have been established for the North Yukon and Teslin regional land use planning processes.

North Yukon

Since I last provided an update on the activities of the Commission (about 4-5 months ago), they were working towards the development of a summary document on all the issues that had been identified through the "*Opportunities and Challenges*" workshops held last June. The Commission Planner was also beginning the process of collecting and compiling information needed to perform analysis on planning issues and the formation of planning options.

Since that time, the Commission has experienced some fairly significant setbacks in its progress largely due to problems associated with internal Commission dynamics (personality conflicts, inability to reach consensus, etc). It became apparent in the fall of 2001 that the Commission was unlikely to fulfil its planning mandate if things continued on their present course. For instance, certain key products which were intended to be developed fairly early on in the process (Precise Terms of Reference, Operating Guidelines) were not produced within the timeframes set out in their annual work plan. The problems culminated in the federal representative (Bruce Chambers) and the Commission's Planner (Joanne Plecke) leaving the VPC in October. The YLUPC hired Christine Boisjoly as a facilitator/mediator to help the Commission work on team building, consensus-based decision making, etc. while a replacement for the federal representative was being sought.

At this same time, the Parties to the process (YTG, Canada, VGFN) were expressing concerns over communications as well as the Council/Commission's unwillingness or inability to effectively involve the Parties in the process. (For example, prior to last week I had not received minutes of the VPC's meetings since their May 2001 meeting). On December 14th, the Parties met with the Council to discuss this issue as well as the internal problems facing the Commission. It was decided through this meeting that there was a need to better define the support network, communications requirements and the role of the Parties and Council in planning process to ensure the Commission was able to fulfill its mandate. The Parties and Council are currently in the process of producing a draft document on this matter. In addition, a companion document is being developed by the Council on the 'Common Land Use Planning Process' as envisioned by Chapter 11. The Principals of the Parties will be meeting with the Commission on Feb 2nd to the contents of these documents as well as the future of the VPC.

In late November, the Council also made a formal recommendation to expand the planning boundary to include Settlement Land R-8. The Parties will be considering this recommendation in more detail once there is greater certainty around the status of VPC and the future direction the planning process is going to take.

Teslin

The Teslin Planning Commission was established in Sept of 2001. However, due to scheduling conflicts, the Commission was unable to have its inaugural meeting until December 6&7.

The Members of the Teslin Regional Land Use Planning Commission are:

- Richard Sydney, William Sydney & Sam Johnston (TTC)
- Brenda Oziewicz (Canada)
- Brandy Greenwood (YTG Member)
- Bob Sharp (joint YTG/Canada Member)

Recognizing the problems that occurred with the start up of the Vuntut Planning Commission, the decision was made to have the first meeting focus specifically on team dynamics, approaches to consensus-based decision making, etc.

The Commission's second meeting is scheduled for January 24&25. The Parties are planning to make a presentation to the Commission at this meeting on the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the participants in the planning process. This would include the role of the Senior Liaison Committee and Technical Working Group as referenced in the General Terms of Reference for the Commission.

Similar to the VPC process, most of the Commission's activities in the initial stages of the planning process will involve sorting out administrative matters, preparing budgets, hiring staff, etc. Also, like last time, the Yukon Government will need to provide the Commission with a detailed list of issues and interests affecting the planning region. This will be incorporated into the Commission's Precise Terms of Reference and outline the nature of the issues that need to be addressed by the planning process. Note: I will prepare a first draft of this letter early this year based on the comments I received from departments last year. The representatives of the Yukon Government working group will then be given the opportunity to review and revise the letter as needed to incorporate any new issues that may have arisen or to reflect changes that have occurred since the department comments were submitted last year.

I hope this brings everyone up to date on the activities of the Commissions. I apologize for not getting this status report out to you sooner. However, I wanted to wait until after the meeting between the Principals and the Council since this was the primary forum for giving us a better understanding of the status of the VPC's activities as well as the nature of the problems they were experiencing. Unfortunately this meeting was delayed until December.

Thanks,

Jerome