

October 2, 2020



Yukon Forum Newsletter

Oct 2, 2020 Yukon Forum

- Yukon's Premier, Cabinet members, Council of Yukon First Nations' Grand Chief and Yukon First Nations Leaders met for the Yukon Forum.
- The Forum was a blended in-person and virtual meeting held at the Carcross Learning Centre.
- Key topics discussed included:
 - Off road vehicle regulation
 - Putting People First Plan
 - Yukon River salmon
 - Land use planning
 - COVID 19
 - Economic recovery
 - Missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit individuals



Previous Yukon Forum

- May 14, 2020 on Zoom
- [COVID 19 issues were discussed](#) including:
 - Education
 - Economic Development
 - Treaty Implementation
 - Health and Wellness

Progress from the Yukon Forum Working Groups

*These are updates from Yukon Forum Working Groups and may not have been discussed at the October 2, 2020 Yukon Forum.

Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Implementation

Chapter 22: Economic Development

- The Government of Yukon's representative public service plan, Breaking Trail Together is being implemented. This includes an 18 month hiring preference pilot that started October 1. The hiring preference is a two-tiered system with first preference given to qualified candidates who self-identify as Yukon First Nation and second preference to people of Canadian Aboriginal ancestry.
- The collaborative process to develop a First Nations Procurement Policy is ongoing.

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Mining Memorandum of Understanding

- The engagement phase of the Mineral Development Strategy is complete and a “What We Heard” document will be published October 2020. The Panel is aiming to release their draft recommendations by December 2020.
- Two new joint working groups have been established:
 - Management of on-claim roads
 - Compliance, monitoring and enforcement

Chapter 11: Land Use Planning

- As recommended by the Yukon Forum working group, the Yukon government is committed to accommodating all requested land use planning processes simultaneously.
- The current Dawson regional land use planning process is progressing well and discussions are underway with many other First Nations to start regional planning in the near future.
- A Terms of Reference for the Successor Legislation Working Group has been signed and progress is being made towards a new *Lands Act*.

Fish and Wildlife

- The governments are working to implement the recommendations from the review of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board including discussions on moose harvest management and harvest support program.

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Develop Bilateral and Trilateral Processes for Engagement

Health and Social Services

- \$3.6 million in federal enhanced prevention funding for the 2020-21 fiscal year will be transferred directly to CYFN to distribute amongst First Nations. The Trilateral Table on the well-being of Yukon First Nations children and families decided that this funding should flow directly to First Nations rather than through Government of Yukon to ensure First Nations can determine how to best utilize the funding for their communities.
- Applications for this year's Community Wellness and Jurisdiction Initiatives funding under the First Nations Child and Family Services Program have been reviewed by the Trilateral Table and notice of funding issued to applicants.
- In July 2020, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Government of Yukon and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council was signed to guide the delivery and administration of child welfare services. Similar MOAs are under development with other First Nations.
- Government of Yukon, 12 Yukon First Nations and CYFN are reviewing the Child and Family Services Act to ensure its consistency with federal legislation and the Embracing the Children of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow Report.
- Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nations and CYFN are working on a caregiver recruitment and retention strategy and re-visioning the delivery of co-operative planning processes under the Child and Family Services Act.
- Six youth are living in the Nts'aw Chua, supportive housing and semi-independent living program, with another 15 accessing services.
- A Community Safety Plan for the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter was developed.

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Education

- There are weekly meetings between Department of Education staff (First Nation Initiatives and Superintendents) and Yukon First Nations education leads to address questions and concerns from the communities.
- Discussions are taking place between the Yukon government, the Chiefs Committee on Education and the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate to implement the Joint Education Action Plan.
- Most Yukon First Nations have bilateral Education Agreements or Transfer Payment Agreements that address their education priorities at the community level.
- Government of Yukon and the Chiefs Committee on Education signed a data sharing Memorandum of Understanding to enable the sharing of Yukon First Nation student data to support monitoring, research and analysis of student performance.

Justice

- Selkirk First Nation has completed a community safety plan and is implementing it with some infrastructure support funding from Government of Yukon. A number of other First Nations are working with Public Safety Canada to develop community safety plans.
- 10 Yukon First Nations are at varying stages of finalizing the RCMP First Nation Policing Program tripartite agreements between the Yukon, federal and First Nations governments.

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