



Yukon Public Lands Act What We Heard

January 2023



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About the Yukon Public Lands Act

The new Yukon Public Lands Act will modernize the way public land is managed in the territory, and replace the two separate pieces of legislation that govern two sets of public lands.

The Act will determine how we can better manage land use and activities in the territory. It can be used to support and manage recreational activities such as cabins, camping, off-road vehicle use, bicycling and hiking. It will also support residential development, commercial activities, resource and industrial development and critical cultural, heritage, and environmental protections.

The work to renew Yukon's lands legislation is being undertaken by the Yukon government in close collaboration with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous governments, and the Council of Yukon First Nations. We're working together through a government-to-government steering committee. This document summarizes the key findings of the 2022 engagement and provides important information to be considered in the steering committee's ongoing work. Further public engagement will occur once the steering committee develops potential approaches for the framework for new lands legislation.

Engagement process

The Government of Yukon released a discussion document on March 1, 2022 for public comment. The questions in the discussion document were also released in an online survey. The initial deadline for submitting feedback was April 30, 2022, which was then extended to May 30, 2022.

The process included holding several meetings with First Nations government representatives, industry groups, mandated boards and councils, environmental groups and other non-government organizations. In total, we held 37 meetings with various groups and organization, and 182 people provided written submissions on [Yukon.ca/engagements](https://www.yukon.ca/engagements).

Thank you to everyone who participated and submitted feedback.

Response themes summary

The public engagement was successful in getting a wide range of responses from the public. Many key themes emerged through the consultation, which are summarized below.

Land and wilderness areas are extremely important to people in the Yukon

Land and how it is managed were noted as central to Yukon lifestyles. Access to the land is the reason why many people choose to live in the territory.

Key points included:

- It is the ancestral homeland of Yukon First Nations and key to First Nations rights, history and culture.
- It is important for recreation, hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, exploring and supporting livelihoods such as trapping, tourism, forestry, mining, agriculture and scientific research.
- Access to land brings people closer to nature. It inspires residents and visitors alike.
- Being active on the land contributes to physical and mental wellbeing.

Keep a heathy environment

Maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment was noted as the most important priority for the new Act.

Participants stated several key priorities for action:

- Limit and monitor development so that it does not harm the environment.
- Ensure that wildlife populations and habitats remain healthy.
- Create more protected areas to properly manage important habitats and special areas.
- Retain important wilderness areas that are completely free of roads and development.

Respect First Nations values and rights

A top priority throughout the survey responses was the need to respect and honour Yukon First Nations governments.

This included:

- Ensure compliance with all First Nations Final Agreements.
- Respect First Nations rights, history, culture and values.
- Ensure meaningful consultation and collaboration with First Nations governments on all land use planning and land management issues.

Make more land available for residential and commercial development

Making more tenured land available to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population was also identified as a top priority.

Key points included:

- Yukoners urgently need affordable housing lots in and around established communities.
- Other needs include commercial lots, rural residential lots, and recreational lots.
- Tenures should be made available through planned processes that consider community needs, existing land use plans, impacts on the environment and impacts on other land uses.
- Tenure disposition processes must be affordable, fair and equitable.
- Different types of tenures suitable for different uses should be developed, such as wilderness tourism camps and a public hut-to-hut system.

Complete regional land use plans

Very strong support throughout the survey was given to completing land use plans before land development takes place.

Key points included:

- Land use planning will help identify appropriate areas for access, development and protection, and design suitable land management regimes.
- Land use plans will help manage growth to achieve an appropriate balance between development and conservation and help resolve potential land use conflicts.
- Consultation with First Nations governments, stakeholders and the public are essential to the land use planning processes.

Ensure equal and equitable access to public land

Throughout the survey, strong support was shown for the new Act to ensure that the public have equitable access to public land.

Key points included:

- All public land should be accessible to the public.
- Private developments should not restrict the public's right to access land that is public.
- It does not mean that participants support the creation of new access roads and trails to all public lands. To the contrary, strong support was noted for keeping many wilderness areas free of roads or trails. These areas should still be accessible to the public, but not via means that require roads or trails.

Strengthen the compliance, monitoring and enforcement of land management regulations

Throughout the survey, many participants noted concerns with the strength of existing land management regulations and how they were being enforced.

Key points included:

- More enforcement needs to be done to address unauthorized occupancy on public lands.
- There is an urgent need for stronger regulations and enforcement to address the permitting, management and reclamation of roads and motorized trails.

- Motorized ATV access on public lands results in many negative environmental impacts. For example, illegal trail cutting, habitat loss, wildlife disturbance, overhunting, fragmented habitats and wilderness areas, and on- and off-trail ground damage. There is an urgent need for stronger regulation and enforcement of on- and off-trail ATV use.

What we heard

This section identifies each survey question asked and the key responses given to that question. Within each question, comments are grouped according to common topics.

Responses are rated according to approximately how many different respondents made the same comment. This is a general indication of how widespread a certain concern or opinion was held by respondents as a whole. The following rating system is used:

Star system legend	
Five stars indicates the highest number of responses	*****
Four stars indicates a very high number of responses	****
Three stars indicates a high number of responses	***
Two stars indicates a medium number of responses	**
One star indicates a low number of responses	*

Some questions have fewer recorded responses than others. This is because not all respondents gave answers to all questions. In general, questions towards the end of the survey received lower rates of participation than questions at the beginning.

Vision

What we asked

What are the most important goals or priorities that should be considered in the vision for the Yukon Public Lands Act?

What we heard

Environmental quality

Ensure a sustainable environment	*****
Protect environmental integrity and quality	*****
Protect healthy wildlife populations and habitat	****
Protect wilderness	***

Land availability

Make tenured land available for Yukon people	*****
Make residential land available, both urban and rural	****
Make recreational and cottage land available	**
Support commercial and resource development	**

First Nations governments

Respect Final Agreements, First Nations rights and values	*****
Collaborate with First Nations governments	****

Land use planning

Support land use planning	***
Have a balance between conservation and development	***

Public access

Ensure equal and equitable public access to public land	****
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Recreation

Support public recreation on public lands	**
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Coordination with other legislation

Ensure coordination of the new Lands Act with other Acts	**
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Land in communities and municipalities

What we asked



What future needs and opportunities need to be considered for managing land in Yukon communities and municipalities?

What we heard

Need to protect the environment

Ensure the land is environmentally sustainable	*****
Protect wildlife and habitats	****
Protect wilderness areas	***
Need to mitigate and adapt to climate change	**

Need to manage growth

Ensure that growth and development is managed	*****
Need Land use planning in advance of development	***
Need community consultation	***
Ensure development is balanced with conservation	**

Need to work with First Nations governments

Respect First Nations rights and Final Agreements	****
Work collaboratively with First Nations governments	***
Respect First Nations social and cultural values	***

Need to make land available for development

Need affordable land for housing, both urban and rural	*****
Need commercial lots	**
Need infrastructure to support development	**
Need coordination with municipalities	*

Need to support different types of land uses

Support for recreation	***
Support resource and economic development	**
Support traditional harvesting, hunting and fishing	**

Role of public land in residents' lives

What we asked

What role do the public lands play in the economic, social, cultural and lifestyle health of you and your family in your community or municipality?

What we heard

Cultural and lifestyle role

Gives people access to the great outdoors	*****
Contributes to personal health and well being	****
Supports First Nations cultures and practices	***
Access to the land is why we live in the Yukon	***
Gives us access to wilderness	***
We appreciate its peace and beauty, it recharges us	***
The land connects us with nature	**

Recreation role

Supports outdoor recreation	*****
Non-motorized trail activities (hiking, biking, skiing)	****
Hunting	***
Camping	***
Fishing	**
Boating	**
ATVs and snowmobiles	*

Economic role

Supports subsistence (berries, firewood, hunting)	***
Land base for mining, forestry, agriculture	***
Land base for tourism development	**

Environmental role

Public lands have important ecosystem values	**
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Important factors for public land sale or lease

What we asked

What other factors are important to consider when public lands are in discussion for sale or lease?

What we heard

Land use planning. Sales and leases must:

Be consistent with completed land use plans	*****
Demonstrate net public benefits (highest and best use)	****
Be subject to public and stakeholder consultation	****
Respect Final Agreements and First Nations values	***
Be part of planned development (no spot applications)	**
Meet identified community needs	*
Be compatible with the physical capability of the land	*

Consider impacts on:

The protection of the environment	*****
The protection of wildlife and habitat	****
The well being of surrounding land uses and users	***
The protection of public access	***
The retention of recreation areas	**

Fair and equitable disposition process.

Sales and leases must:

Be affordable. Current land values are too high	****
Have a transparent disposition process open to all	****
Give preference to Yukoners / no foreign ownership	***

Type and management of tenure.

The Yukon government should:

Explore different tenure options for different needs	****
Enforce regulations, especially regarding mining and agriculture	***
Support leasing options (more flexible than sales)	**
Oppose leasing options (not enough security)	*

Support for private and First Nations governments land development

What we asked

How can we encourage and support private and First Nation land development opportunities?

What we heard

Land use planning

Consult with municipalities, the public and First Nations governments	***
Identify suitable areas for development	***
Make land available to meet increased demand	***
Provide a range of options to meet development needs	**

The land disposition process:

Must be transparent, open and fair	***
Must have reasonable timelines and rules	**
Should be easy to follow with less red tape and paperwork	**
Make land costs more affordable. Current prices are too high	*

Collaboration. Work together and consider joint ventures with:

First Nations governments	***
Municipalities	**
The private sector	*

Other

First Nations governments should decide how they want to develop land	**
Improve financing options (grants, incentives etc.)	**
Explore different tenure options	**
Don't encourage any land development. Keep it all public.	*

Lifestyle and remote public land

What we asked

What are the most important ways access to remote public land supports your lifestyle?

What we heard

Types of lifestyles and activities being supported

Recreation in general	****
Mental and physical health	****
Connecting with nature, appreciating its beauty and benefits	****
Non-motorized trail activities (hiking, skiing, mountain biking, etc.)	****
Hunting (for recreation and food)	***
Fishing (for recreation and food)	***
Subsistence activities (harvesting for food, wood, medicines etc.)	***
Camping (in campgrounds and remote)	**
Appreciating wilderness, wild areas with no development	**
Economic livelihood (mining, trapping, scientific research)	**
Boating (paddling, kayaking, river trips)	*
Exploring (discovering new areas)	*

Type of access that supports your lifestyle

Roads	***
Non-motorized trails	***
Trails (motorized and non-motorized)	**
ATVs and 4x4 vehicles (on- and off-trail)	**
Boating, on rivers and lakes	**
Snowmobiles (on- and off-trail)	*
Horseback (on- and off-trail)	*

Aircraft (float planes and helicopters)	*
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Concerns re: access to remote public areas

Access to remote areas should be limited	***
Access that damages the environment should not be allowed	***
Public areas should remain open to the public	**

Considerations for remote public land

What we asked

What needs to be considered to make sure remote public lands can best serve your needs?

What we heard

Undertake land use planning

Complete land use plans before development	*****
Establish protected areas (for special areas and habitats)	****
Strike a balance between conservation and development	***

Restrict development on remote public lands

Keep remote wilderness areas undeveloped	****
Maintain the ecological integrity of remote areas	****
Protect important wildlife and habitat areas	***
Do not allow ATV access on remote public lands	**
No new roads in wilderness areas	**

Support responsible access and development

Maintain and develop access on remote public lands	***
Allow responsible development (mining, tourism, forestry)	***
Make land tenures available (housing, cottages, tourism)	**
Maintain and develop trails (motorized and non-motorized)	**
Support recreation infrastructure (staging areas, huts, etc.)	**
Manage and limit use based on the carrying capacity of the land	**



Other

Respect Final Agreements and First Nations values	***
Keep all public lands accessible to the public	***
Have less government regulations. Leave people alone	*

Access to remote public lands

What we asked

What needs to be considered to make sure remote public lands can continue to be accessible to all Yukoners?

What we heard

General

Ensure the public retains right of access to public lands	***
Complete land use plans to determine appropriate access	***
Respect Final Agreements and First Nations rights	***
Do not allow private tenures to restrict public access to public lands	**

Keep areas natural

Not all lands should be “accessible”. Some areas should stay wild	***
Keep roads and trails to a minimum	**
Prohibit and limit motorized access in remote areas	**
Protect wildlife and habitat	*

Maintain and develop access infrastructure

Plan and maintain access corridors	**
Support public roads (motorized)	**
Support public trails (motorized and non-motorized)	**
Support public hut to hut hiking trail systems	*

Concerns about current use of public land

What we asked

Do you have any specific concerns about how public lands are currently used or comments about how it should or should not be used?

What we heard

Concerns regarding current use

Too much environmental damage and degradation on public lands	***
Garbage and feces at campsites and industrial pollution	***
Illegal squatting on mining claims, camps and others	***
ATVs causing damage, especially off trails and in alpine areas	**
Impacts on wildlife (habitat loss, disturbance and over hunting)	**
Mining damage on the landscape and in water systems	**
Illegal trail cutting, mostly by ATV users	**
There are too many trails and overused trails	*
Outfitter camps that imply private use of public lands	*

Comments regarding how it should be used

Complete land use plans to determine best use of lands	***
Respect Final Agreements, First Nations rights and values	***
Prohibit ATV use in all wilderness areas	***
Implement stronger regulations for ATV use on all public lands	**
Create more protected areas	**
Stronger enforcement of regulations (mines, camps, squatters and ATVs)	**
Improved regulations and enforcement (environmental protection)	**
Develop tenure options for remote tourism and recreation uses	*
Promote education for responsible behaviour on remote lands	*
Limit and control any new access or development on public lands	*
End free staking of mineral claims on public lands	*
End spot land applications on public lands	*

Manage conflict, commercial and recreational uses

What we asked

How do we support continued access to a wide variety of commercial and recreational uses on remote public land and manage conflict between adjacent land uses?

What we heard

How to support continued access on remote public land

Complete land use plans to determine uses and access in advance	***
Public consultation (public forums, dialogue with FNs and stakeholders)	***
Respect Final Agreements and First Nations rights and values	***
Support equal access to land for all members of the public	**
Have a fair and transparent tenure disposition process	*
Don't over-regulate. Keep it simple.	*

How to manage conflict between adjacent land uses

Clear land use rules through zoning, permits and regulations	****
Stronger enforcement of land use and environmental regulations	***
Have strict limits on development and access on remote lands	**
Promote mutual respect between all land users	**
Improve communication between all user groups	**
No free mineral staking. It creates conflict and negates land use planning	*

Environmental impact protections and responsible access

What we asked

What approaches could be considered to make sure the Yukon's remote public lands are adequately protected from environmental impacts and accessed responsibly now and into the future?

What we heard

Planning, education and collaboration

Plan and establish protected areas	*****
Complete land use plans to identify appropriate uses and access	****
Respect Final Agreements and First Nations rights and values	***
Educate all parties on respect for the land	***
Have public consultation (forums and dialogue with all stakeholders)	**
Collaborate with key parties	**
Identify and protect wetlands	**

Managing development

Assess impacts of proposed development before permitting	***
Limit and minimize development on remote public lands	***
Require reclamation and restoration of all impacted areas	***
Require security deposits to cover reclamation costs	**
Require environmental monitoring of all developments	**
Limit visitation based on the carrying capacity of the land	**
End free staking and control mining to minimize impacts	**

Regulations

Need stronger enforcement of regulations	****
Need strong land use regulations and permits for all users	***
We don't need more regulations. Leave us alone.	*

Controlling access

Regulate all ATV use and prohibit ATVs in sensitive areas	****
Motorized access should be on permitted and designated trails only	**
Limit and minimize new road development	**

Management of new roads

What we asked

Do you feel newly created roads in remote public lands are adequately managed to protect the environment? If not, are there solutions to address this issue?



What we heard

Are newly created roads adequately managed?

No *****

Yes ***

Problems caused by roads

Roads have too many negative environmental impacts	****
Roads result in habitat loss, wildlife disturbance and over-hunting	**
Roads lead to increased ATV access and off-trail damage	**
Roads fragment wildlife habitats and wilderness areas	**
Roads introduce invasive seeds and plants	*

Suggested solutions

Reclamation of unused roads should be mandatory	***
Need clear regulations (road construction, use and reclamation)	***
Do not allow public access on roads built for private development	**
Need stronger monitoring and enforcement of road regulations	**
Assess impacts, costs and benefits of proposed roads in advance	**
Do not allow any new roads on any remote public lands	**
Minimize new road development on remote public lands	**
Access should be planned as part of land use planning	**
All roads on public lands should be open to the public	*

Protecting heritage resources

What we asked

What barriers do you see to protecting heritage resources on Yukon land?

What we heard

Lack of public knowledge (what qualifies as a “heritage resource”)	****
Competing land uses for areas that contain heritage resources	****
Lack of respect. No understanding of heritage or desire to protect	***
Lack of funding from various governments and resources to protect	**



Some heritage resources lack protection designation	**
Lack of awareness or education (heritage resources)	*
Lack of knowing who to call if something is found	*
Loss due to erosion, floods or fires	*
Damage caused by ATVs	*
Lack of enforcement. Many sites are remote and difficult to monitor	*
Lack of regulations	*

Other comments

What we asked

What other facets of public lands should we consider in the development of a new Yukon Public Lands Act? Any other comments?

What we heard

Make environmental integrity the top priority for all decisions	****
Minimize development in wilderness areas. Keep them wild.	****
Maintain the right of public access on public lands	****
Support affordable land tenures for housing, tourism and personal use	****
Respect Final Agreements and First Nations rights and values	***
Complete land use plans before development	***
Create protected areas for wilderness, wildlife and special areas	***
Don't privatize public lands for private commercial exploitation and gain	**
Ensure healthy wildlife populations and habitats	**
Need stronger enforcement of regulations	**
Keep it simple. Don't over-regulate	*
End free mineral staking and spot land applications	*

Themes, in depth

Land and wilderness areas are extremely important to Yukon people

From consultation results, it is very clear that land and wilderness, and how they are managed, are extremely important to Yukon people. For many people, land is central to their identity as Yukoners. Land is often the reason why people live here. It can also mean many different things to many different people:

- For **First Nations people**, the land is their ancestral homeland and the foundation for their cultures, livelihoods, values and rights.
- For **most Yukoners**, land is a place to go for recreation, camping, hiking, exploring, relaxing, inspiration, rejuvenation or getting in touch with nature.
- For **outdoors enthusiasts**, it is a place to go boating, hunting and fishing.
- For **ATV users**, it is a place to go exploring in places where cars and trucks can't go.
- For **back country travelers**, it is a place to experience undeveloped remote wilderness in its purest form.
- For **environmental supporters**, it contains valuable ecosystem functions that support clean waterways, intact wildlife habitats and healthy forests systems. Maintaining these functions is critical for supporting local lifestyles and the health of the planet.
- For **residents and business owners**, it is a place where there is plenty of land that could and should be made available for housing, cottage, or commercial lot development.

- For **entrepreneurs**, it is a place to take advantage of the abundant resource base to develop private businesses and strengthen the Yukon economy.

While the land cannot be all things to all people, its importance to the Yukon identity cannot be overstated. During this process, several priorities emerged for land and its management that were identified and supported by the majority of participants. These priorities will be important to incorporate in any future Yukon Lands Act.

Keep a healthy environment

Maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment was identified as the top priority for the new Act. All participants supported this view. This included several related priorities.

These included:

Limit and monitor development so that it does not harm the environment

Most respondents supported this priority, especially in relation to limiting development on remote public lands. A key part of this concern was to limit the type and intensity of development to ensure it was compatible with the carrying capacity of the land. It was noted that the new Act should enable the creation of regulations that set limits to type of land use and limits on the intensity of use, especially for vulnerable or sensitive environments. Many participants also noted the need for better monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulations, to prevent potential damage to the land.

Some members of the business community recognized the need for managing and in some cases limiting development; however they also noted the need to allow appropriate land and resource development to strengthen the private sector economy of the territory.

A small number of respondents (less than 5%) did not support any additional regulations or development restrictions. They felt government should not over-regulate and it should just leave people alone.

Ensure that wildlife populations and habitats remain healthy

This priority was universally supported by all participants. No one spoke up against this. All Yukoners value wildlife in the territory. The need to maintain all important habitats, including wetlands, was emphasized.

Create protected areas to properly manage important habitats and special areas

This priority was strongly supported. No respondents spoke up against it. It was seen as especially important to identify and protect special areas in advance of development, to reduce the potential for future land use conflicts. Habitats, wetlands and wilderness areas were identified as priorities for protection.

Several respondents expressed frustration at the government's lack of progress in advancing new protected areas in the territory. They noted this is an important public priority that should be addressed as soon as possible.

Retain wilderness areas that are completely free of roads and development

This priority was noted by many participants. No respondents spoke up against it. Wilderness was considered a rare and important feature of Yukon lands that should be protected for present and future generations. This was especially relevant considering the disappearance of many wilderness areas elsewhere in the world. Many participants noted these wilderness areas should be kept completely free from roads or development that alters the landscape.

Respect First Nations values and rights

All participants in the consultation process recognized the need to respect Final Agreements, First Nations rights and values. Support was expressed for meaningful consultation with First Nations governments on all land related issues. This was seen as something the new Act must incorporate.

Several First Nations governments provided input regarding their concerns and interests regarding the development of the new Yukon Public Lands Act. The key priorities identified by First Nations governments included the following:

Respect for and compliance with First Nations governments' aboriginal and treaty rights

First Nations governments stated that development of the legislation must be consistent with the spirit and letter of the Final Agreements, which grant an ongoing role for First Nations governments in the management of their traditional territories.

First Nations governments also noted the new act must align with the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDRIP), which includes provisions for joint decision-making and free, prior, and informed consent over use of traditional and settled territories.

First Nations governments also noted the Crown's duty to consult with them where it has "knowledge, real or constructive, of the potential existence of the Aboriginal right or title and contemplates conduct that might adversely affect it". This duty to consult must be incorporated into the new Act.

Collaborate with First Nations governments in the development of the new Act

Many First Nations governments emphasized the need to work collaboratively with their governments in the development of the new Yukon Public Lands Act. Some First Nations governments felt they had not yet been adequately informed about the initiative to develop the new act, and expressed the need for more effective communication and consultation on the matter.

First Nations governments also referenced the need for the establishment of a "Successor Resource Legislation Working Group" with participation from both First Nations governments and the Yukon government, to make recommendations about the development of the Act.

Complete Land Use Plans in collaboration with First Nations governments before allowing development

The need to complete regional land use plans in collaboration with First Nations governments was identified as a top priority by almost all First Nations participants. The purpose of these plans would be to guide land use decisions on a collaborative basis, to identify areas for development and conservation, and put an end to ad hoc decision making which may compromise future options. It was emphasized that these land use plans should be completed before any significant or large developments take place within the region.

Many First Nations governments expressed the need to identify important habitats and wetlands as part of the land use planning process. They also gave strong support for the formal establishment of designated protected areas for areas with important cultural or environmental values.

First Nations governments noted that a key part of the planning process should be the assessment of the carrying capacity of the land or its lakes and rivers. The completed plans should ensure that any development or intensity of use in these areas is managed so it does not exceed the identified carrying capacity.

Consistent with the need to complete land use plans before approving development, most First Nations governments opposed the current spot land application process and stated it should be terminated.

Support collaborative and co-management decision making for land management decisions

Many First Nations governments stated the new Act must incorporate more effective consultation and cooperation between First Nations governments and the Yukon government on land management decisions within their traditional territories. This was noted as a priority and seen as essential to ensure that any decisions fully consider

potential impacts on existing First Nations rights and land use. For example, past decisions on trails, roads or rural residences have often had negative impacts on their traditional use of the land, trapping activities or the ability to hunt in certain areas. These were all identified as issues that need to be addressed.

Explore and develop different tenure options for different purposes

Many First Nations governments supported the development of different tenure options appropriate for different purposes. Tenures and/or registration for traditional First Nations cabins was identified an important issue that should be addressed. A preference for using land use leases rather than granting fee simple title for back country outfitters was also noted.

Undertake improved enforcement of land regulations

Many First Nations governments noted the need for stronger enforcement of the existing land use regulations. Many concerns were expressed regarding the unauthorized occupancy of land. Key concerns included the use of mining claims for mainly residential purposes, as well as the construction and use of unauthorized cabins in the back country. Concerns were also expressed about the lack of enforcement regarding the construction and use of unauthorized trails by ATV users.

Make more land available for residential and commercial development

Almost all respondents recognized the need to make more tenured land available for the Yukon's rapidly growing population. Only a very small number (less than 5%) opposed the disposition of any public land for private ownership.

The need for more tenured land was a key point for many respondents. Many frustrations were expressed regarding the current lack of land availability and government's

disposition process, which was seen as inadequate, unfair, expensive and cumbersome. Many respondents felt government should urgently give making land available a much higher priority. This was noted for all communities, not only Whitehorse.

Key messages included:

- The highest priority was to make more residential lots available in all communities.
- More commercial lots also need to be made available to support Yukon's economy.
- There is also an increased demand for cottage lots.
- The new lots should be priced to be affordable.
- The disposition process should be easy to follow, fair, and open to all
- Different tenure options should be explored to service different needs, such as tenure options for wilderness outfitters, hut to hut hiking cabins, land leases or occupancy licenses.

Complete regional land use plans

Many participants emphasized the need to complete land use plans to clarify which land should be open for development and which land should be protected. Many participants expressed frustration with the slow rate of regional land use planning in the territory, and frustration at government's apparent lack of enthusiasm for the process.

Many participants noted that land development decisions should be part of a planned and managed process rather than on a "one-off" ad hoc basis. For this reason, several participants advocated for ending the free mineral staking regime and the spot land application process. They argued that both of these processes compromise future managed development and create conflicts with other land uses.

To address these concerns, many participants urged government to give a high priority to meeting its commitment to regional land use planning under the Final Agreements. They felt government should support the timely initiation and completion of land use plans in the territory. As part of the planning process, participants emphasized the importance of effective consultation with First Nations governments, stakeholders and all members of the public. In this way, all viewpoints and values can be considered.

Ensure equal and equitable access to public land

Throughout the survey, strong support was shown for the new Act to ensure that the members of the public have equal and equitable access to public land. In particular, it was expressed that private developments should not restrict the public's right to access land that is public.

It should be emphasized that this support refers to the public "right of access" to public lands. It should not be interpreted as strong support for physical infrastructure that would facilitate increased access to an area. In fact, many respondents indicated that many remote public lands and wilderness areas should remain free of roads or trails or other infrastructure that would promote increased visitation. These areas should be open to the public, but only via means that do not require roads or trails.

Strengthen the compliance, monitoring and enforcement of land management regulations

Throughout the survey, many participants noted concerns with the lack of sufficient regulations, monitoring and enforcement regarding different uses and activities on the land.

Unauthorized occupancies

Several participants noted that a number of mining claims in the Yukon are being used primarily for residential purposes and not mining. It was also noted that there are many cabins and structures built in the back country that are being used but do not have authorization. Many participants called for stronger enforcement of existing mining and land use regulations to address these issues.

Industry related roads and activities

Participants also noted that some access roads related to industrial activities, as well as the industrial activities themselves, have resulted in damage to the environment or wildlife populations.

A key concern for industrial roads is that they can increase motorized public access to previously inaccessible areas, thereby resulting in negative impacts of such as increased off-trail ATV use, increased hunting pressure on wildlife populations, and disturbance of wildlife habitats. Many participants noted the need for stronger regulations and enforcement to address the permitting, construction, management and reclamation of roads.

For industrial activities on the land, it was suggested that stricter monitoring and enforcement of land use regulations should be done.

All-terrain vehicle (ATV) use

Many participants noted the problems caused by ATVs as a priority concern for land management. This included concerns with ATV use both on and off trails, including illegal trail cutting, habitat loss, wildlife disturbance, overhunting, fragmented habitats, loss of wilderness, and on- and off-trail ground damage.

From consultation results, several participants felt that the current Off Road Vehicle (ORV) regulations are either inadequate, or they are not being applied vigorously enough, or they are too cumbersome and difficult to implement.

Many participants noted an urgent need for stronger regulations and better enforcement of on- and off-trail ATV use. Many participants advocated for ATV use on designated trails only. Many participants also advocated for a complete prohibition of ATV use in alpine areas and in wilderness areas.

What's next?

The work to renew Yukon's lands legislation is being undertaken by the Yukon government in close collaboration with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous governments, and the Council of Yukon First Nations through a government-to-government steering committee. Further public engagement will occur once the steering committee develops potential approaches for the framework for new lands legislation.

Appendix 1

Number of online survey responses by resident's location

Location	Number of respondents
Whitehorse	113
Whitehorse periphery	15
Dawson	14
Haines Junction	8
Carcross and Tagish	5
Mt. Lorne	5
Marsh Lake	4
Watson Lake	3
Faro	1
Keno	1
Ross River	1
Mayo	1
Undisclosed	11
Total	182