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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **TOURISM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE YUKON CONCERNED BY GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PEEL**

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The Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon (TIA Yukon) is very concerned and disappointed at the Government of Yukon's response to the Peel River Planning Commission's proposed land use plan.

"For five years, the Commission has been diligent in their efforts to develop a plan, and we believe their plan reflects the desires of most stakeholders and Yukoners," said Rod Taylor, Chair of TIA Yukon. "For the government to disregard it, because they do not agree with its recommendations, shows contempt for the planning process and the Yukoners who contributed to it."

TIA Yukon supports sustainable development through a diverse economic base and believes that mining, development and tourism can be supportive of each other. It does, however, believe that the Three Rivers area is particularly unique and has been supportive of complete protection for this specific watershed area of the Peel region.

"The Commission's proposed plan is a conservative one which allows for future revisions while providing certainty now to all industries," says Taylor, "and at the same time preserves a unique, national treasure and an asset that will, if protected, be an economic asset to the Yukon for generations to come."

TIA recognizes the importance of mining to the economy of the Yukon. Protecting the Peel River area as recommended by the Commission would still leave the overwhelming majority of the territory open to mineral exploration.

TIA Yukon strongly urges the Government of Yukon, who has a mandate to represent all the people of the Yukon and to respect their input, to reconsider its position. The Peel Land Use Plan is unique, just like the Three Rivers area, and while the recommendations of the Commission should be respected; they should not be precedent setting for future land use plans in other regions of the Yukon.

**For more information, contact:**

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