



MEDIA RELEASE

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Yukon Tourism Industry Supports Plan for Peel Watershed

December 11, 2009 (Whitehorse, Yukon) – The Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon (TIAY) applauds the work completed by the Peel Watershed Planning Commission.

“We are pleased to see they erred on the side of caution and listened to the opinions voiced by the majority of Yukoners ” said TIAY Chair Rod Taylor.

TIAY, which represents more than 400 tourism industry members, has been advocating for the economic and social value of intact wilderness in the Three Rivers region. The association has also been clear that it supports mining in the territory and believes that it is a vital part of the Yukon economy.

Although TIAY supports the Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan, it does not believe that the Peel Land Use planning process should be viewed as a template for future planning regions. Rather, TIAY suggests that each region should be looked at as a unique area and the approach to planning should reflect that.

Taylor acknowledged how cumbersome the land use planning process can be and that finding a balance can be difficult. During the planning process, conflicts emerged over how to manage lands and resources in the Peel region. TIA Yukon does not see conflicts of a similar magnitude in future land use planning exercises.

The Plan recommends that 80.6% of the Peel region be given a high degree of protection as Special Management Areas. The Commission calls it “a conservative, cautious plan that preserves the maximum degree of future options for society.”

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