

## *Moving Forward Together*

### **Yukon Party Response Tourism Industry Association of Yukon Territorial Political Party Questionnaire**

1. The Land Use Planning Process is a Treaty obligation arising out of Chapter 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) that binds the Government of Yukon and all First Nation governments. The objectives of the planning process are set out in the UFA one of which is:

“to ensure that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management, protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner so as to ensure Sustainable Development.”

The whole purpose of the land use planning process is to ensure that a proper balance is achieved between developing protected areas and developing economic growth. This proper balance has not been achieved in the Peel Watershed Planning Commission’s Final Recommended Plan and the Yukon Party is the only political party in Yukon that will call upon all stakeholders to go back to the table and achieve common ground that enables the territory to have both pristine wilderness and a strong economy. The Yukon Party believes it is irresponsible for the Liberals and NDP to support the Commission’s plan without knowing how much it would cost the Yukon government to compensate mining companies with existing claims in the watershed. It must be acknowledged that the Yukon Party government is the only Yukon government to achieve a land use plan since the process started in 1993.

2. A re-elected Yukon Party government will continue to promote tourism as one of Yukon’s two major economic mainstays. The 2011-2012 Budget provides for the following:
  - \$750,000 for “Destination Yukon” that builds upon the tourism marketing momentum generated by the “2007 Look Up North” marketing campaign and the 2010 “Pan-North Marketing Consortium Olympic Marketing Initiative.”
  - \$700,000 for the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund;
  - \$350,000 for the Scenic Drives Initiative.
  - \$125,000 for Tourism and Culture’s Interactive Website.

The Department of Tourism and Culture is currently investing \$8.9 million which includes:

- \$1.578 million for Product Development and Research;
- \$1.335 million for Marketing Operations – Overseas;
- \$3.845 million for Marketing Operations – North America; and
- \$1.847 million for Visitor Services.

In addition, the Department provides \$200,000 to the Yukon Convention Bureau Society; \$264,000 to the Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon; and \$144,000 to the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon as well as funding support to other societies and associations.

3. The Yukon Party is addressing the human resources challenges facing the tourism industry in Yukon through a variety of initiatives including;
  - The Yukon Tourism Training Fund (YTTF) to provide tourism training that is responsive to industry and employee training needs through three streams:
    - Entry-level skill development such as food safe, welcome Yukon, first aid, basic web and marketing skills, beginner accounting, etc.;
    - Seasonal employment training and (re)certification – wilderness first aid, white water rescue, etc.;
    - Professional skills enhancement and course work – (for current tourism employees) to upgrade skills to existing knowledge base, such as the next courses in accounting, website skills, sales and marketing, etc.

The previous Yukon Party government signed a Labour Market Agreement and Labour Market Development Agreement that will assist unemployed and underemployed Yukoners reach their full potential in the workplace and help the Yukon government match its skills development programs with the territory's economic agenda. It also developed a Labour Market Framework that will guide Yukon government activities over the next 10 years. An interdepartmental team is overseeing the project and will provide a broad governmental perspective in the development of strategies with the intent of further developing Yukon's labour force. The strategies are a comprehensive skills and trades, training strategy, immigration strategy, national recruitment strategy, employee retention strategy and labour market information strategy. Advanced Education of the Department of Education administers the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP) that allows the Government of Yukon to nominate potential immigrants based on industrial and economic priorities and labour market conditions; and who on Yukon's assessment, have a strong likelihood of successfully establishing themselves in Yukon society. The YNP offers three programs; the Skilled Worker Program, the Critical Impact Worker Program and the Business Program. There is also the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (TIOW) that targets workers aged 55 to 65 by providing training and work placement as well as the Student Training and

- Employment Program (STEP) offering Yukon post-secondary students the opportunity to work in Yukon in the summer in their chosen field of study. On February 23, 2011, the Government of Canada and the Yukon Party government signed an Agreement on Temporary Foreign Workers that gave Yukon a role in managing the program in the territory. Yukon will now be able to recommend the entry of some temporary foreign workers without requiring a Service Canada assessment of whether there are Canadian or permanent residents available to fill the vacant positions. Such exemptions will be determined according to criteria set by the Yukon government in keeping with our economic plans and priorities.
4. The previous Yukon Party government re-established the Department of Economic Development in 2002 after the Department had been disbanded by the previous Liberal Yukon government. The Department of Economic Development has a number of funds and initiatives that address access to capital for small and medium sized businesses. The Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Program is a joint initiative between the Government of Yukon and seven banks that supports upgrades to tourism attractions and tourist accommodation facilities and focuses on new or expanded activities which will have the potential to expand the Yukon economy and create new jobs. The minimum guarantee is \$10,000 and the maximum is \$100,000 with a guarantee level of 65% of venture loan, principle only, and based on the net loss of the venture loan. The Department also has a number of other funds:
    - the Strategic Industries Development Fund that helps identify and assist the development of industries and strategic projects in the Yukon with the potential for broad-based economic benefits.
    - The Enterprise Trade Fund stimulates and supports the growth of Yukon business activity through market penetration and expansion and business development that: opens new markets; and undertakes and implements projects that grow and develop business activities while not creating unfair competition with the local Yukon market; and
    - The Yukon Small Business Investment Tax Credit is a personal tax credit that reduces Yukon income tax for eligible investors and encourages Yukoners to invest in small Yukon companies.
  5. The previous Yukon Party governments invested heavily in transportation, energy, communications, and information technology as well as in the Innovation and Knowledge sectors; the multi-million dollar Shakwak Project for the Alaska Highway; Mayo B; the new Mobile Communications Solution (MoCS); the Yukon Climate Change Research Centre of Excellence and the Cold Climate Innovation Centre to name a few. A re-elected Yukon Party government will carry on emphasizing these priorities. The expansion of the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport ensured that Yukon can continue to receive direct international flights. Turnaround areas or “Buttons” were constructed for

the Old Crow and Dawson runways to support future Boeing 737 service and facilitate the safe movement of larger aircrafts. In 2011-2012, \$2.99 million is being invested for more important improvements to Yukon's airports. The Yukon Party's multi-year capital plan for 2011-2012 includes the following investments in infrastructure:

- \$46.6 million for Transportation Infrastructure;
  - \$10.873 million for IT Assets;
  - \$66.99 million for Municipal Infrastructure; and
  - \$37.51 million for Building Assets.
6. Since 2008, the previous Yukon Party government partnered with Latitude Wireless to expand cell phone service to 23 areas in the territory. It expanded cellular phone coverage in the Dawson City, Carmacks, Lake Laberge, Ibex Valley and Watson Lake areas. Carmacks and Lake Laberge went into service in August 2009; Watson Lake and Ibex Valley in March 2010, and Dawson City received expanded service in December 2010. A re-elected Yukon Party government will continue to endeavour to improve the Yukon's telecommunications with the private sector in relation to high-speed Internet service and the upgrading of cellular technologies. In 2011-2012, the Yukon government will be investing \$10.873 million in information technology across government for hardware, network equipment and computer applications that support government programs and services as well as the vibrant IT sector through jobs and contracting opportunities.
  7. The full scope of the Yukon Party's commitments will be included in the Yukon Party's 2011 Election Platform, "Moving Forward Together."