



March 1, 2022

Carl Sidney  
Board Chair, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board  
Box 31104  
Whitehorse, Y1A 5P7

via email: [officemanager@yfwmb.ca](mailto:officemanager@yfwmb.ca)

Dear Chair Sidney:

**Re: Beginning of engagement period for the development of a new Yukon Public Lands Act**

I am writing to inform you that the Government of Yukon is initiating a 60 day engagement with the Yukon public on a new Yukon Public Lands Act and we are seeking input from your organization.

Since devolution in 2003, the Government of Yukon has been responsible for administering two separate legislative regimes for two sets of public lands. These Acts have not been extensively reviewed since the 1980s. Establishing a new single Yukon Public Lands Act will:

- Modernize our legislation to streamline and enhance land management processes and long term planning.
- Recognize the Yukon's First Nation's Final Agreements and support land claim and self-government implementation.
- Incorporate streamlined administration and best practices to include cooperation and joint administrative initiatives with other governments.

This new Public Lands Act will assist Government of Yukon's goal to develop a modern Yukon Public Lands Act that provides a new modern approach to management of surface land rights on public land and prioritize a cohesive approach to land management in the Yukon; while recognizing First Nation Final Agreements in the day-to-day management of the Yukon's lands.

In particular, we would like to hear how you use public lands. The scope of a new Yukon Public Lands Act will be broad and will need to balance a variety of community needs and values.

A discussion paper on Government of Yukon's proposed new Public Lands Act is attached for your review. The attached document is intended to provide you with some background, summary of the issues and questions to receive input and to inform in the development of the proposed new legislation.

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As part of the 60 day engagement, Mike Draper, Legislation Advisor and Negotiator for Sustainable Resources, is available to discuss this initiative with you or your organization either in person or virtually online. We invite you to contact Mike Draper to set up a date or time, should you wish to meet to discuss the new Yukon Public Lands Act.

The Government of Yukon is committed to consulting with the Yukon public in accordance with all applicable COVID-related public health orders, guidelines and community travel advisories. So as part of the consultation and engagement process, we have prepared a discussion paper with questions and encourage you to consider sending us your feedback within **60 days of the date of this letter**. This can be filled out through the [engageyukon.ca](http://engageyukon.ca) website. This is in addition to any discussions or direct correspondence that you wish to send by email to [michael.draper@gov.yk.ca](mailto:michael.draper@gov.yk.ca), by mail to P.O. Box 2703 (K-320), Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6, by hand to the Land Management Branch at Room 320, Elijah Smith Building or fax (867) 393-6340.

Your input at this stage of the legislation development will be critical in creating a New Public Lands Act that is effective and responsive to the needs of all Yukon people.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions about this draft legislation, please contact Mike at (867) 667-3185 or toll free at 1(800) 661-0408 ext. 3185. Our branch looks forward to receiving any input you may have.

Sincerely,



Matt Ball  
Director, Land Management Branch

Enclosure: A Discussion Paper: A New Yukon Public Lands Act