

Talking Yukon Parks – Public Engagement Survey 2018 Summary Report¹

Introduction

The Government of Yukon is developing a strategy to set long-term direction for Yukon’s system of territorial parks, which includes wilderness parks, campgrounds, and recreation sites. The strategy will provide guidance on how to sustainably deliver the environmental, economic, social, and health benefits of territorial parks.

From July 18 to September 10, 2018, the Department of Environment ran a public engagement survey covering a few specific topics around Yukon’s parks. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics hosted the survey online, and it was made available to the public through the Engage Yukon site. The online survey was available in English and French. Additionally, Parks staff distributed paper copies of the survey to visitors at remote Yukon campgrounds.

There were 1,328 valid responses to the survey.² This report is a summary of those responses. Responses to open-ended questions are not included in this analysis.

Respondent demographics

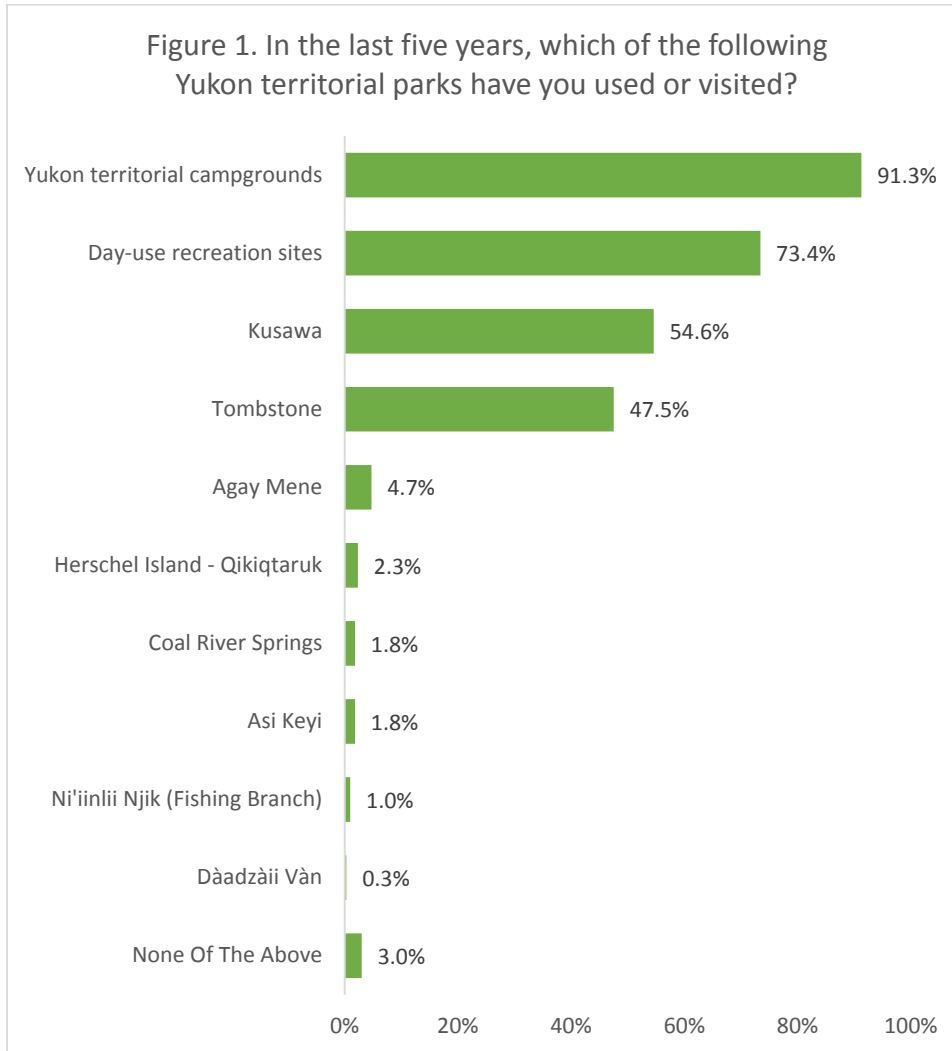
Most respondents (97%) said they live in Canada, and the majority (86%) self-identified as Yukon residents. Overall, 71% of respondents said they live in the Whitehorse area. Seven percent of respondents identified themselves as indigenous, 83% as non-indigenous, and 10% declined the question. Seventy-five percent of respondents said they were between 30 and 64 years of age. More detailed respondent demographics can be found in Appendix 1.

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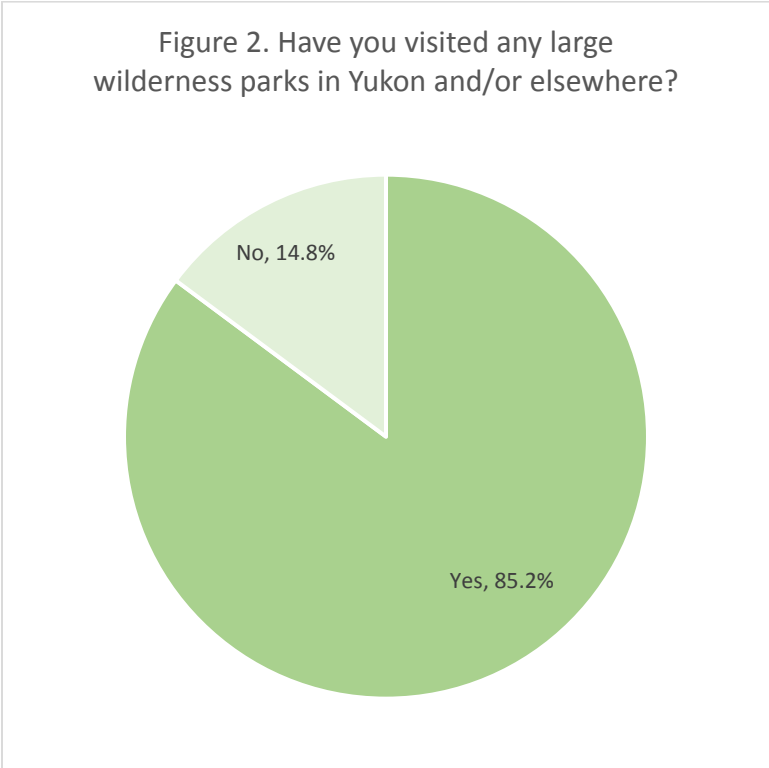
²Seven duplicates were identified and removed from the dataset.

Results

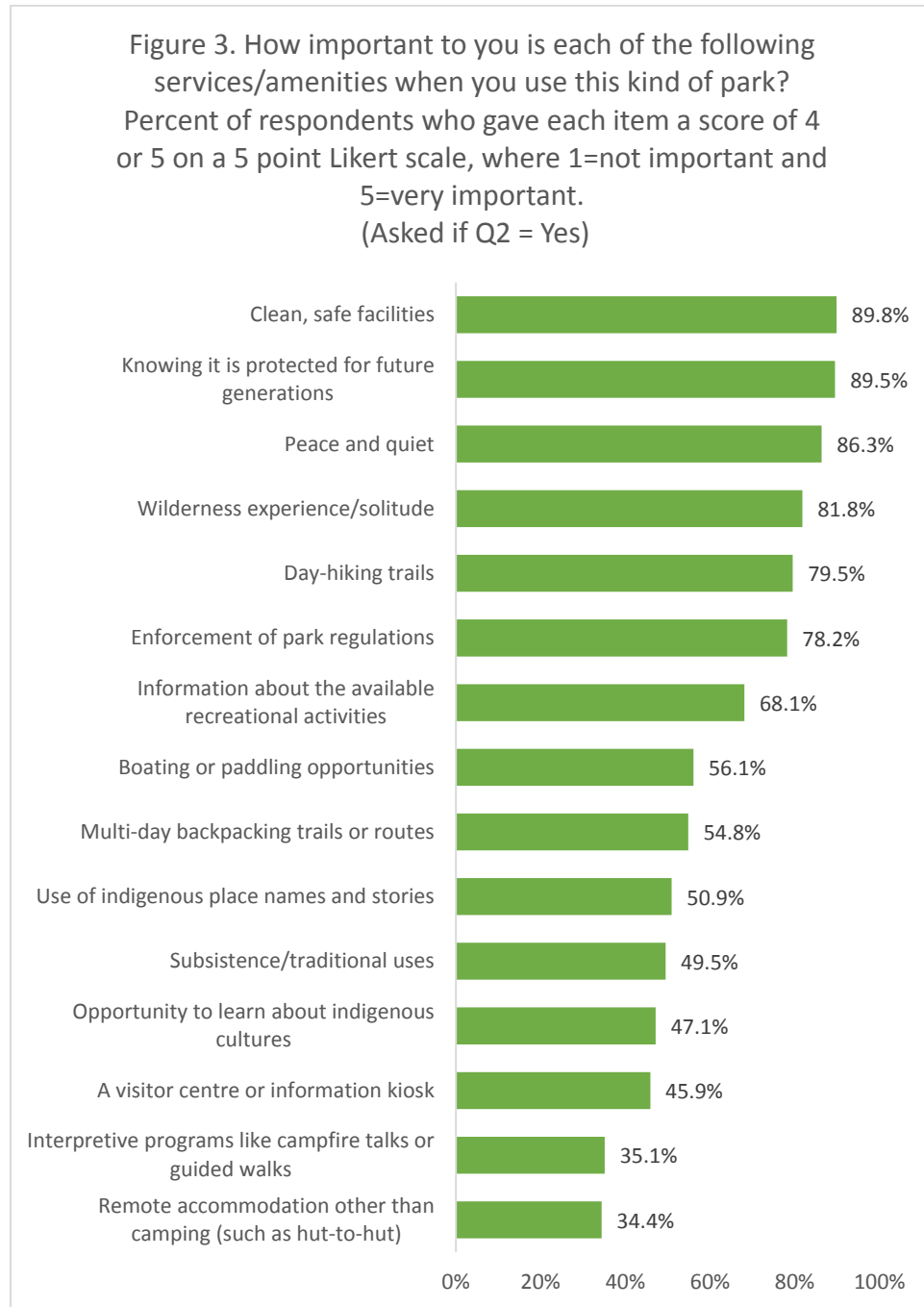
Ninety-seven percent of respondents said they had used or visited at least one type of Yukon territorial park in the past five years (Figure 1). Ninety-one percent have used Yukon territorial campgrounds, and 73% have used day-use recreation sites. Seventy-two percent of respondents said they did road-accessible activities in the parks, and 38% said they did remote back-country activities.



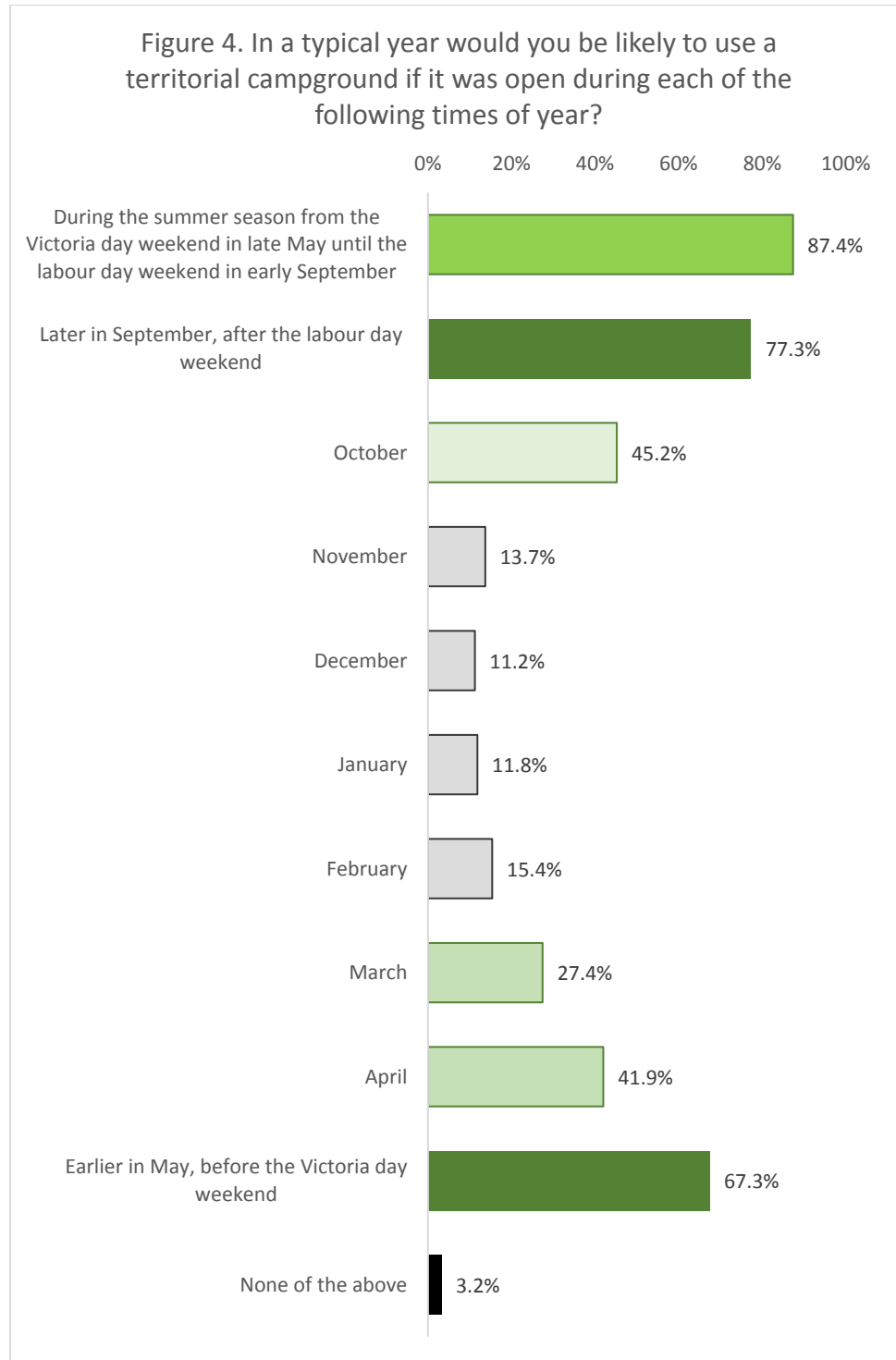
The majority of respondents (85%) have visited large wilderness parks in Yukon and/or elsewhere (Figure 2).



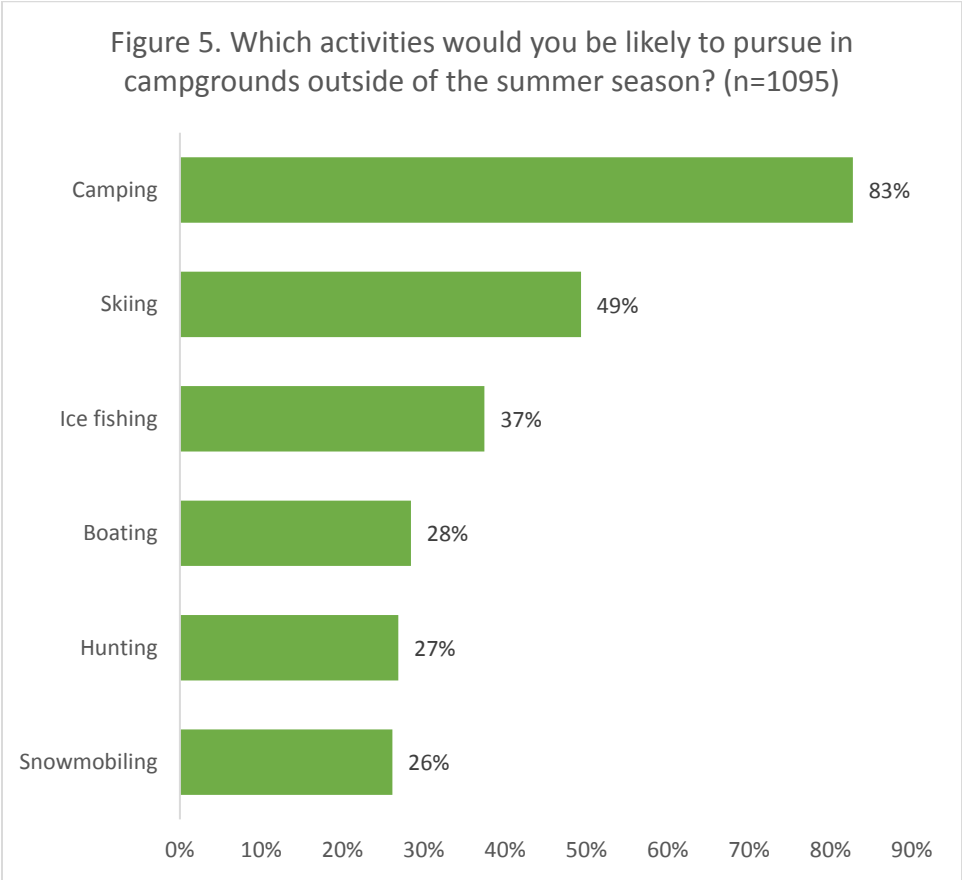
Those who have visited large wilderness parks were asked to rate the importance of a series of attributes. Most highly rated were: clean, safe facilities (rated as important by 90% of respondents), knowing it is protected for future generations (90%), peace and quiet (86%), wilderness experience/solitude (82%), and day hiking trails (80%; Figure 3).



All the survey respondents were asked which times of year they would be likely to use a territorial campground. While 87% of respondents said they would be likely to use a campground during the summer season, 77% said they would likely use a campground later in September, after the Labour Day weekend, and 45% said they would likely use a campground in October. While there was less appetite for camping during the winter months, interest began to rise again in March (27%), April (42%) and early May (67%; Figure 4).

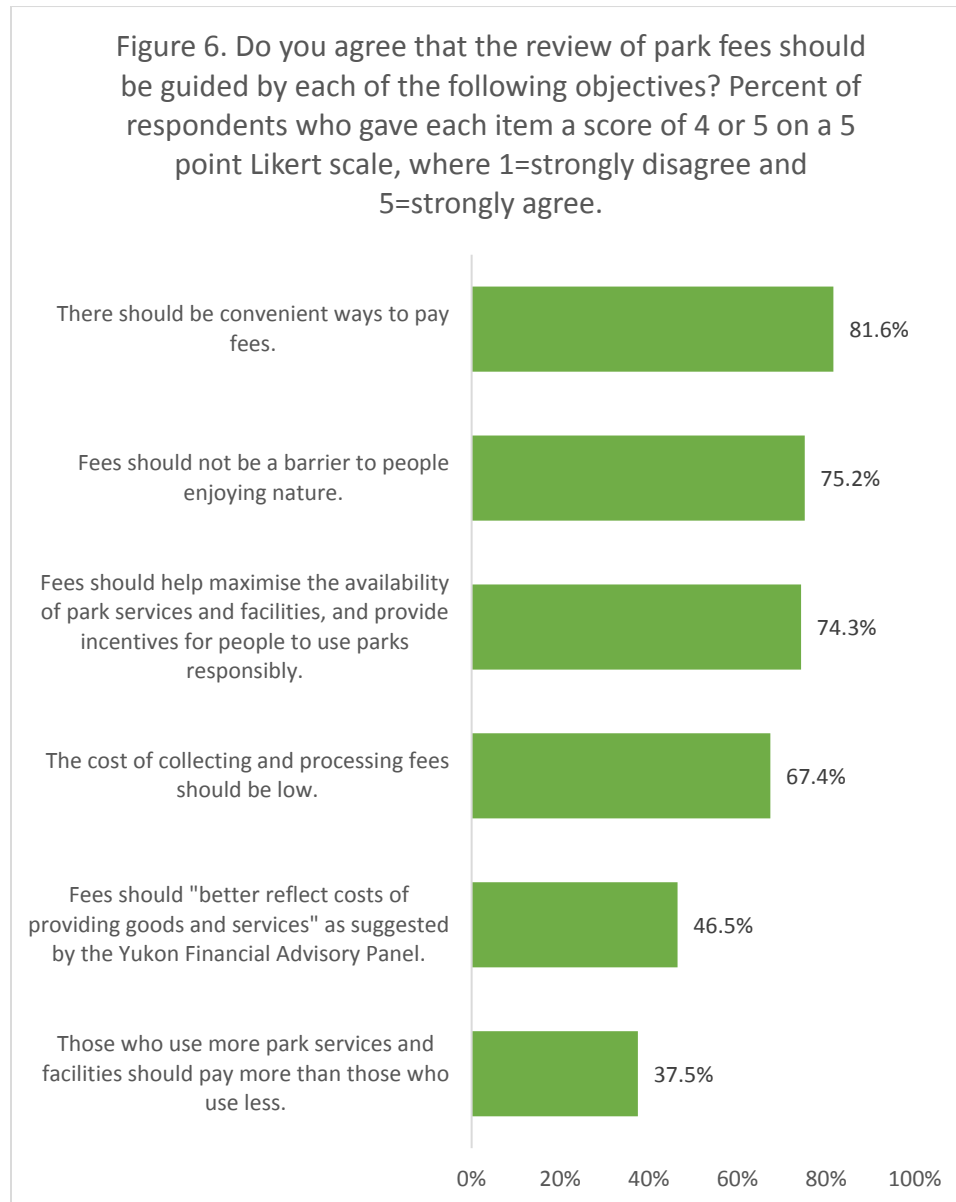


For those who said they would likely use campgrounds outside of the summer season, camping (83%), skiing (49%) and ice fishing (37%) were the most popular options selected from the list provided in the survey (Figure 5).



Respondents were asked whether they agree that a review of park fees should be guided by a set of listed objectives. As shown in Figure 6, they were most likely to agree that:

- there should be convenient ways to pay fees (82%),
- fees should not be a barrier to people enjoying nature (75%),
- fees should help maximise the availability of park services and facilities, and provide incentives for people to use parks responsibly (74%), and
- the cost of collecting and processing fees should be low (67%).



Appendix 1. Frequency tables

Q1. In the last five years, which of the following Yukon territorial parks have you used or visited?

Check all that apply:

	Frequency	Percent
Yukon territorial campgrounds	1212	91.27
Day-use recreation sites	975	73.42
Tombstone	631	47.52
Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk	31	2.33
Kusawa	725	54.59
Agay Mene	63	4.74
Asi Keyi	24	1.81
Ni'iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch)	13	0.98
Coal River Springs	24	1.81
Dàadzàii Vàn	4	0.3
None Of The Above	40	3.01

Q1.1 What did you do in the park(s)? Check all that apply:

	Frequency	Percent
Road-accessible activities	952	71.69
Remote back-country activities	511	38.48

Q2. Have you visited any large wilderness parks in Yukon and/or elsewhere? This could include any national, provincial, territorial, or state parks you have visited.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1131	85.17
No	197	14.83

Q2.1 (asked if Q2 = Yes; n=1131) How important to you is each of the following services/amenities when you use this kind of park?

a. Information about the available recreational activities

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	43	3.8
2	70	6.19
3	248	21.93
4	335	29.62
5 (very important)	435	38.46

b. Day-hiking trails

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	34	3.01
2	38	3.36
3	160	14.15
4	321	28.38
5 (very important)	578	51.11

c. Multi-day backpacking trails or routes

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	117	10.34
2	137	12.11
3	257	22.72
4	277	24.49
5 (very important)	343	30.33

d. Boating or paddling opportunities

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	78	6.9
2	118	10.43
3	301	26.61
4	332	29.35
5 (very important)	302	26.7

e. Peace and quiet

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	15	1.33
2	17	1.5
3	123	10.88
4	281	24.85
5 (very important)	695	61.45

f. Wilderness experience/solitude

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	11	0.97
2	27	2.39
3	168	14.85
4	333	29.44
5 (very important)	592	52.34

g. Opportunity to learn about indigenous cultures

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	146	12.91
2	162	14.32
3	290	25.64
4	288	25.46
5 (very important)	245	21.66

h. Use of indigenous place names and stories

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	151	13.35
2	131	11.58
3	273	24.14
4	282	24.93
5 (very important)	294	25.99

i. Knowing it is protected for future generations

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	16	1.41
2	21	1.86
3	82	7.25
4	213	18.83
5 (very important)	799	70.65

j. Subsistence/traditional uses

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	111	9.81
2	150	13.26
3	310	27.41
4	291	25.73
5 (very important)	269	23.78

k. Interpretive programs like campfire talks or guided walks

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	204	18.04
2	231	20.42
3	299	26.44
4	267	23.61
5 (very important)	130	11.49

l. Enforcement of park regulations

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	30	2.65
2	57	5.04
3	160	14.15
4	338	29.89
5 (very important)	546	48.28

m. Clean, safe facilities

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	11	0.97
2	18	1.59
3	86	7.6
4	297	26.26
5 (very important)	719	63.57

n. A visitor centre or information kiosk

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	94	8.31
2	159	14.06
3	359	31.74
4	313	27.67
5 (very important)	206	18.21

o. Remote accommodation other than camping (such as hut-to-hut)

	Frequency	Percent
1 (not important)	220	19.45
2	189	16.71
3	333	29.44
4	219	19.36
5 (very important)	170	15.03

Q3. In a typical year would you be likely to use a territorial campground if it was open during each of the following times of year? Check all that apply:

	Frequency	Percent
During the summer season from the Victoria day weekend in late May until the labour day weekend in early September	1160	87.35
Later in September, after the labour day weekend	1026	77.26
October	600	45.18
November	182	13.7
December	149	11.22
January	157	11.82
February	204	15.36
March	364	27.41
April	557	41.94
Earlier in May, before the Victoria day weekend	894	67.32
None Of The Above	42	3.16

Q3.1. Which activities would you be likely to pursue in campgrounds outside of the summer season? (n=1095)

	Frequency	Percent
Hunting	294	26.85
Ice fishing	410	37.44
Snowmobiling	286	26.12
Skiing	540	49.32
Camping	906	82.74
Boating	311	28.40

Q4. Do you agree that the review of park fees should be guided by each of the following objectives?

a. Fees should "better reflect costs of providing goods and services" as suggested by the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel.

	Frequency	Percent
1 (strongly disagree)	113	8.51
2	142	10.69
3	334	25.15
4	340	25.60
5 (strongly agree)	277	20.86
Don't know	122	9.19

b. Fees should not be a barrier to people enjoying nature.

	Frequency	Percent
1 (strongly disagree)	36	2.71
2	74	5.57
3	205	15.44
4	284	21.39
5 (strongly agree)	714	53.77
Don't know	15	1.13

c. Those who use more park services and facilities should pay more than those who use less.

	Frequency	Percent
1 (strongly disagree)	245	18.45
2	186	14.01
3	328	24.70
4	279	21.01
5 (strongly agree)	219	16.49
Don't know	71	5.35

d. There should be convenient ways to pay fees.

	Frequency	Percent
1 (strongly disagree)	24	1.81
2	25	1.88
3	166	12.50
4	317	23.87
5 (strongly agree)	767	57.76
Don't know	29	2.18

e. The cost of collecting and processing fees should be low.

	Frequency	Percent
1 (strongly disagree)	32	2.41
2	47	3.54
3	270	20.33
4	335	25.23
5 (strongly agree)	560	42.17
Don't know	84	6.33

f. Fees should help maximise the availability of park services and facilities, and provide incentives for people to use parks responsibly.

	Frequency	Percent
1 (strongly disagree)	41	3.09
2	47	3.54
3	192	14.46
4	363	27.33
5 (strongly agree)	624	46.99
Don't know	61	4.59

Q5. Do you live in Canada?

	Frequency	Percent
No	46	3.46
Yes	1282	96.54

Q5.1 (Asked if Q5 = Yes; n=1282) Are you a Yukon resident?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1142	89.08
No	140	10.92

Q5.2 (Asked if Q5.1 = Yes; n=1142) Where do you live?

	Frequency	Percent
Dawson City	62	5.43
Haines Junction	18	1.58
Ibex Valley	13	1.14
Marsh Lake	19	1.66
Mayo	6	0.53
Mount Lorne	14	1.23
Carcross or Tagish	12	1.05
Teslin	9	0.79
Watson Lake	12	1.05
Whitehorse	949	83.10
Other Yukon community or rural Yukon	24	2.10
Not stated	4	0.35

Q5.3 (Asked if Q5 = No; n=46) What country do you live in?

	Frequency	Percent
Australia or New Zealand	7	15.22
United States	21	45.65
Western Europe	17	36.96
Not stated	1	2.17

Q6. Are you aboriginal / indigenous, that is, First Nations, Métis or Inuit?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	94	7.08
No	1102	82.98
Prefer not to say	132	9.94

Q7. How old are you?

	Frequency	Percent
Under 18 years old	11	0.83
18-29 years old	141	10.62
30-39 years old	364	27.41
40-49 years old	275	20.71
50-64 years old	362	27.26
65 years or older	150	11.3
Prefer not to say	25	1.88

Appendix 2. Questionnaire

Talking Yukon Parks – Public Engagement Survey

The Government of Yukon is developing a strategy to set long-term direction for Yukon’s system of territorial parks, which includes wilderness parks, campgrounds, and recreation sites. The strategy will provide guidance on how to sustainably deliver the environmental, economic, social, and health benefits of territorial parks.

From April to July 2018 we engaged with park users, stakeholders, First Nations, and Yukon communities at more than 20 events to help us begin the process of developing the strategy.

Now we have a few specific questions to ask Yukon residents and all users of Yukon territorial parks. Your answers will help us write a first draft of a Yukon Parks Strategy. There will be an opportunity to provide feedback on that draft during the coming winter.

Government of Yukon is responsible for a range of types of territorial parks. These include:

- Road-accessible **territorial campgrounds** like Wolf Creek, Pine Lake, Klondike River, and Watson Lake campgrounds. These offer services like camp sites with picnic tables, firewood, outhouses, and boat launches.
- **Larger territorial parks** like Tombstone, Kusawa, and Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk territorial parks. Some of these offer road-accessible activities (such as campgrounds, day hiking, boating, fishing, skiing, or snowmobiling) and all offer more remote back-country activities (such as multi-day trips for backpacking, hunting, or paddling).
- **Day-use recreation sites** like Five Finger Rapids, Kookatsoon Lake, and Rancheria Falls. These offer activities such as picnics or swimming.

Q1. In the last five years, which of the following Yukon territorial parks have you used or visited? Check all that apply:

- Yukon territorial campgrounds
- Day-use recreation sites
- Tombstone
- Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk
- Kusawa
- Agay Mene
- Asi Keyi
- Ni’iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch)
- Coal River Springs
- Dàadzàii Vàn
- None of the above

Q1.1. (If Q1= any of the above) What did you do in the park(s)? Check all that apply:

- Road-accessible activities
- Remote back-country activities

Wilderness parks

Q2. Have you visited any large wilderness parks in Yukon and/or elsewhere? This could include any national, provincial, territorial, or state parks you have visited.

- Yes
- No

Q2.1. (If Q2=Yes) How important to you is each of the following services/amenities when you use this kind of park? (5 point Likert scale, where 1 = not important and 5 = very important)

- a. Information about the available recreational activities
- b. Day-hiking trails
- c. Multi-day backpacking trails or routes
- d. Boating or paddling opportunities
- e. Peace and quiet
- f. Wilderness experience/solitude
- g. Opportunity to learn about indigenous cultures
- h. Use of indigenous place names and stories
- i. Knowing it is protected for future generations
- j. Subsistence/traditional uses
- k. Interpretive programs like campfire talks or guided walks
- l. Enforcement of park regulations
- m. Clean, safe facilities
- n. A visitor centre or information kiosk
- o. Remote accommodation other than camping (such as hut-to-hut)

Q2.2. (If Q2=Yes) If there is something else that is important to you when you use this kind of park, please enter it here. [Text box]

Yukon territorial campgrounds

This question is about road-accessible territorial campgrounds like Wolf Creek, Pine Lake, and Klondike River campgrounds.

All territorial campgrounds are open from the Victoria Day weekend in late May until the Labour Day weekend in early September. Some are used outside of this period, and there is interest in using territorial campgrounds at other times of year, either for camping or as an access point for activities like hunting, ice fishing, snowmobiling, or skiing.

Q3. In a typical year would you be likely to use a territorial campground if it was open during each of the following times of year? Check all that apply:

- During the summer season from the Victoria day weekend in late May until the labour day weekend in early September
- Later in September, after the labour day weekend
- October
- November
- December
- January
- February
- March
- April
- Earlier in May, before the Victoria day weekend
- None of the above

Q3.1. Which activities would you be likely to pursue in campgrounds outside of the summer season? Check all that apply:

- Hunting
- Ice fishing
- Snowmobiling
- Skiing
- Camping
- Boating
- Other (please specify):

As part of developing the Yukon Parks Strategy we will review the fees that users pay for services in all the different types of territorial parks. These fees have not changed since 1984 and are among the lowest in Canada.

Currently there is one fee for camping in any campground in any Yukon territorial park. The fee is \$12 per night per accommodation unit (trailer, tent, etc). Yukon residents may purchase an annual campground permit for \$50 (free for Yukon seniors). There are no fees for other park services such as entry, day use, firewood, parking, boat launch use, interpretive programs, or commercial activity permits.

Q4. Do you agree that the review of park fees should be guided by each of the following objectives? (5 point Likert scale, where 1 = strongly disagree and 5 = strongly agree)

- a. Fees should “better reflect costs of providing goods and services” as suggested by the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel.
- b. Fees should not be a barrier to people enjoying nature.
- c. Those who use more park services and facilities should pay more than those who use less.
- d. There should be convenient ways to pay fees.
- e. The cost of collecting and processing fees should be low.
- f. Fees should help maximise the availability of park services and facilities, and provide incentives for people to use parks responsibly.

4.1. Is there anything you would add to these objectives? If so, enter it here: [Text box]

Q5. Do you live in Canada?

- Yes
- No

Q5.1. (If Q5=Yes) Are you a Yukon resident?

- Yes
- No

Q5.2. (If Q5.1=Yes) Where do you live?

- Beaver Creek
- Burwash Landing
- Carcross
- Carmacks
- Dawson City
- Destruction Bay
- Faro
- Haines Junction
- Ibex Valley
- Marsh Lake
- Mayo
- Mount Lorne
- Old Crow
- Pelly Crossing
- Ross River
- Tagish
- Teslin
- Watson Lake
- Whitehorse
- Other:

Q5.3. (If Q5=No) What country do you live in? _____

Q6. Are you aboriginal / indigenous, that is, First Nations, Métis or Inuit?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Q7. How old are you?

- Less than 18 years old
- 18-29 years old
- 30-39 years old
- 40-49 years old
- 50-64 years old
- 65 years or older
- Prefer not to say