

December 14, 2018

Yukon Forum Newsletter



December 14, 2018 Yukon Forum

- Yukon's Premier, Cabinet members and Yukon First Nations Chiefs met for the 4th Yukon Forum of 2018 at the Yukon Convention Centre in Whitehorse.
- Key topics discussed included:
 - progress on fish and wildlife priorities
 - progress on the Whitehorse Correctional Centre report
 - progress on land use planning
 - child welfare
 - creation of a Joint Senior Executive Committee

Progress from the Yukon Forum Working Groups

- **Fiscal Relations**
Infrastructure funding
 - The Premier, Minister and Chiefs met in Ottawa with federal Ministers Philpott and Duclos to discuss the federal First Nations Housing Strategy on December 3, 2018. They raised concerns that the strategy does not support Yukon's unique off-reserve and self-governance context. They proposed a trilateral committee be established to develop a housing solution that meets the needs of Yukon.
- **Land Claims & Self-Government Agreement Implementation**
Ensure Government of Yukon takes a one-government approach to implementation of the Agreements
 - The working group has done a review of the federal cabinet directive on modern treaty implementation, including meetings with Canada and the Land Claims Agreement Coalition.
 - The working group recommended the creation of a Joint Senior Executive Committee made up of Yukon government Deputy Ministers and First Nations Executive Directors.
 - The committee will ensure that collaboration is happening at all levels of our government-to-government relationship.
 - This is a first of its kind in Yukon. It will focus on streamlining shared priorities and processes, eliminating departmental silos and looking for ways to address capacity issues.



Previous Yukon Forum

- September 13, 2018 in Dawson.
- Key topics discussed:
 - progress of joint working groups on child welfare, land use planning and fish and wildlife
 - the proposed Yukon Tourism Development Strategy
 - presenting a unified Yukon voice to federal ministers

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- The committee had its first meeting on November 16, 2018.

Land use planning (Chapter 11)

- The land use planning working group is reviewing roles of the planning councils, commissions and our governments in land use planning.
- They are also identifying ways to support concurrent and timely regional land use planning processes.
- They are also undertaking a review of the funding associated with regional land use planning to ensure the planning process is adequately resourced.
- The Premier, Minister and Chiefs met in Ottawa with Minister Bennett on December 3, 2018 to discuss the funding shortfall to complete the remaining land use plans.

Yukon Forum Potlatch Bowl

The potlatch bowl, made by Ken Anderson, displayed at the top of this newsletter was presented at the January 2017 Yukon Forum as a symbol of the new relationship that is being built between First Nations and the Government of Yukon through the Yukon Forum.

Fish and Wildlife

- This priority area was added to the Action Plan in June 2018.
 - One priority will be to conduct a review of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.
 - The review will evaluate success and effectiveness of this important Chapter 16 entity. The review should be complete within 2019.
 - Yukon First Nations, board staff and alumni, government officials and other will be asked to participate and provide their feedback to the independent contractor conducting the review.
- **Develop Bilateral and Trilateral Processes for Engagement**

Health and Social Services

- Work is ongoing on the four priority areas: child welfare, mental wellness, income assistance and co-governance models for services delivery.
- The external advisory committee that is reviewing the *Child and Family Services Act* has been visiting communities (Old Crow, Watson Lake and Carcross so far) to meet with Yukoners, First Nations and other experts.
- The Mental Wellness and Substance Use hubs are operational and fully staffed.
- A Mental Health Summit was hosted by Health and Social Services and the First Nations Partners Committee on Mental Wellness in November 2018.
- \$5.1 million in federal child welfare funding is available for Yukon projects. A trilateral committee is working to allocate the funding to prevention-focused collaborative priorities.

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Justice

- Work is ongoing on the three priority areas of focus: community (safety and prevention), corrections (institutional and alternative), and reintegration and restorative justice.
- A joint working group is implementing the recommendations in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre Inspection Report prepared by David Loukidelis. The recommendations fall into three key areas mental health, First Nations programming, and separate confinement.
- An enhanced Justice/ Health and Social Services partnership will provide and support a coordinated delivery of forensic mental health services to inmates. This team will be part of a more integrated case management system providing inmates with better support on their release.
- Management and staff within Corrections continue to receive improved training, focusing on mental health, Human Rights and FASD.
- There was a “train the trainer” seminar for First Nations on Aboriginal Community Safety Planning in October 2018.

Yukon voice to federal government

- On December 3, 2018 the Yukon Premier, Ministers, the Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief and several Yukon First Nations Chiefs met with federal ministers in Ottawa to jointly advocate for key issues that are important to Yukoners.
- The meetings focused on housing, land use planning Yukon University, Indigenous languages and treaty loan repayment.
- The goal was to present a united approach and made-in-Yukon solutions to the federal government and to advocate for federal programs and funding that meet the needs of Yukoners.

What is the Yukon Forum?

- The Yukon Forum is a regular meeting of the political leaders of the Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- The Yukon Forum was created in the spirit of reconciliation to develop strong government-to-government relations and collaborate on priorities shared by the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations.
- In 2017, the Yukon Forum was revitalized through the signing of the [Working Together Intergovernmental Declaration](#).

For More Information Contact

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