

Joint Planning Committee Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan

May 10, 2019

Chief Doris Bill
Kwanlin Dün First Nation
35 McIntyre Drive
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5A5

Chief Kristina Kane
Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
117 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2T8

Deputy Haa Shaa du Hen Maria Benoit
Carcross/Tagish First Nation
P.O. Box 130
Carcross, Yukon Y0B 1B0

Honourable Ranj Pillai
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Government of Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

To Chief Bill, Chief Kane, Deputy Haa Shaa du Hen Maria Benoit and Honourable Ranj Pillai,

Re: Recommendation of the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan

We are pleased to recommend the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan to our respective governments.

This plan was prepared over an eight year period by delegates from Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Government of Yukon. The Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council and the Laberge Renewable Resources Council also provided considerable assistance in the development of the plan. This work was completed based on the guidance provided by the Terms of Reference signed by our governments in 2008 and 2009.

This plan is for both public land and Settlement Land within the planning area. The plan is guided by First Nation Final Agreements, First Nation traditional values and laws, and the *Forest Resources Act*, following principles of sustainable forest management. The plan honours forest resources and supports respectful forest use through education, management and monitoring. In developing this plan we considered the values of the forest alongside the interests of area residents, our respective governments, special-interest groups and stakeholders. We endeavored to reflect and balance these values as they were communicated to us.

Many people from our governments contributed to the development of this plan. It is with great respect that we dedicate this plan to the memory of the late Albert James. Albert participated in the planning process on behalf of the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council.

Albert was a passionate participant in the planning process and was instrumental in ensuring that traditional knowledge was incorporated into the fabric of the plan.

We would like to propose that the governments undertake the public consultation on the plan in partnership. We understand that the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council and the Laberge Renewable Resources Council are also available to support the public consultation. We would also recommend the Joint Planning Committee have the opportunity to reconvene following the public consultation to make any required changes to the plan based on input received.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the great learning that has come from this planning process. We will take the experience we obtained into our work in the future.

Sincerely,



John Meikle
Kwanlin Dün First Nation



Natalie Leclerc
Ta'an Kwäch'än Council



Tami Grantham
Carcross/Tagish First Nation



Michelle Sicotte
Government of Yukon