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**Government seeks feedback from Yukoners on Peel Watershed land use plan**

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon today announced the start of the final round of public consultations on the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan, in accordance with the requirements of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

Yukoners are invited to provide input on a suite of land use designation tools which could be applied in the Peel Watershed Region. Consultation documents include a number of concepts showing how the tools might be applied, as well as the Final Recommended Plan from the Peel Watershed Planning Commission.

“The Government of Yukon is working in accordance with the requirements of the Umbrella Final Agreement as we move to finalize this regional land use plan through consultations,” Premier Darrell Pasloski said. “We have put a significant amount of work into developing management tools and land use designations, and are confident that we can arrive at a fair and balanced final plan that respects existing users and interests.”

“All of the concepts proposed by government provide significant protection for existing users and the environment by designating approximately three-quarters of the land as Protected Areas, Restricted Use Wilderness Areas, or Restricted Use Wilderness Area River Corridors,” Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers said. “These tools would actively manage various land uses while providing significant protection for existing values in the area.”

“We are encouraging Yukoners to provide constructive and thoughtful input on the tools, concepts and scenarios we have proposed as potential modifications to the commission’s final recommended land use plan,” Minister of Environment Currie Dixon said. “At the conclusion of this process we intend to have a land use plan that provides the highest level of protection in areas of key ecological or cultural value, and gives government the tools to manage and limit the intensity of use in other areas.”

“We recognize the importance of maintaining tourism opportunities and ensuring cultural values are respected in the Peel watershed, and remain committed to reaching a land use plan that is fair and balanced,” Minister of Tourism and Culture Mike Nixon said.

The proposed new land use designation system and concepts illustrating how it can be applied are posted on the consultation website: [www.peelconsultation.ca](http://www.peelconsultation.ca).

The public is invited to provide comments at open houses that will be held in the coming months. Comments can also be submitted online through an electronic feedback form or by mailing a feedback form that will be provided to Yukon households. Public and stakeholder input will be accepted until February 25, 2013.

Feedback received during the consultation will be considered by the Government of Yukon when finalizing the regional land use plan that will provide guidance for the long-term use of the region. For additional information on the consultation process, visit [www.peelconsultation.ca](http://www.peelconsultation.ca).

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