



For Immediate Release

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NEW PEEL PLANS WOULD CREATE UNCERTAINTY FOR YUKON TOURISM

WHITEHORSE – After months of thorough examination, the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon (TIA Yukon) has determined that the new land use concepts for the Peel region, proposed by the Yukon Government in October, do not address the needs of the tourism industry. TIA Yukon says that if implemented, these plans could have serious consequences for the industry.

“We have actively attended presentations and earnestly listened to Yukon Government’s explanations of their new concepts, seeking to understand how tourism operators would have certainty for sustainable operations on the rivers of the Peel watershed”, says TIA Yukon Chair Neil Hartling. “We have carefully reviewed the new concepts on the table and do not see an option that provides certainty for tourism operators in the river corridors.”

TIA Yukon is concerned that the parameters of “active management” in the Yukon Government’s four new concepts have not been clearly defined. Furthermore, the ability and willingness of future governments to fund adequate resources to coordinate and enforce these “active management” areas is also something that has been called into question.

“Trip itineraries in the Peel region include numerous hikes up onto the ridges so visitors can enjoy the dramatic views of the wide open valleys”, says TIA Yukon Executive Director Blake Rogers. “Infrastructure such as roads and camps cannot be hidden in these broad, sparsely treed valleys. Development of right-of-ways, bridges, and camps, accompanied by diesel transports, would lead to the deterioration and inevitable termination of these trips.”

TIA Yukon says that it appreciates the Yukon Government’s efforts to include the tourism industry in the consultations on the newly proposed Peel concepts, however, in their current form these proposals leave too many unanswered questions for the industry. At the present time the only plan that would provide the necessary amount of certainty for the industry is the Peel Planning Commission’s Final Recommended Plan. Unless a better option is put forward, TIA Yukon will continue to advise that the Government support the Final Recommended Plan – a plan that most Yukoners and all of the affected First Nations endorse.

TIA Yukon welcomes any questions regarding its position on the Peel Commission’s Final Recommended Plan and Yukon Government’s proposed Peel concepts, and encourages all Yukoners to provide comments to the Peel Consultation at www.peelconsultation.ca before February 25th, 2013.

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