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January 23, 2014

**TOURISM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE YUKON DISAPPOINTED WITH PEEL PLAN**

WHITEHORSE: The Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon (TIA Yukon) is disappointed with the Peel Management Plan announced by the Yukon Government earlier this week, stating that it will be detrimental to the tourism industry.

“The plan will have serious consequences for the industry”, says Neil Hartling, Chair of TIA Yukon. “It threatens a sensitive region that is considered one of the iconic parts of our territory’s tourism brand.”

TIA Yukon believes that the parameters of “active management” in the Yukon government’s plan 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, will lead to the deterioration and inevitable termination of these trips.”

TIA Yukon supported the Planning Commission’s Final Recommended Plan.

“Not only did the Recommended Plan give the most certainty to tourism, it was a plan that most Yukoners and all of the affected First Nations endorse” says Hartling. “The government’s plan will inevitably create widespread confusion between the groups in this area. The plan is likely to come under legal attack by the affected First Nations, which creates uncertainty and impacts economic investment and development. Plans are supposed to create more certainty, not less.

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