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## TIA Yukon praises 'balance' in Peel plan

By [Whitehorse Star](#) on July 29, 2011 at 4:08 pm

The Peel Watershed Planning Commission worked hard to achieve balance in its final plan, says the Tourism Industry Association (TIA) of the Yukon.

TIA supports the planning process that was implemented by the Yukon government, and will continue to work with it and affected First Nations as they review the recommendations and work towards a final agreement.

"Throughout the process, TIA Yukon has advocated for a balanced approach," association chair Neil Hartling said Thursday.

"A diverse economic base is good for Yukon, and is good for our members – many of whom rely on the business and infrastructure that both mining and tourism bring. We feel the planning commission has worked hard to find that balance, as can be seen with their provision for future review."

In its submission to the commission, TIA advocated for the protection of the Three Rivers region of the watershed – the Snake, Wind and Bonnet Plume Rivers – as well as the corridors in between.

TIA Yukon said it believes a diverse economy, which includes a prosperous mining industry, is very important to the territory, but stresses the significance of the Three Rivers region and the need for its protection.

The Peel River Watershed, and particularly the Three Rivers, is a national treasure and a long-term economic and environmental asset for Yukon, the association said.

"TIA Yukon supports the planning process and the work done by the planning commission," said executive director Krista Prochazka.

"The commission has consulted stakeholders and Yukoners extensively in the development of this land use plan, and has developed recommendations reflecting the diversity of our economy and the wishes of most Yukoners. We support the process, and will support this plan."

TIA is encouraging its members to participate in the consultations that will occur as the plan is reviewed and the parties work toward a November agreement.

"TIA Yukon urges the Government of Yukon, who has a mandate to represent all people of Yukon, to recognize the planning process that led to this Regional Land Use Plan and to support its adoption and implementation" the association said.