

## **Peel controversy isn't going away, NDP warns government**

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By [Whitehorse Star](#) on February 21, 2012 at 4:44 pm

The NDP is accusing the Yukon Party government of hiding its agenda on the Peel watershed, then tricking Yukoners with their own money.

In a release today, the party demanded an end to the Pasloski government's taxpayer-funded advertising campaign on its plans for the watershed.

"Last week, the Yukon Party government revealed its hidden agenda to reject the Final Recommended Plan of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission," the release read.

"Days later, it launched a series of misleading newspaper ads to sell its position."

"We recently learned the Pasloski government hid its agenda on the Peel," said Jim Tredger, the NDP's Energy, Mines and Resources critic.

"Yukoners made their opinions on the Peel known through the land use planning process, and the Yukon Party has thrown those opinions in the garbage," he said.

"To add insult to injury, Premier (Darrell) Pasloski and his government are now trying to trick Yukoners with a wasteful, taxpayer-funded advertising campaign. This deception must stop."

The NDP said it believes ads promoting the government's new ultimatum for land use planning in the Peel use vague and misleading language which hides its true intent.

"The government is using words like 'balance' and 'common ground' to sell its one-sided, pro-development agenda for the Peel," said Kate White, the NDP's Environment critic.

"The irony is that the final plan rejected by the Pasloski government was balanced and found common ground. Yukoners won't be fooled by this government's doublespeak and political spin."

NDP MLAs have been firm in their support of the land use planning process that led to the final recommended Peel plan.

Polls have shown that a majority of Yukoners also support wilderness protection for most of the watershed.

"If the government thinks Yukoners are going to quietly accept this betrayal, they've got another thing coming," said Tredger.

"We're going to join together with concerned residents, outfitters, tourism operators, First Nation governments and community organizations to fight to protect the Peel."

The Star was told Monday that Pasloski will not be made available for an interview to discuss the controversy.