

## **Media Release Regarding The Peel Watershed Plan**

Friday February 20th, 2012

The Yukon Outfitters operating within the Peel are dismayed at the Yukon Governments attempt to destroy the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan. The Plan was developed over many years at a substantial cost. The planning process was democratic, with respected participation from First Nations, Industry, Government and the Yukon public. The Peel Watershed Planning Commission has always had a defined mandate and a statement of intent. The result of their hard work was an excellent plan that preserved the ecological integrity of one of the Yukon's most pristine watersheds.

The Yukon Government has now released eight principles to guide the final planning process. These principles should have been included at the beginning of the planning process. It would have produced a radically different plan, but at least the democratic integrity of the planning process would have been preserved. Introducing these principles at this late date is unfair and puts the completion of the plan in a timely manner in jeopardy. The tone and intent of several of the government principles are not compatible with the Peel Watershed Plan as is now completed. It appears that the Yukon Governments principles, which at best are ideological statements, would allow for unfettered access to large scale mining interests as well as road access.

The four Yukon Outfitters listed below firmly believe that entire watershed is a key area deserving special protection. Opening the watershed up to mining development while adding a few postage stamp sized protection areas, makes a mockery of the whole land use planning process. The mining industry is currently booming and the Yukon economy at an all time high. Now is the time to protect some of our unique environmental assets and this can be done without compromising the bottom line of our mining exploration industry. The plan produced by the Peel Watershed Planning Commission should be respected and adopted.

Chris Widrig  
Widrig Outfitters (97) Ltd  
139 Falaise Road  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3C8  
867-393-3802

Chris & Sharon Mckinnon  
Bonnet Plume Outfitters (1989) Ltd.  
PO Box 128 Mayo  
Yukon, YOB 1MO  
780-331-2440 or 780-331-2441

Alan Young  
Midnight Sun Outfitting Ltd.  
PO Box 40144  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 6M8  
867-633-2885 or 403-701-2236

Jim Fink  
Blackstone Outfitters Ltd.  
PO Box 7  
Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan S9X 1Y1  
306-236-2131