

“What We Heard”

Public Open House

Location: Chief Drygeese Centre – Dettah, NT

Date: February 17, 2015

Time: 7:15pm to 10:00pm

The session was attended by eight (8) people. A representative from the GNWT Department of Lands gave a short presentation on the Recreational Land Management Framework explaining “where are we, how we got here, where we are going, and how you can help”. Both before and after the presentation participants took turns speaking, and the facilitator recorded comments related to the Recreational Land Management Framework.

Issues/concerns	Comments
The GNWT is imposing rules on Dene land and giving away our lands	<p style="text-align: center;">RESPECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honour our treaties • Public ≠ Aboriginal people • Wait until the land claim process is over and lands have been identified before creating the framework • People need to be reminded of Dene rights; they need to think about that before using the land - the GNWT should put an information package together • Community involvement builds respect • Parents need to teach kids to respect the land
There is a history of Aboriginal people being pushed onto the worst lands - Dene are being invaded and pushed	
Cabin leases are violating traditional sites	
Recreational users are disrespectful – leaving garbage behind and causing damage to traditional sites	
Industry is damaging the land and important cultural sites	
Other people are getting wood	
This summer’s backfire put lands in danger	<p style="text-align: center;">PROTECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elders know the sacred areas and where not to go • Use local people (hunters) who know the land, water, terrain, animals and sacred sites when doing inspections – give jobs to hunters and trappers who are out on the land • YKDFN know the sites that should be given archaeological protection (they have been mapped) • It is important to protect our way of life, treaty rights, water, and wildlife • There should be no more cabins until land claims are completed • Don’t give leases to squatters – they should not be legitimized
Skidoos are running over traps	
Skidoo trails are messed up and damaged by recreational users, “weekend warriors”	<p style="text-align: center;">COOPERATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NWT Premier and the Commissioner should meet with Yellowknives Dene – Government to Government • The GNWT should acknowledge the Band Permission to Occupy (PTO) process • Future meetings need to be organized to make them better known – information should be in the language, and advertised on the radio during the afternoon program
YKDFN is not being listened to	

when reporting squatters	shared until after land claims are settled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GNWT needs to meet with the elders senate, hold more meetings, and work with the Chief and Council • The Yellowknife game reserve was part of the treaty 1900 - why did it disappear? The status needs to be reviewed <p style="text-align: center;">SAFETY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety for one protects all – if a fire starts in one cabin it puts others at risk.
Squatters show no respect	
Parks and Environment and Natural Resources officers need to be more friendly	
New leases should not be issued until after the land claim is settled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once it is clear who has authority then it will be possible to discuss what lands are available and who can have a lease – where fees and taxes go to, what lands will be Dene title, fee simple, crown lands – different types of land authority • Then people can live side by side without conflict • YKDFN should have first say • If you issue new leases it is corrupt and not fair • Recreational Land Management Framework won't work if it is imposed on areas without settled claim • There is no urgency
	Best practices should be available for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire protection • Waste management and cleanliness
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have to listen to each other • Should meet with elders and youth and we will tell you how to meet with us • We want our kids to have a good future • There are always new trees but we are being charged for chopping wood • Why are we paying for water • We are not being helped • We know what we have to do to survive on the land • The land is for my kids and grandkids • Cabins on the land should pay us • Islands should be protected • Should be able to build on Dettah road
Examples of other protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akaitcho exploration agreement is in place so that it is known what is going on and YKDFN can advise members • The military ask first before conducting exercises on YKDFN lands
Need to access information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where leases are • Where PTO's are • Used to be advised by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada before new leases were issued • A GNWT protocol is needed

Residential year-round use on recreational lease lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not supported• Don't support a new municipality out on the Ingraham Trail• Prelude is part of an important portage trail
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