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## **PLACER SECRETARIAT COMPLETES DRAFT DOCUMENTS AS IT LAUNCHES NEXT PHASE OF CONSULTATION**

WHITEHORSE – The public is being given its first opportunity to review the draft documents that set out the details of the proposed Fish Habitat Management Regime for Yukon Placer Mining. The Yukon Placer Secretariat is making the information available to assist people as it begins the next stage of its three-phase consultation process.

“During the first stage of our consultation, our priority was to explain the broad concepts behind the proposed Regime,” said Yukon Placer Secretariat Executive Director Robert Thomson. “We’ve now completed a series of draft documents which set out the technical details of the Regime components. This will allow people to get a better idea of exactly how the Regime will work and will give them a chance to provide useful input on the details.”

The Secretariat is an inter-governmental coordinating agency with a mandate to complete and implement a proposed new Regime for the management of placer mining in the Yukon under the federal *Fisheries Act*. A major component of the Secretariat’s work is to hold consultations with First Nations, mandated boards, stakeholders and other interested parties, and the public.

The draft documents have been posted at the Secretariat’s website at [www.yukonplacerasecretariat.ca](http://www.yukonplacerasecretariat.ca) on the Info Centre page. They are also available on request from the Secretariat in CD or hard copy format.

The documents are being mailed out to all First Nations, as well as all parties who have previously expressed interest in the Regime. They were also made available at the Mineral Exploration Roundup in Vancouver in late January.

The website also contains background information on the proposed Regime, the Secretariat, the consultation process, the Yukon placer mining industry and aquatic life in the Yukon.

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The Secretariat's consultation process is organized in three phases, each of which includes a series of consultation visits to each community. The first stage of consultation meetings began last spring and is almost complete.

The Secretariat is currently setting up Phase 2 consultation meetings. During this phase, more detailed information on the Regime is being presented and input is being solicited. The first Phase 2 meeting will take place in Teslin on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Others have been scheduled for Carmacks on March 12<sup>th</sup>, Ross River on March 14<sup>th</sup> and Carcross on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of the meetings are expected to take place in March and April.

During the upcoming Phase 3, a consultation report will be presented to demonstrate how feedback has been incorporated. There will also be a final opportunity to provide input.

The Yukon Government, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Council of Yukon First Nations are the three partners in the development of the proposed Fish Habitat Management Regime for Yukon Placer Mining. They are also partners in the formation of the Yukon Placer Secretariat. They have worked collaboratively since 2003 to develop a framework for a new management Regime that recognizes the importance of a sustainable placer mining industry and the need to conserve and protect fish and fish habitat supporting fisheries.

For more information on the proposed Regime and the Yukon Placer Secretariat, visit [www.yukonplacersecreariat.ca](http://www.yukonplacersecreariat.ca) or contact:

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