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## **PLACER SECRETARIAT LAUNCHES WEBSITE TO ASSIST WITH CONSULTATIONS**

WHITEHORSE – The Yukon Placer Secretariat has gone online with a new website that is meant to assist the public during its one-year consultation process. The website has been under development for several months, and is now ready for viewing at [www.yukonplacersecretariat.ca](http://www.yukonplacersecretariat.ca).

The Secretariat is an inter-governmental coordinating agency with a mandate to complete and implement a proposed new Regime for the management and regulation of placer mining in the Yukon. 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.

“Our new website will be an important tool as we move through our consultation process,” said Yukon Placer Secretariat Executive Director Robert Thomson. “Our consultations have been designed to allow plenty of time for everyone to learn about the proposed Regime and to give it full consideration before providing us with their comments. We hope that our website will be a convenient way for many Yukoners to learn more about the Regime, to submit comments, and to keep track of the consultation process.”

The website contains information on the proposed Regime, the Secretariat, the consultation process, the Yukon placer mining industry and aquatic life in the Yukon. “There is now enough information on the website, both in general and detailed forms, to give most people a good understanding of what the proposed Regime would be like,” added Thomson. “Other documents that contain more information will be posted as they become available.”

The consultation process is organized in three phases and will last for approximately one year. It includes a series of consultation visits to each community. The first set of consultation meetings occurred last spring. More meetings are being scheduled for this fall and winter.

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During Phase 1, Information meetings are being held to present key concepts and information about the proposed Regime. During Phase 2, Consultations will be conducted to present more detailed information on the Regime and to gather input. During Phase 3, a consultation report will be presented to demonstrate how feedback has been incorporated, and there will 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 placer mining Regime and 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 protect fish and fish habitat.

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

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