

Yukon Rural Review

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Winter 2007

Planting the seeds for the next generation of agriculture

‘We reap what we sow’ is a recognized cliché that reminds us of just how important today’s decisions affect the future. Keeping that in mind, members of the federal, provincial and territorial governments are committed to working together to develop the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy.

And, they want to hear from you! Whether you’re a stakeholder in the industry or a Canadian citizen, political leaders are seeking input from you regarding the future of Yukon’s agricultural landscape.

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) is a five-year federal-provincial-territorial agreement on agriculture that was created as a national approach to agriculture. The initial objective? To position Canada as the world leader in food safety and quality, innovation and environmentally responsible agriculture production.

Today, Canada’s agriculture and agri-food sector faces a new set of challenges and opportunities. With most

of the APF agreements set to expire in the spring of 2008, discussions are underway to build a new generation of agriculture and agri-food policy. This new framework will build an enduring foundation that will benefit future generations.

In order to ensure that the many facets of the agriculture industry are included in all stages of policy development, three rounds of consultations will take place. This multi-phased, national consultation process began in December 2006 and will carry on into 2007, with a new policy framework to be implemented in early 2008.

Round One featured a series of working sessions that involved agriculture industry experts. As experts, they were invited to participate in detailed discussions and analysis of proposed policy options. They also had a hand in defining potential problems that could arise during public consultations and further, they helped formulate questions for the broader public consultations.

Round Two, set to run January-

February 2007, will be made up of public consultations that will be hosted across the country. These will focus on collecting information from the public in a way that allows for an open exchange of ideas; it’s all about encouraging public debate regarding the future of agriculture and agri-food in Canada. Discussions will also continue to take place on the business risk management (BRM) plan.

March 2007 will see the beginning of Round Three. This final phase will involve the analysis of data from Rounds One and Two. These findings will provide consolidated input to the federal, provincial and territorial governments prior to negotiations.

The consultation process and final summations are designed to stimulate discussions amongst all stakeholders about how federal, provincial and territorial governments can work together to ensure a competitive and profitable Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector. Being able to provide safe, innovative and high-quality

products and services that can benefit all Canadians is also high on the priority list.

We encourage you to add your voice to this discussion! All levels of government are looking forward to hearing from Canadian individuals and organizations. We are working together to develop a solid policy framework that supports a prosperous agriculture and agri-food sector. You will be able to participate via the web site www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen. The deadline for submissions is February 28, 2007.

For copies of the consultation documents and for information on how Canadians can participate in building the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy, contact your provincial/territorial agriculture office, call: **1 800 O-CANADA (1 800 622-6232)**, **TTY 1 800 926-9105**, or visit the Web site www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen

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Federal government takes services on the road

Service Canada has begun to take its services on the road and into your community through its Outreach and Mobile Services. The program aims to bring government services and information closer to home – within 50 kilometres of where Canadians live – with a special focus on reaching out to previously under-served remote, rural and northern communities.

Service Canada’s representatives travel on a scheduled or periodic basis to assist where there is a need. Scheduled Outreach Services visit on a regular, part-time basis (e.g. two days a week), while Mobile Services take Service Canada staff to meet citizens on an as-needed basis - for instance, to provide information sessions on specific topics, or assistance during local emergencies such as plant closures or natural disasters.

Since the launch of Service Canada in September 2005, more than 150 new

outreach sites have been added to the Service Canada network, and more than 250 more are expected to open by the end of March 2007. Through this



network, more Canadians than ever before can receive the help they need.

Responding to the diverse needs of Canadians is what Service Canada’s outreach services are all about. Citizens generally have questions about Employment Insurance, Income Security Programs, and the Social Insurance Number.

The services offered in outreach service sites will develop as time goes by based on client and community needs. To meet the needs of Aboriginal people, targeted outreach activities are offered in select communities.

Service Canada Outreach in Yukon

- Haines Junction
- Old Crow
- Faro/Ross River

Service Canada makes it easier for Canadians to get the government services and information they need with just a click, call or visit.

Service Canada

1 800 O-Canada servicecanada.gc.ca

To find the nearest Service Canada Centre or outreach location and the available services, visit servicecanada.gc.ca and click on ‘Services Where You Live’, or call **1 800 O Canada (1 800 622-6232)** **TTY: 1 800 926-9105**.

Access to new crime prevention program makes for safer communities

Just the name of this innovative program lends itself to success. The use of the word ‘vital’ infers a certain energy and strength so when teamed with ‘community’, only good things can happen!

Welcome to the Vital Communities Resource Network!

Indeed, Vital Communities Resource Network is the name of Crime Prevention Yukon’s new program. “Our mission at Vital Communities is to support social development and crime reduction by providing resources, sharing knowledge and building networks” so reads the introductory newsletter entitled, Safe & Well.

“The Vital Communities Resource Network is designed to support the work of those who actively seek to strengthen social well-being. Personal safety is the result of communities that care...communities that have good opportunities for material and social success. When we feel valuable and supported in our community, we protect ourselves and each other from harm.” General Manager Catherine Morginn is not surprised with what comes up when researching vital communities via the internet; this program is so new that the Web site is still partially under construction.

“We started by trying to understand why crime happens. Understanding crime starts by seeing the threads that make up the fabric of a community. We believe crime is prevented by the nurturing of social well-being,” Morginn said. “We see you – whether in government, non-profits, private enterprise, or as a caring citizen – working hard to build healthy people

and healthy neighborhoods. We want to make your job easier.

“And here’s the beauty of it: the tools of social change are more or less the same for all of us so we want to help with networking, partnering, gathering and sharing information. We will also help promote ideas and activities, locate and manage resources. What we’re hoping will happen is through supportive, informative networks and a base of shared resources, we can accomplish much.”

Among the successes, Morginn hopes the program will create co-ordinated and inclusive efforts for safety and community well-being; leverage resources for non-profit groups and others; share information from beyond Yukon borders about new research and opportunities; and offer learning opportunities for individuals and organizations as needs are identified.

“Crime Prevention Yukon has serving rural Yukon built right into its mandate! We make programs available outside of Whitehorse. We are not affiliated with the police; we address the root causes of safety such as social and economic opportunities for young people and community capacity for self-healing,” Morginn said.

She pointed out that Crime Prevention Yukon provides programs in three areas: youth, social change (under which the Vital Communities program is available) and staying safe.

Youth projects are all about addressing the needs youth via positive role models, mentorship and healthy activities. Past projects include the Winter Youth

Leadership Project and the Summer Youth Activities Project – both are operated exclusively in rural communities. Employment and life skills training projects are made available to rural young adults who have relocated to Whitehorse.

“Social change addresses the broader aspects of a community that lead to safety or conversely, to victimization. This is where the Vital Communities program comes into play,” Morginn said.

The program is instrumental in ensuring community safety and social well being. Morginn explained that Vital Communities provides training for those involved in planning or operating community projects and has social issue resources – books and DVDs – readily available. These resources are loaned and mailed free of charge to anywhere in Yukon.

The Vital Communities resource center carries an array of books and media on working with youth, violence, justice, First Nations issues, sociology, criminology and more. Vital Communities also has an archive of social reports produced locally and from beyond Yukon borders that provides hands-on, practical media and resources for those who work in the field of social development and crime reduction.

Additional program perks include free Web pages to community groups who promote community wellness; administrative support for community projects and groups; and co-ordination support for community initiatives.

“There are a few community projects

that are so close to our mandate that we'll help with the whole thing... sometimes it’s whatever it takes to make the initiative successful,” Morginn said.

Staying Safe is another aspect of the Crime Prevention Yukon program that helps people learn and practice protection of self and others via workshops on home security, identity theft prevention and more.

Vital Communities will be offering workshops in the coming year to assist people in proposal writing, project and logic model planning, evaluation methods, basic data analysis, sustainability of social change efforts and financial reporting.

For more information about the Vital Communities program or Crime Prevention Yukon, please contact:

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Place aux jeunes

The exodus of young people has a significant impact on community development in the Yukon. If projections for 2016 hold true, 39 per cent of the Yukon population will be over 50 years of age. Currently, 28 per cent of Yukon residents are over 50 years of age.

For the first time in its history, the Yukon Territory is facing a labour shortage; the health-care, tourism, construction and many other sectors are looking for dynamic and bilingual young people to fill positions.

The objective of Place aux jeunes–Yukon (PAJY) is to encourage skilled youth to move to the Yukon or to return after finishing their post-secondary education.

Place aux jeunes du Québec (PAJQ), with funding from the Rural Secretariat, implemented this project in the Yukon French-speaking community in 1990. The objective was to stem the exodus of young people from rural

areas. After receiving positive results, the Rural Secretariat chose this project as a model for its rural community capacity building research.

The PAJY program is administered by the economic development sector



(Yukon RDÉE) of the Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY), the Yukon Territory’s official French-speaking advocate for over 20 years.

A migration officer has been providing on-line assistance since May 2006 to students who want to return for a job, a summer placement or start their career

in the Yukon. In the summer of 2006, five youth were able to obtain subsidized jobs in their fields which allowed them to test out their professional orientation and acquire knowledge for their future career.

The officer promoted the Yukon to youth in large urban centres and universities. A recent trip to Vancouver provided an opportunity to promote the Yukon to youth who had until that point never heard about the Yukon job market. Fifteen young people attended two presentations: one was held at the College Educacentre, and the other, a secondary school in Kitsilano.

The officer also prepares weekly cyberbulletins to provide hundreds of subscribers with news and information on local opportunities.

The main goal of the PAJ–Yukon Web site is to survey the young people who leave their region and provide them with a link to their hometown. The site shows people who want to move to the Yukon and have a career that it is a dynamic place. Young graduates can also use it to look for a job. In fact,

employers seeking specialized people can use this Web site and the migration officer’s services free of charge.

www.pajukon.ca

Who can apply?

Young people between 16 and 35 years who are interested in the Yukon.

This project is funded by the Rural Secretariat and Heritage Canada through Place aux jeunes du Québec (PAJQ). It is one of 21 models being used across Canada to build rural community capacities.

The French-speaking community is looking to share expertise with other Yukon cultural communities.

Discussions have begun on partnerships with the First Nations and the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on this program, please visit the Web site at **www.pajukon.ca** or call Thierry Haddad, Migration Officer, at **867-668-2663, ext. 434** or toll free (in the Yukon only) at **1-866-673-7632**.



Yukon Regional Round Table has a banner first year

Members of the Yukon Regional Round Table (YRRT) will no doubt agree: community success is best achieved through teamwork and partnerships.

The Rural Development Institute (RDI) from Brandon University, Manitoba played an instrumental role in founding the YRRT as part of a rural research project. ‘Communities working together in new and different ways to increase their capacity to improve quality of life, to better manage change and to sustain long-term well-being’ is the foundation of the Community Collaboration Project at RDI.

For more than 10 years the Institute has facilitated Regional Rural Round Table formations in Manitoba, Nunavut, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Each group operates independently deciding its own focus and structure. For example, the Regional Round Table in Saskatchewan’s focus is water and rural infrastructure while another, in northern Manitoba, is concerned about year-round food security and winter transportation.

The aim of the Regional Round Table initiative is to see what happens when small rural communities work together directly, and in partnership with governments in new and different ways. Asked why the Regional Round Tables, RDI Director Robert Annis said, “I love small towns.”

The Yukon was invited to explore

forming a Regional Round Table through its connections with the Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association in northeastern British Columbia, to further build on connections already established in the Alaska Highway Corridor Project.

Following community meetings, the YRRT came into being in February 2006. Members immediately noted the unique make up of the group that has full representation from First Nations and municipal governments, no village/town size limit and an action-oriented focus that is applied to projects that address common interests.

In total, the YRRT brought 11 communities together. Within one year, the organization set a vision and began activities that brought these independent communities together. Surprisingly, the communities have more in common than not.

Members isolated two projects that answer the need for community sustainability: community-focused tourism marketing and a review of community assets that can be used to create economic opportunities.

Three of the on-going projects include a Yukon-wide asset inventory, an enhanced online, year-round promotion of community events/activities and the integration of First Nations protocols. Expansion of Round Table membership also continues. As a centre for excellence in rural

development, Brandon University’s RDI helps foster rural community development and community resiliency through research and information on issues unique to rural areas.

Established in 1989, RDI principle activities are designing and conducting multi-disciplinary academic and applied research on rural issues; and communicating this information to rural community stakeholders. While its primary focus is on rural and northern areas of Western Canada, RDI maintains relationships with other researchers in Canada and abroad.

For more information about YRRT, please contact:

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Photo by Tracy Schoales, Service Canada

Great strides for Economic Development Network

In less than 15 months, members of the British Columbia/Yukon Community Economic Development (CED) Network have come up with a vision, a mission and a plan to make it happen.

“Our activities in the Yukon have been quite informal to date but it looks as if this is about to change,” said Kim Hardy, the elected Yukon representative to the BC/Yukon CED Network.

If all goes according to the approved plan, members of the BC/Yukon CED Network will be very busy over the next three years. The vision statement they have set out will see both British Columbia and the Yukon with ‘strong sustainable economies, with communities directing their social, economic and ecological futures’.

Add their mission statement to this admirable goal: “The BC/Yukon CED Network promotes community economic development through the sharing of effective practices, facilitating on-going learning and through the promotion of supportive policies and practices for people engaged in strengthening their

communities” and things will be very busy indeed!

The 2006 – 2009 strategic plan objectives have also been approved by the BC/Yukon Council, a group of thirteen elected into office by their Network peers. Some of the highlights included in the extensive list: provide learning opportunities to increase knowledge; increased outreach, recruitment and retention; assist members in local efforts; develop a Speakers Bureau; develop a database of resources such as business plans, marketing templates; and develop process for members to share concepts and solicit feedback at early stage of project design.

Hardy noted that all the approved activities and objective were derived from member input. The BC/Yukon

council plans to meet early in 2008 to discuss the next steps in implementing the strategic plan.

“Our members bring urban, rural and northern experience and a diverse range of community economic development expertise to the work of Canadian CED Network,” Hardy said.

The umbrella organization of the BC/Yukon group is the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (Canadian CED Network), a national, member-based organization that operates as a registered charitable non-profit group. The membership of Canadian CED Network is made up of community economic development (CED) community-based organizations and practitioners from every region of Canada.

“The BC/Yukon CED Network is a regional network of the Canadian CED Network.

Members join the national organization and if they reside in BC or the Yukon they are automatically registered within the BC/Yukon CED Network,” Hardy said.

Membership in British Columbia and the Yukon is 25 per cent of the total membership of the Canadian CED Network. As of June 2006, the National Network had 641 members and associates and within that total, the BC/Yukon region had 160 members and associates.

If you want to learn more about the **BC/Yukon CED Network**, contact Co-ordinator Eileen Gillette at **egillette@ccednet-rdec.ca** or the Canadian CED Network at **info@ccednet-rdec.ca** or call toll free at **1 877-202-2268**.



The Community Information Database is part of the Rural Secretariat’s ongoing support to rural communities through federal, provincial and territorial initiatives

The Community Information Database (CID) is a Web-based resource which provides communities and governments with consistent, reliable and accessible community-based information on economic and demographic factors at the community level.

The CID serves as a complementary data set to what is already provided by individual provinces and territories.

One of its additional features is the ability to present information in a variety of forms - charts, tables, and by geographic maps, the latter of which allows for analysis at a number of levels.

The CID provides a common set of data, based primarily on Statistics Canada Census data, and presents it in a range of geographic ways - national, province/territory, Census Division, economic region, Census Sub-Division (or community) level.

This innovative tool is especially useful to community groups, private or non-profit community organizations, government policy makers, businesses, researchers and research organizations and universities.

The range of information available on the CID includes:

- population
- age
- average personal and family income
- employment rate
- education
- employment by sector
- language
- resource reliance
- economic diversification

The Community Information Database is available at www.cid-bdc.ca. For more information or to organize a learning session on the CID, please contact: Manager

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The Rural Secretariat is a focal point for the Government of Canada to work in partnership with Canadians in rural and remote areas to build strong, dynamic communities.

Yukon Sustainable Community Partnership: Yukon communities and governments focus on sustainability

The communities of Faro, Haines Junction, and Teslin are developing long term plans to make their communities more sustainable through the Yukon Sustainable Community Partnership (YSCP) project.

The YSCP project is funded in part under the Rural Secretariat’s “Models for Rural Development and Community Capacity Building” program, with in kind contributions from the participating communities and the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC). The Yukon Sustainable Community Partnership project was created to meet two goals. The first is to give communities a greater voice in addressing the challenges and opportunities that they face over the long term. To facilitate this, the communities of Faro, Haines Junction, and Teslin are developing long-term community plans that focus on economic, cultural, social and environmental sustainability. These plans are being developed with input from community members through public meetings and surveys mailed out to all households in the communities. As part of the project, the Association of Yukon Communities is providing capacity building and planning assistance to community participants.



Photo by Tracy Schoales, Service Canada

The second goal of the project is to use the sustainability plans to focus federal and territorial government support towards the community goals and priorities. To this end, a committee of representatives from both orders of government is being formed to provide expertise in the planning process when appropriate. Ultimately, the completed sustainability plans will be presented to this inter-governmental committee in hopes that they can cooperate in helping communities reach their objectives through specific projects and programs.

In Haines Junction and Teslin, the municipal governments have completed agreements with the local First Nations. The Teslin Tlingit Council sent a “Letter of Intent” in February 2006 to cooperate with the Village of Teslin in sustainability planning. This builds on the *Infrastructure and Services Memorandum of Understanding* that was signed between the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Village of Teslin in July 2005. Similarly, the Village of Haines Junction signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in May of 2006 that includes the commitment to promote joint interests through community sustainability planning. With no First Nation in the immediate area, the

Town of Faro is leading the planning in that community.

Each of the three communities have formed local planning committees consisting of elected officials and staff, as well as members at large. Many of the planning committee members attended a sustainability planning capacity building workshop in Whitehorse in June. Chad Park and Mike Purcell from The Natural Step Canada put on a two-day workshop that focused on sustainability principles and tools for community planning.

Public meetings have been held in Faro, Haines Junction, and Teslin to solicit input from residents, and questionnaires have been sent to every household in each community. The planning teams are currently working with the information provided by residents to draft long-term community values, goals and priorities. It is expected that these will be taken back out to community members for review early in 2007.

Also planned for early 2007 is the first meeting of the intergovernmental committee made up of representatives from the federal and territorial governments. With grassroots planning producing tangible sustainability goals in these three communities, it will soon be up to all orders of governments including the municipalities and First Nations to work together to ensure these goals are realized.

Workshop to target community-identified shortfalls

As a direct result of the Yukon Regional Round Table (YRRT) initiative, a workshop is being organized that is set to run early in this year in Teslin.

Supported by Rural Team Yukon - a joint initiative that brings together all federal and provincial government departments with an interest in rural issues - the Capacity Building workshop will help people from the community to excel in program/project management.

Unique in format, the workshop leaders will be on site in the community teaching a generic curriculum followed up a few weeks later with community-specific training.

An added benefit? Workshop participants will be spearheading real life projects. Come the finish, not only will the participants have learned how to manage a program/project from beginning to end, but they will have moved a project forward.

Also because the workshop evolved out of YRRT discussions, each program/project undertaken by the group is a need identified by the community.

For more information, contact Rural Team Yukon at Rural Team Yukon / Yukon Federal Council at **(867) 667-3813** or email: albissers@inac-ainc.gc.ca

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