

## What we heard in Teslin

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|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Community</b>    | Teslin                        |
| <b>Date</b>         | Wednesday, March 7, 2018      |
| <b>Time</b>         | 6 p.m.                        |
| <b>Location</b>     | Recreation Complex            |
| <b>Facilitator</b>  | Sandy Legge                   |
| <b>Note taker</b>   | Carleen Kerr<br>Denise McCann |
| <b>Participants</b> | 3 participants                |

### Thinking Ahead: Round 1

In regards to sustainably growing tourism in Yukon, and regardless of whose responsibility it is:

#### What is already working well?

- Tourism brings money into the communities
- There is almost no industry here
- Tourism helps to create jobs here in the community and in other small communities
- Tourism is good and people come by and purchase local crafts
- That's a big thing for artists here in the community, selling in the stores and in the museum
- Know where to go to get away from the tourists
- Tourists buy local goods
- Excellent bird watching by the Delta – accessed by boat as the road doesn't go there anymore
- Enjoy the George Johnston Museum to learn about the history
- Lots of campgrounds and RV parks for people to stay
- Pushing that Yukon is the final frontier, gold rush history, and there are still places to be discovered
- You can go places here that no one has ever walked before
- Heritage Centre and museum are well advertised
- Biggest attraction here is the lake – for locals and for tourists
- Life revolves around the lake – fishing, hunting, transport, the seasons change on the lake

- The Skagway/Haines loop is a beautiful loop to explore and then explore the trails along the way
- Mini Rendezvous has snowmobile races, a breakfast, a casino night, crib tournament, mad/madame trapper competition over the course of the weekend
- Teslin Rocks Country is a great event
- Recreation complex well-used for meetings and conferences but maxes out at 185 for large functions
- Only a couple hours away from so many communities
- Spell of the Yukon – people who come here never want to leave
- So many people came up to paddle or hike Tombstone and then thirty years later they're still here
- People do awesome things here like jumping in a car and paddling to a campsite in the middle of the night in the sun
- There's a freedom here
- Love that people still trap here, and mush and try to get gold
- There are resilient people trying to do the hard things that they love
- The Store is busy all the time
- We try to help people as much as we can
- I believe in Teslin
- Salmon travel so far to be here - they stay for a year and then leave.
- Salmon travel the farthest distance to get here to Teslin and that in and of itself is pretty amazing and demonstrates how special this place is

### **What can tourism partners build on/do more of?**

- We have some walking trails around Teslin but better signage would make sure that visitors know about them, not sure if they know now
- Dawson does a really good job of advertising compared to Mayo where there just isn't an obvious reason to go given it doesn't lead anywhere
- A network of maintained trails, by a trail society or something, would do really well with locals and visitors
- Construction of the trails for hiking and biking would be great
- Visitors could then hear about them through brochures and maps
- A lot of people here would use trails
- Opportunity to promote local events more to draw tourists from Whitehorse, but priority is to get the community to come out

## What opportunities do you see?

- Learning about the history of the area, and the old trails the First Nation used to use would be good to share with others
- The history here is so interesting
- Having the TTC open up the old traditional trails to Atlin and Juneau and then sharing the trails is an opportunity
- The trail would be more than 800 kilometres – so would need to target the right audience
- The history here is very interesting.
- How do we draw the people from Whitehorse here – what can we learn from Carcross about pulling visitors to the town?
- How do we change from the mentality from a drive through place to a place to visit for the day, or the night?
- A family here bought land but hasn't started construction on a bakery
- Bakery would be a great opportunity to draw visitors for something special like in Haines Junction
- A trendy café/bakery would be a draw for nearby locals to come for lunch or to experience this in Teslin
- People love the lake but unsure of by-laws to use public spaces to set up a rustic wall tent to sell coffee and treats at the lake
- Access to funding to try to help increase tourism business, walking tours etc.
- Opportunity for a business to take a boat to the Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area
- There is also a bird watching area near the Nisutlin
- Need one of the federal departments to allow the building of a permanent structure there
- Want to see the Teslin TTC tourism strategy move forward
- The Development Corporation is looking for the next step of how to best serve the community in Teslin
- Will take the strategy back to TTC in the next six months
- Want to work with Citizens to help them in this area
- Opportunity to better train Citizens in an outdoor business – like access to wilderness first aid, boat safety, etc.
- Very beautiful trapping cabins
- Opportunity to work with the trappers to help them structure themselves and go out on trapping adventures

- TTC looking at building a school to try to keep youth in the community, supporting the community
- The Recreation Complex is a fantastic facility – consider making a business plan to see how to make the most of it
- Dev Corps history has been dealing with the projects that were going through and managed by contractors outside the community and then left
- Now the Dev Corps work on other government's projects by hiring project managers who have some experience to help look after a project in the community so that the community benefits
- Now it is looking at the next step of helping to implement the TTC/Village development strategy
- Want to be a partner in there and support this
- The other area the Dev Corp can help is assisting community members to become small business operators
- Could consider making small loans to members and help them develop their ideas and implement their plans and then help them along the way
- Under the Umbrella Agreement there is an ability for a regional governance structure
- There is a role to play for the Dev Corp to play in support of such a structure
- This would benefit as the decisions being made would be by the people who are living in the town
- For example, this governance model could look at settlement land and non-settlement land in the region in a holistic way by working together
- This would be a great opportunity to support the community in a fulsome way by providing a one stop place for support in all areas
- This would benefit more than the tourism industry here – this regional approach would help in all areas
- The possibilities are endless

### **Thinking Ahead: Round 2**

In regards to sustainably growing tourism in Yukon, and regardless of whose responsibility it is:

#### **What could be improved?**

- The campsites are full all the time around Whitehorse and that is frustrating

- An information centre here would be very helpful
- It would be helpful for tourists to know where to go for information
- They don't know what there is to do there – could share that there is a fishing guide, or just on a lake tour, or can rent canoes
- Visitors need to talk to people about what to do in the area
- One of the main features of Teslin is the Bridge
- They'll remember the lake and the mountain
- It would be good to share the history of the bridge and the area
- The Heritage Centre closes in the afternoon, staying open later could help tourists find information
- There is an RV park but in the evening they don't have anything to do there
- The Museum and the Heritage Centre close in the afternoons
- Visitors don't know what to do in the evenings
- Not enough people who want to curl so the Curling Association stopped putting in the ice
- There's just a shift in thinking here

### **What are the roadblocks and barriers of sustainably developing tourism?**

- Tourists are often arrogant and not necessarily a great thing
- Tourists sometimes dump out their sewage at rest stops and are disrespectful of the land
- They ignore the proper facilities here
- Challenge is location - when you are leaving Whitehorse, you've just left so you aren't going to stop again, and when you are driving back to Whitehorse, you are so close to home, you don't stop
- Barrier to tourists knowing what to do is that the Heritage Centre and Museum closes so early
- The winter is a challenge
- There are only so many local rooms
- You can plan the greatest events, but if you don't have the volunteers, it doesn't happen
- Need to work on how to figure out how to get more people involved
- There's a different mentality
- We used to come together to run events but now people expect to be paid
- Not sure how to change the mentality to get it back to that sense of community

- People are more spectators than doers these days
- The school here only goes to grade 9, and then they have to go to Whitehorse
- When the youth go away in grade 10, they often don't come back – they decide to go to college or university, and then they don't come back other than to visit
- This is a constant drain on the community
- Elderly people also leave as there are more fulsome supports in Whitehorse
- A challenge is that what really drives the local community is government jobs, YG, TTC, Village
- We live in silos

### Thinking Ahead: Round 3

Think about yourself as well as your neighbours, colleagues or industry partners. With those perspectives in mind:

**What do you think are the 5 most important things that need to be considered to sustainably grow tourism?**

- Don't ruin it for the locals because there is a reason they still live here
- There should be a strong focus on communities and economic development
- It isn't just about tourism
- Need to look at the various things that come into building a community like infrastructure and roads
- We are losing our people to Whitehorse
- There is a senior's residence here, but not fulsome supports so people leave to have more wrap around support in Whitehorse

**What advice would you give to decision-makers (Yukon Government, Yukon First Nation Governments, municipalities, organizations, individual businesses etc.) to consider as we collectively develop the strategy for growing tourism sustainably in Yukon?**

- Our greatest resources are our natural resources
- Its awesome to get people out in these spaces, but also amazing to leave these spaces pristine because it can be so hard to find
- Needs to be a strong focus on to build communities
- Whatever we do here in Teslin benefits the broader territory

- It's nice that you talk about us here, but don't do it too much
- There is a really fine balance
- We want this to be a place where people want to come and stay and raise their children
- Its not just one person who can do that though – it is all of us as a collective
- Government should focus on community living – supporting initiatives that help our youth make good decisions and investing in business
- It is important that the relationships between the communities and the First Nations are used as way to build up the community
- This partnership and working together is a strength
- You have to protect the water
- It needs to be there to ensure it is there for future generations