

## What we heard in Carcross Tagish

<b>Community</b>	Carcross Tagish
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, March 21, 2018
<b>Time</b>	5 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	Main (C/TFN) Administration Building – Governance Boardroom
<b>Facilitator</b>	Sandy Legge
<b>Note taker</b>	Carleen Kerr Colleen Madore
<b>Participants</b>	14 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?

- Indigenous tourism has taken off around the world
- The Visitor Information Centre is doing a great job!
- Walking tour of Carcross is a really nice and informative tool
- We live in a beautiful place
- If the goal is to get numbers up – that seems to be working
- People want to sell First Nation culture – the interest is there
- Art House is working really well but has so many barriers and challenges ahead of it
- Carcross partnered with Wild Wise to help tourists better understand wildlife interactions – resulted in no bears being killed here
- What we have is unique and special – we should try to protect it
- Beautiful place, want to retire here
- Tourism increasing
- Name recognition
- Amtrack diners in southern United States all know Carcross (not Yukon, or Whitehorse)
- Art House is known as a must-see attraction in Carcross
- Whitehorse people love Art House and Carcross

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

- YG is the only one who acknowledges the history before the gold rush
- The people here are never factored into the tours and that needs to change
- A lot of tourists want to learn about the history of First Nations
- People love it when there are cultural experiences, but they want more
- We have the learning centre – more could be done
- We would like to see how we can partner with Yukon government to see how we can keep more money here in Carcross
- If the interest is here to sell First Nation culture – how do they do it and actually benefit from it?
- Identify the strength of the community and then build on it
- Art House is a success – government needs to build on that and provide stable funding
- Tourism needs to have direct benefit for the people who live here
- Help us get a part time bank here – that would be very helpful
- We lose half of our population on Friday to Whitehorse to get money
- Tourists can't buy anything if they can't get money here
- We are going to want our Caribou Crossing name back one day and will want Government's support to get that name back
- Opportunity to partner with operators

### **What opportunities do you see?**

- There are a lot of people in Carcross who would like an area for street vendors
- Opportunity to bring back pop-up vendors
- Opportunity to develop First Nation walking tours
- Under the agreement, chapter 26, is there an opportunity for C/TFN to decide who can operate in our territory?
- Opportunity to consult locally to come up with a regional plan for the community and then having YG come and help
- T&C could help us understand the opportunity and help us get there
- Opportunity to share First Nation culture and values with the world so that they want to use less water, take better care of the land
- Idea for a Yukon market – possibly using the Tutshi
- Geotourism

- Breakwater at the boat launch would be helpful because people have a hard time getting in and out of the water
- We want the government to come here and help us figure out how to have economic benefit year-round

## Thinking Ahead: Round 2

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

### What could be improved?

- There are no rules
- There needs to be more support to help train people to share their stories
- The Yukon government shouldn't talk about the Indigenous culture – local people should be the ones sharing their story
- Outsiders who are here for economic benefit only
- No protection of the desert or of the land
- There are not enough facilities to protect the land – no outhouses or garbage
- On the beach, there is garbage and feces left behind
- Our resources are not protected
- Bark is being harvested from the balsam trees
- Lack of rules and regulations in so many areas
- No one to enforce the protocols that are there either
- Capacity is a challenge
- C/TFN does not have the capacity to enforce rules
- Have heard that there should be fees on Montana mountain – but there are insurance issues if there is a charge
- Are tour operators aware of the amount of work that is being done by C/TFN to protect the caribou?
- Why are those responsible not required to clean up the old telegraph lines?
- If they won't do it, the Yukon government should step in
- Tourists don't spend enough time here to actually want to spend money
- They only stop for 15 minutes, which is only enough time to go to the bathroom
- Many of the bus tourists don't even know they are in Canada
- Locals want to run away when tourists come
- It is hard to move around in town without disrupting the residents

- The busses should not drive all the way into town by the houses
- The busses should park in the parking lot and then locals should help them see and experience the town
- Someone needs to stand up to the bus companies so that they stop only thinking about money
- There is a head tax on the number of people on the boats
- YG should compensate the people of this town for the thousands of people that come here, or at least support the services – water, sewage, garbage
- Lack of cultural tourism
- So far there is no economic benefit to the community here
- We've never been asked what we want to do, we are always told
- I only ever read about things in the newspaper, no one ever asks us
- The store is the second most expensive store in the Yukon
- As of 2015, we have the third lowest median income in the Yukon
- Tourism is not our saviour in Carcross – four months of the year is not enough
- After four months everyone rolls up their shops and leaves
- That's specifically what we didn't ask for
- We want a community plan
- We are overrun by people here
- Someone gave tourism all our traditional trails without asking us
- We are oral people – our history is in our trails
- When they built the commons – no one looked to find our history, or bones, they just bulldozed it over
- No traditional life anymore – there are too many people on the lake and on our land
- Nobody ever asked the people in this community
- Someone needs to go around and ask people what they want – they aren't coming to these meetings but they need to be asked, someone should go ask them
- I want something for my grandchildren
- We shouldn't be cutting down another tree or making another trail
- There is zero benefit for the people living here – that is not right
- The people who live here need a say in what is going on
- Decisions are made in Whitehorse and they need to be made here
- We are in post traumatic stress from that residential school and no one wants to look at that now

- We are being trained to be trained
- Ask the people in this community what they want
- This is a community - it is not government or a corporation
- Nothing will be fixed without the people of this community
- Get somebody to go out and ask the people what they want
- We don't get anything – from the commons to the mountain – we get nothing
- People need to be involved and included
- Looking for a shift over how things are done here
- Operators should ask permission/permitting to operate on the traditional territory
- The mountain is no longer a meaningful place
- Permits would help regulate the usage on the mountain
- There needs to be management
- Consider a lottery system to give permits on the mountain
- The community doesn't know what is going on in its traditional territory
- We have no regional plan
- There is a lack of understanding about what businesses are doing on the traditional territory
- Government needs to improve the ability to work together to help tourism operators
- How can we communicate with YG to ensure that messaging around wildlife is the same?
- YG seems to be promoting wildlife viewing, and we are trying to help tourists know to be careful
- Need First Nation participation
- When will government stop making decisions without asking?
- We've talked about sustainable tourism – but we aren't there yet
- There is not a regional plan on anything
- C/TFN does not have a tourism, arts or recreational department, so it falls on YG
- Catch and release is against Indigenous values – if you are going to catch it, you kill it and eat it
- Need to better understand how to co-exist and live together
- Looking for a stronger LAC – not a municipality – but something more
- Government departments need to work closer together
- Think back to when they wanted to put a pesticide plant here and it took a lot of effort to get that stopped

- We had to go to the Minister directly to get an end of it because the departments just kept bouncing us around
- The heritage buildings on the other side of the river are falling apart – and we do not have the money to fix them
- They are a big value to tourism, and we can't lose them, but we can't afford to fix them
- Carcross needs a break water at boat ramp
- We need accommodations in downtown Carcross
- First Nation history?
- No other community with so many visitors staying so little time!
- Mountain bike trail – need money for insurance
- More money in the communities
- More respect for the locals as they are not tourist attractions
- More garbage, recycling, out houses
- More local guides
- Respect of the land (sensitive areas for wildlife, traditional trails...) mandatory
- More History on First Nations before Gold Rush and Whitepass and Yukon Rail
- Where's FN's or their stuff
- No area for locals to sell
- No rules
- Don't like so many people!
- Wild West
- They're here!
- Permits, consultations for every permit!
- People are shocked that Carcross does not have a sewer and water system
- Some operators nearby are making lots of money but aren't working with the community to share the wealth
- They don't put up local work or take people downtown
- We don't always want to partner
- Give us the funding and let us do our own things
- Indigenous culture is not valued - that needs to be improved
- Can we communicate with the border to help us understand who is coming?
- The tour operators send a fax of the schedule for the next week – but that needs to be improved to help us plan

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

- Many local people do not know how to build a business plan
- Insurance for the wilderness licenses are a barrier – opportunity for a co-op insurance?
- Art House – no funding stability
- There are so many barriers here
- Capacity is a barrier
- Lack of overnight accommodations is a barrier
- Lack of sewage and water is a barrier
- Lack of access to a financial institution in town is a barrier
- Could the internal working group look at breaking down the barriers to help get some sort of banking institution nearby?
- Volunteer capacity is an issue – we are the go getters who could actually get going but are burnt out wearing too many hats
- We don't have a fire person in town
- When our population doubles due to tourism, will YG help us deal with emergencies?
- There is a neighbour to neighbour plan
- Lack of appreciation for the difficulty we face because we aren't a municipality
- Faro gets \$1.7 million for their municipality, and we only get \$14,000 to try and beautify and support the town
- There is a lack of alignment between YG, C/TFN, LAC, and residents
- Need to get more alignment in the community

### **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?**

- Focus on year-round tourism
- As wilderness becomes even more valuable – we need to protect it
- Recommend that the Department read the Carcross Local Area Plan
- How can the locals benefit?
- Need to make sure that the locals are benefiting

- How can we keep moving forward while protecting the culture and history for future generations?
- Need to focus on implementation
- Don't want to be 50 years old talking about this
- Need to see action
- Elders are getting tired of talking about the same things over and over and over and never seeing the implementation
- We need pedestrian cross walks – there are so many people coming here and it needs to be safer for the kids
- The benefits on the ground are key – as simple as dealing with pot holes, pedestrian cross walks, a bank, year-round washroom, or gallery
- Carcross is bringing in money – we need some benefits on the ground
- We can't keep waiting for the benefits
- Its hard to make a living on three months a year – need to focus on year-round tourism
- Can there be building lots around the ski trails so that we can build on the benefits of the communities?
- Why can't we make it a community of trails?
- Let's take steps to come together to deal with things that will support year-round tourism
- Help to the kids
- Help to the elders
- Help us with our planning
- Help us get to stronger governance
- Help us get a motel
- We don't have the things we need to keep people here
- Let the First Nations know what's going on.
- For Carcross – the bank is a good idea, but an atm would be amazing for now
- Businesses can't afford to have an atm
- We need money
- The heritage buildings here that need help are privately owned and it can be challenging to get them to be engaged
- Could the department help us facilitate a conversation with those people to understand the value of restoration?
- Communication is really important between operators and First Nations
- Respect is so important



- Community doesn't have enough say in the FAM tours
- There is an opportunity to educate the people who come through the FAM tours about what's here and what it means but this is getting missed
- The community isn't involved enough in FAM tours
- Tourism should be hiring someone to learn more about the communities
- Strongly believe in partnering
- It is not about an operator building a cabin here on our land - we could do that and partner with them
- It can be too much too soon with some things
- It would be good if the LAC is involved at the beginning
- It is safer to let the community know things earlier in the process
- Is there legislation or something we can change to deal with permitting and licenses to ensure respect for the land?
- What about the enforcement?
- Not happy that once operators get their license, they can do what they want where they want
- Need something at a higher level to protect the land

**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?**

- Schools should talk to kids earlier about volunteerism
- Need to ensure the community is aware and has buy in
- Consult local
- We need to see evidence that our thoughts are incorporated
- It's a cohesiveness between the regional and government level
- Collaboration is key – needs to include culture, land, tourism, etc.
- Tired of dealing with 5 departments on something
- Stop consulting and start asking permission
- We've heard these types of things so many times
- Need to make sure you hear from everyone
- We need to protect our land
- Tourists just leave their sewage and garbage – we don't see the benefits
- We are being raped and pillaged here

- Listen to the elders and the people from the land – and how to keep it
- They are not being heard or listened to
- Stop consulting and get busy working to protect the land
- Capacity is a challenge – human, funding, etc.
- The garbage is ruining everything
- We wouldn't treat someone's home that way – to mess everything up and then walk out the door
- If we take something, we put it back, that is the way we are trained
- We try our best to give back to what we take out
- Its not fair that people just do what they want here
- We have to let the people tell their own story from their own region
- Need to work together.
- Need to get more community funding – the disparity between the municipal transfer payments and LACs is too big
- Help us out and we can get there
- Best opportunity for a tourist is to sit down with an elder and really learn
- Can't use the area around the boat without a permit