



## ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016

### Introduction

The Carcross Tagish Renewable Resources Council (CTRRC) was established in February 2010. The fiscal year 2015-2016 was the sixth year of operation for the Council.

Our area of responsibility encompasses a wide region commonly referred to as the Southern Lakes. Four very distinct communities lie within the boundaries of the Carcross Tagish First Nation Traditional Territory: Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake and Mount Lorne. The CTRRC meetings are open to the public and we invite everyone who is interested to attend the meetings, which are held on the first Monday of every month.

### Mandate

The CTRRC, established under the Carcross Tagish First Nation Final Agreement, is the local advisory body for fish, wildlife, forestry and land use in the Carcross Tagish First Nation Settlement area.

The Council strives to be the voice of the Community in managing local renewable resources.

The Council provides strong input into planning and regulation processes by raising public awareness of specific issues and by contributing local and traditional knowledge and information to decision processes.

The Council also plays an important advisory role to territorial, federal and First Nations governments and the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board.

The CTRRC is comprised of eight council members including two alternate members, each appointed by First Nation and YTG.

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Ending Date</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>
Ken Reeder, Co-chair	October 31, 2016	YG
Edna Helm, Co-chair	November 3, 2016	CTFN
Albert James	December 1, 2018	CTFN
Patrick James	December 15, 2017	CTFN
Randy Taylor	January 28, 2019	YG
Don Toews	March 7, 2018	YG
Jacques Jobin (Alternate)	February 23, 2019	YG
Adam Winters (Alternate)	December 1, 2018	CTFN

**Office Staff:** Linda Thornton – Office Administrator

## Highlights

- The Council continued to enjoy positive working and information sharing relationships with Yukon Government Dept. of Environment biologists, and CTFN Lands personnel, as well as other Government representatives.
- CTRRC hosted the “AGW” Annual General Workshop involving all RRC’s in Whitehorse: April 30, May 1st & 2nd, 2015.
- CTRRC hosted a joint meeting on August 31, 2015 of all parties including affected First Nations and RRC’s as well as the Yukon and B.C. governments on steps to initiate discussions for planning process for the three Southern Lakes Caribou herds.
- CTRRC hosted the Third Annual Southern Lakes “On the Land” Gathering on: October 6, 2015. This gathering focused on Southern Lakes caribou management, which involved all six, affected First Nations and four RRC’s as well as the Yukon and B.C. governments.
- The CTRRC hosted four public meetings jointly with the Whitehorse-SL Forest Resources Management Plan, Joint Planning Committee within the Carcross/Tagish Traditional Territory at the following population centers and locations.
  - January 26 – Marsh Lake Community Hall
  - January 27 – Tagish Community Hall
  - February 2 – Carcross Curling Club
  - February 4 – Mt Lorne Community Hall
- The CTRRC and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB) jointly hosted a public review of the proposed changes to *Yukon Wildlife Act Regulations* on November 16, 2015.
- The CTRRC and YFWMB jointly hosted a Fur-Handling Workshop in five locations from November 26 – December 9, 2015, this was a “hands-on” workshop that included handling and grading and was funded through Economic Development, Yukon.
- CTRRC sponsored two youths in the Basic Trapper Training Workshop in Carcross on November 19-23, 2016 and Co-chair, Ken Reeder assisted in the training on fur handling and pelt preparation, and the method of equipment use, etc.
- CTRRC hosted the *Wolf Pelt Handling Workshop* in Carcross on March 13, 2016. The workshop focused on the necessary steps in pelt handling; proper fur handling techniques, grading, fleshing and boarding of pelts, skinning and building of snare sites, etc. This workshop was well attended by wolf trapping trainees and others.
- The project was funded by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust (YFWET) with additional and “in-kind” funding by CTRRC.
- The CTRRC continues to seek ways to enhance hunting and trapping opportunities, as well as develop, promote and encourage local ground based monitoring programs.
- CTRRC successfully completed the first year of a multi year project recovering abandoned telegraph wire in the Southern Lakes region. The project was funded by the YFWET as well as “in-kind” funding by CTRRC and CTFN.
- CTRRC worked with CTFN to map and recover abandoned wire. As well, the Yukon Youth Conservation Corps (Y2C2) provided two crews for wire retrieval.

- The CTRRC has “observer” status on the Tagish River Habitat Protection Area Committee and attends all meetings providing valuable input and assistance to the committee.
- Council participated in various workshops and events:
  - Yukon Trapper Working Group
  - North American Caribou Workshop
  - Yukon River Chinook Salmon Stock Restoration Workshop
  - Biomass Workshop
  - Grizzly Bear Management Plan Workshop
  - YISC – Yukon Invasive Species Council Workshop
  - Yukon Water Forum Workshop
  - Haines Junction Trapping Workshop
- Council was represented and provided comments at various meetings:
  - YFWMB Annual Meeting
  - RRC Annual Chairs Meeting
  - Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
  - Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
  - CTFN-LUT & Whitepass/Forestry
  - Whitehorse Southern Lakes Forest Resource Management Planning
  - YESAB Public Meetings
  - Tagish River Habitat Advisory Meetings
  - CTFN Caribou Project Meeting

Council provided comments and recommendations on a range of proposed legislative and policy changes including:

- Off Road Vehicle (ORV) *Regulation Discussion Paper*
- Resolution#2015-03 Wild/Domestic Sheep and Goats: Legislated Separation
- Proposed Changes to *Yukon Wildlife Act Regulations*
- Whitehorse-SL Forest Resources Management Plan
- Kusawa Lake Parks Management Plan
- Proposed Roadside Grizzly Bear Hunting Regulations
- Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee Canadian Harvest Guidelines and Management Matrix
- Letter of support for the B.C. Southern Lakes Caribou Harvest regulation proposals advanced by Taku River Tlingit First Nation
- Carcross Erosion Control Works - Natasheeni River
- Recommendation to the Minister on the allocation of trapline 307 to be designated as a group trapline to be administered by CTFN.
- Biomass Energy Strategy Report

## Challenges

- The vastness of the region, four distinct population centers, and wide-ranging priorities for the residents of each community continue to present a variety of logistical challenges for the Council.
- Due to its accessibility and close proximity to the Yukon’s major population center, the Southern Lakes region is under constant pressure from a variety of factions wanting to use, occupy and develop land and natural resources in the area. This continuing pressure

has disturbed habitat, wildlife patterns and fish populations, and jeopardized the sustainability of traditional lifestyles and activities.

### **Office Operations**

- The Council office, centrally located in the Tagish Community Centre is staffed four (4) days per week.
- The Office Administrator undertakes all facets of the day-to-day administrative duties.
- Rental Lease agreement covers for 2-years, September 1, 2014 until August 31, 2016.
- Continued use of professional private contractor for bookkeeping services.
- Successfully submitted all 2015-16 deliverables to YG.
- The CTRRC regularly sends information and informs the community of upcoming meetings through email and public notice and community newsletters.
- CTRRC is currently working on a biannual newsletter.
- CTRRC website is a work in progress and is being developed and updated on an ongoing basis.
- Networking and outreach efforts by CTRRC and staff help improve lines of communication among all those involved and provide a clear understanding of CTRRC's objectives and mandate.

### **Financial Report**

- Council engaged the professional services of an Auditor. The council, in fulfilling its responsibilities, has developed and maintained a system of internal accounting controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded from loss or unauthorized use, and the records are reliable for preparing the financial statements. The financial statements have been reported by M. McKay & Associates Ltd. Certified General Accountant.

### **Council Administration**

- Regular Meetings: The CTRRC held 11 regular meetings
- Special Meetings: The CTRRC held two Special meetings

### **CTRRC was represented at the following meetings:**

- Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Meeting
- Yukon Water Forum
- Angling Working Group
- Southern Lakes Forestry Management Plan
- Tagish River Habitat Protection Area Management Planning
- Pacific Salmon Foundation Reception & Introduction
- 2015 Yukon North Slope Conference
- CTFN Lands Management Board Meeting
- CTFN Project Caribou Meeting

- YESAB Public Meetings

### Education and Training

- The CTRRC staff and members participate in training opportunities as time and funds allow throughout the year.
- CTRRC council will participate in various local events (open houses, public meetings, workshops etc. hosted by other organizations, or in partnership with CTRRC) to further awareness of the CTRRC current projects.

### Projects

#### Land/Water Use Applications and YESAB Proposals

The CTRRC receives, reviews and comments throughout the year on projects that pose potential impacts to fish and wildlife within the CTFN traditional territory. CTRRC continues to consult with CTFN Lands Management Branch and submits comments on these projects.

#### Budget Variance:

Overall, the CTRRC ended the fiscal year within the 2015-16 budget.

#### Summary:

The Council continued to build relationships with local area planning organizations and stakeholders to: support the advancement of common areas of concern; make informed and responsible recommendations to governments and management agencies regarding fish, wildlife, habitat and forestry management; and, engage the communities in collaborative renewable resources management.

The Council has completed all projects in their work plan within the allocated budget. Council is looking forward to another challenging and productive year ahead.



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Edna Helm, Co-Chair

September 30, 2016

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Date



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Ken Reeder, Co-Chair

September 30, 2016

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Date