Photo: Government of Yukon

February 11, 2020

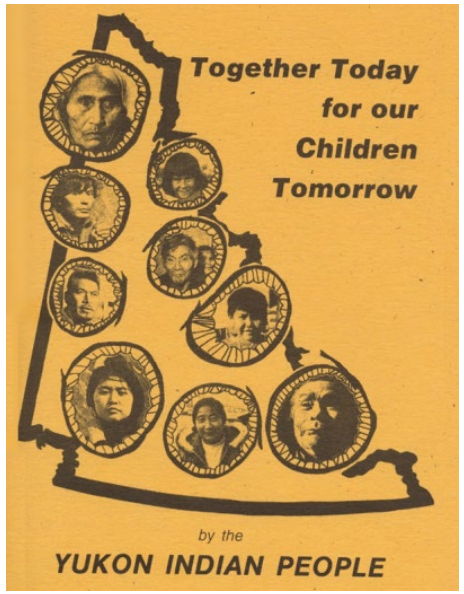
Yukon Treaty Negotiation & Implementation Simulation

Land Claims Agreements Coalition National Conference

Involving Youth, Recruitment and Succession Planning

Presenters:

- Kim Smarch – Teslin Tlingit Council
- Robin Bradasch – Government of Canada
- Jodi-Lyn Newnham - Government of Yukon
- Shakina Johnson – Kluane First Nation



Yukon Context

Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow

Umbrella Final Agreement

Final Agreements

Self-Government Agreements

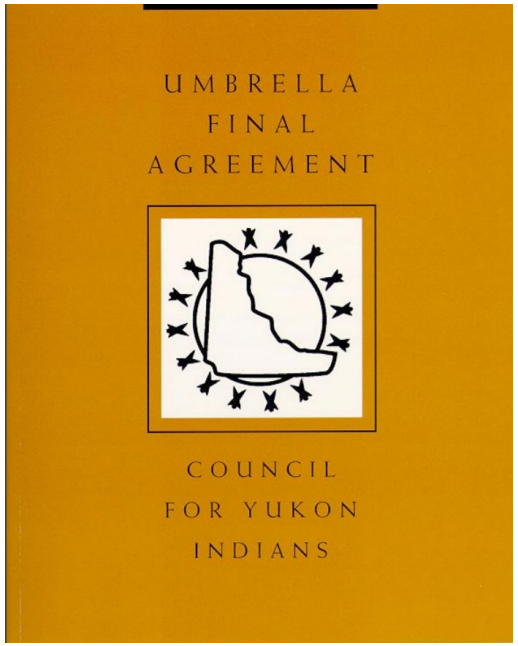
Credit: Yukon Archives. Judy Gingell collection, 98/74, 1
From mappingtheway.ca

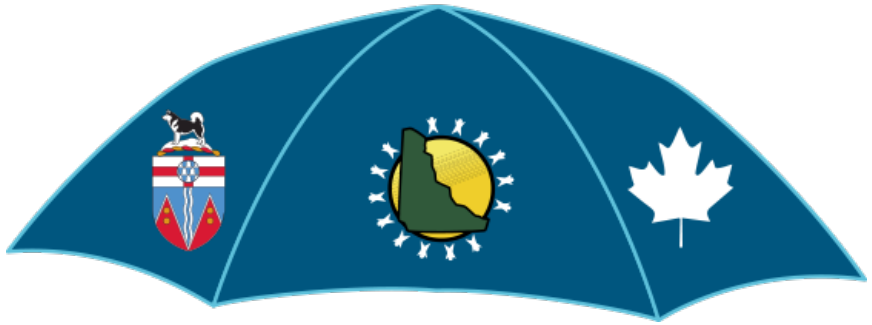
Together Today for our Children Tomorrow

"This is a Settlement for tomorrow not for today…This Settlement is for our children, and our children's children, for many generations to come. All our programs and the guarantees we seek in our Settlement are to protect them from a repeat of today's problems in the future."

- Tomorrow pg. 17

Together Today for our Children Tomorrow Mapping the Way video





Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA)

- UFA was negotiated by federal and Yukon governments and Yukon First Nations represented by the Council of Yukon First Nations (Council of Yukon Indians at the time).
- Framework agreement for negotiating individual Final Agreements and set out basic guidelines for Self-Government Agreements.
- The UFA was signed in 1993.

Self-Government Agreements

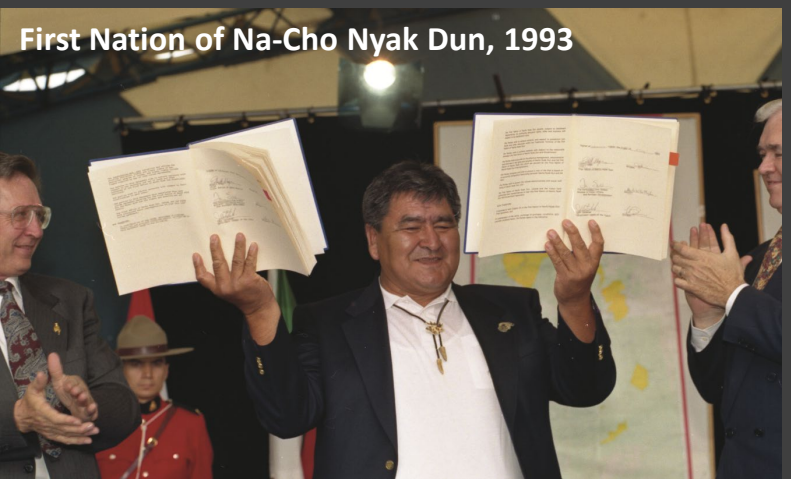
- Lays out powers, authorities & responsibilities of the First Nation government
- Law making powers
- Programs and services

Teslin Tlingit Council, 1993

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, 1993

Champagne and Aishihik First Nation, 1993

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, 2002


First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun, 1993

Kluane First Nation, 2003

Final Agreements

- Constitutionally protected
- 11 of 14 Yukon First Nation have Final and Self-Government Agreements.

Photos: Government of Cana

Implementation Working Group

Members from the 11 First Nations with Final and Self-Government Agreements, Government of Yukon and Government of Canada working together to coordinate the implementation of the agreements.

Photo: Government of Yukon

YUKON FIRST NATION SELF-GOVERNMENT
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Engaging Youth

- Engaging Yukon youth is a priority under the Implementation Working Group.
- Mapping the Way – IWG Communications sub group.

Yukon Treaty Negotiation and Implementation Simulation

- Facilitated by the Gordon Foundation in partnership with IWG, Canada, Yukon and Mapping the Way.

THE GORDON FOUNDATION

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Teslin Tlingit Council
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
Carcross/Tagish First Nation
Selkirk First Nation
Vuntut Gwitchin Government
Council of Yukon First Nations
Yukon
Canada

Photo: Government of Yukon

Yukon Treaty Negotiation and Implementation Simulation

- Brought together 23 youth from across Yukon and Northern British Columbia with experienced negotiators and implementors as experts and mentors

Why engage youth through events like the Treaty Simulation?

- Facilitates the transfer of knowledge from one generation to the next and relationship building among participants and experts
- Provides first hand experience in public speaking, leading a team, negotiation &implementation, etc
- Equip with real life experience and empower youth to learn and grow as individuals
- Provides experience and context for future career paths for youth participants
- Builds practical knowledge of Yukon First Nations Final and Self-Government Agreements

Photo: Government of Yukon

Photo: Government of Yukon

Treaty Simulation

- UFA Chapter 11 Special Management Area
- Experts guided participants through the simulation.

Day One

- Informal discussion between youth participants and experts to ask questions, share experiences and make connections.

- Experts shared real life experiences negotiating and implementing agreements.

- Participants began preparing for the simulation taking place on Day 2.

Photo: Government of Yukon

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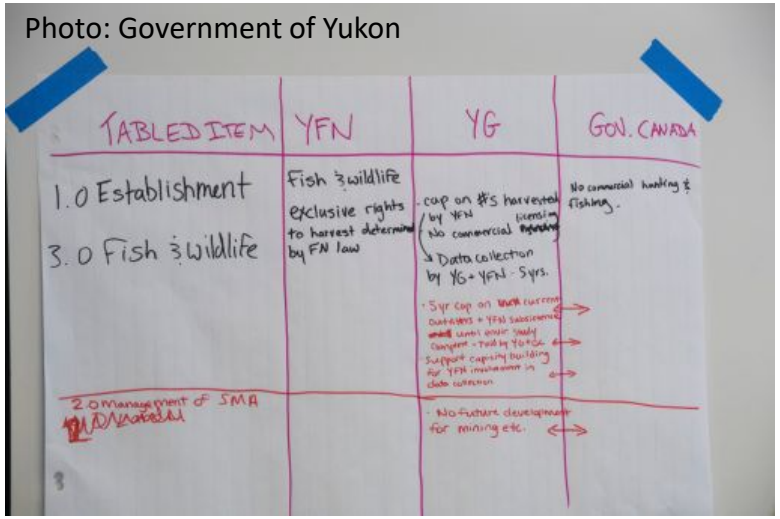

Day 2: Negotiation

- Negotiation of a section of Chapter 10 Special Management Area.
- All participants had a turn representing a negotiator from a Yukon First Nation, Government of Yukon or Government of Canada.

"There are a LOT of things to consider when negotiating - each government has different responsibilities." - participant

Day 2: Implementation

- Participants were assigned to a new team for implementation simulation.
- Developed an implementation plan of another groups agreement from the negotiation.
- Those implementing agreements often did not negotiate the agreement or have access to the negotiator.

Photo: Government of Yukon

Photo: Government of Yukon

Debrief

"I felt very safe here; like I had a voice."

"It's important to learn how far we've come from even as little as 50 years ago."

"…[I am] going to be the first female chief of my First Nation."

"The potential and strength that our agreements contain excites me."

"I learned about how to balance the values of multiple groups of people."

Photo: Government of Yukon

What Next?

- How do we keep the momentum from this event to continue to empower youth through experiential learning?

When asked why its important for young people to learn about self-government…

"Our generation is the one who will shape the future of our FN"

"Because one day they will be in charge."

"Because they are our future."

"Because we all have a role in our community and as a whole. It was really cool to understand how everything is the way it is because of self-government."

Questions and Discussion?

Photo: Rick Massie, Government of Canada