

Dawson City residents asked to help shape City's vision and future policies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dawson City residents will have a chance to help shape the community's vision and policies around how it will develop into the future.

Between now and the Fall of 2012, the City will update its Official Community Plan (OCP). The OCP is a bylaw and the main document that outlines the City's goals and policies that relate to planning and land use management.

The OCP address how the Municipality will provide services and facilities to residences and businesses, address environmental issues, and develop or maintain utility and transportation systems. It sets out clear direction for City Council and Staff to implement other plans and policies throughout the community.

"To make sure the OCP really addresses the needs of our town, it's critical that we all get all involved," says Mayor Peter Jenkins, "The OCP process gives community members a chance to come together to really look at the key characteristics of our town – what we want to preserve or enhance and what we want to change or improve."

While OCPs are typically reviewed and updated every five years, Dawson adopted its current OCP in 1992.

"A lot has happened in the world and in our community since 1992," says Jenkins. "This OCP will help us to not only catch up to the present, but will position us well for the future."

He says the OCP will look to tackle a number of specific issues, including those related to:

- Municipal services and facilities
- Culture and heritage
- Energy conservation
- Land use patterns
- Water quality and protection
- Growth boundaries and management of growth
- Affordable housing
- Tourism and economic development
- Mining and resource protection
- Environment and habitat protection
- Transportation including walking, biking and transit

When complete, the new OCP will communicate to the community, developers, senior government agencies, industries, businesses and other stakeholders how Dawson wishes to evolve into the future.

The City is providing a number of ways for people to participate in the process – some of which include:

- Facebook – search "Dawson City Official Community Plan" to see up-to-date information on the process
- Workshops and Public Open Houses – during the week of December 5 to 9, 2011 at various locations throughout the community (dates and locations to be confirmed)
- "Stop 'n Chat" – drop in to Across the River Consulting (during regular business hours) to talk to a planning team representative about your ideas and thoughts
- Community Surveys – will be available online at the City's web site www.cityofdawson.ca and through the Facebook Group page. Hard copies will also be available at City office and other strategic locations throughout the community.
- Virtual Town Hall – week of February 20 (date and time to be confirmed). All residents will have an opportunity to contribute over the phone in a conference call format.

For more information contact:

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