



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Three First Nations Governments are signing an agreement for a common
Indigenous Land Use Planning**

Carcross, YT, October 10, 2017 — Today, Khà Shâde Héni Andy Carvill from Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Chief Kristina Kane from Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Chief Doris Bill from Kwanlin Dün First Nation are gathering to sign an agreement for the development of a project charter for the Southern Lakes Indigenous Land Use Planning (LUP). The signing ceremony will be followed by a workshop of the Elders Council of each respective First Nations for finalizing the Vision and finding an Indigenous name for the proposed project.

“This is an important day as our new project charter honours past work and recognizes traditional values, as it leads us forward with our indigenous vision for Southern Lakes LUP. We are grateful to C/TFN and KDFN for collaborating with us, and also acknowledge the guidance of our Elders, as together we consolidate our regional LUP approach for our important Settlement Lands” says Chief Kane.

The goal of the project is to develop an indigenous “preparation” initiative with the keystone project being a First Nation designed and led cultural and ecosystem based conservation design that supports an integrated multi-party Southern Lakes LUP process. The principles of the Indigenous LUP are:

- to support an indigenous worldview,
- Integrate traditional knowledge with science based approaches,
- inclusive of customary practices of people and the land, and
- to provide a holistic First Nations perspective matched and complemented by a western scientific view by the cultural and ecosystem based conservation design.

Khà Shâde Héni Carvill mentioned “We are recognizing and implementing our Final Agreement and following our responsibilities to collaboratively create a LUP that will guide our future endeavours in regards to our land and water on our Traditional Territory”. Under Chapter 11 (Land Use Planning) of the three Yukon First Nations Final Agreements, the objectives are to minimize actual or potential land use conflicts, to utilize the knowledge and experience of Yukon Indian People, to recognize Yukon First Nation’s responsibilities pursuant to Settlement Agreements for the use and management of Settlement Land and to ensure social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management, protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner so as to ensure Sustainable Development.

“The signing of this agreement, among First Nations partners, represents a unique and innovative approach to enacting the provisions and unlocking the potential within our modern-day treaties. This agreement will also pave the way for a more collective approach to the Southern Lakes LUP process and will ensure First Nation values are integrated into the overall vision and plan” says Chief Doris Bill.

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