

All-Party Election Forum on the Environment

Hosted by CPAWS Yukon and the Yukon Conservation Society

October 18, 2016

Questions from the Public

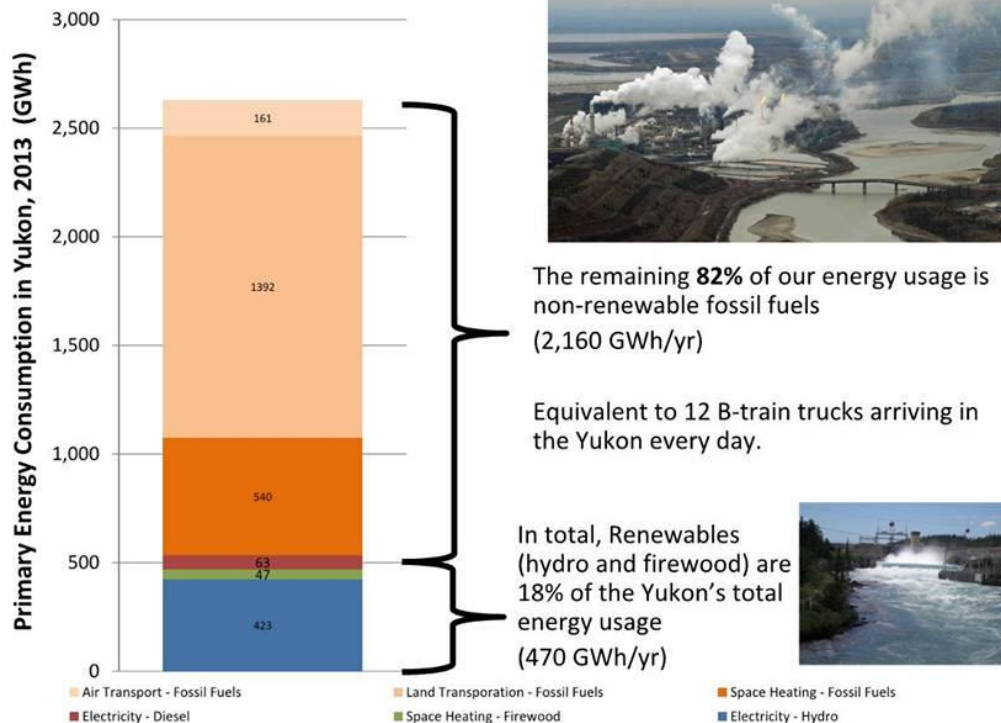
Fossil Fuels

1. Where does your party stand with regard to oil and gas development in Yukon given that any oil and gas development can only occur with government support, would sharply escalate Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane, and would fly in the face of the International Panel on Climate Change's warning that untapped fossil fuels must stay in the ground to keep global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius?
2. As we all know we have to leave 80% of developed fossil fuels in the ground. Which one of YOU would commit to a fossil fuel free economy till 2010 to avoid total climate disaster?
3. In Canada, the largest emitter of greenhouse gases is the oil and gas sector. IF your Party supports the development of a Yukon oil and gas industry, how will your Party address the commitment to reduce our net greenhouse gas emissions? Any exploration, development, production and abandonment in the Yukon's Oil and Gas industry will significantly increase our GHG emissions.
4. If elected, will your government permanently ban fracking in Yukon within four years. Yes or No?
5. Would you pass legislation banning fracking in the Yukon Territory; repeal the Yukon Oil and Gas Act of 2015, the Amendments; and repeal the Yukon Environment Environment Act Amendment which took away the consult, within 90 days of being elected?
6. Will you stop financing the Oil and Gas department?
7. Will you repeal the Yukon Oil and Gas Act? And with that reinstate the Kaska veto right against Oil and Gas development?
8. How will you stop big Oil and Gas from fracking in coal bed methane and shale in Eagle Plain and Liard?
9. Could each candidate give a fulsome response why they would support or not support Northern Cross exploration and development during your elected tenure? Please include in the answer your party's consideration regarding economics, water, air, wildlife, perma frost, contaminates and waste disposal management methodology such as – carry away, sump storage; and business case?*
10. Which study shows there is conventional oil and gas in Carmacks and Eagle Plain and Liard and will you develop it?
11. Could you give a yes or no answer to further development of the Liard Basin.
12. Will your party support LNG plants to create power for future mines in the Yukon territory?
13. Do you support or not the fracking, oil, gas?
14. Why is potentially dangerous material from Northern Cross' operations in Eagle Plains (that is stored at Arctic Backhoe's property at the base of Mt. McIntyre) NOT being tested for contaminants, and in particular, radiation?

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Transition to Renewables & Alternative Energy

1. The future is coming and much faster than ever before (change is occurring faster) and the future is much different than the past. How is your party embracing the economy of the coming years rather than the last 50 years?
2. Given the rapidly escalating impacts of climate change, how urgent do you see the need to transition to a green economy and what steps do you see as a meaningful in facilitating that transition here in the territory?
3. In this time of cataclysmic climate change, will you end all subsidies to fossil fuel industries and instead offer needed incentives for rapid growth of renewable energy development?
4. If your party forms the government, how will you act on this fact: "Investments in renewable energy creates about seven times as many jobs as the same amount of investment in oil and gas"?
5. A candidate came to our door. In the process of discussing environmental concerns, as in the LNG plant, fracking and renewable energy, the person said a nuclear power plant was his preference. How do you feel about this?
6. So this is a graph [see below] prepared a few years ago by Forest Pearson with the help from a number of key data sources including the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, Yukon Department of Finance and Stats Canada. As you can see on the left axis, energy use is displayed in GWhr/year. This bar represents the total energy used in the Yukon in 2013, which is about 2,600 GWh/year. Also on this graph is the proportion of renewable energy – mostly from our three dams and fire wood, and the fossil fuel energy - mostly made up of energy used for heating our buildings and transportation. As a general summary, we import from outside the Yukon about 82% of our total energy in the form of fossil fuels. This is the equivalent to about 12 B-train transport trucks, rolling into the Yukon, each and every day, 365 days a year. I struggle with this reality, as I feel that we are effectively offshoring / exporting a significant amount of our "dirty laundry", particularly because we have a lot of untapped renewable resources right here in our own backyard. We are a quarter the size of Nanaimo, on land mass almost half the size of BC, yet this is how we have chosen to get our energy. Does your party feel that Yukoners have a responsibility to take back, in a significant way, some of this "dirty laundry", say the fossil fuel piece we use for heating our buildings (~540GWh/year), if it means that we incur (with our renewables) some local long-term environmental impacts or changes?



Peel Watershed & Land Use Planning

1. We have a tremendous opportunity here in the Yukon to protect a still intact and wild Watershed. One that is large enough to maintain ecological integrity, wildlife habitat, wilderness values and First Nations cultural significance. This is a precious opportunity that is becoming increasingly rare in today's world!! Yukon's wild lands and water are our greatest resources! If your party is elected what will you do about the Peel Watershed and about the land use planning process that the Yukon public has so lost faith in?
2. Would your party commit to supporting and adopting the Final Recommend Plan of the Peel Planning Commission?*
3. Where does the 'Protect the Peel' movement stand and how much as the government spent on fighting to change the plan as presented?
4. Does your party believe that responsibility for land use planning should remain the responsibility of the Dept of Energy, Mines and Resources?
5. Most Yukoners distrust government secrecy. The amount of public funds going to upscale legal counsel in Ontario to fight the Peel decision has never been revealed. If you party forms a government, will it reveal past and projected future expenditures for the Peel Appeal?
6. Other than reinstating the land use planning process, how can you work to improve land use planning? What specifically would you do to make land use planning work better?

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Transport

1. Having noted the increasing CO₂ emissions over the past years, mainly from automobiles and other forms of transport, how would you party reduce these emissions?
2. Within 15 years there will be ¼ as many vehicles on the road because of self driving and automation. Canadian oil is already uneconomic. How will your party address the changing transport sector?
3. Other jurisdictions support clean air initiatives by having mandatory emissions testing of vehicles and banning the sale of 2 stroke motors for certain recreational vehicles like snow machines. Do you support these initiatives?

Wildlife & Invasive Species

1. Yukon Government as a signatory of the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk agreed to: establish complementary legislation and programs that provides for effective protection of species at risk throughout Canada that will:
 - a) address all native wild species
 - b) provide an independent process for assessing the status of species at risk
 - c) legally designate species as threatened or endangered
 - d) through o) see website

No Yukon specific legislation has been developed and most of the other issues (which would benefit all Yukon species) have not been addressed. If you form government, what would you do to develop legislation and programs agreed to in the Accord?

2. Terrestrial invasive plants represent one of the greatest threats to Yukon species. These effects are exasperated with Climate Change. What steps would your government take to address issues around invasive terrestrial plants in Yukon?
3. Disease Transmission from Domestic to Wild Sheep: In southern jurisdictions the transmission of pathogens from domestic sheep and goats to wild sheep is a significant conservation concern and has caused a number of catastrophic die-offs of wild mountain sheep populations. Thinhorn sheep are an iconic species in Yukon representing wild mountainous environments. Currently, Yukon has no legislation or regulations in place to prevent or reduce the likelihood of diseases carried by domestic sheep and goats being transmitted to wild populations of thinhorn sheep. If elected, what will your Government do to ensure the health of wild thinhorn sheep in Yukon by reducing the likelihood of diseases being transmitted from domestic sheep and goats? What would your party do to ensure that wild thinhorn sheep in Yukon do not become infected with potentially fatal diseases from domestic sheep and goats?

Tax & Trade

1. There is a lot of research that supports the belief that for a carbon tax to be effective it as to be at least \$100/tonne or \$200/tonne. If your party is elected would you make the tough choice to create a carbon tax high enough to actually change behaviour? If yes, how high would you go?
2. International trade agreements give corporations power to sue governments for millions of dollars if the government action limits corporate profits. NAFTA, for example, was a key reason behind Quebec lifting its fracking moratorium and allowing Lone Pine to frack under the St. Lawrence River. What will your government do about this?

Accountability & Leadership

1. Are environmental issues important enough for you to send your leader to this Forum? How is your party accountable to the public on environment issues?
2. Lobbyist registries ensure that resource extraction industries are not able to unduly influence environmental regulations. Will your party create a rigorous lobbyist registry if you form the next government?
3. Section 40 of the Yukon Environment Act legislates the option to establish the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment. Council activities can include conducting research and preparing reports on the economy and the environment, and SD; encouraging public discussion of the economy and the environment and their inter-relationship; and, providing advice to Cabinet and promoting public awareness of the importance of sustainable development. The composition of the Council shall represent the interests of First Nations; business or industrial associations; environmental organizations; labour unions; municipal governments; and women. The composition of the Council shall also reflect regional interests. Would you reinstate the Council, and if not, what processes and institutions do you think are sufficient and necessary to research, promote, and provide direction on sustainable development in the Territory?

Food Security

1. Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research: We can't talk about environment and climate change without talking about food security. Food insecurity in the north is both an outcome of a changing climate, but food security planning can also be a solution to ensuring a safe healthy environment for the future. Good food policy is good economic policy, good agriculture policy, good health policy, and good environmental policy. Our food system is one of the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, so food security is fundamentally linked to countering the clock on climate change. What are some of the policies that your party is proposing that will contribute to ensuring we have a safe, sustainable, nutritious, affordable food system for the future?

General

1. How do your environmental proposals impact on Yukon First Nations, low-income citizens, and new arrivees like our Syrian refugee families? How do you propose to prepare our youth for the critical environmental challenge they will have to face mid-century?*
2. With respect to the environment, what do you hope your party, if government, will be most remembered for by future generations? In other words, what do you want to be proud of with respect to the environment?*

Disclaimer: Views expressed in the public questions do not necessarily represent the views of the Yukon Conservation Society and CPAWS Yukon.

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Questions from Yukon Environmental Organizations

CPAWS Yukon

A recent study from the University of Queensland found that since the early 1990's, the earth has lost 10% of its remaining wilderness. The same study identified that Canada's northern boreal forests are amongst the world's most critical. Here in the Yukon we are lucky to still be surrounded by forests, rivers and mountains that are the traditional territory of Yukon First Nations and which provide a home to large populations of iconic Canadian wildlife and many rare plants. Unfortunately, as things currently stand there is no overarching strategy in place to identify and protect critical wilderness areas across the Territory. **What will your party do to ensure a systematic approach to the protection of our valuable wilderness?***

Yukon Conservation Society

The parties have all stated where they stand on a carbon tax and renewable energy investments. **What are the key components of your climate change strategy and how would you fund them?***

Yukon Fish & Game Association

YFGA is a conservation-based organization with a proven track record of engaging youth and women in our outdoor camps where the participants learn about the fish, wildlife and environment of the Yukon. One of our compelling needs is to obtain land for and develop an outdoor learning center to support our camps, activities and serve as a resource location for other organizations in Yukon. **What is your position on the importance of conservation education for outdoor recreationists and what action will you take to help us realize the dream of a dedicated, first-class outdoor recreation education facility by ensuring land is made available for this purpose?***

Trails Only Yukon Association

A large majority of Yukon People think that it is far past time to act effectively to manage ATVs in the Yukon wilderness. **If elected, will you support and promote the enactment of necessary legislation and regulations to effectively manage ATVs in the Yukon wilderness within the first 24 months of a new government mandate?***

Ducks Unlimited

Wetlands are valuable ecosystems that provide Yukoners with numerous ecological goods and services including wildlife habitat, clean water, and carbon storage. Currently, wetland conservation is not well addressed or ensured by the existing regulatory framework and planning and approvals processes in the Yukon. This is in part due to the lack of a wetland policy providing clear guidance to proponents, boards, councils, bureaucrats, and the public. The Water Strategy calls for the development of "a policy for managing Yukon wetlands, including support for wetland inventory and monitoring, in partnership with other governments, stakeholders and the public". Recently, the Water Board called for a wetland policy to help guide their decision-making as well. This lack of guidance has caused uncertainty for Yukon's

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economy and environment. **If elected, will your government honour the Water Strategy and make the development and implementation of a wetland policy a priority? If so, can you tell us a bit more about what steps and actions you and your party would take to ensure that these critical ecosystems are effectively managed to ensure the values wetlands provide Yukoners are maintained?***

Yukoners Concerned

80% of proven fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground in order to meet our global commitment to limit temperatures to below 2 degrees Celsius. There are no viable economic proven reserves in the Yukon so any money, either private or public, invested in oil and gas exploration or development in the Yukon will likely be wasted. **Is your party, if elected, prepared to risk taxpayers money on a dying industry that is killing our planet, or will you instead invest taxpayers dollars in renewable energy?***

Raven Recycling

There is a 22 year old deposit refund system on most beverage containers, cans and bottles in the Yukon. To stabilize the Yukon recycling system we need to expand this deposit refund system to include more beverage containers, like milk. **Will you commit to this increase?***

We need a better management of materials at the end of their life. **Would you implement a charge similar to what we have on tires, to include items like computers, household hazardous waste and motor vehicle oil?***

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