YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 1996 / 97

Upper Tanana Place Names *

(Beaver Creek Area, Yukon)

1. Taatsàan' T'oh (Raven Nest; Red Hill) Latitude: 62°25' Longitude: 140°51'30"	7. Dlaałäl Mànn' (Dlaałäl Lake) Latitude: 62°36'33" Longitude: 140°59'
2. Nįį'įį' (Lookout Hill; Sourdough Hill) Latitude: 62°30'15" Longitude: 140°51'40"	8. Mänh Ts'eek (Narrow Lake) Latitude: 62°36'55" Longitude: 140°58'15"
3. Nįį'įį' Mànn' (Lookout Lake; Sourdough Lake) Latitude: 62°29'45" Longitude: 140°50'40"	9. Ch'ihjiit Mànn' (Ch'ihjiit Lake) Latitude: 62°37'15" Longitude: 140°58'35"
4. Yihkah Mànn' (Yihkah Lake) Latitude: 62°32' Longitude: 140°52'	10. Ts'oogot Gaay Mànn' (Little Ts'oogot Lake) Latitude: 62°37' Longitude: 140°59'45"
5. Tsà' Kàyy' Mànn' (Beaverhouse Lake) Latitude: 62°34'40" Longitude: 140°57'30"	11. Tayh Chįį' (Hillpoint) Latitude: 62°39'16" Longitude: 140°58'40"
6. Ts'oogot Choh Mànn' (Little John Lake; Big Ts'oogot Lake) Latitude: 62°35' Longitude: 140°59'	

* *Upper Tanana place names with corrected names, latitude/longitude. See pages 4-6; map on page 8.*

Cover Photo

Ts'oogot Gaay Lake ("Little Ts'oogot Lake") located beside the Alaska Highway at the Canada-U.S. border. This is one of a series of lakes with Upper Tanana (Athapaskan) names recently recognized officially by the Government of Yukon.

YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 1996/97

YUKON PLACE NAMES

The names of places reflect the Yukon's diverse culture, history, and landscape. Names in the Yukon such as Aishihik, Kusawa, Tuchitua, are a few of the native names found on a modern map of the Yukon. Yukon Indians named rivers, mountains, lakes and landmarks long before the first non-native explorers and settlers arrived in the territory. Names such as Gyò Cho Chú (Big Salmon River) tell where animals and fish are plentiful. Other names, such as Thechäl Män (Sekulman Lake), 'Stone Scraper for Hides' describe artifacts and memorialize people and events. Today, Yukon Indians still remember these names and are working to record them for future generations.

Beginning in the nineteenth century, non-native explorers, fur traders, and prospectors came to the Yukon to trade with Indian people, search for gold, and explore the vast landscape, while giving their own names to the land. The Russian explorer Vitus Bering was the first non-native to name a geographical feature in the Yukon. In 1741, he gave the name St. Elias to a mountain in the far southwest of the Yukon.

While Bering and explorers to follow gave names to geographical features without asking the local people their names for places, other early explorers, such as geologist George Dawson and the Yukon's first Commissioner, William Ogilvie, recorded native names for many places during their years in the Yukon including such names as the Yusezyu and Tatchun Rivers in central Yukon.

Many of the official names on the Yukon map today were given by non-native settlers who came to the Yukon during the Gold Rush period. In the area around Dawson City, All Gold, Bonanza, Eureka, and Nogold celebrate the successes - and failures - of the people who came to the territory during the Klondike gold rush. Names like Carcross (from Caribou Crossing), Fox Lake, and Eagle's Nest, testify to the richness of the Yukon's wildlife resources. Other places, such as Five Finger Rapids on the Yukon River, Blackstone Mountain, and White River, were named for the shape, colour, and form of the land and water itself. One of the best known names of this type is Whitehorse, which took its name from the White Horse rapids, whose foamy white crests reminded early prospectors of horses' manes.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHOOSING PLACE NAMES

In 1897, Canada established the Geographic Board of Canada whose mandate was to approve official place names across the country. Interestingly, one of the motivations for establishing this Board came from events happening in the Yukon — the discovery of gold in the Klondike. Today, the successor to this Board is known as the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN) which is made up of 23 members representing the Provinces and Territories, as well as federal departments that deal with surveying, mapping, translation, archives, parks, and native affairs.

In 1986, the responsibility for naming geographical features was transferred from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to the Government of Yukon, putting geographical naming in the hands of Yukon residents for the first time. As part of this transfer the government of Yukon established the Yukon Geographical Names Board (YGNB) in 1987 to undertake the job of researching and approving geographical names.

In 1995, under the Yukon Land Claims Agreement, the Yukon Geographical Names Board was replaced with the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board (YGPNB). Like its predecessor, it was established with the primary function and responsibility to consider and recommend the naming or renaming of places or features located within the Yukon.

THE YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD

The Yukon Geographical Place Names Board (YGPNB) is constituted under the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA), signed by the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Government and the Government of Canada. The Board's primary function is to consider and recommend the naming or renaming of places or features located within the Yukon with special reference to Chapter 13, Section 11 of the UFA. The Board's mandate does not include the naming/renaming of features or sites within municipal boundaries or along transportation corridors (highways and bridges).

BOARD MEMBERS

The Board is composed of six Yukoners with a wide variety of backgrounds and experience but a common interest in developing place name policies which serve all Yukon residents. Each member is appointed by the Yukon government for a three year term, with three members selected by the territorial government and three by the Council of Yukon First Nations. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected by their fellow Board members.

Members include:

Diane Chisholm *(Chairperson)*
Daniel Tlen *(Vice-Chairperson)*
Percy Henry
Jeff Hunston *(Ex-officio)*
John Ritter
Gordon McIntyre*
Margaret Workman

** Resigned from the Board August 12, 1996. Position is currently vacant.*

THE PLACE NAME REVIEW PROCESS

Processing place name applications in as timely a manner as possible is a priority of the Board. However, how quickly a place name application is processed is dependent on a number of factors which include:

- Completeness of the application.
- Whether the site is on Federal, Territorial, or First Nation traditional or settlement land.
- Whether the site identified is in a park.

The status of individual place name applications is tracked by means of a Geographical Place Names Application Process Flow Sheet (See Application Process Flow Chart).

NAMING FEATURES

Proposals to name or rename a geographical feature are received from a variety of sources which can include Yukon residents, all levels of governments, interest groups, Canadian citizens and even foreign visitors. To evaluate each application in a consistent manner and to meet the terms and conditions set upon establishment of the Board, the Board uses a number of principles and procedures adopted after those established by the Canadian Permanent Committee On Geographical Names.

These include:

- First priority shall be given to names with long-standing local usage by the general public, particularly indigenous names in the local native language.
- The Board has no jurisdiction over the names of municipalities, parks, territorial division, and other legal bodies that have been created by, or result from, legislation.
- Names for rivers, lakes, creeks, and other physical features should be used for all parts of the feature, in other words, you would not call the Yukon River one name at Whitehorse and another name at Dawson City.
- Proposals to name a place or geographical feature after a specific person should show how the person to be commemorated has contributed significantly to the area where the feature is located. In most cases, personal names are only given to geographical features after a person's death.
- When proposing names for unnamed features - those for which no local names exist - preference will be given to names from native languages, names that describe the feature, names associated with historical events, and names of people who have made an important contribution to the area where the name is proposed.
- Geographical names should be recognizable words or acceptable combinations of words, and should be in good taste. Names that are discriminatory or derogatory from the point of view of race, sex, colour, creed, or political affiliation are not accepted.
- The spelling and accenting of names should agree with the rules of the language in which they are written.

SETTLEMENT LANDS

Under the Land Claim Final Agreement, the Board is directed to consider the following procedures when reviewing place name applications on Settlement Lands.

- When considering the naming or renaming of places or features located within the traditional territory of a Yukon First Nation, or when acting with a federal agency where joint jurisdiction over the naming of the place or feature exists, the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board shall consult with that Yukon First Nation.
- A Yukon First Nation may name or rename any geographical features on settlement land and such place names shall be deemed to be approved by the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board.
- Traditional aboriginal place names shall be included, to the extent practicable and in accordance with map production specifications of Canada, on revised maps of the National Topographic Series.

EXAMPLES OF PLACE NAMES RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD

The Upper Tanana Place Names Map (page 8) illustrates the location of place names in the Beaver Creek area that were recently recommended by the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board and approved by the territorial Minister of Tourism. These Upper Tanana names were submitted by elder Bessie John along with a brief historical reference. In most instances, no other place name existed for the sites.

Site 1

Feature: Hill
Location: NTS Map Sheet 115K/7
Latitude: 62° 25' Longitude: 141° 07' 30"
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Taatsàan' T'oh
Notes: This feature is a reddish coloured hill and has been referred to by the people from long ago as "Red Hill". At one time there were many trees covering this hill in which ravens nested. It has also been referred to by First Nations people as "Chief Johnson's Lookout" as he apparently used the site as a moose lookout while out hunting in the district.

Site 2

Feature: Hill
Location: NTS Map Sheet 115K/7
Latitude: 62° 30' Longitude: 141° 08'
Official Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: N'ii'ii'
Notes: According to the Elder (Bessie John), this particular hill has great significance to the people as it was the place where the First Nations had their crematorium. Charcoal from these fires can still be found in the vicinity and some have been carbon dated at 10,000 years before present. This hill is also known locally as "Sourdough Hill" after a lodge by the name of "Sourdough Inn" which was destroyed in a fire many years ago. This particular name was rescinded in 1981.

Site 1 Photograph

Courtesy of Yukon Language Centre

Site 2 Photograph

Courtesy of Yukon Language Centre

Site 4 Photograph

Courtesy of Yukon Language Centre

Site 3 (not shown)

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 115K/7
Latitude: 62°30' **Longitude:** 141° 08'
Official Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Nɂi'ɂi' Lake
Notes: This lake is located on both sides of the highway at the base of Nɂi'ɂi'. It was referred to as the "Lookout Lake".

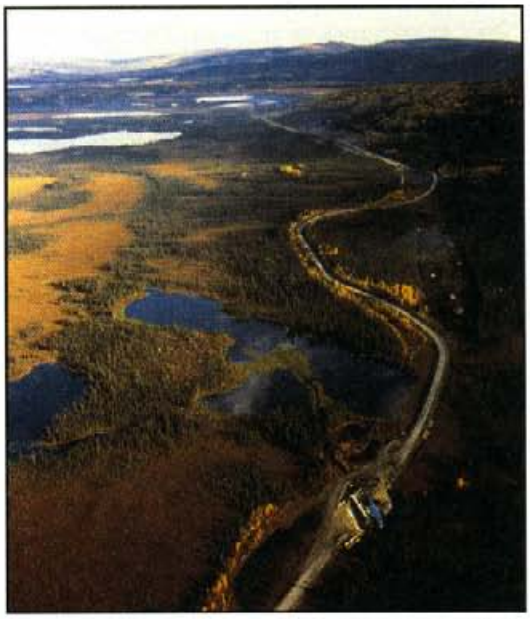
Site 4

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 115K/7
Latitude: 62° 30' **Longitude:** 141° 08'
Official Name: No existing or alternate name
Name Approved: Yihkah Lake
Notes: This is an Upper Tanana place name for the lake located on an old trail running between the border and Snag. The name seems to suggest translation of "daybreak or dawn".
According to oral history, the people of the region camped on the south shore of the lake and there was also mention that a song composed about the red-throated loon is still being sung to this day. This particular lake is drying up but used to teem with fish which ascended the Little Scottie Creek to the lake.

Site 5

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 115K/7
Latitude: 62° 34' **Longitude:** 141° 02'
Official Name: No existing or alternate name
Name Approved: Tsà' Kàyy' Lake
Notes: This is an Upper Tanana place name for the lake located beside the highway and is one in a series of lakes located at the upper section of Little Scottie Creek. The translation of this name literally translated means Beaver Lodge lake.

Site 5 Photograph



Courtesy of Yukon Language Centre

Site 6 Photograph

Courtesy of Yukon Language Centre

Site 10 Photograph

Courtesy of Yukon Language Centre

Site 6

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 115K/7
Latitude: 62° 36' Longitude: 141° 01'
Official Name: Little John Lake
Alternate Name: Ts'oogot Choh Lake
Notes: This is an Upper Tanana place name which translated means "Big Lake". This lake apparently was at one time an important meeting place of the Upper Tanana people. The official name for this lake is "Little John Lake" which was approved in 1991.

Site 7 (not shown)

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 115K/7
Latitude: 62° 37' Longitude: 141° 01'
Official Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Dlaałäl Lake
Notes: This is an Upper Tanana place name which literally translates as "Boggy Lake". The name refers to the moss which encircles the lakeshore. Bog cranberries grow around the lake. Dlaałäl Lake does not have many fish and possibly supports only pike (ch'uljüüt).

Site 8 (not shown)

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 115K/7
Latitude: 62° 37' 141° 02'
Official Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Mänh Ts'eek
Notes: This is an Upper Tanana place name which means "long skinny lake". This lake is an important source of fish for the Upper Tanana people. Whitefish, grayling, suckers and pike grow in abundance here. People apparently used to camp along the shores of this lake and it has been reported that there are burial grounds in the vicinity.

Site 9 (not shown)

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet: 115K/7
Latitude: 62° 37' Longitude: 141° 59'
Official Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Ch'įhjiit Lake
Notes: This is an Upper Tanana place name which translated means "spoiled, ripe or fermented" lake. According to oral history, the people would cache fish and meat at this lake and allow it to ripen or ferment. Some people call it "Cache lake" as well.

Site 10

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 115K/7
Latitude: 62° 37' Longitude: 141° 01'
Official Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Ts'oogot Gaay Lake
Notes: This is an Upper Tanana place name which translated means "Little lake". It is locally known as "Border lake" since it straddles the border between Alaska and the Yukon. According to oral history there was once a large village located near the lake and along the creek which drains past the American customs office. It is also an area where there are burial grounds.

Site 11 (not shown)

Feature: Hill
Location: NTS Map Sheet 115K/7
Latitude: 62° 39' Longitude: 141° 01'
Official Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Tayh Chįį'
Notes: This is an Upper Tanana place name which translated means "end or tip" of hill. According to oral history, this area is an old camp site of the Upper Tanana people.

BOARD ACTIVITIES

During the period of this report, Board members carried out a number of tasks which included:

- Reviewing over 60 place name applications submitted to the Board by Yukon residents, First Nation and Territorial governments and visitors.

- Recommending over 50 place names for official designation by the Minister of Tourism.

- Of special interest to the Board were consideration of applications from Ms. Bessie John reflecting Upper Tanana place names in the Beaver Creek area and applications from Mr. Charlie Peter Charlie reflecting Vuntut Gwich'in place names in the Old Crow area. In each instance the elder was invited to attend the Board meeting to provide further clarification of the background, importance and meaning of the particular names under consideration and verify the spelling and pronunciation of them. Not only did these sessions provide valuable information to the Board, but they also constitute additional training for the Board. The eventual addition of these place names to the Yukon data base will increase Yukon residents knowledge and awareness of traditional names in these regions.

- Participating in a joint meeting with the Yukon Heritage Resources Board. Common interests and activities between the Boards were reviewed.

- Holding two Board meetings to review and process place name applications and to develop policies on place name issues.

- Meeting with territorial government representatives from Heritage Branch, Department of Community and Transportation Services and the Yukon Native Language Training Centre to discuss current place name programs.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Based on the backlog of place name applications and in anticipation of new applications, the Board recommends the establishment of a full-time toponymist and toponymist trainee to assist with consultation, research, recording, translation and interpretation of the data related to the naming of these features in the Yukon. The Board believes that the establishment of these positions will not only increase the efficiency of its operation and ensure applications are processed in a timely fashion but will also provide needed expertise required to administer place name designation in the Yukon.

Numerous place names are located along major highway routes. The Board recommends that appropriate signage be placed in these locations to promote an awareness of local names and their cultural significance. This supports requests made by residents with their place name applications.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF THE BOARD

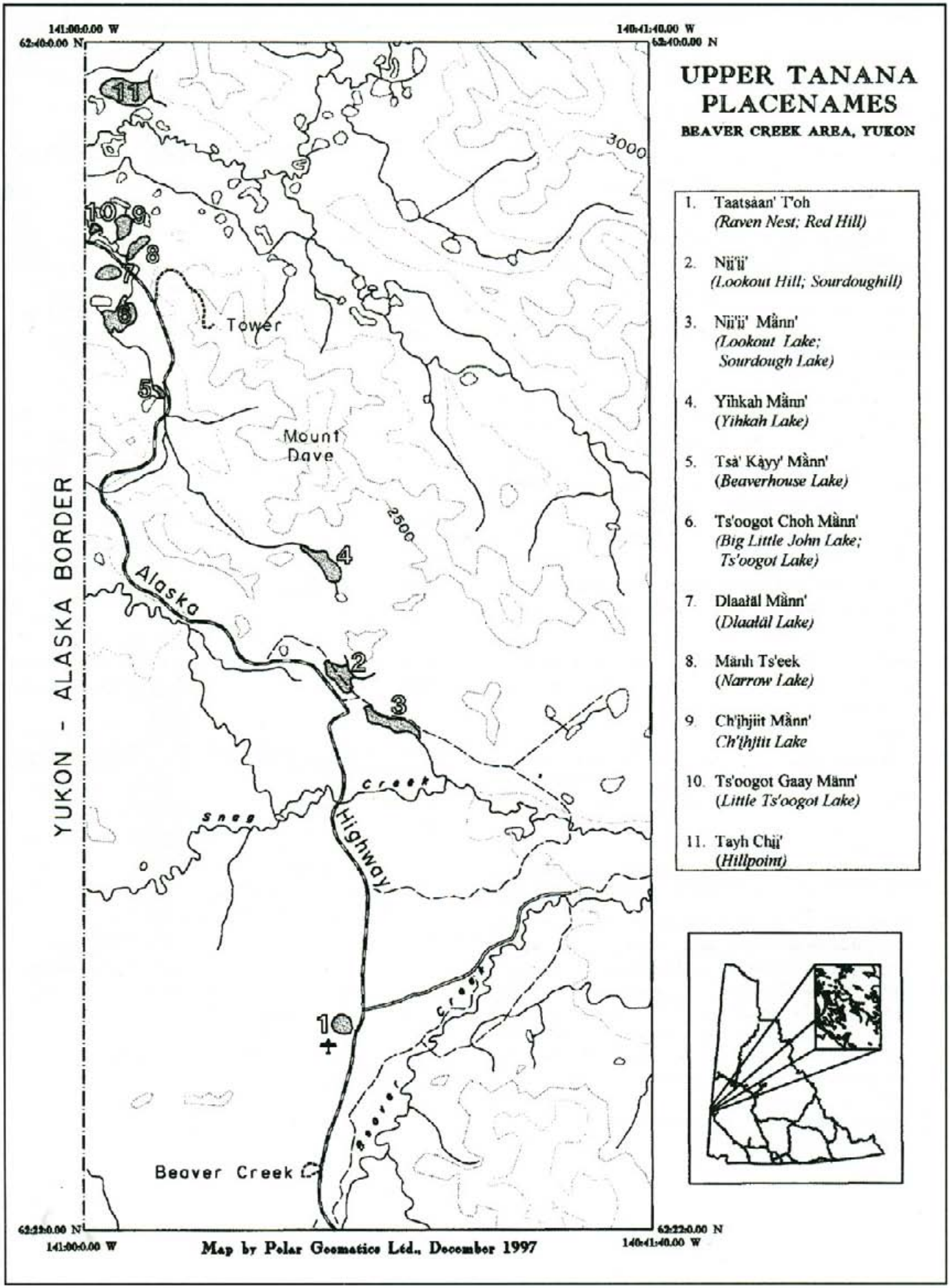
Seventy-four applications are awaiting review by the Board. Many of these require additional research to check accuracy of the names and background information and to determine exact latitude and longitude of location, whether there are existing names for the sites, the status of land claim negotiations for the pertinent First Nation with regards to whether the site will be located on settlement land or traditional land, and whether there is joint jurisdiction over the naming of the site (e.g. Parks for the Kluane region).

The YGPNB has developed a strategy for dealing with the backlog of place name applications and over the next year will work in cooperation with various governments to process as many of these applications as quickly as possible. However, at present, there is a tremendous volume of technical work that is required before the Board can seriously consider the naming or renaming of the geographical features associated with these applications. This technical work falls outside the scope of the Board's responsibilities.

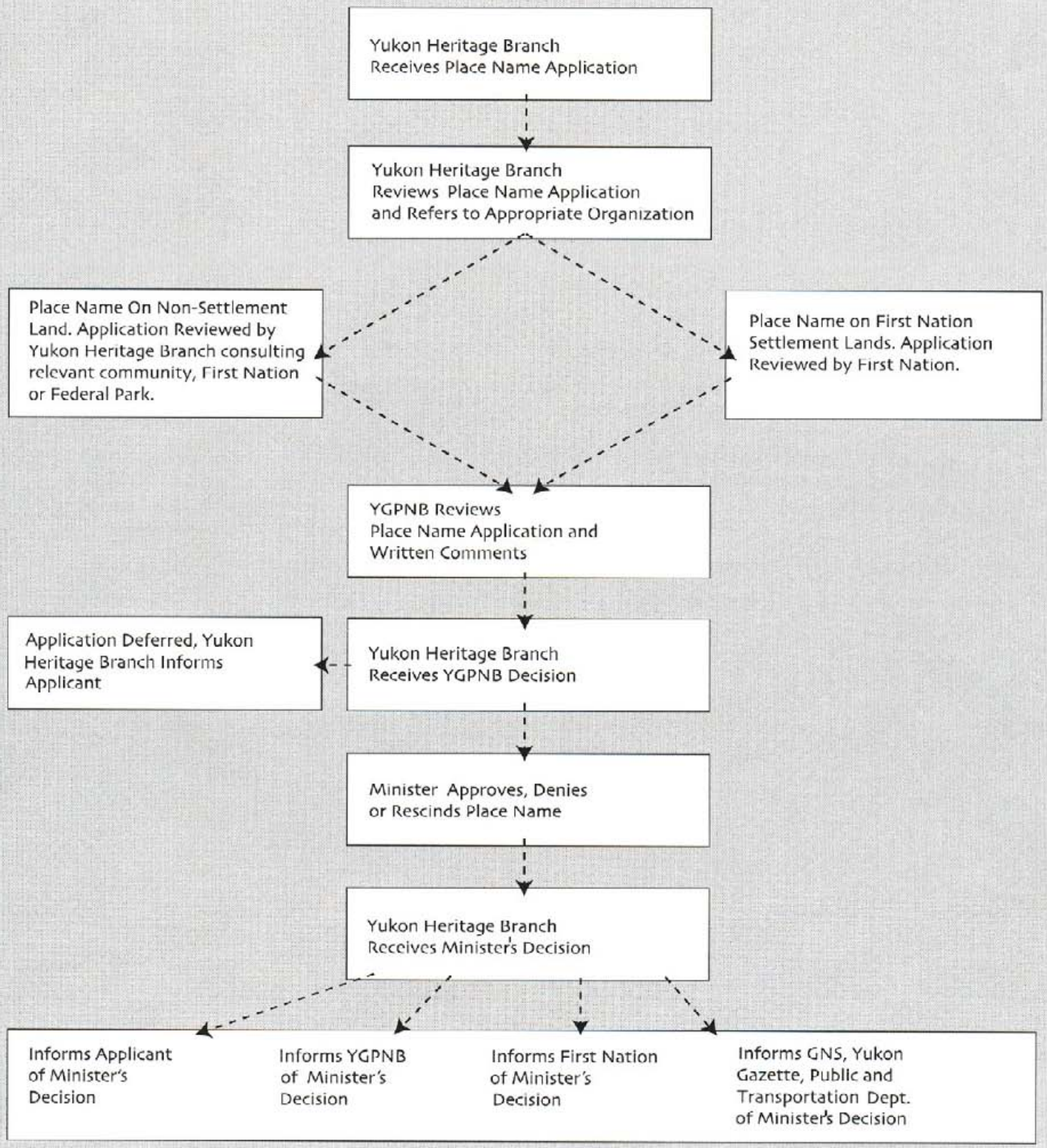
If you have further questions or require additional information abut the activities and mandate of the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board, please contact the:

YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD

P.O. Box 31164
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada, Y1A 5P7
Phone: (867) 393-3982
Fax: (867) 667-7006


141:00:0.00 W
62:40:0.00 N
140:41:40.00 W
62:40:0.00 N
UPPER TANANA PLACENAMES
BEAVER CREEK AREA, YUKON
1. Taatsàan' T'oh (Raven Nest; Red Hill)
2. Nìi'ìi' (Lookout Hill; Sourdoughill)
3. Nìi'ìi' Mǟnn' (Lookout Lake; Sourdough Lake)
4. Yihkah Mǟnn' (Yihkah Lake)
5. Tsà' Kàyy' Mǟnn' (Beaverhouse Lake)
6. Ts'oogot Choh Mǟnn' (Big Little John Lake; Ts'oogot Lake)
7. Dlaałäl Mǟnn' (Dlaałäl Lake)
8. Mänh Ts'eek (Narrow Lake)
9. Ch'ihjiit Mǟnn' Ch'ihjiit Lake
10. Ts'oogot Gaay Männ' (Little Ts'oogot Lake)
11. Tayh Chìi' (Hillpoint)
YUKON - ALASKA BORDER
Tower
Mount Dave
3000
2500
Alaska
Highway
Beaver Creek
62:22:0.00 N
141:00:0.00 W
62:22:0.00 N
140:41:40.00 W
Map by Polar Geomatics Ltd., December 1997

GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES APPLICATION PROCESS FLOW CHART



YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 1997
(unaudited)

COLLIN YOUNG Chartered Accountant
201 - 100 Main Street Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2A8
Telephone 403-667-2245, Fax 403-667-7997

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

I have reviewed the balance sheet of Yukon Geographical Place Names Board as at March 31, 1997, and the statements of revenue and expenditures, and surplus for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly, consist primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures, and discussions related to information supplied to me by the board.

A review does not constitute an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these unaudited financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Collin Young

August 5, 1997
Whitehorse, Yukon

Chartered Accountant

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board
Balance Sheet
March 31, 1997
(unaudited)

	1997	1996
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	$ 82,906	$ 45,104
Accounts receivable	713	376
	83,619	45,480
Capital	711	
	$ 84,330	$ 45,480
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued	$ 3,003	$ 800
EQUITY		
Investment in Capital Assets	711	
Surplus	80,616	44,680
	81,327	44,680
	$ 84,330	$ 45,480

Approved on Behalf of the Board

Diane Chisholm, Board Member

Dan Thom, Board Member

COLLIN YOUNG, CA

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
for the year ended March 31, 1997
(unaudited)

	1997	1996
Revenue		
Contribution-Yukon	$ 56,547	$ 56,075
Expenditures		
Secretariat fees	14,801	4,658
Professional fees	1,187	800
Office and supplies	968	185
Honoraria	875	4,875
Travel and accommodation	833	3,708
Office equipment	711	
Consultation	580	
Meetings	529	
Telephone	127	
Training expense		2,892
Advertising		77
Bank charges		55
	20,611	17,250
Excess of revenue over expenditures	$ 35,936	$ 38,825

COLLIN YOUNG, CA

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board
Statement of Surplus
March 31, 1997
(unaudited)

	1997	1996
Surplus, beginning of year	$ 44,680	$ 5,855
Excess of revenue over expenditures	35,936	38,825
Surplus, end of year	$ 80,616	$ 44,680

COLLIN YOUNG, CA

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board
Notes to financial statements
March 31, 1997
(unaudited)

1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Yukon Geographical Place Names Board is a non profit entity established under the Umbrella Final Agreement, passed by the Government of Canada, and Government of Yukon, to consider and recommend the naming or re-naming of places or features located within Yukon, to the Yukon Minister of Heritage.

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Canada. Outlined below are those policies considered particularly significant to the board.

(a) *Revenue recognition*

Revenue from grants is recorded when received or receivable

(b) *Capital Assets*

Capital assets are expended during the year of acquisition, and are recorded on the balance sheet at their historical cost. Investment in capital assets represents the historical cost of capital assets less the principal amount of any debt outstanding on the purchase of the assets.

2 CAPITAL ASSETS

	1997	1996
Equipment	$ 711	

3 ECONOMIC DEPENDANCE AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Board is dependant upon government funding for the continuation of its activities.

COLLIN YOUNG, CA

YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE
NAMES BOARD
P.O. Box 31164
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada, Y1A 5P7
Phone: (867) 393-3982
Fax: (867) 667-7006

Faro
Ross River
Hoole Canyon
Mount Green
Mt Hogg
Mt Tide
Traffic Mtn
Finlayson Lake
McEvoy L.
Pass Peak
Carsbon Lakes
Thirtymile Lake
THIRTYMILE RANGE
ENGLISHMANS RANGE
Brooks Brook
N