

YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD



2000 – 2001
ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

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 Chù (Big Salmon River) tell where animals and fish are plentiful. Other names, such as Thechàl Mān (Sekulman Lake), 'Stone Scraper for Hides' describe artifacts and recall 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, giving their own names to the land. The Danish explorer Vitus Bering, who entered the newly formed navy of the Russian tsar Peter the Great and in 1724 was appointed to conduct an expedition to explore the water routes between Siberia and North America, was the first non-native to name a geographical feature in the Yukon. During 1741, Bering named a mountain in the far southwestern Yukon - Mt. St. Elias.

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 many 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, Allgold, 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.

YUKON'S PLACE NAMES PROCESS

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, from the discovery of gold in the Klondike. Today, the successor to this Board is known as the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) which until recently was referred to as the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN). The GNBC 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 by 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 of transportation corridors (highways and bridges).

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

The Board is composed of six Yukoners from various backgrounds but each having a common interest in developing place name policies that serve all Yukoners. Six members are appointed by the Yukon Government, three of whom have been nominated by the Yukon Government and three by the Council of Yukon First Nations. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected by their fellow board members at the first board meeting following new appointments.

During this report period, the terms of board members appointed on March 12, 1998 expired on March 11, 2001. A new Board was subsequently appointed for a three-year term by the Minister of Tourism effective March 12, 2001 although these new appointments were not announced until June 13, 2001. A summary of appointments for this report period is illustrated below.

APPOINTED MARCH 12, 1998 TO MARCH 11, 2001

Diane Chisholm (Chairperson)
Daniel Tlen (Vice-Chairperson)
Percy Henry
Patrick Moore
John Ritter
Sam Johnston
Jeff Hunston (Ex-officio)

APPOINTED FOR THREE YEAR TERMS BEGINNING MARCH 12, 2001

Diane Chisholm (Chairperson)
Daniel Tlen (Vice-Chairperson)
John Ritter
Florence Whyard
Sam Johnston
Jeff Hunston (Ex-officio)
Vacant*

*One position vacant

YUKON'S PLACE NAME REVIEW PROCESS

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

- Completeness of the application (applications are received from the Yukon Heritage Branch, Department of Tourism for subsequent review by the Board);
- Whether the site identified is on First Nation traditional or settlement land, federal or territorial lands.
- Whether the site identified is located within a park.

The status of individual place name applications is tracked by means of a *Geographical Place Names Application Process Flow Sheet* (See Page 11).

NAMING FEATURES ON 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 or federal agency.

- 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.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Many of the place names the board reviews have traditional names, some of which have been used for centuries. To assist board members in their review of place name applications, Yukon elders, community or First Nation representatives and language experts are frequently consulted. They assist the board by ensuring the place names' meaning, spelling, pronunciation and cultural significance are correctly recorded and reported. The board has indicated that it is important that as soon as Yukon place names are approved by the Minister of Tourism, the revisions should be made and included on government maps.

PROPOSED RE-NAMING OF MOUNT LOGAN

Following the death of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced that Canada's highest mountain, Mount Logan (5,959 metres), located in Yukon's Kluane National Park would be re-named Mount Pierre Elliott Trudeau in memory of the late Prime Minister. This controversial announcement, made following a week of national mourning after the death of Prime Minister Trudeau, stimulated a strong public debate about the decision process that was used to re-name Mount Logan.

As the publicly appointed board responsible for recommend-





Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak, is named after the late Sir William Logan (1798-1875) a distinguished geologist who became the first director of the Geological Survey of Canada. Mount Logan is located in Kluane National Park (Photo courtesy of the Yukon government).

ing to the territorial Minister of Tourism the naming or re-naming of geographical features in the Yukon, the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board responded to national and local media, public and organizational inquiries about the Yukon's place naming process. In response to these inquiries, the board reviewed the process and the criteria it uses to evaluate whether a feature should be assigned a name, or given a new name. The process the board uses in its review is as follows:

- 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 a river, lake or creek, must be consistent. 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 given to geographical features only 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.

While the board has no jurisdiction over the assignment of names within municipalities, parks, territorial divisions, or other legal bodies that have been created by, or result from, legislation, it is bound by a 1979 federal, provincial/territorial agreement* that provides that applications to name or re-name geographical features in national parks will not be made unilaterally. This agreement also specifies that when geographical features are wholly or partly located within a national park, names and name change proposals are to be referred through the Geographical Names Board of Canada who will consult with the appropriate federal, provincial or territorial organization or agency responsible for place names in that jurisdiction.

Prime Minister Chrétien's announcement that Mount Logan would be re-named Mount Pierre Elliott Trudeau received a great deal of publicity and stimulated considerable public debate as well as national interest in the Yukon's mountains and Kluane National Park. However, until a formal application to re-name the mountain is received by the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board, its role will be limited to providing information about Yukon's place naming process.

* *Procedure for the Handling of Geographical Names in Federal Lands, approved in Victoria, British Columbia, 1979.*

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

The Yukon Geographical Place Names Board met with the Honourable Sue Edleman, Minister of Tourism for the Yukon, to discuss Board recommendations made to the government over the past several years (*See recommendations on page 8*).

SIGNING A NEW CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

During the current fiscal year, the Board signed a new three-year contribution agreement between Canada, Yukon and the Council of Yukon First Nations. This agreement establishes a mechanism to provide funding to the board for the purpose of carrying out its responsibilities as set out in the Umbrella Final Agreement and Implementation Plans.

BOARD OPERATING PROCEDURE MANUAL

During the year the Board revised and finalized its Operating Procedure Manual. This manual describes the board's governance. Copies of this manual may be obtained by contacting the board.



Board members meeting with the Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Sue Edleman. Left to right: the Honourable Sue Edleman, Yukon Geographical Place Names Board members Daniel Tien, Diane Chisholm, Sam Johnston, Patrick Moore. Missing from the photograph are board members John Ritter and Percy Henry.

TABLE 1**Place Name Applications Received for the Report Period 2000 – 2001**

Applicant	Number of Place Name Applications
Selkirk First Nation	10 applications
Private Citizens	1 application
Outstanding Place Names	5 applications
Carcross Tagish First Nations	2 applications
Total	18 applications

PLACE NAME APPLICATION REVIEW

During 2000/2001 the Board reviewed 12 new place name applications, 5 outstanding place name applications and responded to 1 request to name a site on behalf of a third party. A summary of the applications reviewed by the Board is illustrated in Table 1.

APPROVED PLACE NAMES

Fifteen place names applications received from the Teslin Tlingit Council and reviewed and recommended by the Board to the Minister of Tourism were approved in October, 2000. A brief description of these sites and features was reported in the Board's 1999-2000 annual report.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**THE NEED FOR A FULL-TIME TOPONYMIST**

Over the past several years the board has been hampered in carrying out its mandate because it does not have access to the services of a trained and full-time toponymist. Place name applications received from Yukon First Nations and the public-at-large require additional research to clarify the accuracy of the names and background information, name spelling, exact latitude and longitude of locations, whether there are existing names for the site, 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 Canada for Kluane National Park). This work is undertaken by Heritage Branch which has assigned an employee on a part time basis to carry out these tasks.

In addition, a lot of technical support work has been carried out on a volunteer basis by board members, associates and other linguistic experts to clarify place name pronunciation, spelling and other research work to substantiate and verify requests made by applicants. In other Territories and Provinces of Canada, government toponymists complete this work prior to a review by a public board or government Minister.

At this time the board is faced with a backlog of 111 place name applications from Yukon First Nations and individuals dating from 1988. A breakdown of these figures is illustrated in Table 2.

Notwithstanding this backlog of applications, there is a continuing need for technical toponymic support to review and process new applications. Considering the size of the territory, with its large land mass and large number of geographic features, and the changes that are occurring at the Yukon First Nations level, the volume of place name applications will likely increase.

In a brief to the Land Claims Secretariat as part of its Five Year Implementation Review, the Board recommended the establishment of a full-time toponymist and toponymist trainee positions in Heritage Branch.

TABLE 2**Yukon Place Names Under Review**

Applicant	Number of Applications	Year Submitted
Selkirk First Nation	6	1991
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	9	1992
Carcross Tagish First Nation	1	1992
Champagne/Aishihik First Nation	2	1992
Teslin Tlingit Council	76	1988
Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation	1	1992
Miscellaneous Applications	16	1988-1993
Total	111	

A NEED FOR PLACE NAME HIGHWAY SIGNAGE

A number of recently approved place names sites are located along major Yukon highways. In response to applicant's requests and in order to promote an awareness of local names and their cultural significance, the board has recommended that highway signs be erected illustrating the new place names. The board will continue to encourage the territorial government's Highway Sign Committee to install signage for place names at appropriate locations.

OVER THE NEXT YEAR

Over the next year the board will continue to review the backlog of place name applications as well as process new applications. Members will consult with applicants, First Nations, experts and the public to ensure all place names submitted are accurately documented before making their recommendations to the Minister of Tourism.

Other initiatives planned by the board for the coming year include meeting with community representatives to inform and discuss the board's place name application process, continuing board member training, developing a geographical information system data base, developing and purchasing a mobile display for use during community visits, developing a web site and continued documentation of Yukon place name sites and features.



YUKON PLACE NAME INFORMATION

Information about Yukon and other Canadian place names can be obtained by consulting the Geographic Names Board of Canada database. Information about the database can be obtained from:

Geo Names
Natural Resources Canada
Room 634-615 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, K1A 0E9
<http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca>

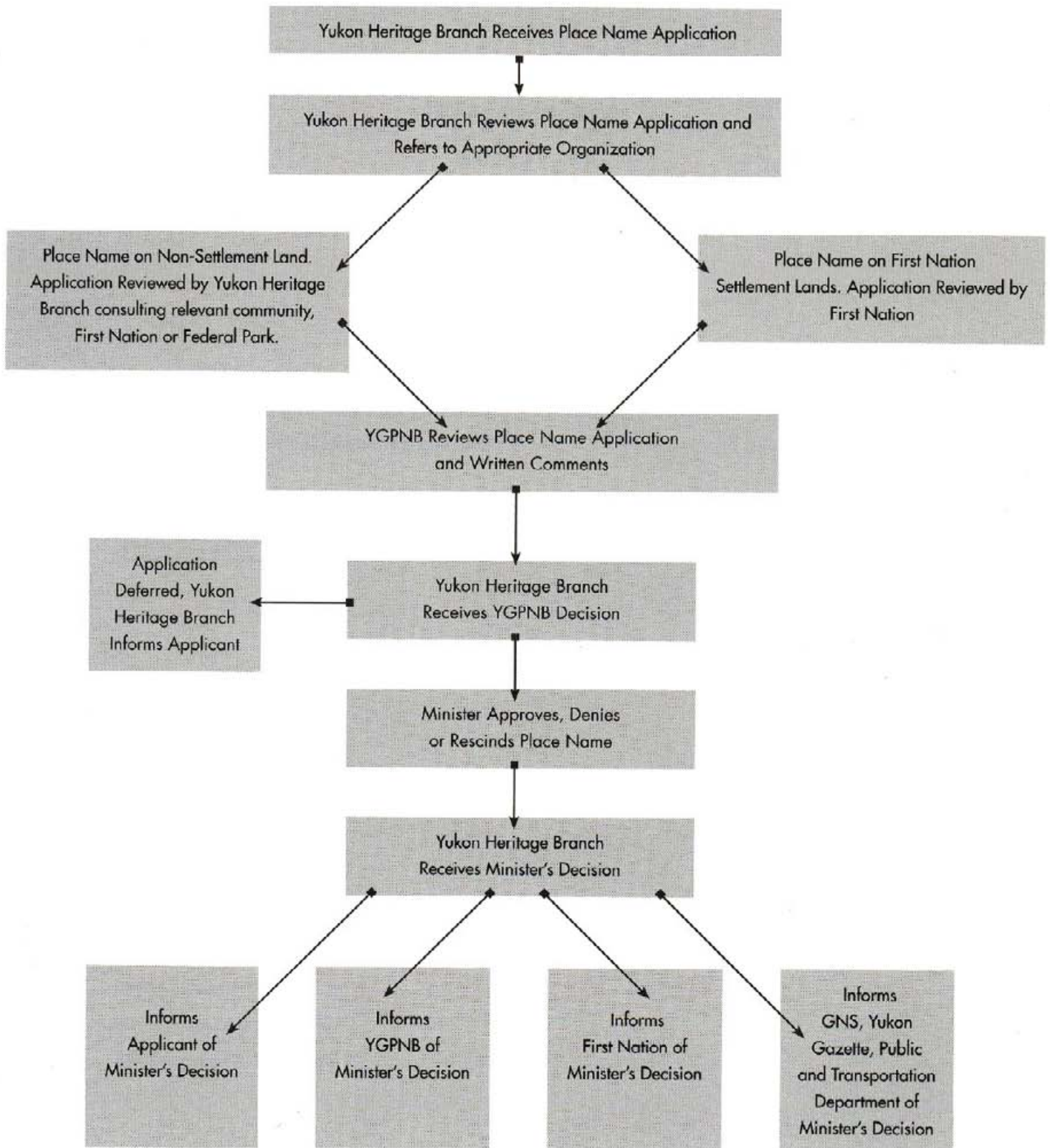
For information about the Yukon's geographical place name application process contact:

Yukon Heritage Branch
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada, Y1A 2C6
Telephone: (867) 667-5386.

If you have further questions or require additional information about 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
Telephone: (867) 393-3982
Fax: (867) 667-7006

GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES APPLICATION PROCESS FLOW SHEET



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Yukon Geographical Place Names Board
Financial Statements
March 31, 2001

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board

Financial Statements

March 31, 2001

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Auditors' Report

**To the Members of
Yukon Geographical Place Names Board**

We have audited the balance sheet of Yukon Geographical Place Names Board at March 31, 2001 and the statements of revenue and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Board as at March 31, 2001 and the results of its operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Whitehorse, Yukon

July 18, 2001



Chartered Accountants

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board**Statement of Revenue and Expenditures**

For the year ended March 31,	2001	2000
		(note 3)
Revenue		
Contribution - Yukon Government	\$ 58,555	\$ 58,073
Investment	2,398	2,023
	60,953	60,096
Expenditures		
Annual report	4,167	3,635
Bank charges and interest	23	161
Consultation and development costs	-	183
Documentation costs	-	8,704
Honoraria	1,188	5,563
Information	1,000	-
Insurance	500	422
Office equipment	-	811
Office expense	1,301	1,058
Professional fees	1,945	3,104
Registration fees	-	814
Secretariat	28,959	19,480
Telephone	116	212
Travel and accommodation	1,484	11,181
	40,683	55,328
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 20,280	\$ 4,768

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

For the year ended March 31,	2001			2000
				(note 3)
	Invested in capital assets	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 8,146	\$ 116,548	\$ 124,694	\$ 119,115
Invested in capital assets	-	-	-	811
Excess of revenue over expenditures	-	20,280	20,280	4,768
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 8,146	\$ 136,828	\$ 144,974	\$ 124,694

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board**Balance Sheet**

As at March 31,	2001	2000
		(note 3)
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 137,284	\$ 114,731
Accounts receivable	1,267	2,960
Prepaid expenses	77	77
	138,628	117,768
Capital assets (note 1)	8,146	8,146
	\$ 146,774	\$ 125,914
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,220
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets (note 1)	8,146	8,146
Unrestricted net assets	136,828	116,548
	144,974	124,694
	\$ 146,774	\$ 125,914

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Deane Chubb Member

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board**Statement of Cash Flows**

For the year ended March 31,	2001	2000
		(note 3)
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 20,280	\$ 4,768
Change in non-cash operating working capital		
Accounts receivable	1,693	(417)
Prepaid expenses	-	(77)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	580	(2,630)
	<hr/> 22,553	<hr/> 1,644
Investing activities		
Purchase of capital assets	-	(811)
Increase in net assets invested in capital assets	-	811
	<hr/> -	<hr/> -
Increase in cash	22,553	1,644
Cash, beginning of year	114,731	113,087
Cash, end of year	\$ 137,284	\$ 114,731

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2001

1. Accounting Policies

The organization 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 the Yukon, to the Yukon Minister of Heritage.

(a) Capital assets

Capital assets are expensed when they are purchased and are recorded on the balance sheet at their historical cost. The net assets invested in capital assets account represents the historical cost of all capital assets less the principal amount of any debt outstanding on the purchase of the assets.

(b) Revenue

Revenue from grants is recorded when received or receivable.

(c) Financial instruments

All significant financial assets, financial liabilities and equity instruments of the board are either recognized or disclosed in the financial statements together with available information for a reasonable assessment of future cash flows, interest rate risk and credit risk.

2. Capital Assets at cost	2001	2000
Office furniture and equipment	\$ 8,146	\$ 8,146

3. Comparative figures

The comparative figures are unaudited and we do not express an opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2000.

4. Economic Dependence

The board is dependent upon government funds for the continuation of its activities.

Cover Photo:
A view of Lake Laberge referred
to in Southern Tutchone as
Tàa'an Mān



