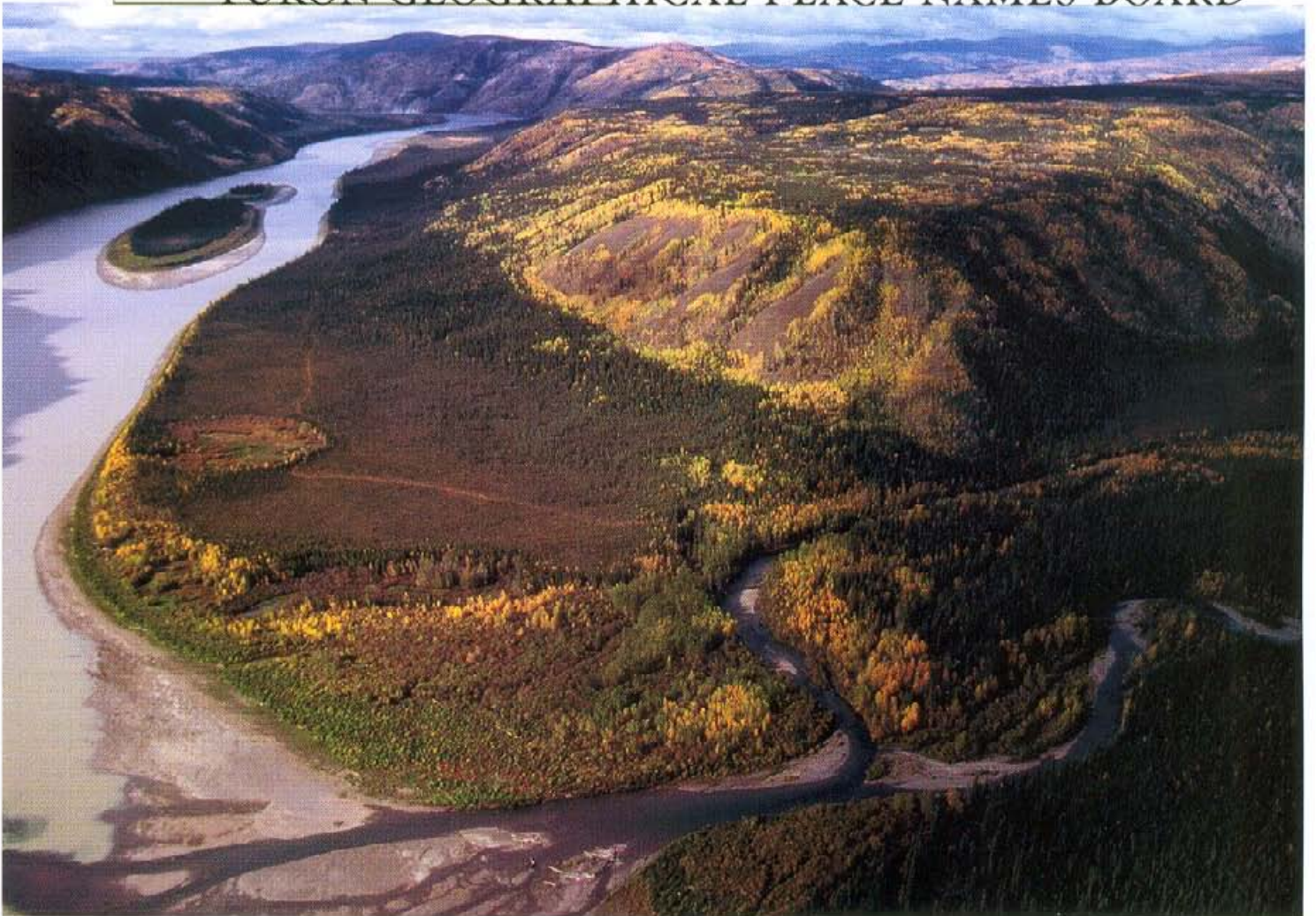


YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD

2001-02 Annual Report



YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD



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, people and events. Today's Yukon First Nations still remember these names and are working to record them for future generations.

Beginning in the nineteenth century, 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. In 1741, Bering named a mountain in the far southwestern Yukon. Bering gave the name Mt. St. Elias to a mountain that he saw from his ship.

While Bering and explorers to follow gave names to geographical features without asking the local names for places, others, such as geologist George Dawson and the Yukon's first Commissioner, William Ogilvie, recorded many native names during their years in the Yukon, including 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 miners who came to the territory during the Klondike Gold Rush. Names such as 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. Another version tells of a chief's white horse drowning there.

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).

NEW 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. Three members are nominated by the Yukon Government and three by the Council of Yukon First Nations. All board members are appointed for three year terms by the Minister of Heritage.

BOARD MEMBER'S PROFILES

Diane Chisholm: Ms. Chisholm, who is an assistant archivist with the Yukon Archives Branch, Yukon Government was re-appointed on March 12, 2001 for her consecutive third term, to the Board. Prior to these appointments, she served on the Yukon Geographical Names Board and was associated with the Yukon Historical & Museums Association as well as the MacBride Museum, where she served in the capacity of President. Following each of her appointments to the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board, she has provided a crucial role to the Board in her capacity as Chair of each of these appointed Boards.

John Ritter: Mr. Ritter, Director of the Yukon Native Language Centre, was re-appointed on March 12, 2001 for his third consecutive three year term to the Board. Prior to these appointments, he also served on the Yukon Geographical Names Board.

As a linguist, his contribution to the spelling and pronunciation of native place names is invaluable. Also crucial to the place name application process is his ability to provide the Board with translation services during consultation periods with native elders.

Florence Whyard: Ms. Whyard, is a well known Yukon writer. She moved to Whitehorse in 1954 after 10 years in Yellowknife, N.W.T. She has been editor of the *Whitehorse Star* for whom she now contributes weekly articles and has served as Mayor for the City of Whitehorse and as a member of the Yukon Legislature. She was appointed to the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board for the first time on March 12, 2001 for a three year period. She is a founding member of the Yukon Historical & Museums' Association, the Old Log Church Heritage Society, as well as the Yukon Transportation Museum Society. She is a member of the Order of Canada. As a former member of the Yukon Heritage Resources Board, her knowledge of Yukon history is of great assistance to the Board in its review of place name applications.

Daniel Tlen: Mr. Tlen is a Southern Tutchone linguist who has been active in First Nation language preservation initiatives. He was first appointed to the Board in 1995 and since has served during each of the Board's terms, in the capacity of Vice-Chair until his resignation in October 2001, after which he became Chief of the Kluane First Nation. He has served in the past as the Yukon member for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Before his resignation, he provided an invaluable service to the Board by assisting with the derivation, spelling and pronunciation of native languages.

Percy Henry: Mr. Henry is a Dawson First Nation elder. He has been an active participant and contributor to key heritage preservation projects. In March of 2000 he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Yukon Historical & Museums Association. He is a fluent speaker of the Hän and Gwich'in languages. He has created

a Hän Language dictionary and lesson booklet which is used in the Dawson City school. Mr. Henry was re-appointed in October 2001 for his third term to the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board.

Sam Johnston: Mr. Johnston is an elder with the Teslin Tlinglit First Nation in Teslin, Yukon. He was appointed to the Board for his second term on March 12, 2001. He is a former member of the Yukon Legislative Assembly. In his role as an elder and advisor, he is a major contributor to the Board and its review process of Yukon place names.

Margaret Workman: Ms. Workman is a Southern Tutchone language specialist with the Yukon Native Language Centre. She was re-appointed to the Board in January of 2002 following the resignation of Mr. Tlen. As one of the original members of the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board, she is currently serving on the Board for her second term. She has been involved with Yukon place names work for many years.



YGPNB Members. From left to right – Jeff Hunston (Yukon Member, Geographical Names Board of Canada), Percy Henry, Margaret Workman, Florence Whyard, Diane Chisholm, John Ritter. Missing is Sam Johnston and Daniel Tlen who served on the board from March 12, 2001 to October 26, 2001.

YUKON PLACE NAME REVIEW PROCESS

Initially, place name applications are submitted to the Yukon government's Heritage Branch in order to confirm the accuracy of the information provided on the application. This review helps to ensure that the proposed place name feature is accurately located with latitude and longitude and that its meaning, spelling and cultural significance are correctly documented. Once the information provided on the application has been confirmed by Heritage Branch it is forwarded to the Board for its review and consideration.

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 as submitted to the Yukon Heritage Branch and received 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 Figure 1).

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 AND THE REVIEW PROCESS

During this report period the Board continued to encourage Yukon First Nation applicants as well as other organizations and individuals to submit place names for consideration. 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.

During its review of each application, the board uses the following criteria as guidelines:

- 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 divisions, 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 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.

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. Proposals for name changes within a national park are subject to federal review and approval. 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 (GNBC).

BOARD'S PORTABLE DISPLAY UNIT

During the year the Board purchased a portable display unit for use at conferences and to assist members giving Board presentations to organizations interested in the place names process.

BOARD WEBSITE

During the year the Board initiated a plan to develop a Board web site. Discussions included consulting with the Yukon Heritage Branch to whose site the board would establish a link. Cost estimates were obtained for the development and maintenance of the site that is still in its initial stages of planning.

PLACE NAME APPLICATION REVIEW

During 2001/2002 the Board received a number of requests from interested individuals and organizations about the place name application and review process. The Board met during the months of July and November of 2001 to review place name applications. Although the Board did not receive any new place name applications it continued to review the backlog of place name applications as outlined below:

**TABLE 1
Outstanding Place Name Applications and Numbers Reviewed During 2001/2002**

Applicant	Applications/Number Reviewed During 2001/2002
Selkirk First Nation	17
Little Salmon/Carmacks	9
Carcross Tagish First Nation	3
Champagne/Aishihik First Nation	2
Teslin Tlinglit Council	91
Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation	1
Miscellaneous Place Names	21
Private Citizens	1
Total Applications	145

REVIEWED PLACE NAMES

During the 2001/2002 year the Board requested that place names applications received on behalf of a private citizen be clarified as to the relevance and merit of the application. The names submitted could not be recommended for approval until further information was received.

NEED FOR A TOPONYMIST

The Board continues to hope for the services of a full-time toponymist. Place name applications received from Yukon First Nations and the public-at-large consistently require additional research and/or documentation. For example, in order to clarify the accuracy of a proposed name, its spelling, and the features exact location, meaning and cultural significance must be reviewed and supported.

During the current year the Board considered hiring a toponymist, but after considerable debate did not reach an agreement in this regard. Additionally the Board received sufficient assurance that the Yukon Heritage Branch was considering hiring a toponymist trainee who would eventually be able to process place name applications on a full time basis.

BOARD DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

During the year the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board with cooperation with the Yukon Native Language Centre, cost shared a photo documentation project of Yukon features. Sites photographed included place name features in the Teslin and Lake Laberge areas, and also geographical features located in northern Yukon near Dawson City. A First Nation representative as well as a Board member assisted a photographer by identifying and verifying the location of each of the place name sites photographed. This team also ensured that each site photographed was documented and that the accurate spelling and pronunciation of each feature was recorded.

The Board, working with representatives of Yukon Archives, is planning to archive and store its collection of original photographs as well as store them on CD ROM's.

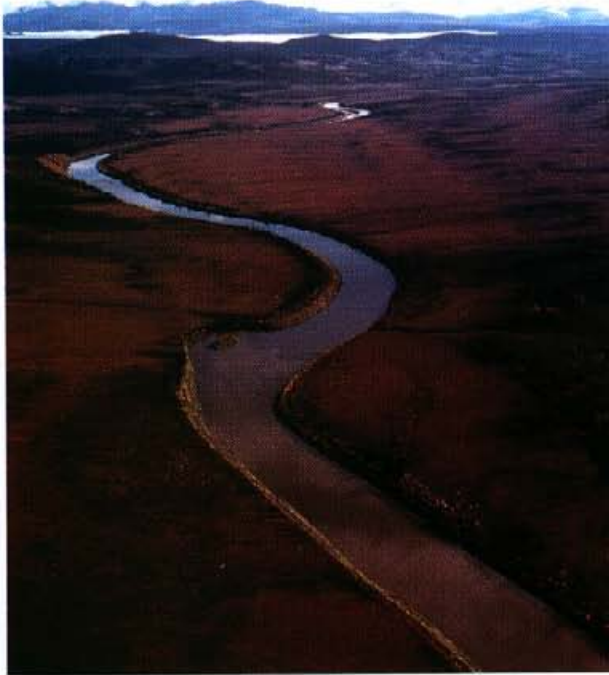
The following photographs are examples of Yukon features documented as part of the photo documentation project in the Dawson City region.



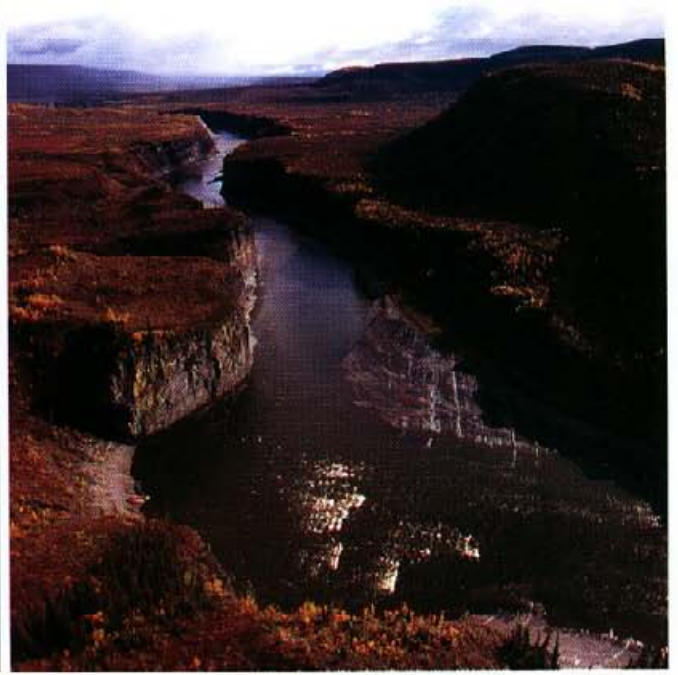
The traditional Hän village of Moosehide is located on the Yukon River near Dawson City. Moosehide Creek flows into the river to the right of the village.



Whitestone Village north of Dawson City. This traditional Gwich'in site is located on the banks of the Whitestone River, Yukon.



The Bell River in northern Yukon looking west towards Mason Hill.



Aberdeen Canyon on the Peel River, northern Yukon.



The meandering Eagle River, northern Yukon.

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 as they are received from the Yukon Government's Heritage Branch. As part of this process, Board members will continue to consult with applicants, First Nations, language experts and the public to ensure that all place names submitted are accurately documented.

Other initiatives planned by the Board for the upcoming year include consulting with community and First Nations representatives to discuss the board's place name application process.



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 Resources Unit
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada, Y1A 2C6

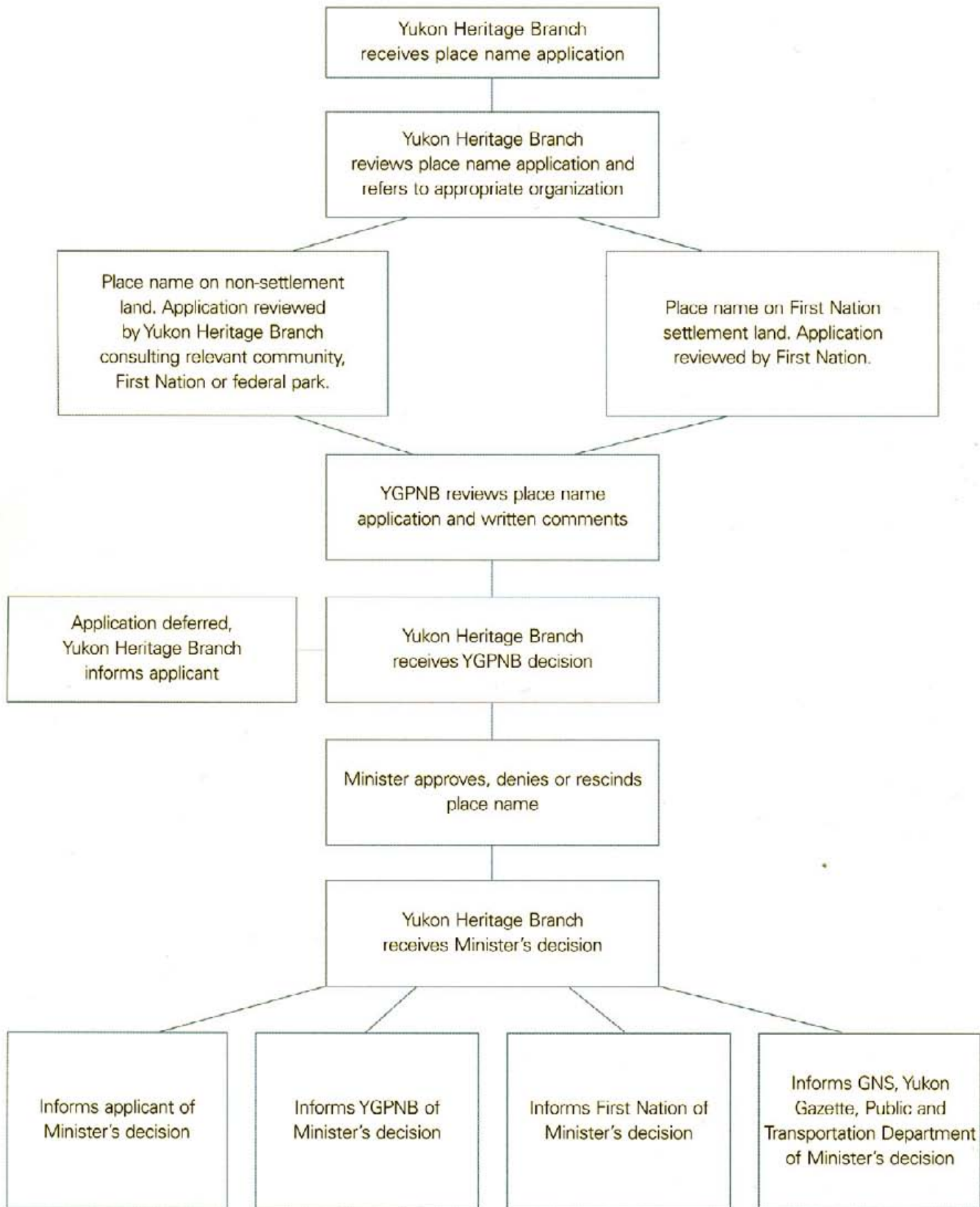
Telephone: (867) 667-5386.
www.yukonheritage.com

If you have 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

GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES APPLICATION PROCESS FLOW CHART



Mackay LLP

Review Engagement Report

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

We have reviewed the balance sheet of Yukon Geographical Place Names Board at March 31, 2002 and the statements of revenue and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the Board.

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

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

Whitehorse, Yukon

July 3, 2002



Chartered Accountants

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures (Unaudited - see Review Engagement Report)

For the year ended March 31,	2002	2001
Revenue		
Contribution - Yukon Government	\$ 58,565	\$ 58,565
Investment	1,438	2,398
	60,003	60,963
Expenditures		
Annual report	4,190	4,167
Bank charges and interest	52	23
Consultation and development	4,720	-
Documentation	4,831	-
Honoraria	1,063	1,188
Information	-	1,000
Insurance	502	500
Office equipment	1,519	-
Office	1,480	1,301
Professional fees	1,518	1,945
Secretariat	36,059	28,959
Telephone	103	116
Travel and accommodation	1,457	1,484
	57,494	40,683
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 2,509	\$ 20,280

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board

Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Unaudited - see Review Engagement Report)

For the year ended March 31,	2002			2001
	Invested in capital assets	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 8,146	\$ 136,828	\$ 144,974	\$ 124,694
Invested in capital assets	1,519	-	1,519	-
Excess of revenue over expenditures	-	2,509	2,509	20,280
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 9,665	\$ 139,337	\$ 149,002	\$ 144,974

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board

Balance Sheet
(Unaudited - see Review Engagement Report)

As at March 31,	2002	2001
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 140,836	\$ 137,284
Accounts receivable	1,893	1,267
Prepaid expenses	78	77
	142,807	138,628
Capital assets (note 2)	9,665	8,146
	\$ 152,472	\$ 146,774

Liabilities

Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,470	\$ 1,800

Net assets

Invested in capital assets	9,665	8,146
Unrestricted net assets	139,337	136,828
	149,002	144,974
	\$ 152,472	\$ 146,774

Approved on behalf of the Board:


Member

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board

Statement of Cash Flows (Unaudited - see Review Engagement Report)

For the year ended March 31,	2002	2001
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 2,509	\$ 20,280
Change in non-cash operating working capital		
Accounts receivable	(626)	1,693
Prepaid expenses	(1)	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,670	580
	3,552	22,553
Investing activities		
Purchase of capital assets	(1,519)	-
Increase in net assets invested in capital assets	1,519	-
	-	-
Increase in cash	3,552	22,553
Cash, beginning of year	137,284	114,731
Cash, end of year	\$ 140,836	\$ 137,284

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited - see Review Engagement Report)

March 31, 2002

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 it is determined they are receivable, whichever occurs first.

(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	2002	2001
Office furniture and equipment	9,665	8,146

3. Economic Dependence

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



Above: Mooshide, a traditional Hän village located on the Yukon River near Dawson City.
Front: Chandindu River flowing into the Yukon River northwest of Dawson City.