



Water for Nature, Water for People

YUKON WATER STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN





Strategy Development

June 2012 – Workshop (strategy development)

July –Aug 2012 – input and sharing of workshop summary

Mar 2013 – announcement and distribution of Strategy

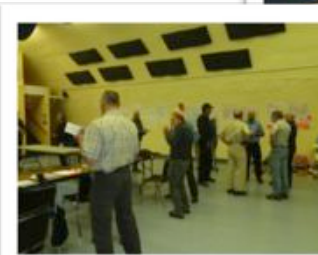
Mar – May 2013 – original engagement period

June 30 – extended engagement

Aug 2013- What We Heard Document

Oct 2013- Stakeholder Workshop

June 2014- public Release of Water Strategy.





Strategic Framework



Photo credits: YG and D. Crowe



Vision

Strategic Framework

The **Vision** statement describes the future the Yukon government would like to see.

The quality, quantity and overall health of waters flowing through Yukon lands are sustained for all living things now and into the future.



Principles

Strategic Framework

The **Principles** will guide the Yukon government's work with water.





Strategic Framework

The **Goals** are what Yukon government would like to achieve.

Water for Nature

Sustain water quality and quantity for aquatic and terrestrial health and ecosystem services. Respect the intrinsic value of water.

Water for People

Ensure accessible safe and sufficient water for drinking and other purposes, including commercial, recreational, heritage, cultural and spiritual uses and values. Promote the sustainable and wise use of water to support environmental, social and economic needs.

Priorities

Yukon Government will work in **six** priority areas to address the strategy's goals.



- Better Understand and Manage Yukon's Groundwater



- Maintain/Improve Access to Safe Drinking Water



- Promote the Sustainable Use of Water



- Improve the Sharing of Information About Yukon's Water



- Improve Water Management Programs



- Plan for Water Needs Now and in the Future



Action Plan



Better Understand and Manage Yukon's Groundwater

Action Item	Status
Hire a Hydrogeologist, and integrate expertise into existing programs	Will begin on November 17 th .
Engage water managers from other governments to identify gaps and prioritize groundwater issues.	Planning for a workshop in 2015.
Develop a water well drilling program to make well log and well data mandatory.	Have initiated a voluntary program; this will be a regulatory requirement, so will take time to implement.

Action Plan



Maintain/Improve Access to Safe Drinking Water

Action Item	Status
Promote source water protection planning.	Currently developing a request for proposals to undertake this work in Yukon communities.
Support the development of courses and other training opportunities for drinking water professionals, such as drinking water system operators.	Department of Education provided the Yukon College with funds to deliver the Yukon Water and Wastewater Operator program.



Action Plan



Promote the Sustainable Use of Water

Action Item	Status
Explore the development of tools and guidance that define, recognize and promote the importance of headwaters.	Potential Water Forum topic area.
Engage with water users to ensure they understand the relevant legislation and regulations (licences and permits).	This will be a joint initiative by YG ENV, EMR and YWB
Several actions related to Best Management Practices (BMPs) – development of new, and improvement and promotion of existing BMPs	This will involve several YG departments

Action Plan



Improve the Sharing of Information About Yukon's Water

Action Item	Status
Continue to improve both YukonWater.ca and Waterline web tools based on the results of periodic user satisfaction surveys.	Underway
Increase education and outreach activities, partnering with other organizations.	Continue Canada Water Week school presentations.
Develop a plan on how to track water allocation for licenses use through Waterline.	YWB's Coordinated Online Information Network.
Add select geospatial information to Waterline including locations of water use data and water quality data sampling sites.	Application is to be featured on YukonWater.ca.

Action Plan



Improve Water Management Programs

Action Item	Status
Host an annual or biennial Water Forum in Yukon to exchange info., collaborate to address water issues, and promote continuous improvements.	Water Forum to be hosted in February 2015.
Develop a policy for managing Yukon wetlands, in partnership with other governments, stakeholders and the public.	An interdepartmental working group will be created this year. Wetlands information will be updated on Yukon's website.
Provide adequate climate change and Cumulative effects info to YESAB & YWB.	To be developed by YG Environment, EMR and others.
Communicate more with First Nation governments regarding water issues in TT.	YG departments and YWB regularly engage with FNs. Additional plans to be developed.

Action Plan



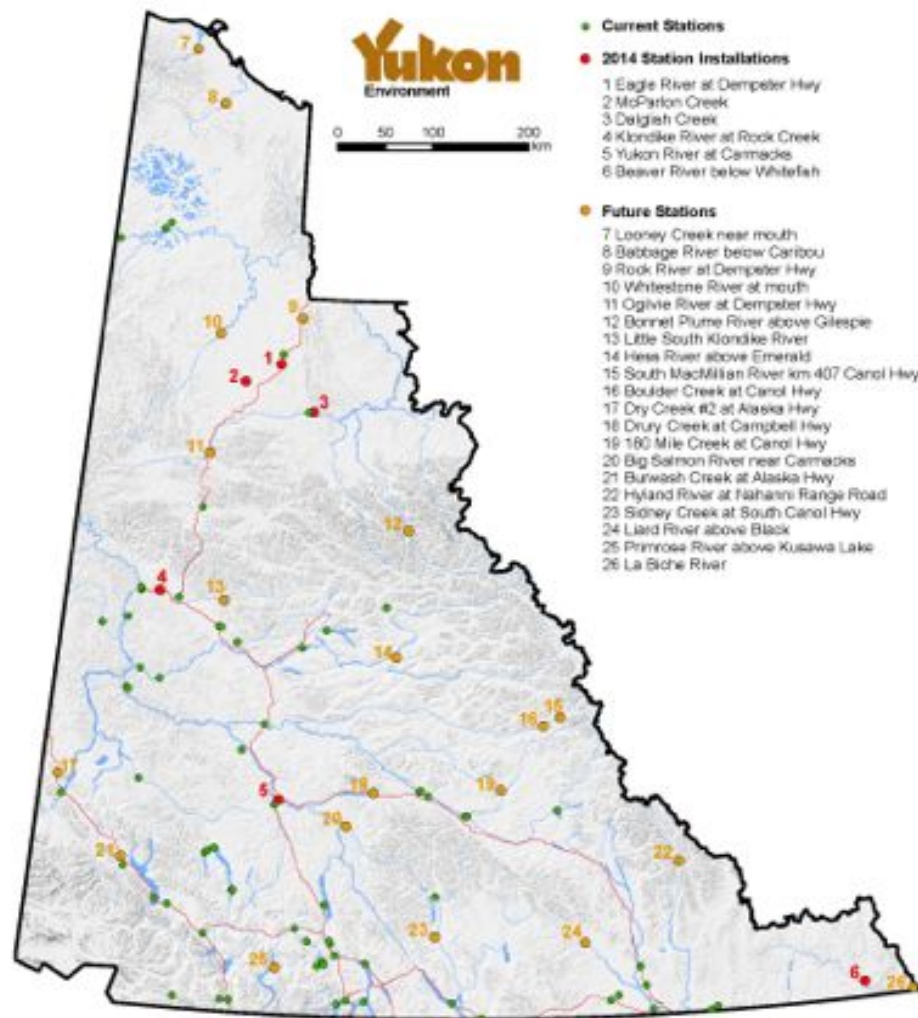
Plan for Water Needs Now and in the Future



Action Item	Status
Undertake research to better understand and adapt to climate change impacts on Yukon's hydrological regime.	Climate change analysis of stream crossings on Dempster Highway. The results will assist when designing culverts for highways across Yukon.
Formalize an approach for community water monitoring.	Change an existing position to hire a Water Monitoring Specialist to be responsible for this project. Engagement with FNs and communities.
Expand existing water monitoring networks to ensure that enough information is available for good decision-making.	Hydrometric and water quality network expansion (see map next slides).
Increase the number of real-time data transmitting stations.	

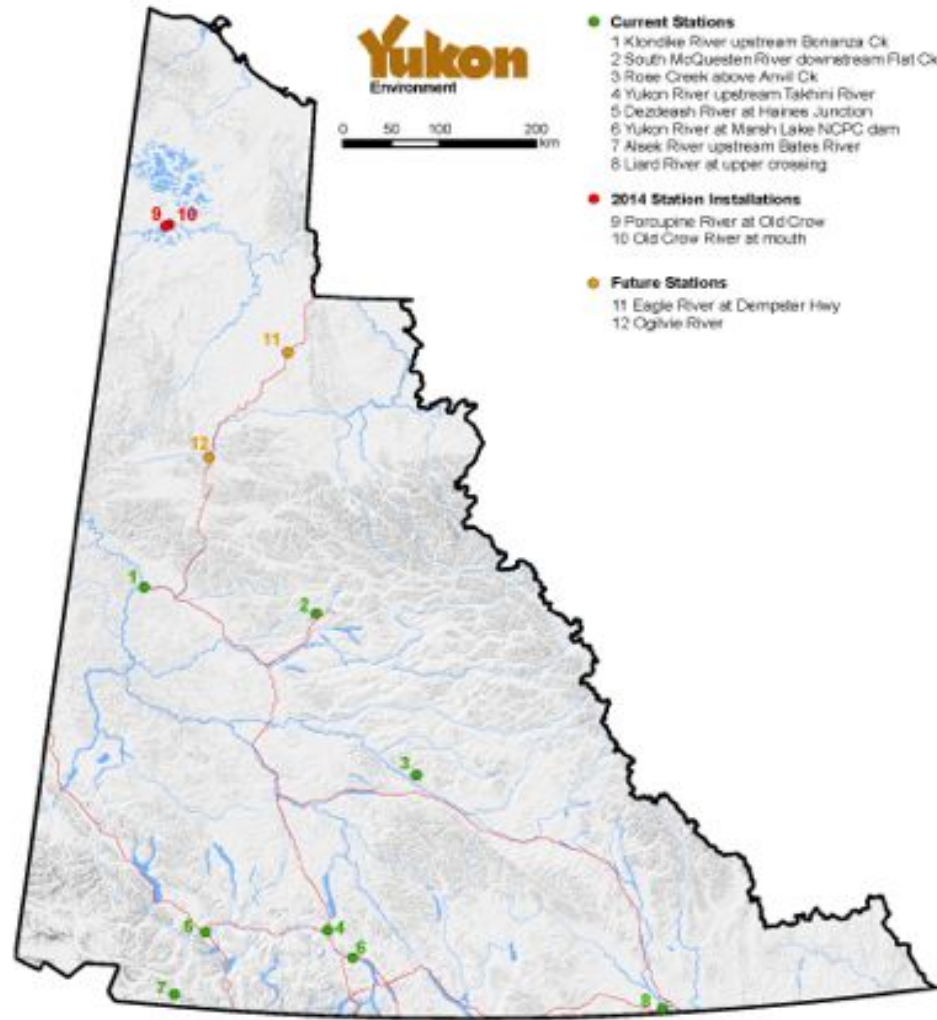
Hydrometric Station Expansion

Yukon Water Strategy Hydrometric Station Expansion



Water Quality Station Expansion

Yukon Water Strategy Long-Term Water Quality Station Expansion





Implementation and Evaluation

What's Next:

Internal YG working group advancing implementation plan; they are doing so under a clear terms of reference.

A program evaluation will be initiated this year.

Progress evaluation:

Internal working group progress reporting; updates on YukonWater.ca and at water forums.

Evaluate and report on progress of the Yukon Water Strategy and Action Plan after 5 years

Implementation - Funding

\$3M to:

Install 25 new (or upgraded) hydrometric monitoring stations and 6 water quality stations

Strengthen the Yukon government's flood forecasting capabilities

Hire a hydrogeologist to expand the existing groundwater program

Formalize a community monitoring program

Improve data accessibility and functionality

Continue Wastewater Operator Program at the Yukon College

Promote source water protection planning



Appendices

Yukon Government Roles and Responsibilities

Other Agencies' Roles and Responsibilities

Water Information for You

Engagement Process and Key Dates

Fact Sheets

Yukon Watersheds Map and Descriptions

History of Water Management in Yukon

Legal Framework for Water Management in Yukon

Guidelines, Policies, Agreements and Info Sheets

Water Use in Yukon

Water Licensing and Permitting in Yukon

Overview of Water Monitoring



Thank you!