



## NEWS RELEASE

City of Yellowknife

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### YELLOWKNIFE HARBOUR PLAN – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Yellowknife, with the assistance of the Planning Partnership and the input of the Harbour Planning Committee, has adopted the Harbour Plan Phase 1 Background Report (see [www.yellowknife.ca](http://www.yellowknife.ca)) and continues to work toward the final plan with recommendations. The draft Harbour Plan was presented for discussion at public open houses and through multi stakeholder conversations. The Harbour Plan builds on the tremendous base of input received during the first phase of the study and the community consultation events held in December and January. Over the past week the project team hosted eleven focus group sessions and two open houses to garner input on the draft framework and recommendations.

The proposed overarching vision to frame the Harbour Plan is as follows:

*The Yellowknife Harbour Authority will protect, leverage and manage the assets to strengthen its vital function to the well being and livability of the region as an ecosystem, economic generator, destination, community amenity and cultural resource. Yellowknife Harbour, through its enhanced public access, exposure and civic purpose, will become ever more cherished by all citizens. All Harbour users will be respectful of each other. All will share in its stewardship and ensure its continued health and legacy for future generations.*

The Harbour Plan sets out principles and recommendations for six frameworks:

- natural heritage
- harbour uses
- parks and open space
- trails
- arts, heritage and culture
- neighbourhoods and districts

The Plan's 50 recommendations include direction for enhanced trail way-finding and maintenance, new boat launches, canoe and kayak storage, improved education to enhance co-operation among harbour users, enforcement of safety regulations in the harbour, a new docking area for float planes and boats off Latham Island, safety and building standards for float homes, defining areas of use for various harbour users, new parks along the waterfront, designation of the Old Town as an Arts and Culture District, development of Joliffe Island as an Traditional

Heritage Park and a new planning framework to guide development in waterfront neighbourhoods.

From an administrative and implementation perspective, the objective of the Harbour Plan is to better manage and regulate development and activity within Yellowknife Harbour to ensure that it continues to be a vibrant and active focal point of the City. The intent is to mitigate conflicts among uses and/or users and to reduce impacts on the environment. To oversee Harbour operations and administration, the Harbour Plan is proposing the establishment of a specialized City-led division or agency that will coordinate regulatory and enforcement initiatives, administer new revenue tools and oversee the planning and management of municipal capital projects within the Harbour.

Recognizing the confluence of jurisdictional interests involved in the long-term planning for the Harbour, the Harbour Plan and its proposed management strategy is premised on the desire and need for strong collaboration among the City, the Yellowknives Dene First Nations, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Government of Canada and all relevant interests in the Harbour.

For more information on the Draft Harbour Plan, please contact Mayor Gordon Van Tighem at [gvantighem@yellowknife.ca](mailto:gvantighem@yellowknife.ca).