



# Yukon Regional Round Table

Community leaders sharing ideas and creating change



*presented at*

## **Rural Matters!**

# **Forging Healthy Canadian Communities**

**July 7, 2008**

**Edmonton Alberta**

*presented by*

**Wes Wirth**



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## Established in 2006

- With membership of **14 communities** including First Nation, incorporated & unincorporated communities
- Focuses on action & implementing projects
- Incorporates training and capacity building into every meeting
- Created proposals for:
  - **Sustainability & Development Initiative** (Yukon Territorial Community Development Fund & Indian & Northern Affairs Canada Targeted Investment fund for \$91,500)
  - **Asset Mapping Pilot Project** (Indian & Northern Affairs Canada Targeted Investment fund for \$28,215)
  - **Asset Mapping Database** (Indian & Northern Affairs Canada Innovation & Knowledge fund for \$19,100)



● Old Crow

Yukon's population is 32,000 people: 22,000 in Whitehorse, 10,000 in villages & communities across the Territory.

Average community size is 450 people.

Dawson City



● Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation

● Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation

● Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

● Carmacks

● Faro

● Ross River

● Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

● Haines Junction

● Whitehorse

● Mount Lorne

● Teslin

● Carcross Tagish First Nation

● Teslin Tlingit Council

● Watson Lake

● Atlin

● Taku River Tlingit First Nation

***"The regional round table has helped build understanding between government departments, communities and First Nations. This understanding will be a key asset toward building trust."***

*(from The Collaborative Evaluation Report of the Yukon Regional Round Table and Yukon Advisory Group, 2008)*

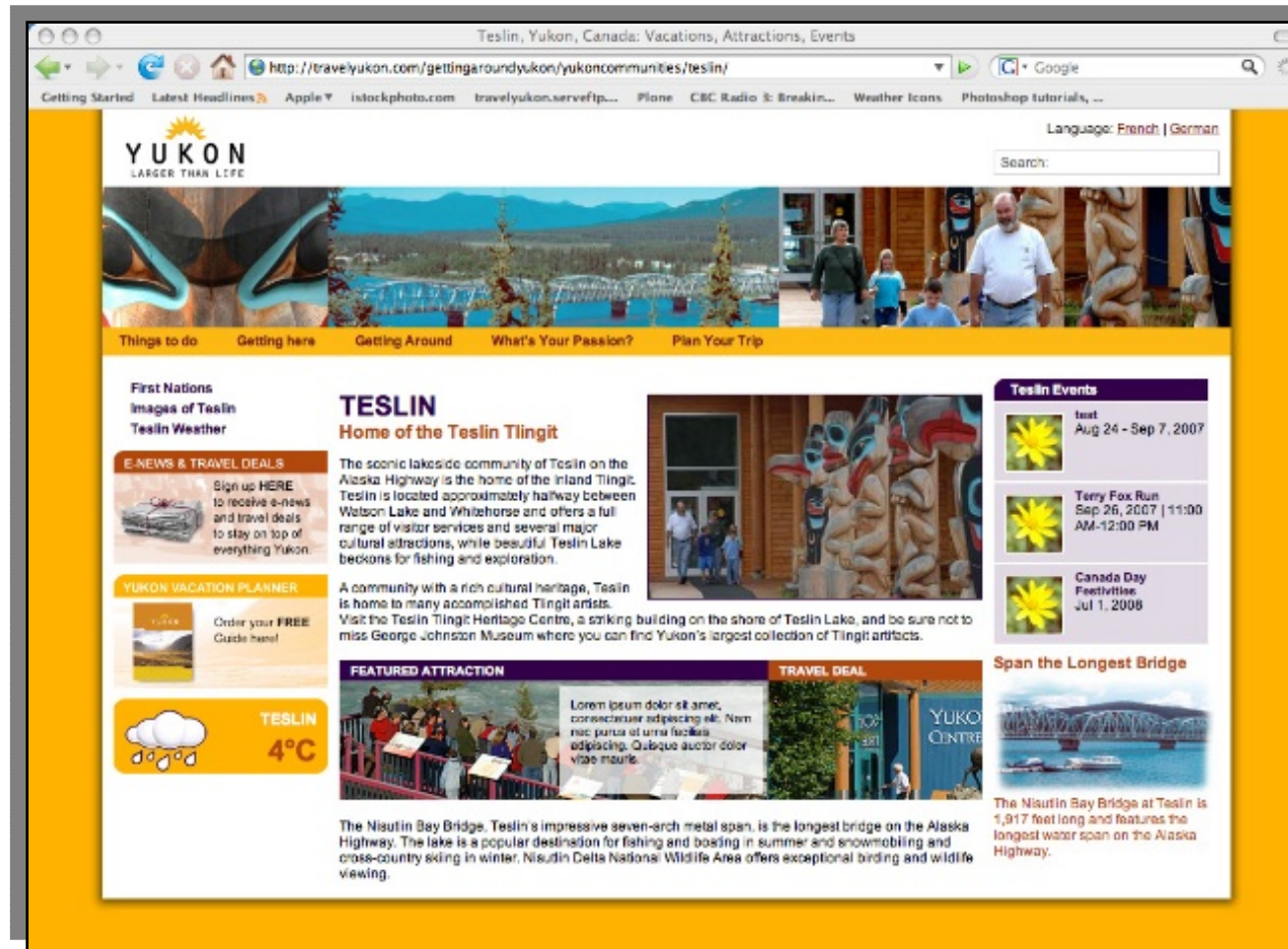
# Projects

- **Tourism Marketing Partnership**
- **Community Asset Mapping**
- **Network Capacity Development**

# Organizational Development & Sustainability Plan Options

- Knowledge network
- Policy advisory
- Economic & social collaborations
- Linking social & economic development
- Outreach & communications infrastructure
  - Key to overcoming historic & bureaucratic isolation
- Bridge-building for First Nations and Municipal collaborations in networked and reciprocal action
- Need to integrate internal development with ongoing external resources

# Tourism Marketing Partnership



- Illustrates Yukon Regional Round Table's potential for building partnerships with and influencing government

# Community Asset Mapping

- Find own and each others' potential for development
- Asset-based community development
- Partnership-building takes persistence

# Community Asset Mapping Plan

## ASSET MAPPING: PRIMARY TOPICS of INQUIRY

### Physical Infrastructure

Built and Natural Assets  
Community Facilities  
Public or Private access  
Businesses  
Tourism/ Industry support  
Housing  
Trails  
Water Bodies

### Health and Social Assets

Health and Social Services  
Programs or Projects  
Clubs  
Success Stories  
Addictions therapeutics  
Northern Health Priorities:  
Diabetes; Residential School Legacy;  
Nutrition; Drugs & Alcohol; Mental  
Health

### Economic Opportunity

Small business  
Inter-community services  
Entrepreneurial & Informal  
Social Economy leads  
Services to Industry  
Skill Clusters  
Artesan & Production  
Tourism  
Incentives & Support

## UNDERLYING THEMES

### Success Stories

Business  
Health & Social  
Cultural Projects  
Appreciative Inquiry – grow what  
works  
4 Keys to Success – if others were  
to do this project  
Relationships & Partnerships

### Relationships, Partnerships, Associations, Networks

Partnerships base of most successes  
Relationships for best practices  
Interconnectivity of Local and  
Regional Activity  
Actions that make them work.

### Community Culture

Activities  
Specializations  
Relationships & partnerships  
Sustainability priorities  
Common / Unique qualities  
Unique qualities known =  
more opportunity for regional  
development

# What We Have Learned

**Most Yukoners, both First Nations and non-First Nations, put lifestyle first.**

**Taking the time to listen and be curious reveals vision, insights, assumptions, expectations, concerns and possibilities.**

**Diversity of perspectives, voices, styles and experiences are keys to innovation, risk-taking, consensus-building, which extend to community impact.**

**Exploring instincts of regional round table members provides a clear picture of situations and intentions.**

**Initiating and maintaining relationships with government representatives enables them to become involved.**



**A Collective Voice based on trust and relationships is immensely powerful.**



# For Additional Information

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## Website

Yukon Regional Round Table: [www.brandonu.ca/rdi/yrirt.asp](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/yrirt.asp)



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