

# Van Tat

## Old Crow Flats

### Special Management Area (SMA)



*Old Crow Flats is the area in which the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation derives its name "Van Tat" -People of the Lakes*

The joint press release by VGFN and Yukon Government is now available. Please see the link titled Press Release to learn more.

The first open house was held in Old Crow to introduce the planning process and to hear residents' views. The Schedule of Events, Summary, Information on the Next Workshop, and Contact Information are below.

#### **Schedule of Events**

##### **Tuesday November 29, 2005**

1-2:30 pm Elders Meeting (Youth Centre)  
3:30-4:30 pm Chief and Council Briefing (Youth Centre)

##### **Wednesday November 30, 2005**

10 am-3 pm Open House (Community Hall)  
2:10pm-3pm Youth Visit to Open House  
6 pm Dinner (Community Hall)  
7 pm Community Meeting (Community Hall)

## Summary:

The Old Crow Flats is a very special area to Vuntut Gwitchin. Due to its historical, cultural, and ecological significance the area was determined to be a Special Management Area under the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement. Chapter 10, Schedule C directs that a management plan be developed for the Old Crow Flats area as one ecological unit. The land parcels included in this Special Management Area plan are: VGFN Settlement Land (VGG land), Areas East and West of Crow Flats (YG land), and the northern portion of the Flats (included in the Vuntut National Park boundary).

There is a Management Committee (MC) with representatives from the Vuntut Gwitchin Government (VGG) and the Yukon Government (YG), which is overseeing the planning process. The Technical Working Group (TWG) is comprised of technical personnel from both governments as well as other organizations such as the North Yukon Renewable Resources Council, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, and the North Yukon Planning Commission.

The timeline for the Old Crow Flats SMA Management Plan outlines a series of public consultations and workshops in Old Crow beginning in December 2005, and ending in the spring of 2006. The draft plan will be reviewed during the summer of 2006. By the end of 2006 the management plan will be ready for signing by the Chief and the Minister of Environment.



Chief Zzeh Gittlit School students at Old Crow Open House, November 29,2005

The first open house held on November 30th in Old Crow presented a summary of what is known about Old Crow Flats. Information was compiled from several previous planning processes and developed into a poster series highlighting information with the use of maps, pictures and text. There will be a Gwich'in translation of these posters. At this workshop, members of the Technical Working Group met with the community to describe research or reiterate what they've heard from the community in the past. Resource topics of discussion were: Heritage, Wetlands, Land Cover, Waterfowl, Wildlife, Fisheries, Oil and Gas, and Minerals. There will be the opportunity to include information on other topics as is requested. Please see VGG contact information below. Con't.

From the activities over the two days the community provided feedback to this introductory session. The Elders said to protect the land and water from development, and Chief and Council directed the TWG to continue as planned with an adaptable plan. The youth were involved in an activity where they were busy reading over the posters. VGFN will continue to engage the youth throughout the upcoming community consultations and workshops for the Old Crow Flats SMA planning process.

**Next Workshop:**

Whitehorse Open House: Wednesday December 14, 2005  
Location: Yukon Inn, Fireside North Room  
Time: 3-5pm, and 7-9pm.



**Contact Information:**

**For more information or to provide comment please contact:**  
Director of Natural Resources, William Josie at (867) 966-3261, or [wjosie@vgfn.net](mailto:wjosie@vgfn.net).

**To be added to the mailing list, please contact:**  
Natural Resources Planner Melissa Valja at (867) 966-3261, or [mvalja@vgfn.net](mailto:mvalja@vgfn.net).

Please read the Press Release for Yukon Government contacts.