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Title: *Respect, Resilience and Prosperity: Water and the people of Yukon Territory, Canada*

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The water of the Yukon is changing. Climate change and our internationally recognized resource sector are impacting this natural resource and the inherent dependency of the local people. I am one of those people and respect water as central to the prosperity, resilience and future of our Territory.

To gain insight to this question I conducted interviews with various Yukoners to discuss water management. I sat with federal, territorial and First Nation's governments, NGOs, industry, elders, youth, academics and general citizens. There were four primary concerns expressed: how we use water; the affects of climate change; the affects of economic development and resource extraction; and limited personnel and infrastructure capacity. There was also not one person I spoke with who did not mention fish. Fish are central to the Yukon's culture, both indigenous and non-indigenous and can be recognized as an indicator of our competency in water management. The result is our current system is failing the fish and impacting our way of life.

I made recommendations to improve our water management system based on the four primary concerns and structured them under the following headings: work together, know and plan and use responsibly. As a First Nation's person, I also recognized the need to utilize Traditional Knowledge (TK) in our management scheme and made further recommendations under three understandings of TK: social and political, local knowledge and the ethical epistemological-cosmological understanding of life.

I will discuss my findings and use my experience as a Yukoner, a First Nation, a scientist and a policy analyst to describe how these changes are impacting Yukon lives. My recommendations are a reflection of the views of the Yukon people, amalgamated with an understanding of scientific findings and northern culture. While the resilience of our people is astounding, we are constantly evolving to find a balance of prosperity with our environment, our economy and our community well being, which are all fostered by the respect, fragility and generosity of water.