

YUKON REGIONAL ROUND TABLE

Community leaders sharing ideas and creating change

VOICES FROM THE ROUND TABLE

"The Round Table is the most inclusive group working in the Yukon. There is no other group that accomplishes what this group does, inclusively."

Beverly Sembsmoen
Carcross Tagish First Nation

"The Round Table has changed how we relate to one another at other meetings—we're more open and we're more curious about one another."

Michelle Vainio
Town of Faro

"Listening to each other's successes, advances, and achievements shows us how we're interdependent, and what's possible when we work together."

Louise Gordon
Taku River Tlingit First Nation

"Look at what the Round Table has been able to do in a year. Look at who is at the Table. Nobody else has been able to do this."

Sheila Dodd
City of Whitehorse

The Yukon Regional Round Table is a unique and diverse group of community leaders who work together to improve the quality of life in their communities.

People from different Yukon communities and First Nations come together four times a year to share ideas and concerns, and to take action. People talk openly and honestly about issues important to their area and how they can deal with them together. New relationships and partnerships are formed.

Since it started in 2006, the Round Table has met nine times in seven different communities. The group has already started to see on the ground changes that have benefited all Yukon communities.

For example, an innovative partnership with Tourism & Culture Yukon led to a new website that promotes local events and attractions (*see next page*). In the fall, the Round Table will begin an exciting new "asset mapping" project which will creatively reveal a wide range of formal and informal, typical and atypical, business, health and social resources and opportunities in each community. The community-driven project will help the Round Table identify how it can build on what's already working well at a local and regional level.

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The Round Table is a rare opportunity for independent and non-political discussion, learning and action at the grassroots level. There's no place like it!

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Additionally, Round Table members receive training at every meeting. For example, participants have learned about conflict resolution, Natural Step sustainability planning, First Nation self governance, and trade agreements.

At each meeting, people also visit local projects to learn about new ideas for community development. The sharing of experiences is a key to the Round Table's success.

The **goals** of the Round Table are:

- Collaborative economic development
- Networking & communication between communities
- Shared promotion
- Healthy, respectful relations
- Social development
- Accountability and credibility

Round Table Structure

The **Round Table** is made up of representatives of incorporated and unincorporated communities and First Nations.

An **advisory committee** of federal and Yukon departments supports the work of the Round Table. Advisory committee members help the Round Table identify relevant government programs and discover new opportunities for funding, research and collaboration.

New site features Yukon communities

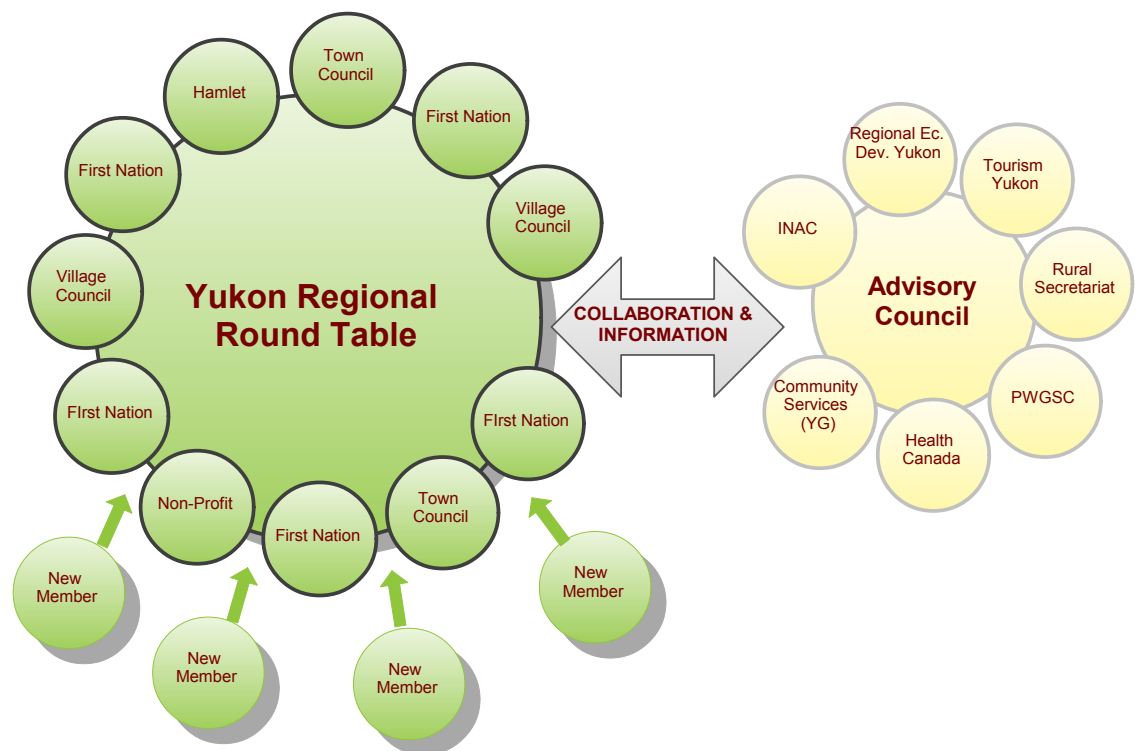
Round Table members were concerned that events and attractions in their communities were not being effectively promoted. Many did not have the resources to do much on their own.



Working together, Round Table members seized an opportunity to partner with Tourism & Culture Yukon to create a community-based website. The new site highlights local activities and the "flavour" of each community. The site also allows each community to promote itself in its own way.

Tourism & Culture's Director of Internet Marketing, Denny Kobayashi, told the Round Table "We couldn't have done it without you. Your input and suggestions redirected everything we were doing with this website. And we have a much better product because of it."

Tourism & Culture will train member communities on how to effectively update their site. The Round Table will also have ongoing input into tourism promotion efforts.



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