



**Council of Yukon
First Nations**

SPEECH BRIEFING

**SPEAKING NOTES
CHIEF CARL SIDNEY ON BEHALF
OF GRAND CHIEF MASSIE**

**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
ROUNDTABLE
APRIL 27, 2016
11:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
FAIRMOUNT WATERFRONT, 900 CANADA
PLACE WAY
VANCOUVER, B.C.**



Speaking Points

- Good Morning, on behalf of Yukon First Nations, I am pleased to participate in this important Round Table discussion on the National Defence Policy.
- As I understand, this is an important part of the consultation process across our country.
- I will state to you that Yukon First Nations are unique in this country as modern day treaty First Nations and we retain full government status through our agreements and that we are not to be considered as key stakeholders we are Governments in the Yukon region.
- Yukon First nations think that this proposed defence policy should complement the Arctic Council Policy's that govern the overall circumpolar countries and states through International Laws. This policy should consider the protection of and acknowledge Canada's sovereignty within Arctic Waters off the Northern coast of Canada.
- Here are a few items that should be mentioned for consideration in the development of policy:
- **Search and rescue**
 - Canada is currently engaged in the Fixed-Wing Search and Rescue Aircraft Replacement Project to replace the Royal Canadian Air Force's CC-115 Buffalo
 - Search and rescue is a critical function and this process needs to be completed quickly
- **Emergency response:**
 - Canada must enhance and strengthen the Canadian Forces role in emergency response both in Canada and abroad
 - This is critical as the North faces natural disasters enhanced by climate change - floods, landslides (permafrost), forest fires
- **Yukon's Arctic Coast Herschel Island**
 - The need to set up an oil spill response in that region in cooperation with the other Arctic nations



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- **Much needed support for the Canadian Rangers:**
 - Strong First Nations participation in the Ranger program across the Yukon, provide vital knowledge and understanding of the land
 - Need to expand the program, provide more capacity and training

- **Northern Capacity and Presence:**
 - Last year there were campaign commitments by former government:
 - expansion of Whitehorse Cadet Training Centre – cadet programs offer valuable opportunities for indigenous youth, understand that upgrade, expansion is going ahead
 - Also there was discussion on the proposal to build an armed forces unit in Whitehorse, an update on this file might be appropriate.

- **Support and recognition of Canada's Veterans**
 - Need to increase support for all Canada's veterans
 - Recognition of First Nations veterans like the late Alex Van Bibber - He was the first member of the Assembly of First Nations Veterans Roundtable in 2001 as the Yukon representative
 - This would support the overall need for reconciliation with First Nations people.

- **Canadian Coast Guard:**
 - Recognize that the Coast Guard is currently part of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, does this review include the Coast Guard?
 - We encourage the Canadian government to provide a strong research role and function for Canada's new icebreakers.
 - Also encourage a freshwater presence for Coast Guard in Yukon

- **Peacekeeping**
 - Lastly, we would like this policy to support Canada's proud tradition of Peacekeeping.

- **Sovereignty**
 - We support the protection of Canada's sovereignty as a top priority.



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- I would like to recognize engagement by the Royal Canadian Navy: crew of Maritime Coastal Defence Vessel HMCS 705 Whitehorse has visited the Yukon a number of times.
- In closing, Yukon First Nations are not key stakeholders, we are Governments in the north with Aboriginal rights, titles and jurisdiction within traditional territories and lands.
- We look forward to seeing how this policy develops and encourage you to reach out to First Nations throughout this consultation process.

- Thank you.



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SPEECH BRIEFING

Event Description:

Date and Time:

Location:

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Event Contact:

On-site Contact:

Attire:

Grand Chief's Role:

Other Dignitaries:

Audience:

Media:

Program/Agenda:

Background on Organization:

Event Information:

Speech outline:

Main Message:

Supporting Message:

Call to Action: