

## GOLD COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1899

Dawson City, Yukon Territory

April 25, 2023

### Executive Summary

The year 1899 has been marked by significant growth and development in the Yukon Territory, particularly in the Dawson City area. The population estimate has increased to 32,917, with a notable surge in the number of settlers arriving during the spring and summer months. This report provides an overview of the administration and development of the goldfields and settlements within the jurisdiction of the Gold Commissioner's Office.

### Claim Registrations and Transfers

A total of 5,047 claims were registered during the year 1899, representing a 15% increase from the previous year. The majority of these claims were staked in the Dawson City and Bonanza Creek areas, with a notable increase in the number of claims staked in the Eldorado Creek and Hunker Creek regions. The total value of claims transferred during the year was \$1.2 million, with the largest transfers occurring in the Dawson City area.

### Legal Disputes and Resolutions

A total of 245 legal disputes were brought before the Gold Commissioner's Office during the year 1899. The majority of these disputes involved claims staking and transfer issues, with a notable increase in the number of disputes related to mining regulations and royalty payments. The office successfully resolved 95% of these disputes, with the remaining 5% being referred to the Department of the Interior for further action.

### Enforcement of Mining Regulations

The Gold Commissioner's Office worked closely with the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) to enforce mining regulations throughout the year. A total of 1,200 inspections were conducted, resulting in the issuance of 450 fines and 200 warnings. The office also worked to educate miners and claim holders on the importance of adhering to mining regulations, with a notable increase in the number of successful inspections and compliance with regulations.

### Population Counts and Demographics

The population estimate for Dawson City has increased to 32,917, with a notable surge in the number of settlers arriving during the spring and summer months. The breakdown of the population by occupation is as follows:

- Prospectors and Miners: 10,500
- Merchants and Traders: 4,500
- Entertainers and Service Workers: 3,200
- Laborers and Skilled Tradespeople: 6,500
- Professionals and Officials: 1,500

### Revenue Collection

A total of \$1.1 million was collected in fees and royalties during the year 1899, representing a 12% increase from the previous year. The majority of this revenue came from the sale of claims and the payment of royalties on gold production.

### Infrastructure Developments

A number of infrastructure developments were completed during the year 1899, including the extension of the Dawson City water system, the installation of new telegraph lines, and the construction of new roads and bridges. The office also worked to improve the efficiency of the claim registration process, with the implementation of new procedures and the hiring of additional staff.

### Observations

The year 1899 has been marked by significant growth and development in the Yukon Territory, particularly in the Dawson City area. The population estimate has increased, and the number of settlers arriving during the spring and summer months has been notable. However, the office has also faced challenges in enforcing mining regulations and collecting revenue. The office will continue to work closely with the NWMP and other stakeholders to address these challenges and ensure the continued development of the region.

### Comparison with Similar Cases

The year 1899 has seen significant growth and development in the Yukon Territory, similar to other mining regions during the same period. However, the Dawson City area has experienced a unique combination of factors that have contributed to its rapid growth and development. The office has worked to address the challenges associated with this growth, including the need for improved infrastructure and the enforcement of mining regulations.

The following table provides a comparison of the Dawson City area with other mining regions during the same period:

Region	Population Estimate	Claim Registrations	Revenue Collection
Dawson City	32,917	5,047	\$1.1 million
Bonanza Creek	5,000	1,200	\$200,000
Eldorado Creek	2,000	500	\$100,000
Hunker Creek	1,500	300	\$50,000

### Conclusion

The year 1899 has been marked by significant growth and development in the Yukon Territory, particularly in the Dawson City area. The office has worked to address the challenges associated with this growth, including the need for improved infrastructure and the enforcement of mining regulations. The office will continue to work closely with the NWMP and other stakeholders to ensure the continued development of the region.

### Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for the upcoming year:

- Continue to improve the efficiency of the claim registration process
- Increase enforcement of mining regulations
- Improve infrastructure development, including the extension of the Dawson City water system and the installation of new telegraph lines
- Continue to work closely with the NWMP and other stakeholders to address challenges and ensure the continued development of the region

By following these recommendations, the office will be well-positioned to address the challenges associated with the growth and development of the Yukon Territory and continue to contribute to the economic and social development of the region.

### Gold Commissioner's Report for 1898-1899

Compared to the Commissioner's Report for 1897-1898:

- Population estimate increased by 21.5%
- Claim registrations increased by 15%

- Revenue collection increased by 12%
- Number of inspections increased by 25%
- Number of fines and warnings issued increased by 22%
- Number of disputes resolved increased by 15%

#### **Comparison with Skagway and Dyea:**

- Dawson City had a higher population estimate (32,917 vs. 15,000-20,000)
- Dawson City had a higher number of claim registrations (5,047 vs. 1,200)
- Dawson City had a higher revenue collection (\$1.1 million vs. \$200,000)

#### **Comparison with Bonanza Creek:**

- Dawson City had a higher population estimate (32,917 vs. 5,000)
- Dawson City had a higher number of claim registrations (5,047 vs. 1,200)
- Dawson City had a higher revenue collection (\$1.1 million vs. \$200,000)

#### **Comparison with Eldorado Creek:**

- Dawson City had a higher population estimate (32,917 vs. 2,000)
- Dawson City had a higher number of claim registrations (5,047 vs. 500)
- Dawson City had a higher revenue collection (\$1.1 million vs. \$100,000)

#### **Comparison with Hunker Creek:**

- Dawson City had a higher population estimate (32,917 vs. 1,500)
- Dawson City had a higher number of claim registrations (5,047 vs. 300)
- Dawson City had a higher revenue collection (\$1.1 million vs. \$50,000)

Dawson City has experienced significant growth and development during the year 1899, with a notable surge in the number of settlers arriving during the spring and summer months. The office has worked to address the challenges associated with this growth, including the need for improved infrastructure and the enforcement of mining regulations. The office will continue to work closely with the NWMP and other stakeholders to ensure the continued development of the region.