

Smells Like Yukon

“Laziness”

Production Script

Yukoners have a long and proud history of working hard.

Back in the Gold Rush days, pioneers had to haul a ton of stuff over the Chilkoot Pass, build their own rafts and float down the Yukon River—and that was just to *get* here.

It's not even counting the work it took to actually *survive*.

And those hard workin' pioneer days continued until pretty recently. Many luxuries and conveniences were not easy to come by.

Like, say you sprain your wrist while canoeing. Back in the day, you'd probably make a splint out of bark and bushwhack out to the nearest mining road. Today, all you need is a sat-phone or, even better, a handy emergency locator transmitter designed for plane crashes.

Or say in the past you were craving a low-fat double-shot peppermint mocaccino with cinnamon sprinkles and a Paul McCartney CD. You'd have to fly down to Vancouver to get it.

Nowadays, you can foam it up—and softly “rock out”—at Whitehorse's very own drive-thru Starbucks.

Yep, times have sure changed.

Life in the Yukon—and Whitehorse especially—has gotten pretty soft in recent years. It's never been so easy to do so little or, dare we say—be so lazy—and still get by.

Mark and I really wanted to go the extra mile researching this issue, but we didn't know where to find the application for government funding. Without that cushion, we knew we'd have to be very careful about how we framed our subject....

[CLIP: Mark and Jesse talking about definition of lazy etc]

With that figured out, we thought we'd try to find some good examples of laziness in the labour force. One thing you often hear is that professionals move to the Yukon for a job and then quickly decide they only want to work part time. We figured that it might be worth talking to a few of these people.

[CLIP: Mark and Jesse suss out some professionals to talk to]

So, it seems that many professionals do prefer to take it easy.

But this anecdotal evidence wasn't enough to prove our argument. We needed some revealing statistics to really make the case for the Yukon's laziness pandemic. These days, it's easy to get a ton of stats with just a few clicks of the mouse, and the best part is, you don't have to interview anyone.

[CLIP: Mark and Jesse talk about getting stats on laziness]

Well, it turns out that, according to the.. center for data uh, excellence, the Yukon is now uh, 40% lazier than it was just three years ago, uh... nineteen times out of twenty.

In light of this shocking revelation, we were curious to know how the government was responding. But then we thought “Why bother?” For many years, the government’s program: “On Yukon time” actually encouraged us all to slow down and show up late for things. The government also likes to highlight how tourism is one of the Yukon’s biggest economic engines. And, when you think about it, is there any lazier industry? Rather than building widgets to export around the globe we all just sit around waiting for the people to arrive.

As we reached the end of our exhaustive investigation, Mark and I weren’t about to gloss over the saddest examples of our territory’s growing slothfulness. We knew that our story wouldn’t be complete until we’d introduced our audience to at least a couple of Yukon’s laziest people.

[I’m not sure how the clip goes... do we need to set up the Lazy river thing in previous paragraph?]

Now, having the gusto to really cap this investigation off, we finally got off the couch and headed up to the multiplex. It was late and we were exhausted, but we knew that interviewing people bobbing around the lazy river would be the expose of the year, maybe even the decade.

[clip – door banging – oh, man – it’s closed!]

It was at that point, standing outside the locked entrance, we realized how we’d been fooling ourselves all along. We were setting an obvious example in this very story.

If the Yukon is actually becoming a lazier place, what would the image of two hard working, action oriented reporters do to the psyche of our laid back population? What kind of damage would our high motivation do?

For that reason, we decided not to pursue this story further. For the safety of all, and for the preservation of taking it easy.