

Department of Environment
Briefing Binder for Spring Legislative Sitting 2022
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Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Elk–Agriculture Conflicts**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

Recommended response:

- It is important for many Yukoners to have a sustainable elk population.
- The Government of Yukon continues to mitigate the concerns raised by some members of the agricultural community about the Takhini Valley elk population and its impacts on crops and farm infrastructure.
- We are completing a two-year pilot project to manage elk conflict through increased funding for fencing, getting more hunters on the land in key areas and reducing the herd size through harvesting.
- We are evaluating the results of this pilot project and will be discussing outcomes and next steps with affected landowners, farmers, interest groups and First Nations.
- Measures such as the Elk-Agriculture Conflict Hunt aim to condition elk to stay away from conflict areas.

Additional response:

- The 2016 Elk Management Plan prioritized addressing conflicts between elk and agriculture. Addressing these conflicts remains our priority.
- The Department of Environment conducted a minimum count survey of the herd in December 2021 and observed more elk than in March 2021. Although useful as a snap shot, the survey technique does not provide accurate population estimates or trends.
- In the coming year, radio-collars will be placed on some of the elk to help us understand the extent of their range and how they use it throughout the year.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Elk–Agriculture Conflicts**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

- A new Deputy Ministers Working Group, made up of government, agriculture sector, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Yukon Fish and Game Association, and First Nations representatives, will review existing data and identify options to mitigate concerns with the elk-agricultural conflict.
- This work will review the existing zones in the permit hunt area.
- We want to remind farmers who lose crops due to elk conflict within the buffer zone that they are eligible for compensation.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about what the Government of Yukon is currently doing about the conflict between wild elk populations and agricultural properties in the Takhini Valley. A letter dated Feb 28, 2022 was sent from the NDP to Ministers of EMR and Environment outlining concerns from farmers.
- A Yukon Supreme Court ruling in June 2021 on a case involving damage caused by wild elk drew media and public attention to the issue.

Background:

- Since 2017, minimum annual counts of the Takhini elk herd conducted during late winter (Feb-Mar) have been:
 - 2017 - 229 animals
 - 2018 - 88 animals (the herd was more dispersed and in smaller groups)
 - 2019 - 146 animals (poor survey conditions)
 - 2020 - 231 animals
 - 2021 - 134 animals
 - 2022 - 152 animals
- An additional minimum count was conducted in December 2021, and identified 247 elk.
- The significant variation between counts underscores a fundamental challenge with using a minimum count survey as this technique neither provides an accurate

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Elk–Agriculture Conflicts****Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment**

estimate of population size nor does it discern population trends (i.e. growing, stable, or declining). We are examining other means of surveying this herd.

- The current goal is to reduce the Takhini Valley elk population by 90 elk over two years.
 - As of March 31, 2022, we can account for the mortality of 71 elk from the Takhini Valley over the past two years.
- Department of Environment staff counted 29 elk in the Braeburn herd during their last count in February 2022.
 - Note this is **not** a population number. It is simply the number of elk that were observed from a helicopter while flying linear transects through the area.
- The departments of Environment, and Energy, Mines and Resources are, and will continue to, evaluate the efficacy, cost, and limitations of electrical fencing to exclude elk from an area. This type of exclusion fence might be a viable option for some food producers affected by elk.
- In the past eight years, the government has provided \$350,000 to support preventative measures and in compensation through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership program.
- In 2021, the government established an additional funding program of \$225,000 to support the construction of exclusion fencing on properties in the eastern buffer zone. To date, \$159,710 has been issued through four fencing projects, at \$10 per linear foot of fencing.
- The number of complaints the Conservation Officer Services Branch received about elk encroachments in 2021 was approximately 35% fewer than in previous years.

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ENV #1

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Elk–Agriculture Conflicts

Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

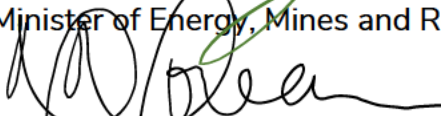
Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

2022/04/26

Date



Deputy Minister of Environment

2022-04-21

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**#2****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Wetlands Policy**Environment

Recommended response:

- We are committed to completing a Yukon wetlands stewardship policy in 2022.
- The policy will help the Government of Yukon make decisions that respect the importance of wetlands and the benefits they provide and support a diverse, growing economy.
- Together, we can build a solid and consistent approach to wetland stewardship that reflects the values and interests of Yukoners.
- This policy was drafted based on input from First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups, federal and municipal governments, industry, and other key organizations through roundtable-facilitated discussions.
- We heard from Yukoners through a public survey in the fall of 2021. A report on What We Heard has been published online.
- Our next step is to conclude consultation with our First Nation and Indigenous partners.

Additional response:

- Wetlands are important in the Yukon because they are essential to maintaining water flows, flood protection, purifying water, recharging and discharging groundwater, storing carbon, and providing habitat for fish and wildlife.
- In addition, certain wetlands support traditional subsistence and cultural activities, such as harvesting and recreation.
- The wetland stewardship policy is intended to align with and complement existing regional land-use planning efforts and work by

CONFIDENTIAL**#2****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Wetlands Policy**

Environment

assessors and regulators like the Yukon Water Board and Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board.

Third response:

- The wetland stewardship policy is just one way to address wetland stewardship.
- In addition to this policy:
 - We are managing placer-mining impacts on wetlands within the Indian River area using sector-specific policy guidance (see [BN #90](#)) and are evaluating the wetlands-management guidance within the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan (see [BN #4](#)).
 - We are currently evaluating various tools to assess the health of wetlands.
 - We have completed detailed mapping for the Indian River and Beaver River watersheds, and a similar mapping project focused on the Mayo and McQuesten watersheds is underway. This detailed mapping will assist future planning, assessment and regulatory processes in these areas.
 - We are also completing a regional wetland mapping exercise for the Peel Watershed planning region.


Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about progress towards the commitment to complete a Yukon wetland stewardship policy by May 2022.
- Management of wetlands, and acceptable levels of development versus protection of them, is of high interest and often a polarizing issue to First Nations, industry, non-governmental organizations and members of the public.

CONFIDENTIAL**#2****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Wetlands Policy****Environment**

Background:

- Development of a wetlands policy is a commitment under the 2014 Yukon Water Strategy and Action Plan, including support for wetland inventory and monitoring, in partnership with other governments, stakeholders and the public.
- The Yukon wetlands policy began under a roundtable partnership approach, with collaborative development among many partners and shared responsibility to develop solutions and decisions related to the policy content.
- Five roundtable meetings were held with the policy development partners, including Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups, municipal and federal governments, boards and councils, environmental non-governmental organizations and industry.
- During the public engagement period, the Government of Yukon received 207 responses from Yukoners in the form of emails, detailed responses on the policy and survey responses.
- A document summarizing all feedback is currently being prepared and will be posted on the government's website.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Environment2022 03 10
Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**#3****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Our Clean Future**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- As described in our August 2021 annual report, we have made great progress in taking action on climate change following the fall 2020 release of *Our Clean Future*.
- We have also announced a more aggressive greenhouse gas reduction target for the Yukon accelerating it from 30 per cent to a 45 per cent-reduction by 2030, compared to 2010 levels, excluding mining emissions.
- In support of this, we plan to introduce a new *Clean Energy Act* by the end of the year to legislate our greenhouse gas emissions and ensure long-term climate change accountability and reporting.

Additional response:

- We know the Yukon's road transportation sector is its largest greenhouse gas emitter.
- To help address this, as of January 2022, we have issued rebates for 89 zero-emission electric vehicles and 420 electric bicycles, and launched a pilot for medium and heavy-duty zero emissions vehicles.
- In addition, this March we will complete the installation of seven new fast charging stations. This will bring the total number of public fast chargers available throughout the Yukon up to 12.
- Other important actions include increasing our rebate for smart electric heating devices, supporting energy efficiency retrofits for buildings

CONFIDENTIAL**#3****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Our Clean Future**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

and homes, and beginning in 2025, establishing requirements to blend gasoline and diesel with renewable fuels.

Third response:

- We continue to work with experts and stakeholders across the territory and beyond to identify opportunities for new actions and to accelerate and intensify existing actions to reach these ambitious targets.
- This will include working with the Yukon Climate Leadership Council and launching the second Youth Panel on Climate Change. (see [BN #25 & 23](#))

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Climate change is of high interest to Yukoners; they will want to know the progress on delivering on Our Clean Future commitments, such as achieving greenhouse gas reductions.

Background:

- Our *Clean Future* sets several targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and support the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- The Yukon's total greenhouse gas emissions 2050 target of net zero aligns with the Government of Canada's announcement to legislate this as a national target.

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#3

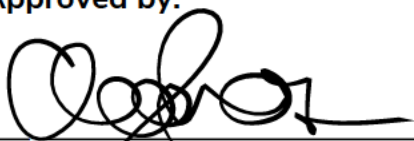
Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Our Clean Future

Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Environment

2022 02 04

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

04/02/2022

Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**ENV #4****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson Regional Land
Use Planning**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

Recommended response:

- The Dawson Regional Land Use Commission is on schedule to conclude and release its Recommended Plan in 2022.
- If required, a Final Recommended Plan will follow in 2023.
- The Commission has met 15 times, with the most recent meetings being held on March 28, 2022.
- The Parties continue to support the work of the Commission at the strategic level on priority policy issues through the Senior Liaison Committee and to develop tools and input at the technical level through the Technical Working Group and the Cumulative Effects Working Group.
- We appreciate the Commission's efforts to achieve a balance between the many competing interests in the Dawson region.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon responded to the Draft Dawson Regional Land Use Plan in November, asking the Commission for further clarity on some aspects and to integrate climate change impacts.
- When the Draft Plan was released for review, the Government of Yukon passed an interim withdrawal of lands identified for conservation by the Commission. These withdrawals will be updated at the Recommended Plan stage.
- The input gathered by the Commission will influence the location and amount of land ultimately set aside for conservation.

CONFIDENTIAL**ENV #4****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson Regional Land
Use Planning**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment**Context – this may be an issue because:**

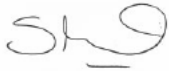
- Questions may be raised regarding the planning status, the Government of Yukon's response to the Draft Plan, and the future of the interim withdrawals.

Background:

- The Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 11 process provides the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Commission with the autonomy to develop a Draft Plan and recommend the plan to the Parties for their consideration. The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in formed the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Commission in December 2018.
- Public consultation on the Draft Plan was conducted by the Dawson Regional Land Use Commission from June 15, 2021 to November 1, 2021.
- The Government of Yukon's response to the Draft Plan focused on six key topics: Designations and Land Management Unit Boundaries, Cumulative Effects, Wetlands, Culture and Heritage, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirited People, and Implementation.
- Interim withdrawals of land proposed by the Dawson Regional Planning Commission were approved by Order-In-Council on June 15, 2021, and are in effect until June 1, 2022. Once the Commission submits the Recommended Plan, the interim withdrawals will be adjusted, as needed to reflect the proposed conservation area.
- White River First Nation is not a party to the plan. However, the Government of Yukon has an obligation to consult with the First Nation through the planning process, especially at the 11.6.2 stage (Recommended Plan) as per the Umbrella Final Agreement.
- The Yukon Land Use Planning Council provides administrative and technical support for the Commission. Additional information about the Commission and the process is available online at dawson.planyukon.ca.

CONFIDENTIAL**ENV #4****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson Regional Land
Use Planning**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

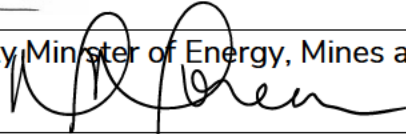
Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

2022/04/14

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Environment

2022.04.04

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Executive Committee Screening of
the Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project
(BMC Minerals)**Executive Council
Office**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government continues to consult with Kaska First Nations on a decision for the Kudz Ze Kayah project in a way that meets our obligations and supports our commitment to build strong relationships with First Nations.
- We are considering the results of the Executive Committee's Referral Conclusion and screening report and collaborating with the federal decision bodies to reach a decision on the project.
- The length of time to conclude the assessment phase of the Kudz Ze Kayah project has significantly exceeded our expectations. We are working with Canada to advance a decision on this project as swiftly as possible.

Additional response:

- Our government supports responsible mineral resource development and remains committed to finding efficiencies in the assessment and regulatory review of projects.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- BMC Minerals continues to reach out to decision bodies expressing concerns about the delay in the issuance of a decision document and interest in the process of reaching a decision.
- Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) and Liard First Nation (LFN) have identified concerns related to impacts of the project on the Finlayson caribou herd and how the Executive Committee has addressed those impacts. The Kaska Nations have requested the project be rejected.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Executive Committee Screening of
the Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project
(BMC Minerals)**Executive Council
Office**Background:**

- In October 2020 the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's Executive Committee (EC) released the final screening report for the project recommending it proceed subject to specific terms and conditions.
- In January 2021, the federal decision bodies referred the recommendation issued by the EC back to the EC for reconsideration on the basis that the analysis in the screening report was insufficient to support the recommendation.
- YG issued a statement on January 22, 2021 indicating it was satisfied with and supported the final screening report issued by the EC and was prepared to accept the recommendations.
- In March 2021 the EC issued the Referral Conclusion stating that its four members were "deadlocked" in its reconsideration of the screening report. As a result of the "deadlock", the EC concluded that the original screening report issued in October 2020 stood as the reconsidered recommendation.
- YG, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Natural Resources Canada are decision bodies and are required to consult with each other with a view to making their decision document(s) conform. The Northern Project Management Office (NPMO) provides coordination to the federal decision bodies.
- YG, in collaboration with federal decision bodies, must decide whether to issue a decision based on the October 2020 screening report to accept, reject or vary the recommendations or refer the project to a panel review.

Consultation with First Nations

- In April 2021 the Kaska First Nations submitted a letter stating their view that "there is no viable option other than to reject the KZK Screening Report and Recommendations". The letter was signed by the Chiefs of the RRDC, LFN, Dease River First Nation and Kwadacha Nation and is the first correspondence received indicating a collective Kaska position.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Executive Committee Screening of
the Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project
(BMC Minerals)**Executive Council
Office

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- In July, the decision bodies wrote the Kaska First Nations to request a meeting to discuss the Project and modifications to the terms and conditions in an effort to address the Kaska concerns.
 - The decision bodies sent the proposed modified terms and conditions and supporting documents for review to LFN and RRDC on September 21 and October 5, 2021, respectively.
 - On December 9, 2021 decision bodies notified Kaska First Nations that they are preparing to make a decision for the Project in February 2022, while also ensuring that we have met our duty to consult.
 - On January 13, 2022 YG and federal decision bodies met with representatives of LFN and RRDC. During the meeting the FNs reiterated their concerns about the Project and sought information from the decision bodies on the process for making a decision, decision options and outcomes.
 - On January 24, 2022 the decision bodies wrote to RRDC and LFN, following up on the January 13 meeting and re-iterating their interest to meet in the coming weeks to discuss the modified terms and conditions and the goal of making a decision in February.

Engagement with BMC

- On November 1, 2021, decision bodies sent a joint letter to BMC Minerals Ltd. providing the proposed modified terms and conditions and supporting documents for reasons of transparency and procedural fairness seeking BMC's views on how the proposed terms may affect the viability of the Project.
- On November 29, 2021, BMC responded by letter indicating that the modified terms as proposed do not affect the viability of the Project, and provided comments with suggested minor revisions to the terms. The decision bodies have shared the BMC response with LFN and RRDC to inform ongoing consultation.

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TAB 17

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

**Executive Committee Screening of
the Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project
(BMC Minerals)**

Executive Council
Office

- BMC was informed of the January 13, 2021 meeting with LFN and RRDC and that Kaska First Nations were notified that decision bodies were preparing to make a decision in February.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 15, 2022

Date

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Park Fees**Environment

Recommended response:

- Yukon's new camping fees remain some of the lowest in Canada.
- While we have had to increase fees to maintain service levels in our parks, our daily camping fee continues to be lower than in other jurisdictions for a similar level of service, and the scenic setting of our campgrounds cannot be beaten.
- We also offer a 50 per cent discount for Yukon seniors, which is among the most generous seniors' discounts for camping fees in Canada.
- There will still be no fees for park entry, day use, parking, boat launch use, and interpretive programs where offered, and camping fees will continue to include firewood. We are the only jurisdiction in Canada to provide all of these amenities at no additional cost.

Additional response:

- To summarize the new fees:
 - Camping permits are now \$20 per night per campsite, or \$18 if paid in advance through our new online service.
 - Annual camping permits are available to Yukon residents only, at a cost of \$100 in 2022; and \$200 starting in 2023.
 - Yukoners aged 65 and over will receive a 50 per cent discount on all camping fees.
 - A \$10 reservation fee applies to reservations for backcountry campsites in Tombstone Territorial Park.
 - For activities requiring a park permit, such as commercial filming, a \$40 permit application fee will apply.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Park Fees**Environment

- The previous camping fees, which were in place from 2002 until 2021, covered only 10 per cent of the costs of services provided. The current fees will now cover approximately 22 per cent.

Third response:


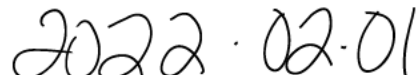
- We heard from Yukoners through public engagement in 2018 and 2019 that they view parks as an important public service that needs government funding with a reasonable amount of cost recovery from campground users.
- The decision to raise fees to recover costs for providing services is consistent with the report delivered in 2017 by the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel and is a strategic action in the Yukon Parks Strategy.
- We are committed to ensuring quality experiences for Yukoners and visitors by financially sustaining our parks and campgrounds over the years ahead.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public will want to know about the fee increases that are in effect for the 2022 camping season.

Background:

- Over 1,500 Yukoners, 200 non-residents, 10 Yukon First Nations governments and 28 Yukon organizations provided input on the draft Yukon Parks Strategy in 2018 and 2019.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Environment
Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL

#7

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Harvest Allocation

Environment

Recommended response:

- Demand for hunting opportunities is high and growing as the population of the Yukon increases.
- This requires us to be more deliberate to ensure wildlife harvest is appropriately shared.
- The Department of Environment intends to develop broad guidelines for the allocation of wildlife harvest among different user groups to ensure the sustainable harvest of Yukon's wildlife and to provide certainty to all those involved.

Additional Response:

- Sustainable harvest management is a complex issue, and the Government of Yukon recognizes the importance of wildlife conservation and First Nations subsistence harvest rights.
- We also recognize the growing need for a consistent approach to wildlife harvest allocation to guide the sustainable harvest of Yukon's wildlife and is why we have started reviewing how this could be done.
- Establishing a consistent approach will allow the Government of Yukon to clearly articulate the goals and responsibilities in harvest management and be more transparent about the process when determining licensed harvest amounts.

Third Response:

- We recognize that all types of knowledge, including Indigenous, local and scientific, should be a part of decision making.

CONFIDENTIAL**#7****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Harvest Allocation****Environment**

- We also want to provide First Nations governments with a higher level of engagement on wildlife management decisions, in addition to meeting formal consultation obligations.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Department officials have met with the Yukon Outfitter Liaison Committee and outfitters to discuss the review of the quota allocation process and the development of new harvest allocation guidance more broadly.
- In the Fall 2021 Sitting, the Official Opposition asked the Minister of Environment about how new harvest allocation guidance might impact resident hunters.
- New outfitter operating certificates, including quotas, were issued beginning April 1, 2022. (See BN #09)

Background:

- In December 2021, the Deputy Minister of Environment sent letters to First Nations governments, Renewable Resources Councils, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and all outfitters relaying the intent to review wildlife harvest allocation, including modernizing the quota guidelines.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

2022-04-05

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Animal Protection and Control Legislative Review** Environment**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon knows that animals are important to Yukoners, and we support responsible stewardship of animals - both livestock and pets – that are under Yukoners' care.
- Following ongoing concerns for public safety, control of feral animal populations, and standards of care for animals, we completed a comprehensive review of our animal protection and control legislation in the Yukon.
- We are now developing new legislation to provide broader protection of animal welfare and better support enforcement when uncontrolled animals threaten people, property, or the environment.

Additional response:

- This new act will reflect the values of Yukoners and meet our duty to provide humane care and responsible control of companion animals and livestock.
- It will also address concerns identified by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and Renewable Resources Councils by providing tools to control and prevent feral livestock from damaging the environment.
- Implementation of the new act and regulations will be done jointly by the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources.

Third response:

- The Government of Yukon has been working toward revising this legislation for a number of years. In 2018, we engaged Yukoners

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Animal Protection and Control Legislative Review** Environment

through a public survey, receiving over 900 responses, and held ten community meetings.

- In fall 2019, we re-engaged with First Nations, communities, the agriculture industry, veterinarians, animal rescue operators, mushers, the RCMP and other stakeholders who work with animals.
- The valuable input received from Yukoners has been carefully considered and is informing the drafting of this new legislation.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions raised about the status of this work as public engagement took place in late 2018 and through 2019—the complex issues specifically related to the mandate for livestock species required extended consultation.
- Recent media has alleged that horses are in poor condition on the North Klondike highway. There may be questions on how the government is proceeding with this new legislation ensuring it brings standards of care into effect.

Background:

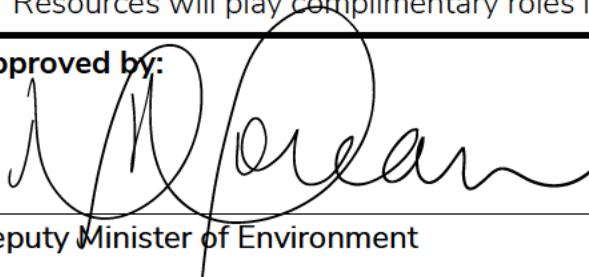
- Government of Yukon's animal protection and control legislative framework is outdated and limits the Government of Yukon's ability to manage animals in the territory.
- This legislative review was prioritized following an inquest into dogs that killed a Ross River resident in September 2016 where the Chief Coroner recommended the Dog Act be reviewed to improve the government's ability to address public safety concerns regarding dogs at large.
- The Animal Protection Office receives, on average, 115 complaints per year. The complaints include dogs running at large, escaped or feral animals interfering with highway traffic, dogs fighting or attacking other animals, and dogs threatening or biting people.
- The Pounds Act was amended in fall 2017 to align legislation with the Highways Act to improve the Government of Yukon's ability to respond to stray livestock across the

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Animal Protection and Control Legislative Review**

Environment

territory. 74(1)(a), 67(3)(b)

- The legislation review included the legislation and policies that will regulate family and exotic pets, livestock, and feral animals.
- A summary of “What We Heard” during the public engagement is available on engageyukon.ca.
- Under the new legislation, the Ministers of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources will play complimentary roles in implementation.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Environment
Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**#9****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Outfitter Quotas**Environment

Recommended response:

- Outfitting is a valued industry in the Yukon that benefits communities through employment opportunities, the purchase of goods and services and, in many cases, a donated supply of fresh meat.
- The Department of Environment intends to review and modernize the 25-year old *Guidelines to Establish Outfitter Quotas* currently used to establish moose, caribou, and sheep quotas.
- The intent of modernizing the quota process is to align the industry with the wildlife values of Yukoners, bring the process into conformity with the Yukon Wildlife Act, and provide a consistent, transparent approach to quota allocation for big-game outfitters.
- Once we initiate this review process, we intend to seek input from First Nations, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Renewable Resources Councils, the outfitting industry, and the public.
- Outfitters will continue to operate during this review, and we welcome an open dialogue as we move forward.

Additional response:

- In the interim during the review process, the department will establish quotas for all outfitters, ensuring alignment with the *Wildlife Act* and providing as much certainty as we can for industry.
- This means all outfitters operating in the Yukon will be assigned a moose and/or caribou quota for the 2022-2023 hunting season.
 - Outfitters with existing moose and/or caribou quotas will see their previous quota extended one year at a time with similar conditions unless there is a conservation issue.

CONFIDENTIAL**#9****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Outfitter Quotas**Environment

- Outfitters who did not have existing moose and/or caribou quotas now have quotas for the 2022-23 season based on the collective input from department technical staff, the outfitters, Renewable Resources Councils, and First Nations.
- The grizzly bear quotas allocation process will remain the same for the 2022-23 season.
- Goat, sheep and bison quotas, where applicable, will also remain the same for the 2022-23 season, but will be renewed annually.
- Establishing outfitter quotas is a complex process that requires balancing the rights, interests and concerns of Yukon First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils and outfitters.
- The concerns expressed by those involved in the outfitter quota process point to the growing need for a consistent approach to wildlife harvest allocation to guide the sustainable harvest of Yukon's wildlife and to provide certainty to all those involved. (see BN #7)

Third Response

- Although multi-year and over-harvest quotas will not be offered during the interim period, we are working on determining if and how these could conform with the *Wildlife Act*.
- This is an issue for both industry and the department, and so we have assured outfitters and Renewable Resources Councils that, all things being equal, annual quotas will remain at the same levels until we have a new quota process in place.

CONFIDENTIAL**#9****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Outfitter Quotas****Environment**

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Department officials met with the Yukon Outfitter Liaison Committee and several outfitters on October 26, 2021, and February 16, 2022, to discuss a range of topics including the review of the quota allocation process and the development of new harvest allocation guidance more broadly.
 - New outfitter operating certificates, including quotas, are issued beginning April 1, 2022.
-

Background:

- Allocating quotas for all outfitters for all species will provide a level playing field for the industry in the Yukon and business predictability to individual outfitters.
- In December 2021, the Deputy Minister of Environment sent letters to First Nations governments, Renewable Resources Councils, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and all outfitters relaying the intent to modernize the quota allocation process and, more broadly, to develop new harvest allocation guidance. (see BN #7)

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

2022-04-05

Date approved

Session Briefing Note
2022 Flood Outlook and Preparedness**Spring 2022**
Community Services
Environment

Recommended response:

- We know that the snow pack is well above normal across the Yukon, notably in the central Yukon. While snowpack is just one of several factors which influence flood risk, we are preparing to support communities with flood response, nevertheless.
- We have more than 300,000 sandbags, thousands of super-bags and rolls of poly, and other materials on hand. Staff are in the midst of engaging with our communities, our response partners, and a variety of staff from across the government.
- Officials from both departments are holding targeted community meetings for residents in flood impacted areas. We are focused on preparedness, coordinating response actions, and sharing information on the forecasts and recovery from last year's unprecedented floods.
- Together, we will be ready to support communities and respond to the threat, and in the meantime we encourage everyone to assess the risks at their own homes, and take early steps to mitigate the potential impacts of a flood. An emergency preparedness social media campaign is underway, encouraging Yukoners to plan ahead and be ready for all hazards, including floods, at an individual property level.
- We want to thank the officials from Yukon government, First Nation, federal and municipal governments, Local Advisory Councils, contractors, residents, friends and neighbours for their collective commitment to readiness, and for their collaboration as we prepare for spring in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- We went out earlier than usual, to get a better sense of what to expect for this year's flood season in the Southern Lakes.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****2022 Flood Outlook and Preparedness**Community Services
Environment

- We have also added six new monitoring wells at Army Beach to improve our longer term understanding of how groundwater levels are affected by high water events in Marsh Lake.
- Weather conditions during the coming months will control: the timing of snowmelt; how quickly and how high rivers will rise; how river ice breakup plays out; and the magnitude of summer glacial melt – ultimately influencing the extent of potential flooding.
- Past and current Snow Survey Bulletins are available on Yukon.ca/snow-survey, and information on water levels for some Yukon lakes and rivers, including current advisories and flood warnings, is available at Yukon.ca/water-levels.
- We are preparing to support a flood response again this spring, in the event that a response is required. Engineers are hired to assess the existing berm in the Marsh Lake areas, to advise on community level infrastructure needs, and to inform our response if needed. They will also provide guidance on the decommissioning of the temporary berms if not needed.
- Additionally, the Government of Yukon has dedicated \$880 thousand in new federal grant funding to the Department of Environment's Water Resources Branch for the next two years. This funding is being used to enhance government's flood forecasting capacity and to initiate flood map development for flood prone communities.

Context:

- Due to above average snowpack this winter, Yukoners may be concerned about flooding similar to last year and how government is prepared to provide support.
- Extreme events are becoming more common as a result of climate change.

Session Briefing Note
2022 Flood Outlook and
Preparedness**Spring 2022**
Community Services
Environment**Background:**

- The April 1 snow survey shows the snow water equivalent measured by watershed across the territory is between 140% and 200% of normal. Snowpack results were collected for the Upper Yukon/Southern Lakes areas for February 1, and across the territory for March 1 and April 1. As of April 1, eight out of eleven basins had the highest snowpack on record for April 1 with the Central Yukon River Basin (Carmacks region), the Lower Yukon River Basin (Dawson area), the White River Basin, the Liard River Basin, the Teslin River Basin and the Pelly River Basin notably setting all time records (1980-2021).
- The next survey will be completed for May 1. April is the survey that typically represents the peak snowpack and informs the seasonal flood risk assessment for communities across the territory.
- The Yukon Snow Survey Bulletin and Water Supply Forecast is issued three times annually by the Water Resources Branch. It provides a summary of winter meteorological and streamflow conditions for all major Yukon watersheds, as well as current snow depth and snow water equivalent observations at 57 snow locations. This information is used to evaluate the potential for spring flooding caused by both breakup ice jams and large spring snowmelt flows.
- In February, Water Resources Branch installed new observation wells in the Southern Lakes region so that Yukon government can use groundwater levels to improve our understanding of groundwater flooding, which is when rising groundwater causes flooding, typically affecting septic systems, basements, or crawl spaces.
- The Flood Recovery Working Group is coordinating with flood-prone communities to assess their storage capacity to pre-stage response materials such as sandbags and super bags. They are also running an emergency preparedness social media campaign, with a focus on all hazards, including floods, and organizing Community Preparedness Sessions starting in April.
- High water influenced by river ice breakup and high flows resulting from snowmelt are the main drivers of flooding in most Yukon communities. Glacial melt and

Session Briefing Note
2022 Flood Outlook and Preparedness**Spring 2022**
Community Services
Environment

summer precipitation also play a role in influencing peak water levels, most notably in the Southern Lakes.

- The Government of Yukon, in partnership with the Water Survey of Canada, conducts long-term monitoring of large rivers and lakes in the Yukon. This monitoring provides daily mean and instantaneous flows and water levels in near real-time.
- Water Resources Branch uses satellite imagery, along with river aerial surveys, to monitor ice conditions upstream and downstream of the communities of Dawson and Old Crow in advance of spring breakup.
- In Budget 2021, the Government of Canada allocated \$25 million to the Government of Yukon for climate change initiatives.
- The Government of Yukon selected two projects for immediate funding beginning in 2022/23 – including \$880,000 to support flood forecasting and flood mapping.
- Flood mapping is a federal priority and is in the early stages of development in the Yukon. Most recently, the Department of Environment reached out to First Nations in the Southern Lakes region to seek their input on areas of interest to support studies and spatial data collection that will be used to develop flood maps in the Southern Lakes. This is also part of the flood recovery from last year's flooding.
- Prioritization for flood map development in the Yukon will be based on risk, community readiness, readily available data or work that is in progress, like the Southern Lakes.
- Weather conditions during the coming months will control: the timing of snowmelt; how quickly and how high rivers will rise; how river ice breakup plays out; and the magnitude of summer glacial melt – ultimately influencing the extent of potential flooding.
- Past and current Snow Survey Bulletins are available on [Yukon.ca/snow-survey](https://www.yukon.ca/snow-survey), and information on water levels for some Yukon lakes and rivers, including current advisories and flood warnings, is available at [Yukon.ca/water-levels](https://www.yukon.ca/water-levels).

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****2022 Flood Outlook and Preparedness**Community Services
Environment**Financial Background:**

- Eligible expenses for the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement may be reimbursed to the territory under a cost-sharing formula that is based upon and rates determined by the Government of Canada and prorated to the territorial population:
 - The first \$3.27 (per capita) of expenses will be borne by the territory. With an estimated population of 42,152, this equates to \$137,837;
 - The next \$6.56 (per capita) of expenses (approximately \$276,517) will be cost-shared. The Government of Canada will cover 50%;
 - The next \$6.56 (per capita) of expenses (approximately \$276,517) will be cost-shared. The Government of Canada will cover 75%; and,
 - For the remainder of eligible expenses, the Government of Canada will cover 90%.
- The Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement process with Public Safety Canada has started for the 2021 Southern Lakes Flood event and a dedicated resource is in place to support this process.
- The Yukon government has 5 years to bill back any response or mitigation expenditures from the event.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister of Community Services_____
Deputy Minister of Environment_____
April 19, 2022_____
Date approved_____
2022.04.19_____
Date approved

Recommended response:

- Since the Government of Canada's announcement to raise the federal benchmark on pollution pricing in 2021, we have been in discussions with our federal partners to assess how this benchmark will affect the Yukon.
- This includes reviewing current structured rebates issued to placer and quartz mining businesses here in the Yukon.
- Under the current federal carbon pricing system, the Government of Yukon issues annual rebates to mining operations based on the amount of fuel charge paid.
- 67(3)(a), 76(1)

Additional response:

- The Yukon has been supportive of the federal carbon pricing system to-date, and we welcome the federal government's new climate plan, *A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy*.
- Our government will continue to work with our federal counterparts to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory.

Third response:

- We continue to implement *Our Clean Future* to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions and, more broadly, to reduce the impact of the carbon levy on Yukoners.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Carbon Pricing**Environment

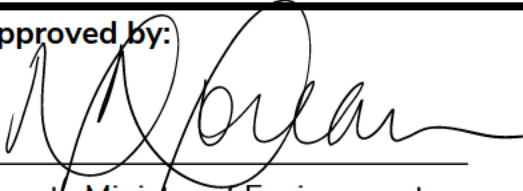
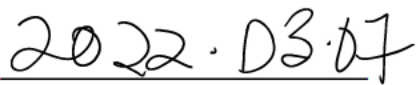
- Returning proceeds to individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations, and businesses is a critical part of our approach to carbon pricing in the Yukon.
 - Together, we will find solutions to reduce our emissions while strengthening our economy and supporting our industry partners.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Members from the placer and quartz mining industry may be interested in knowing how changes to the federal benchmark will affect the cost of carbon pricing and rebates issued by the Government of Yukon.
 - Jurisdictions will be required to submit their plans for meeting the revised federal benchmark to Canada by April 1, 2022.
-

Background:

- On August 5, 2021 the Government of Canada issued plans to increase the minimum national stringency standards for provincial and territorial carbon pricing systems, also known as the federal “benchmark” for pollution pricing. These standards will come into effect in January 2023. 67(3)(a), 76(1)
- The updated benchmark replaces the 2018-2022 benchmark and associated guidance and will apply for the 2023-2030 period.

Approved by:  Deputy Minister of Environment	 Date approved
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Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Mining Emissions
Intensity Target**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon continues to explore the best approach for reducing carbon emissions in the mining industry. Mining emissions are included in the Yukon's goal of becoming net-zero by 2050.
- Intensity-based approaches encourage mine operators to innovate and adopt low-carbon practices, regardless of how many mines are in operation in the Yukon. When we developed and engaged on *Our Clean Future*, this approach emerged as the best option for the industry to meet emissions targets.
- We are engaging third party consultants to help us develop options and will use this work for our future engagement with the Yukon's mining industry.

Additional response:

- Any approach needs to recognize the potential for substantial year-to-year fluctuations in the territory's mining emissions.
- Intensity-based targets encourage low-carbon efficiencies in operations without hampering the development of a healthy mining sector in the Yukon.
- More than one target or approach may be needed due to differences in activities between types of mining operations and lifecycle phases.

Third response:

- Department officials are currently analyzing how the Government of Canada's output-based carbon pricing system might impact the Yukon's planned intensity-based targets, which are expected to [be established by 2022](#).

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Mining Emissions
Intensity Target**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

- As part of the target, the Government of Yukon will launch new greenhouse gas emissions planning and reporting requirements for quartz mines.
- This work will help the mining industry contribute to a sustainable future while supporting the Yukon's overall economy.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- At the announcement for *Our Clean Future's* first annual report, the media repeatedly asked for an update on the mining intensity-based target.
- During the public engagement on *Our Clean Future*, concerns were raised that an intensity-based approach to mining emissions would mean that the Yukon's total emissions may increase or that industry is getting a "free ride".

Background:

- Action I9 in *Our Clean Future* is to establish an intensity-based greenhouse gas reduction target for the Yukon's mining industry and additional actions needed to reach the target by 2022.
- The greenhouse gas emissions target of net-zero by 2050 from the Yukon's entire economy includes mining emissions. The percentage of emissions from mining is variable year-to-year, contributing eight to 15 per cent of the Yukon's total greenhouse gas emissions from 2009-2019.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from mine remediation projects, including the Faro Mine Remediation project, will be captured under the mining intensity-based targets, not under the Yukon's 45 per cent by 2030 reduction target.
- Through fuel blending, we expect to reduce mining emissions by 25 kilotonnes in 2030, according to the modelling by Navius Research. While this action contributes to a significant reduction in emissions, further action is needed to reduce emissions in this sector.
- As detailed in *Our Clean Future*, quartz mines will be required to project their anticipated greenhouse gas emissions, identify measures to reduce emissions,

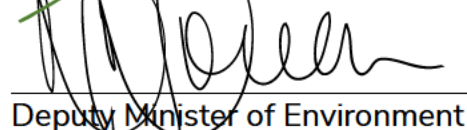
Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Mining Emissions
Intensity Target**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

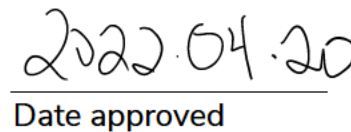
and annually report greenhouse gas emissions through the quartz mine licensing process beginning in 2022.

- These new requirements will make it possible for the Government of Yukon to track the sector's progress toward achieving the targets.
- The Output-Based Pricing System is part of Canada's approach to pricing carbon pollution for emission-intensive trade-exposed industries, such as mining. It is designed to encourage industrial emitters to innovate and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining competitiveness and minimizing carbon leakage. Quartz mines in the Yukon may be subject to the Output-Based Pricing System depending on their size. Discussions with the Government of Canada regarding the carbon levy and the impact of the output-based pricing system are ongoing.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Since May 2020, the Department of Environment has gathered input from various agencies, First Nations and municipal governments, academia, and the private and public sector to assess climate risks.
- The Yukon Climate Risk Assessment, built on the work of *Our Clean Future*, identifies the impacts of climate change which pose the highest risk to Yukoners, recognizes where resilience exists in the Yukon, and provides recommendations to enhance future resilience.
- It assesses how our built, natural, and social systems need to adjust to mitigate potential damages. It will also help us determine how we can take advantage of opportunities and cope with the consequences.
- We expect to release the final Yukon-wide climate change risk assessment report in spring 2022.

Additional response:

- The significant rising water levels leading to flooding in the Yukon over the summer and, even more recently, the disastrous flooding in southern British Columbia clearly demonstrates the need for assessments and analysis of the risks associated with climate change.
- The results of the Yukon-wide assessment will inform how actions in *Our Clean Future* can evolve and offer ideas for actions to enhance climate resilience in the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Climate Risk Assessment** Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Third response:

- Throughout the next year, the Government of Yukon will work to respond to the report's recommendations and engage with partners and stakeholders on issues where they are best placed to take action.
- In some cases, addressing the risks will lead to updates of the Government of Yukon's actions in *Our Clean Future*.
- The results from the Climate Risk Assessment can also help First Nations and communities plan their actions to support local climate change adaptation and address local climate risks.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There are public commitments to support climate change adaptation planning for Yukon communities to ensure they are resilient to climate change risks. The 2021 flooding in the Southern Lakes has increased public awareness about climate change risks.
- Given it is a mandate letter commitment; there may be questions about what a Yukon-wide climate change risk assessment will provide and when it is expected to be completed.

Background:

- The 2017 Office of the Auditor General's climate change audit found the Government of Yukon must complete a comprehensive, territory-wide risk assessment to prioritize adaptation actions. All provinces and territories across Canada received this recommendation.
- Risk assessments are typically carried-out on an ongoing basis.

CONFIDENTIAL

Session Briefing Note

ENV #22

Spring 2022

Climate Risk Assessment Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

- The corporate and Yukon-wide risk assessments were funded through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's Climate Change Preparedness in the North program.
- Across the Government of Yukon, departments are also developing structured approaches to ensure that climate change considerations are built into government decision-making. (see [ENV #24](#))

Approved by:



a/Deputy Minister of Environment

2022 02 03

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

03/02/2022
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Youth Panel on
Climate Change**Environment
Energy Mines and Resources
Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- We have made progress on many of the recommendations provided last fall by the first Youth Panel on Climate Change.
- In many instances, the Youth Panel's recommendations closely align with existing efforts being led by the Government of Yukon.
- Some recommendations require further consideration. Over the next year, we will continue to work with external partners and internal departments to explore how the full suite of recommendations can be addressed.
- We will prioritize recommendations that will make an impact on reducing emissions and life more sustainable for all Yukoners.
- I would like to once again thank the Youth Panel for its perspectives and contributions, and for reflecting youth climate change priorities in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- We are excited to welcome the second cohort of the Youth Panel on Climate Change.
- We launched the call for applications in December 2021. After receiving a total of 26 applications, 10 panelists were selected.
- The panelists include youth between the age of 13 and 25 who are representative of the cultural, gender and regional diversity of the Yukon. Seven are from Whitehorse and there is one each from Haines Junction, Pelly Crossing and Watson Lake.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Youth Panel on
Climate Change**Environment
Energy Mines and Resources
Executive Council Office

- The focus of this year's cohort will be on activities that build leadership, advocacy, and policy-making skills, and engaging with other Yukon Youth.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised on the Government of Yukon response to the 2021 Youth Panel on Climate Change recommendations, including when the recommendations will be implemented.
- Questions may be raised about the establishment of the second Youth Panel on Climate Change and what its focus is.

Background:

- *Our Clean Future* includes a commitment to creating a Youth Panel on Climate Change.
- The Panel is to provide advice and perspectives to the Government of Yukon on climate change, energy, and green economy matters which reflect the priorities of the Yukon youth.
- The inaugural Youth Panel on Climate Change (2020-21) presented its recommendations on October 15, 2021. The report, *Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change 2021 — Our Recommendations, Our Future — 27 Programs and Policies to Embolden the Yukon's Climate Action* was tabled in the Yukon Legislative Assembly October 18, 2021.
- The recommendations span a wide range of issues including education, capacity building, land use planning, Indigenous sovereignty, local transportation and food production, knowledge and policy creation, and mining and industry.
- The report, and the government's March 8, 2022 response, is available on the Government of Yukon's youth panel webpage.

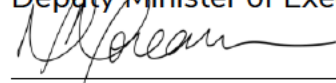
Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Youth Panel on
Climate Change**Environment
Energy Mines and Resources
Executive Council Office

- MLA Tredger submitted a petition in the house on March 22, 2022. It contained points urging the government to do more on climate change.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Executive Council Office

April 5, 2022



Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

April 7, 2022



Deputy Minister of Energy Mines and Resources

Date approved

07/04/2022

Date approved

Recommended response:

- As committed to in *Our Clean Future*, we are incorporating climate change impacts into the decision-making process for major Government of Yukon policies, programs and projects. This work is often referred to as applying a climate change lens.
- By applying a climate change lens, the Government of Yukon is:
 - assessing an initiative's impact on greenhouse gas emissions;
 - identifying appropriate greenhouse gas mitigation measures; and
 - addressing how initiatives may be affected by climate change-related risks, such as building highways so they do not crack and buckle as permafrost thaws.

Additional response:

- Our current focus is to build our internal capacity. We are developing guidance materials for departments and delivering training on how to apply a climate change lens.
- In turn, this work will support departments to identify, plan for and address climate change risks.

Third response:

- We also conduct federal climate lens assessments which consider greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation measures for proposed infrastructure projects valued over \$10 million.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Climate Change Lens**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resource

- One example is the Copper Haul Road fuel break project. As a result of the federal Climate Lens assessment, the project proponents identified measures to reduce equipment usage which lowered the project's greenhouse gas emissions. The project also increases resiliency to climate change by reducing wildfire risk to the Whitehorse community.
- We are committed to and will continue to make progress and build capacity to apply a climate change lens to our major policies, programs and projects.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised as applying a climate change lens is an action under *Our Clean Future* and a 2021 mandate commitment.

Background:

- Incorporating a climate change lens into the decision-making process for major Government of Yukon policies, programs and projects is a 2021 mandate commitment for Executive Council Office, with support from the Department of Finance and the Public Service Commission.
- *Our Clean Future* commits to continuing climate risk assessments for:
 - all major building projects over \$10 million that are built or funded by the Government of Yukon (Action H15); and
 - all major transportation infrastructure projects above \$10 million, such as through the federal Climate Lens assessment (Action T28).

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Session Briefing Note

ENV #24
Spring 2022

Climate Change Lens

Environment
Energy, Mines and Resource

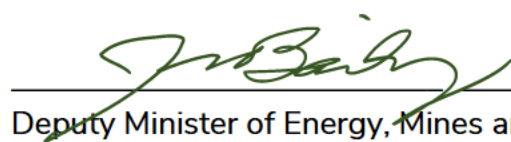
Approved by:



a/Deputy Minister of Environment

2022 02 03

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon Climate Leadership Council**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Climate Leadership Council was established in November 2021.
- As a working committee, the Council is responsible for developing recommendations on how the Yukon can achieve a 45 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, as compared to 2010 levels.
- The Council members have undertaken significant background research and analysis on various topics, including energy, transport, homes and buildings, leadership and agriculture.
- The Council will be providing its advice and recommendations for reaching this ambitious target by July 2022.

Additional response:

- Reaching the Yukon's 45 per cent greenhouse gas reduction target will require collaboration across the territory.
- By design, the Council's membership reflects the Yukon's diversity with representatives of different genders, cultures and regional backgrounds.
- The Council has 12 selected members, including representatives from Yukon First Nations, municipal governments, environmental organizations, the renewable energy sector, industry, labour, youth and the Yukon University.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon Climate Leadership Council**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Third response:

- We will be working directly with the Council to support its work and fulfill its mandate over the coming months.
- We look forward to receiving regular updates from the Council on its progress.

Context—this may be an issue because:

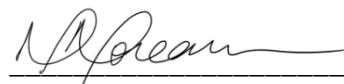
- The public and the Opposition may want to know who is part of the Yukon Climate Leadership Council and how it will fulfill its mandate.
- [The Yukon Climate Leadership Council is at the midpoint of its mandate, and there may be interest in what the Council has worked on so far.](#)

Background:

- The Confidence and Supply Agreement commits to new emissions reductions targets of 45 per cent by 2030. Recommendations on how to reach the new target are to be developed by a Yukon Climate Leadership Council by [July 2022](#).
- Other jurisdictions, including British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, established similar climate councils in recent years.
- The Government of Yukon sought applications for the Council in August 2021 and selected candidates based on technical experience, lived experience and traditional knowledge.
- Eleven members of the Council were announced November 3, 2021. A twelfth member was confirmed and appointed soon after.
- The Council's original deadline for submitting recommendations was extended to July 2022 to support the onboarding of committee members.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon Climate Leadership
Council**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

- Council members are meeting in person, approximately every three weeks, and collaborate using virtual platforms in the interim weeks. The co-chairs will deliver regular updates on the Council's progress.
- To date, the Council members have developed a terms of reference and a work plan.
- The Council's estimated budget is \$60,000 to support honoraria, meeting space, report development and design, and a facilitator.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

2022/04/14

Date approved



A/Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

2022/04/14

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Federal Climate Change
Funding**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- In Budget 2021, the Government of Canada allocated \$25 million to the Government of Yukon for climate change initiatives.
- The Government of Yukon has selected two projects for immediate funding beginning in 2022/23 – the Atlin Hydro Expansion Project for \$15 million and a Flood Forecasting, Mapping and Resiliency Program for \$950,000.
- These projects will enable immediate action on two fronts to support our renewable energy capacity and strengthen our ability to map, forecast, and plan for flooding events.
- The Atlin Hydro Expansion Project is central to reaching our 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas emission reduction goals under *Our Clean Future* and to implementing Yukon Energy Corporation's 10-Year Plan.

Additional response:

- We will allocate the remaining \$9.05 million this year towards other climate change related projects.
- These projects will be instrumental in reducing the territory's greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing climate resilience while building a greener low-carbon economy.

Third response:

- The \$25 million-grant provided by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada demonstrates our continued partnership to support tangible climate action in the territory.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Federal Climate Change
Funding**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

- This funding is in addition to support we have received from the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and Low Carbon Economy Fund for climate and energy initiatives in the Yukon.
- Through these initiatives, the Government of Yukon continues to deliver on and accelerate its climate commitments.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in what projects this funding will support.
-

Background:

- The Government of Canada's 2021 Budget commits \$25 million, in 2021-22, to the Government of Yukon to support its climate change priorities, in collaboration with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, and Environment and Climate Change Canada, with the former administering the funds.
- A number of Government of Yukon departments and agencies supporting a range of climate change and energy initiatives, including Environment, Energy, Mines and Resources, Community Services and the Yukon Development Corporation, will access the funding commitment.
- Both Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and the Our Clean Future Deputy Minister Committee approved a list of projects in November 2021.
- The two selected projects will directly support First Nations and transboundary Indigenous organizations, and other projects will support resilience in communities.

CONFIDENTIAL

#26

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

**Federal Climate Change
Funding**

Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:



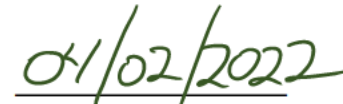
Deputy Minister of Environment

2022 04 04

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Recommended response:

- Extended Producer Responsibility is a waste management approach that shifts the responsibility for end-of-life management of product and packaging waste from municipalities, government, and taxpayers to producers and consumers.
- We recognize the existing recycling system in the Yukon is in a risky financial position and transitioning to Extended Producer Responsibility is essential to ensure the sustainability of recycling programs Yukoners have come to expect.
- In support of this, we have convened an Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Committee made up affected Yukon stakeholders who are best able to offer advice to inform the development of a draft Extended Producer Responsibility framework.
- This Advisory Committee will provide input on a variety of aspects, in particular the potential opportunities and challenges that may be faced by Yukon businesses.

Additional response:

- *Our Clean Future* includes commitments to implement Extended Producer Responsibility in Yukon by 2025 as part of an effort to increase waste diversion to 40 per cent by 2030.
- By transitioning, we will also be aligning with most other provinces in Canada which have established Extended Producer Responsibility programs or are taking steps to implement one.
- Priority product categories to be managed through Extended Producer Responsibility are packaging and printed paper, household hazardous wastes, and automotive wastes such as used oil and antifreeze.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Extended Producer Responsibility**Environment

Third response:

- We expect few, if any, cost increases to be passed on to Yukoners at places like the grocery store under any new Extended Producer Responsibility program.
 - Later this year, Yukoners will have the opportunity to weigh in on any proposed Extended Producer Responsibility framework.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised regarding the newly formed Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Committee and what it entails.
-

Background:

- In 2014, the *Environment Act* was amended to enable the creation of regulations for Extended Producer Responsibility.
- In April 2018, the Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste, comprised of government and municipal representatives, published *Recommendations for Actions Towards a Sustainable Solid Waste Management System for Yukon*. One of the central recommendations was to explore Extended Producer Responsibility with industry. This work was completed in 2021, and a report has been published and available online.
- The newly formed Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from local governments, the business community and recycling processors. It is currently working to provide recommendations to the Government of Yukon on developing an Extended Producer Responsibility framework.

Approved by:
A/Deputy Minister of Environment

Feb 3, 2022

Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**EMR #46****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Compliance Enforcement
Summary 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended Response:

- Compliance Monitoring and Inspections provides enforcement for legislation relating to lands, forestry and mining in the territory.
- In 2021, Natural Resource Officers completed over 1,000 inspections related to Lands, Forestry, Land Use, Placer Mining, Quartz Mining and the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*.
- Natural Resource Officers initiated 158 enforcement actions ranging from summary offence tickets to prosecutions.
- Offices in eight Yukon communities also provided and continue to provide front counter government services to Yukoners such as issuing personal wood cutting permits.

Additional response:

- Natural Resource Officers collaborate with the Department of Environment to inspect spills at mine sites, review the actions taken by site owners, and follow-up with enforcement measures as required.
- We continue to inspect spill sites to verify compliance and follow-up on corrective or enforcement measures as required for each spill.
- Should the Yukon face another year as we did in 2021 with record floods and ongoing pandemic response, our Natural Resource Officers are ready to provide whatever assistance is necessary.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is ongoing attention on the enforcement and monitoring of resource development in the Yukon.

CONFIDENTIAL**EMR #46****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Compliance Enforcement
Summary 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:**Compliance Monitoring and Inspections Branch:**

- The Compliance Monitoring and Inspections Branch has 26 Natural Resource Officers, with 21 officers stationed in eight communities (Dawson City, Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Mayo, Carmacks, Ross River, Teslin and Whitehorse) across the territory.
- The officers enforce nine different statutes and multiple regulations that manage public lands, forests, waters and mineral resources.
- The officers are designated under the *Quartz Mining Act*, *Waters Act*, *Forest Resources Act*, *Placer Mining Act*, *Environment Act*, *Territorial Lands Act*, *Lands Act* and *Federal Fisheries Act* in the Yukon.
- Out of 158 enforcement actions completed in 2021, over \$50,000 in fines was issued for violations of the *Environment Act*, *Forest Resources Act*, *Placer Mining Act*, *Waters Act* and the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*.

Major Mine Projects:**Victoria Gold, Eagle Mine** (See EMR BN #92)

- Last inspected on [March 22, 2022](#), with a [planned inspection before the end of April 2022](#).
- [Snow pack is above average in the area and spring freshet is expected to be significant. The company has been advised that all ditches must be free of snow and ice by April 1 and maintained over freshet to reduce risk of blockage.](#)
- Since July 2019, there have been 33 spills reported at the mine site. (See EMR BN #6)
- On June 8, 2021, the Government of Yukon issued a \$460-fine to Victoria Gold for the release of a contaminant and failure to contain a hazardous substance which occurred on March 15, 2021.

CONFIDENTIAL**EMR #46****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Compliance Enforcement
Summary 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Natural Resource Officers continue to inspect the site to verify compliance and follow-up on corrective measures as required for each spill and non-compliance issue.

Minto Mine (See EMR BN #96)

- Last inspection on [March 23, 2022](#). Next [planned inspection late April 2022](#).
- Water management on site is a concern for this upcoming winter/spring as the company has been unable to treat meaningful volumes of mine-impacted water and, as of December 2021, has reached adaptive management triggers for surge capacity on site.
- [The company was notified in February 2022 that operations were not in compliance with its water licence. Compliance Monitoring and Inspections issued direction on March 21, 2022 requiring the company to provide by April 1, 2022 further water management information and a contingency plan should available storage on the site reach specific thresholds during spring freshet.](#)
- [The company has met the requirements on the direction and had undertaken further water treatment proceeding with water treatment modifications on site.](#)
- [The company has failed to provide the increased security required under its licenses and is required to operate under stringent conditions to ensure environmental liabilities are reduced, including having to maintain sufficient storage capacity for contaminated water at all times. The company has until September 1, 2022 to furnish all remaining security or the site will be placed into temporary closure.](#)
- [Natural Resource Officers continue to regularly inspect the mine site and are actively working with the regulators, the company and Selkirk First Nation to monitor water treatment.](#)
- In mid-July 2021, the Government of Yukon issued Minto an inspection report containing corrective action to address non-compliance at the solid and special waste facilities. The company addressed the non-compliance.

CONFIDENTIAL**EMR #46****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Compliance Enforcement
Summary 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The company was also found to be in non-compliance with its Quartz Mining License (QML) relating to unauthorized active development work for the Minto North portal and underground workings. As such, Natural Resource Officers directed the company to cease these unauthorized works. A subsequent inspection on October 27, 2021 found that voluntary compliance was achieved (i.e., the company ceased the unauthorized activities).

Alexco Keno Hills Mine (See EMR BN #86)

- Last inspected [March 24, 2022](#), planned inspection [April 2022](#).
- [Snow pack is above average in the area and spring freshet expected to be significant. The company has been advised that all ditches must be free of snow and ice by April 1 and maintained over freshet to reduce risk of blockage.](#)
- In mid-September 2021 several non-compliance issues were identified under the Quartz Mining Act, the Waters Act and Environment Act:
 - exceedances in effluent quality;
 - non-compliance with solid waste and commercial dump conditions;
 - improper labelling and storage of special waste; and
 - required maintenance of dry-stack catchment ditches.
- Alexco was given until October 31, 2021, to correct many of the identified concerns. Officers inspected the site in early November 2021, and the company had undertaken significant works to address noted compliance issues.
- Alexco has exceeded its licensed effluent discharge of zinc, arsenic and ammonia at its water treatment facilities on several occasions over the past 12 months.
- The company has taken measures to improve treatment performance and has implemented changes of additional treatment measures to resolve these periodic exceedances.
- Alexco was issued a ticket for violating the conditions of its Commercial Dump Permit. Future violations of the Environment Act could lead to additional enforcement action.

CONFIDENTIAL**EMR #46****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Compliance Enforcement
Summary 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Public concerns were raised regarding blocking trail access with debris, Alexco has since restored public access.
- Natural Resource Officers continue to inspect the site to verify compliance and follow up on corrective measures as required for all non-compliance issues.

Whitehorse Gold/Tagish Lake Gold Corp

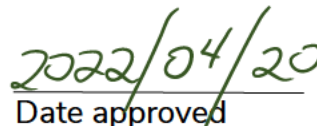
- The site was last inspected September 27, 2021, with a planned inspection in spring 2022.
- The company failed to comply with an Inspector's Direction issued pursuant to the Waters Act to cease the deposit of waste to a water body on the property. The compliance date was February 28, 2022.
- An increased enforcement response is under development as the company continues to deposit waste to water and is non-compliant with the Waters Act.
- The company has communicated that it is not undertaking exploration in 2022 and is not pursuing additional regulatory applications for a class 4 mining land use approval and water license.

Fireweed Zinc / Tom Property

- Last inspected September 1, 2021. Natural Resource Officers found issues of non-compliance concerning effluent exceeding water licence requirements and unacceptable drilling.
- Fireweed Zinc reported its December sampling results to CMI and were back within the effluent limits of its water licence.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


Date approved

Recommended response:

- Ensuring contaminated sites are cleaned up continues to be a priority for the Government of Yukon.
- One of the sites we oversee is the Wellgreen abandoned mine site, because if the tailings are not remediated, it is likely to cause significant environmental impacts.
- Remediation planning at this site has begun, and this year, we have budgeted \$3 million to complete the design for remediation and planning work.

Additional response:

- We understand the concerns raised by both Kluane First Nation and White River First Nation about the risks posed by this site if it is not remediated.
- These concerns and other considerations are addressed in the remediation plan that was submitted to the Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Board in 2020.
- In 2021, the Board recommended the remediation project proceed subject to terms and conditions and the Government of Yukon accepted the recommendation.
- 67(3)(a)

Third response:

- Even though the Wellgreen mill operated in the 1970s and was permitted by the Government of Canada prior to devolution, the site remains under the care and control of the Government of Yukon.

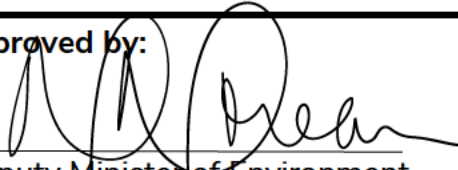
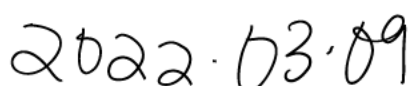
- The Department of Environment has initiated discussions with the Government of Canada and former owners of the site about cost recovery or cost sharing to clean up the site.
- 67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The proposed budget for remediation expenditures in 2022-2023 shows an increase of approximately \$3 million for design and planning of the Wellgreen site. This may result in questions from the Opposition.
- Media have been interested in this issue in recent years.

Background:

- The Wellgreen site is an abandoned mine originally developed to take advantage of the copper nickel sulphide deposit in the early 1970s.
- Based on an August 2020 remediation design report, the site represents an approximate \$16 million liability of closure remediation costs.
- Recent work has included an options analysis, an engineering study for closure and reclamation, a third-party review of the engineering study, and preparation of technical specifications for a request for proposal for a design-build contractor.
- Should the project be approved, a request for proposals will be issued through the public procurement process for 100% design and remediation work.
- The Government of Yukon is pursuing a collaborative agreement with the former owners and Canada. This could include a negotiated funding agreement for the current remediation approach.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Environment
Date approved

Recommended response:

- I would like to start by congratulating the City of Whitehorse and their private sector partners on starting the tank farm master planning process.
- I am happy to report the area of the former upper tank farm property designated for residential use has been remediated in accordance with the standards in the Yukon's *Contaminated Sites Regulation*.
- Development in those areas can proceed safely provided minimum buffer distances are maintained during site development.

Additional Response:

- Further development of the site will require approval from the Department of Environment as contaminated groundwater is still present on an eastern portion of the site.
- Though this contamination does not pose a risk to the Yukon public, the area remains designated as a Contaminated Site under the *Environment Act*.
- The Department of Environment will continue to share information and provide support and guidance to the City of Whitehorse on issues related to contamination at the former Upper Tank Farm property as they work to develop the master plan.

Third Response:

- We recognize that future tank farm lot owners might have questions about who would be responsible for any contamination found on their property in the future.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Tank Farm****Environment**

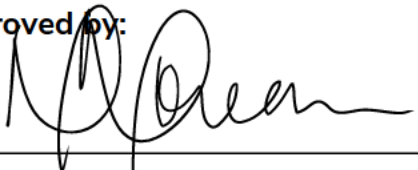
- Under the *Environment Act*, the polluter is responsible and liable for contamination.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On March 9, Minister Pillai delivered a Ministerial Statement regarding the development of the tank farm site; the Leader of the Official Opposition asked questions about whether the site was fully remediated and whether liability would be transferred to property owners, if any liabilities still exist.
-

Background:

- Extensive contamination was present at the tank farm property resulting from its use as a petroleum storage facility from 1942 and 1996.
- Due to this contamination, the Department of Environment formally designated the site under the *Environment Act*, this essentially gives the Department of Environment regulatory oversight of all on-site activities.
- Remediation work began in the late 1990s and the majority of the site is remediated to the standards listed in the *Contaminated Sites Regulation*.
- Confirming the remediation status, the Department of Environment has issued multiple Certificates of Compliance that cover the majority of the site. These certificates remove the designated status.
- If contamination was found on the site in the future, this would likely be handled through an agreement between the City, the current owner, and the future lot owner since the polluting entity no longer exists.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

2022.03.23

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Ensuring the security of Whitehorse's water supply is essential.
- We are working with the owner and the City of Whitehorse to reduce any potential risks to public health and the environment posed by the gas bar's underground fuel tanks.

Additional response:

- Since the City began monitoring in 2017, hydrocarbons have not been detected in groundwater monitoring wells near the tanks.

Third response:

- 67(3)(a)

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The underground fuel tanks at the Tempo fuel station at Super A in Riverdale sit above the aquifer supplying the City of Whitehorse's drinking water.
 - In the event the tanks become compromised, the drinking water source for the City may be impacted.
 - Issues with drinking water contamination have made headlines in other northern jurisdictions in recent months.
-

Background:

- The Tempo fuel station at Super A in Riverdale actively stores approximately 60,000 – 80,000L of fuel in underground fuel tanks.
- The tanks are located within the zone of influence for the City of Whitehorse's primary drinking water well. The top of the groundwater table sits only 15 feet

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Session Briefing Note

Super A Tanks

TAB 36

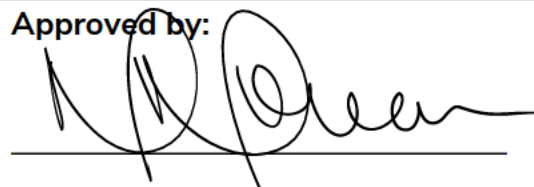
Spring 2022

Environment

below the surface. At depth, the tanks are likely a few feet above (or possibly in) the water table.

- In the event of a release from the fuel tanks, hydrocarbons could contaminate the City's current drinking water supply. Contaminated soil and groundwater may be extremely difficult to clean up.
- 67(3)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii)
- 67(3)(a)
- 67(3)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii)
- 67(3)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii)
- 67(3)(a)
- 67(3)(a)

Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Environment

2022.04.22

[Date approved]

CONFIDENTIAL

Session Briefing Note

ENV #40
Spring 2022

Implementation of Domestic Sheep and Goats Control Order

Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- On January 1, 2020, we issued a Control Order requiring owners of sheep or goats to meet testing and fencing requirements to prevent disease spread to wild thimhorn sheep and mountain goats.
- The order was issued because healthy domestic animals can carry a bacteria known as *M. ovi*, which can cause devastating respiratory disease if spread to wild sheep and goats.
- The Control Order is a precautionary measure to safeguard the health of the Yukon's iconic wild sheep and goats.
- While the bacteria has not yet been documented in the Yukon's wild sheep or goats, our concern is that it would be hard to control if it did.

Additional response:

- We have been working with farmers since 2019 to complete animal testing and upgrade fencing to ensure compliance with the order.
- There is no cost to farmers for testing and they can apply for compensation for eligible costs incurred to comply with the order.
- Over \$195,000 of federal funding has been paid to owners for fencing costs, and almost \$270,000 of Government of Yukon funding has been paid to compensate owners for losses and the destruction of animals that tested positive.
- While compensation has been set to the maximum allowable under federal legislation, a Control Order Appeal Board has been established

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Session Briefing Note

ENV #40
Spring 2022

Implementation of Domestic Sheep and Goats Control Order

Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources

so farmers can access an independent review of decisions made under the Control Order.

- Following a hearing in February 2022, an appeal of the compensation amount awarded to one producer was granted by the Control Order Appeal Board.

Third Response:

- Since the Control Order came into effect, one farmer in the Yukon was convicted of an offence under the *Animal Health Act* for failing to comply with the order and sentenced to surrender his goats.
- This conviction and sentence was upheld on appeal by the Yukon Supreme Court, but an appeal of the decision by the Supreme Court to allow officials to enter the premises and remove the goats is underway.
- This written decision on the charge reinforces the importance and validity of the Control Order to protect the health of the Yukon's wildlife.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on the recent court case regarding non-compliance with the Control Order.
 - The Control Order Appeal Board has recently closed its first appeal under the Control Order, granting the farmer a slight increase in compensation.
-

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Session Briefing Note

ENV #40
Spring 2022

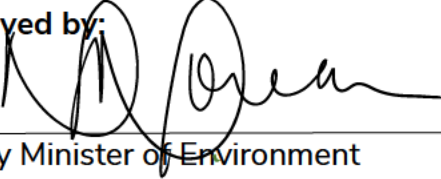
Implementation of Domestic Sheep and Goats Control Order

Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The Yukon has the largest population of wild thinhorn sheep in Canada. This iconic species is of great intrinsic and commercial value.
- The Government of Yukon has made commitments to support the agriculture industry and economy to promote self-sufficiency and sustainable growth.
- One farmer has been charged for failing to comply with the Control Order because they possessed goats that were not within an enclosure approved by an inspector.
- On October 23, 2020, the farmer was found guilty of failing to comply with the fencing requirement. The farmer was granted an appeal on April 22, 2021. Supreme Court Justice Edith Campbell upheld the conviction and sentence in a decision rendered on December 22, 2021.
- Another farmer who received compensation submitted an appeal in September 2020. This required the creation of a Control Order Appeal Board. The Control Order Appeal Board was approved on August 5, 2021.
- A number of circumstances, such as service delivery delays due to COVID-19 and the territorial election in March 2021, delayed getting the Control Order Appeal Board approved.
- An appeal hearing took place in February 2022 and the appellant was granted a slight increase in compensation.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Environment

2022.04.27

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

2022/04/26

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Animal Care—Horses**Environment

Recommended response:

- Earlier this year, the Department received several complaints regarding 35 to 40 horses in poor condition located at a property on the Klondike Highway.
- We initiated an investigation and while we cannot comment on this ongoing investigation, we can confirm that feed is currently available to these horses.
- At this time, the owner has voluntarily sold many of their horses, leaving a much more manageable population in their care. We continue to be in contact with the owner.
- We take all investigations seriously, and proper investigations take time.

Additional response:

- Our objective in response to any animal welfare complaint is to work with the owner to achieve compliance so animals are not in distress.
- We want to ensure the owner understands their responsibilities to provide a standard of care for their animals. We provide advice, support and assistance to them as we investigate the situation.
- If we find evidence of animals in distress, orders issued under the *Animal Protection Act* can require that the owner take the steps necessary to relieve that distress. This includes providing feed, water, shelter and care.

Third response:

- Charges can be laid up to a year after an investigation begins. The office of the Crown Prosecutor will determine what evidence is required and sufficient to lay charges under the *Animal Protection Act*.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Animal Care—Horses****Environment**


- Animals are considered private property of the owner, and custody would only be granted to government in advance of a court decision if evidence of distress met a standard that would be upheld in the courts.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Media reports in January alleged that horses are in poor condition on the North Klondike highway. They will want to know the steps we took when we received complaints/concerns from the public.
-

Background:

- The Government of Yukon is developing new legislation to address situations involving animal protection and welfare. Between 2016 and 2019, we completed a comprehensive review of our animal control and protection legislation in the Yukon.
- Where livestock are concerned, the Department of Environment works closely with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. In this case, they are investigating offences under the Pounds Act related to the horses being at large on Crown Land.
- If an investigation concludes with the Crown Prosecutor laying a charge, the relevant information is made public.
- The most recent report from the owner is that they currently have fewer than 15 horses, and intend to reduce that number as soon as possible.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Environment

2022.04.05
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Avian Influenza**Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is collaborating with Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service to monitor wild birds for highly pathogenic avian influenza (also referred to as HPAI).
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza can cause illness in wild birds, domestic birds (poultry) and rarely in humans.
- There have not been any cases confirmed in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- We will facilitate testing for wild or domestic birds suspected of having highly pathogenic avian influenza.
- The Agriculture Branch and the Animal Health Unit are providing guidance to poultry owners on how to protect their birds from avian influenza.

Third Response:

- Yukoners can help prevent outbreaks of avian flu by:
 - Reporting sick, injured or dead birds, particularly waterfowl and scavengers, to the TIPP line at 1-800-661-0525. Leave the bird where it is, it is best not to handle these birds yourself.
 - Protecting your poultry. Avian influenza can spread through shared water sources, through contact with droppings and shared environments. Keep your poultry in a secure enclosure, ideally with a roof, and away from outdoor uncovered water sources where wild birds congregate.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Avian Influenza**Environment

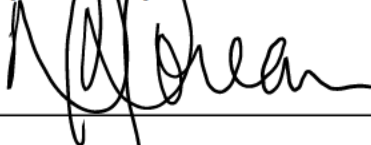
- Do not feed or handle wild birds. Feeding wild birds encourages birds to congregate which can aid the transmission of avian influenza within or between species.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Highly pathogenic avian influenza has been identified in wild birds and domestic poultry in a number of provinces across the country this spring.
- There have not been any cases confirmed in the Yukon but this could change with spring migration.

Background:

- Avian influenza viruses exist in wild bird populations worldwide, and have for a long time.
- Avian influenza viruses are classified as ‘highly pathogenic’ when a strain causes mass disease and death in birds.
- Avian influenza is a reportable disease under the federal *Health of Animals Act and Regulations* and is a reportable hazard under the *Yukon Animal Health Act*.
- The Government of Canada takes the lead on avian influenza monitoring and response activities, with coordination and assistance from the provinces and territories.
- The Animal Health Unit is prepared to respond to suspected cases of avian influenza by collecting samples and submitting them to the appropriate laboratory for testing. Partners in the federal government (Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency) lay out these procedures.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

2022-04-21

[Date approved]

Prepared for Minister Clarke
Department of Environment

Date prepared: April 19, 2022
Last Updated: N/A
Page 2 of 2

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Watson Lake dogs**Environment

Recommended response:

- We are aware of the aggressive dogs in Watson Lake.
- Our Animal Health Unit is in contact with Liard First Nation about this issue and remain connected to offer supports as needed.
- Liard First Nation have animal **control** bylaws in place, and authority to enforce their bylaws.

Additional response:

- The Animal Health Unit is committed to working with Yukon communities to improve dog care and public safety through the Community Dog Care Initiative.
- In the past, we have provided Liard First Nation information and support on equipment to help in the capture of dogs, dog tags, collars, doghouses, and financial assistance programs for dog veterinary services.

Third response:

- If you are no longer able to support your dog, we encourage you to look into our Voluntary Surrender Program, which places dogs for adoption with Humane Societies.
- We all have a role to play in dog management – from owner, to community to governments.
- The Government of Yukon is developing new legislation (Animal Protection and Control Act) to provide broader protection of animal welfare and better support enforcement when uncontrolled animals threaten people, property, or the environment.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Watson Lake dogs****Environment**

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There has been recent media attention regarding aggressive dogs attacking another dog in Watson Lake.
 - The public may be seeking answers as to what the Government of Yukon is doing to address aggressive, out of control dogs in the Yukon.
-

Background:

- Watson Lake has been experiencing issues with out of control dogs in the community.
- Under Liard First Nation Bylaws, animals and dogs running at large or abandoned will be detained and impounded or destroyed by the enforcement officers.
- The Government of Yukon does not lead response to animal control issues that are under First Nation or municipal authority. The Government of Yukon provides support upon invitation of the First Nation.
- In 2016, the Government of Yukon established the Community Dog Care Initiative in order to reduce problems created by dogs and to improve the care of dogs in Yukon communities.
- Options under the Community Dog Care Initiative include:
 - Reducing the number of unwanted dogs in the community (including the Voluntary Surrender Program);
 - Improving access to veterinary services;
 - Protecting people from uncontrolled dogs; and
 - Working together to improve awareness and education.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

2022.04.26

[Date approved]

CONFIDENTIAL**#46****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Wildlife Act Regulations -
Moose Management**

Environment

Recommended response:

- Moose is the most-harvested species by Yukon hunters and are an important species culturally.
- In some areas, the combined licensed and subsistence harvest of moose is at, or above, sustainable levels – especially areas that are easy to access.
- Starting this 2022 hunting season, moose hunting will change in three moose management units.
- This includes establishing a threshold hunt for the Mayo moose management unit. This hunt will open on September 1, and the threshold will be set at 11 moose.
- In addition, the South Canol and Sifton-Miners Range moose management units will be put on permit. Yukoners can apply for a hunting opportunity in these areas through the Permit Hunt Authorization lottery starting April 22, 2022.
- Limiting harvest in these moose management units is essential to ensure that moose populations stay healthy and licensed harvest opportunities remain available over the long term.

Additional response:

- Yukoners might recall that these changes were posted for public feedback by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board in 2019 and early 2020.
- When determining a sustainable harvest amount for a particular moose management unit we use the *Science-based Guidelines for the*

CONFIDENTIAL**#46****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Wildlife Act Regulations -
Moose Management**

Environment

Management of Moose in Yukon with other moose population information that is available.

- We combine information gathered from harvesters, First Nations, and community partners with results from our targeted scientific surveys so that management decisions are informed with the best and most currently available data.
- In 2021, the Department of Environment conducted four moose surveys for the Lower Stewart River, the Teslin River, the Sifton-Miners Range, and the Whitehorse South area, including Fish Lake, Wheaton River, and Mt. Lorne. We are currently analyzing the data from these surveys.
- Preliminary results from the Sifton-Miners Range survey confirm that the population is at risk of being overharvested.
- The number of Permit Hunt Authorizations available is based on the sustainable harvest. We consider allocations for subsistence use and non-resident harvest, where applicable, and the varying success rates of permit holders.

Third response:

- Government of Yukon is committed to supporting moose management planning at the regional and traditional territory scales. We rely on wildlife surveys, cumulative effects information, and habitat management planning to promote healthy moose populations.
- This planning work can result in collaborative recommendations for harvest restrictions and additional, more flexible, and responsive moose management tools.

CONFIDENTIAL**#46****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Wildlife Act Regulations -
Moose Management**

Environment

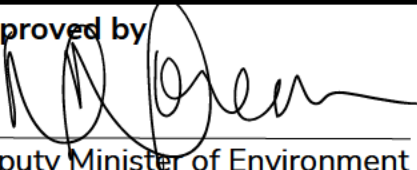
- Where applicable and when moose populations are higher than expected, it also allows us to adjust permit numbers and allow more harvest opportunities.
- We manage human activities to protect wildlife populations. We prevent excessive impacts to wildlife populations through our environmental assessment and harvest management programs.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Permit and threshold hunts limit licensed harvest opportunities. The Opposition may have questions about the new harvest restrictions.

Background:

- In addition to the harvest data collected each year, which offers the Department of Environment an excellent view into whether a moose population is being harvested sustainably, targeted moose surveys are also conducted to estimate population sizes. (see BN #51)

Approved by
Deputy Minister of Environment

2022.04.01

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022*****Wildlife Act Conformity with Land Claim Agreements***

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Department of Environment is aware of inconsistencies between the *Wildlife Act* and the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.
- Inconsistencies between the *Wildlife Act* and these agreements create confusion by not fully enabling the implementation of the rights and responsibilities contained in the agreements.
- Amendments to the *Wildlife Act* would provide operational clarity and certainty when it comes to the interpretation and implementation of land claim agreements in Yukon.

Additional response:

- Updating the *Wildlife Act* will not be an easy task, but the Government of Yukon is open to a discussion about modernizing the Act, should it be prioritized and supported by Yukon First Nations governments.

Third response:

- One of the priorities of the Yukon Forum Fish and Wildlife Working Group is reviewing how Chapter 16 of the Final Agreements is being implemented today, almost 30 years following the signing of the Umbrella Final Agreement.
- This important work looks at how we can improve on the ways we are already working together and realizing the vision of the final agreements.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Wildlife Act Conformity with Land
Claim Agreements**

Environment

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Department of Environment has received letters from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and two First Nation governments requesting that the department undertake amendments to the *Wildlife Act* to resolve issues of non-conformity with the First Nations Final Agreements.

Background:

- Since the signing of the Yukon First Nations Final Agreements, the Department of Environment has tracked and pursued amendments to the *Wildlife Act* to resolve inconsistencies between the Act, Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.
- Like other statutes, undertaking revisions to the *Wildlife Act* is a process that can take several years to complete and requires prioritization and explicit support, including those from First Nations governments and other partners.

Approved by:
a/Deputy Minister of Environment

6 Feb 2022

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Human-Wildlife Conflict**Environment

Recommended response:

- It is not unusual to see bear activity at any time of year, and fittingly the Department of Environment is increasing public education on winter bear awareness.
- We all must do our part, every day, to prevent conflicts with bears, foxes, lynx, and other wildlife.
- Restricting year-round access to potential food sources like garbage, birdseed, poultry, and livestock is the most important and effective thing Yukoners can do to avoid property damage and keep ourselves and wildlife safe.
- Keep your pet close or on a leash while in the bush, and carry bear spray all year round.
- We encourage Yukoners dealing with aggressive wildlife or who witness someone feeding wildlife, such as foxes, to contact conservation officers by calling the Turn in Poachers and Polluters (TIPP) line.

Additional response:

- It is not uncommon for wildlife to visit rural residential properties at certain times of the year, especially in areas where plants are available for feeding.
- Wildlife can become aggressive if they feel cornered or threatened.
- Ensuring public safety is a priority for our conservation officers. They have a range of tools to help residents discourage wildlife from coming onto the property and reduce human-wildlife conflict generally.
- This may include site visits to assess the risk to the public and the animal.

Third response:

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Human-Wildlife Conflict**Environment

- Destroying wildlife, including bears, is a last resort, only after all other measures have failed or if the bear's behaviour poses an immediate public safety risk.
 - So far in 2022, no bears have been euthanized by conservation officers or destroyed by members of the public in defence of life or property.
-

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners often have concerns about human-wildlife conflict, and the issue is frequently raised in the media or brought up in the Legislature.
-

Background:

- Prevention is the best way to avoid human-wildlife conflict. The Department of Environment continues to raise awareness with brochures and communication initiatives to help minimize conflicts between people and wildlife.
- A big part of the conservation officer's role is to proactively minimize human-wildlife conflicts by providing education on managing attractants.
- Managing waste and compost remains a responsibility of the City of Whitehorse within city limits. Through the Whitehorse Bear Working Group, the Department of Environment, the City and Wildwise Yukon work to prevent human/bear conflicts.

Approved by:
a/Deputy Minister of Environment

6 Feb 2022

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon Species at Risk Act**Environment

Recommended response:

- Most other jurisdictions have specific legislative tools to list and conserve species at risk. Such legislative tools are also a priority for the Government of Yukon.
- Species assessed and listed under the federal Species at Risk Act are afforded legal protection in the Yukon and undergo mandatory recovery planning.
- We actively participate in national status assessments done by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, and species recovery plans.
- With foresight and planning, the Yukon has an opportunity to benefit from the hard lessons learned in other parts of Canada and the world and prevent the endangerment of species such as woodland caribou and grizzly bears as our territory makes decisions about how to further develop our infrastructure and economy.

Additional response:

- A timeline to complete a new legislative framework for species at risk depends on several factors, including determining how the new legislation would interact with existing federal and territorial laws and requirements.
- Completion will also require significant time and effort from our many partners. Respecting the current need to focus on more immediate priorities, we will continue to enhance our knowledge and research so we are ready when our partners are to develop this new legislation.
- In the interim, the Government of Yukon will continue to actively manage and steward species at risk using various existing legislative tools.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon Species at Risk Act****Environment**

- This includes the Boreal Caribou Section 11 Conservation Agreement signed in 2019 with Canada, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Gwich'in Tribal Council to protect the species and its critical habitat.

Third response:

- We continue to work collaboratively with our partners in the territory, including First Nations, the Inuvialuit, wildlife management boards and councils, interest groups and other government orders on species at risk conservation.
- Our efforts to ensure that species such as wood bison, woodland caribou and grizzly bears continue to have viable populations in the Yukon are guided by management plans the Government of Yukon developed with First Nations, Inuvialuit, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council – North Slope, and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.
- The Yukon Conservation Data Centre continues to track the locations and status of lesser-known and globally-rare Beringian species that are unique to northwestern North America. This information is used in global reporting of biodiversity change and environmental assessments.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Opposition members and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Yukon) regularly criticize Yukon's lack of species at risk legislation; Yukon is one of the few remaining jurisdictions in Canada without discrete legislation.

Background:

- Yukon South Beringia is home to many rare, unique, and at-risk species found only in this region, including plants known nowhere else in the world and wide-ranging species at risk such as caribou, grizzly bears, and wolverine.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon Species at Risk Act****Environment**

- Currently, 43 species listed as being at risk under the federal Species at Risk Act exist in the Yukon, and another ten species have been recommended for listing.
- Species assessed and listed under the federal Species at Risk Act as Threatened or Endangered have legal protection and undergo mandatory recovery planning at a national level under the federal Species at Risk Act.
- Our biologists contribute to federal species risk assessment and recovery planning as part of Yukon's commitment under the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk.
- The Government of Yukon receives funding from the federal government for species at risk research, monitoring, and stewardship, including \$343K for bats, bears, bison, caribou and wolverine (2020-2021), and \$188K for Boreal caribou (2018 -2022). Much work has been done or is underway, but conservation of these species requires an ongoing effort.
- The Department of Environment has undertaken research and policy work, including a jurisdictional scan to review existing legislation, enforcement mechanisms and management tools to address species at risk. This initial work has also included consideration that Canada and national conservation organizations may look to Yukon to protect populations of wide-ranging, iconic species doing well here but poorly elsewhere in Canada or the world (e.g., bison, caribou, bats, bears, and wolverine).

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

2022-04-05

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon North Slope Wildlife
Conservation and Management Plan**

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) formally recommended a new Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Yukon North Slope and is seeking endorsement from the Inuvialuit and governments of Yukon and Canada.
- The Government of Yukon has communicated support along with the other parties, and we are currently discussing how to recognize this important occasion.
- Yukon's co-management of this area with the Inuvialuit is an integral part of reconciliation and supports the implementation of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*.

Additional response:

- The plan focuses on conservation for diverse wildlife and habitat, including the Porcupine caribou herd and its range, adaptation to climate change, and managing activities to conserve traditional Inuvialuit use of the area.
- Implementation of the plan supports initiatives that bring socioeconomic benefits to Inuvialuit communities and businesses and Yukon firms through economic activities consistent with the conservation regime on the Yukon North Slope.
- Implementation will be supported through federal funding that the Government of Yukon receives specifically to implement the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon North Slope Wildlife
Conservation and Management Plan**

Environment

Third response:

- The plan recommends the parties to the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* consider an Inuvialuit-led conservation designation in Aullaviat /Aunguniarvik [All-luv-iat / An-gun-niar-vik], the Eastern Yukon North Slope.
- The Government of Yukon is discussing this recommendation with the parties to the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* through separate and ongoing negotiations.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in this recommended plan as it applies to a vast area in north Yukon and outlines ways to protect key habitat for Porcupine caribou, polar bears, grizzly bears, and migratory birds, as well as sustain Inuvialuit traditional use of the region.

Background:

- The *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* mandates the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) to prepare a Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Yukon North Slope.
- The plan directs and guides activities that align with area's highest values of conservation of wildlife and diversity, and continued Inuvialuit traditional use.
- The previous plan was created in 2003 and guided the research and management activities on the Yukon North Slope.

Approved by


Deputy Minister of Environment2022.03.02
Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**#51****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Wildlife survey and data collection**Environment

Recommended response:

- The Department of Environment is committed to collecting robust data to provide high-quality, up-to-date information for decision-making.
- To do this, we combine information from harvesters, First Nations and community partners with results from our scientific research and monitoring so that management decisions are well-informed.

Additional response:

- In 2021, the Department of Environment conducted four moose surveys for the Lower Stewart River, the Teslin River, the Sifton-Miners Range, and the Whitehorse South area, including Fish Lake, Wheaton River, and Mt. Lorne.
- We are currently analyzing the data from these surveys, and preliminary results from the Sifton-Miners Range survey indicate that the population is at risk of being overharvested. (see [BN #46](#))
- In 2021, we also collected data on several caribou herds, which included collaring caribou from the Porcupine, Fortymile, Hart River, Coal River and Wolf Lake herds.
- In addition, we conducted surveys for other harvested species, like wolves, deer, bison, sheep, and fish, and non-harvested species, like pika, bat, and ground squirrel.

Third response:

- We prioritize which areas to survey based on a combination of factors, including harvest levels, access, community concerns, land-use planning data needs, how long it has been since an area was last surveyed, and human activities taking place nearby.

CONFIDENTIAL**#51****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Wildlife survey and data collection****Environment**

-
- For those interested, our research and monitoring activities are publicly available at Yukon.ca.
-

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners want to know that wildlife conservation decisions are being made with the best available data. The Official Opposition has raised concerns about the quality of data collection in the past.
-

Background:

- Yukon's growing human population advances in fishing and hunting technologies and climate-change influences have placed significant pressures on our fish and wildlife resources. As such, the need for monitoring has increased. Yet, due to inflation and limited resources, the capacity for conducting surveys has decreased.
- The Department of Environment conducts targeted population inventories, collects harvest data, and performs ecological assessments annually to collect up-to-date information.
- In 2021, the department spent approximately \$680,000 for moose surveys and \$535,000 for caribou-related data collection.
- Data collected on several caribou herds in 2021 included the Chisana, Aishihik, Tatchun, Hart River, Ethel Lake, Clear Creek, Carcross, Ibex, Laberge, Little Rancheria, Finlayson, and Wolf Lake herds.

Approved by:
a/Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

February 3, 2022
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Finlayson Caribou Herd**Environment

Recommended response:

- The size of the Finlayson caribou herd peaked in 1990, and since then, the department has monitored a declining trend in the size of the herd.
- We continue our efforts to work with Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council to stabilize the number of Finlayson caribou, including addressing harvest levels.
- In order to address our shared concerns for the herd, no resident hunting permits have been issued for Finlayson caribou since the 2018-2019 hunting season.
- Outfitter quotas are also set at zero for this herd. This was a commitment we made in 2018 that continues today.

Additional response:

- Since the closure of the licenced harvest of Finlayson caribou, we have continued to monitor the herd with annual composition surveys.
- Composition surveys provide estimates of adult sex ratios and calf recruitment and allow us to monitor long-term population trends.
- We plan to conduct a population survey of the Finlayson caribou herd in 2022 and will share the results on Yukon.ca.

Third response:

- We have invited Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation to participate in the upcoming population survey.
- We will review the survey results for the Finlayson caribou herd with Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation during our management discussions.
- Any future licensed harvest of this herd would require agreement by all three parties.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Finlayson Caribou Herd****Environment**

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Official Opposition has asked about the status of the herd management plan, data collection and wildlife surveys and what actions have been taken to promote the recovery of the herd itself.
 - Ross River Dena Council has strong concerns about caribou populations and potential overharvest within its asserted traditional territory.
-

Background:

- The department introduced a Permit Hunt Authorization for the Finlayson caribou herd in 1998, issuing 30 permits annually until 2018.
- Between 2012 and 2016, the licensed harvest of Finlayson caribou, including outfitter guests, averaged fewer than 10 bulls per year.
- No licenced hunting opportunities have been made available for the Finlayson caribou herd since 2018.
- The population estimate in 1996 was 4,537 animals, which had declined to 2,712 animals in 2017.

Approved by:

a/Deputy Minister of Environment

Feb 3, 2022

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****ATIPP—Wildlife Data Management
and Access**

Environment

Recommended response

- The Department of Environment received two access-to-information requests to release all available raw data for Yukon and transboundary radio-collared caribou herds and muskox.
- The Department refused these access requests in full as the raw data requested includes the animals' geographical locations at specific points in time as well as other types of critical conservation data collected by their collars.
- The release of this raw data could be harmful to the species and would jeopardize our relationship with our wildlife co-management partners who agree that the release of raw data poses too great a risk for these species and in many cases paid for all of part of the data collection.

Additional response:

- Together with our management partners, we are committed to ensuring wildlife population data, including caribou and muskox, is made available to the public whenever possible. This information is available through:
 - our self-serve online data - for example, the Yukon Conservation Data Centre and Wildlife Key Area GIS datasets;
 - our study or survey summary sheets;
 - our technical reports and scientific publications;
 - in-person and social media presentations we provide to a wide range of audiences; and
 - data-sharing agreements.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****ATIPP—Wildlife Data Management
and Access**

Environment

Third response:

The Department of Environment offered both Applicants the opportunity to enter into a “Data Sharing Agreement.”

- This agreement would safeguard the raw data from being shared further or misinterpreted and respect our co-management partners’ concerns.
- Data sharing agreements are commonly used by the Department and reflect responsible data stewardship.

Context—this may be an issue because:

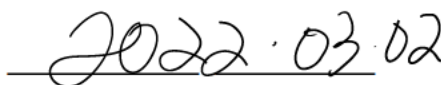
- Yukon’s Information Privacy Commissioner ruled the ATIPP requested location data ought to have been released to the public by the Department of Environment. The Official Opposition has expressed interest in wildlife data collection and use in the past.
-

Background:

- The Department of Environment gathers or receives data on at least 29 caribou herds. At least 15 of those herds are transboundary and overlap with Alaska, Northwest Territories, and British Columbia.
- The radio-collar relocation data (GPS, VHF, Satellite) for all of the caribou herds within the Yukon that the Department of Environment gathers and receives is not solely owned and managed by the Government of Yukon. Much of the radio-collar data the Department gathers and receives is either paid for in-part or entirely by external partners.
- The management of these herds involves partnerships with Territorial, Provincial and State governments, First Nations governments, Co-management Boards and Councils like the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), Inuvialuit Game Council, Porcupine Caribou Management Board, and many others.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment



Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Transfer Payment Agreement to
the Yukon Fish & Game Association**

Environment

Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon has a working relationship with the Yukon Fish and Game Association, and staff at the Department of Environment are in regular contact with the organization's leadership.
- The Yukon Fish and Game Association is an important partner in educating hunters and anglers, and participates in Fish and Wildlife planning and other related meetings important to wildlife management.

Additional response

- We continue to support the association's operations through an annual funding agreement.
- While the annual budget for this agreement remains unchanged at \$60,000, ^{67(3)(a)}

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Fish and Game Association has been critical of prior funding reductions, from \$70,000 in 2020 to \$60,000 in 2021. The 2022-2023 Main Estimates indicate that the association will receive \$60,000 ^{67(3)(a)}
which may lead to renewed questions about how the department funds the association.

CONFIDENTIAL

#54

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

**Transfer Payment Agreement to
the Yukon Fish & Game Association**

Environment

Background:

- Yukon contributes annual funding, in two-year agreement intervals, to support the Association's operations and engagement with the Department of Environment.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Environment

2022 03 02

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Tagish Habitat Protection
Area**

Environment

Recommended response

- Establishing the Tagish River Habitat Protection Area and completing a management plan is a commitment under the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement and an important step in reconciliation.
- In September 2021, the plan Steering Committee provided a final recommended management plan to the governments of Canada, Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Yukon for review, consistent with the requirements of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement and following extensive public engagement.
- The Parties are following their respective review and approval processes to bring the planning exercise to completion.
 - We expect that the signing ceremony will take place this Spring.

Additional response:

- The main issue raised by community members during engagement was related to a recommendation to reduce shoreline development and use, specifically docks.
- It will be important for the implementation committee to come up with timely, creative and workable ways to address concerns with shoreline development, as local residents look to re-build and repair following last year's historic flooding event.
- You can find more information at Yukon.ca and tagishriverhpa.com.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Carcross/Tagish First Nation has publicly commented on the Yukon Environmental & Socio-economic Assessment Board consultation, that the plan is approved.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Tagish Habitat Protection
Area**

Environment

- During public engagement on the draft plan, some members of the public expressed strong opposition to potential dock removal on their property. This opposition was also expressed through a petition signed by 42 waterfront property owners.
 - Carcross/Tagish First Nation has expressed public concern with a local residents' proposal to undertake shoreline erosion control work adjacent the Tagish HPA area, work that is currently under review through the Yukon Environmental & Socio-economic Assessment Board.
-

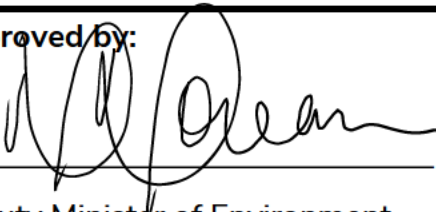
Background:

- The Tagish River Habitat Protection Area is within the Traditional Territory of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation; it does not encompass any Settlement Lands.
- The planning process was initiated in 2015 through a Steering Committee with representatives from the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, the Government of Yukon (departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources) and the Government of Canada, with participation by the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council and the Tagish Local Advisory Council.
- In developing the plan, the Steering Committee held extensive community meetings and events. They met with Carcross/Tagish First Nation Elders, the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council and the Tagish Local Advisory Council. They also engaged with subject area experts (e.g., water quality, fisheries, land management, etc.), sent a questionnaire to residents, and conducted interviews with citizens.
- The committee heard concerns regarding the shoreline, water use, swan (and wildlife in general) disturbance, and access to the Tagish River.
- A What We Heard Report reflecting the comments received during public engagement is available on Yukon.ca and tagishriverhpa.com
- The Government of Yukon has kept the Taku River Tlingit First Nation informed about the planning process, 76(1)

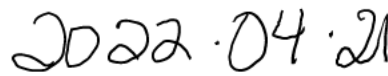
Regular updates have been distributed 76(1)

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Tagish Habitat Protection
Area**Environment

- Government of Yukon staff from the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources are working together to ensure consistency in process and approach between the Tagish River Habitat Protection Area and the Tagish Local Area Plan.
- The three parties have approved the management plan, and are preparing a signing ceremony and joint news release.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment



[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022*****Wildlife Regulation Amendments*
— April 2022**Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to sustainable management of the Yukon's wildlife to ensure populations remain healthy and resilient, now and for future generations.
- Recent amendments to the *Wildlife Regulation* contribute to those objectives.
- The amendments to the regulations were made in response to recommendations from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and based on a thorough public review process.

Prohibition on Roadside Hunting of Grizzly Bears south of Whitehorse on select roadways

- Roadside hunting of grizzly bears is now prohibited south of Whitehorse on select roadways.
- This change was proposed by the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council, and supported by Carcross/Tagish First Nation.
- The prohibition is in effect 100 metres from either side of the centre line on select roadways. Maps detailing this ban are available on Yukon.ca.
- As per the Conservation plan for grizzly bear in Yukon, a local community may request the Minister prohibit roadside hunting of grizzly bear on other roadways in the Yukon.

Hart River Caribou Herd

- An adaptive management framework is now in place for the Hart River caribou herd.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022*****Wildlife Regulation Amendments***
— April 2022

Environment

-
- This management framework will not result in any immediate changes to licensed harvest opportunities for Yukoners. Hunters with a caribou seal will automatically receive a *Wildlife Act* permit for this herd.
 - The change will allow for the future management of this herd, including possible threshold hunts or permit hunt authorizations.
 - Any management changes for the Hart River caribou will be discussed with our partners Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

Nelchina Caribou Herd

- The Nelchina caribou herd will be open for licensed harvest on December 1, 2022.
- Specific details of the management of this harvest will be decided with our partners the Kluane First Nation and White River First Nation.
- Details about this new hunting opportunity will be announced later in the season.

Ddhaw Ghro Snowmobile Prohibition

- The use of snowmobiles in the Ddhaw Ghro [Dah-Grow] Habitat Protection Area is prohibited to protect one of Yukon's most sensitive landscapes.
- Implementing this regulation change supports a recommendation in the management plan for this area.

Bison Hunters Can Now Harvest Coyote and Wolf by Snowmobile

- Bison hunters are now able to harvest and recover wolves and coyotes using snowmobiles while bison hunting in designated routes of Game Management Zone 5.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022*****Wildlife Regulation Amendments*
— April 2022**Environment

- This regulation change was requested by the Alsek Renewable Resources Council.

Conservation Fund

- To correct an administrative barrier, the regulations were amended to allow the Minister of Environment to access monies in the Conservation Fund.
- The revenues of this fund are accrued from court fines imposed for *Wildlife Act* violations and hide and pelt sales the department receives. The fund currently holds about \$160,000.
- This creates new funding opportunities for Yukoners and organizations for projects that support conservation, protection and management of wildlife and habitat.
- The department will develop a Terms of Reference describing how monies will be spent from the Conservation Fund, including the application process, review timelines and reporting requirements.

Third Response

- The Department of Environment works to manage human impacts on fish and wildlife using regulatory tools that are responsible, sustainable and informed by scientific, local and traditional knowledge.
- When drafting the recently passed *Wildlife Regulations* amendments we sought the input of Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Yukon public.
- We believe these amendments will help to ensure that the Yukon's wildlife populations are sustainable now and into the future.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022*****Wildlife Regulation Amendments***
— April 2022

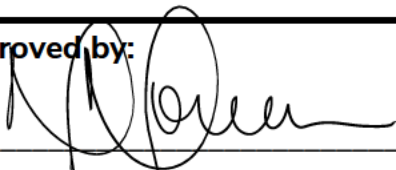
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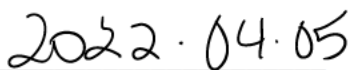
Context—this may be an issue because:

- On March 30, 2022 the Commissioner signed the *Regulation to Amend the Wildlife Regulation and the Conservation Fund Regulation*. Members of the Yukon public and the Opposition may have questions about the changes.

Background:

- Typically, every two years the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board has an intake of proposals for regulation changes to the *Wildlife Regulation*, *Trapping Regulations* and *Yukon Territorial Fishery Regulations*.
- Anyone, including individuals, councils, boards, public, groups and governments, can submit proposals for regulation changes.
- The Yukon government has obligations to consult the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the public and First Nations when changing regulations.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**#68****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Parks Strategy Implementation**Environment

Recommended response:

- Territorial parks and campgrounds are popular among Yukoners and visitors alike.
- They provide excellent recreation and tourism opportunities.
- During the 2021 camping season we hosted over 52,000 people at our road-accessible campgrounds.
- Yukon residents set a new record for campground use, accounting for more than 36,000 of campsite-nights.
- Since the Yukon Parks Strategy was released in fall 2020, we have been working to implement its 24 strategic actions.
- Our short-term completed actions include:
 - Introducing a longer serviced campground season, from May 1 to September 30; and
 - Establishing regulations to modernize our park fees. (see [BN #6](#))

Additional response:

- Implementation of the Park Strategy will continue to involve collaboration with First Nations and Inuvialuit, including partnerships and opportunities for public participation.
- Our actions underway include:
 - developing an online payment system to pay nightly camping fees at a discounted rate, beginning May 1;
 - initiating the development of a system plan to guide the establishment of new parks; and
 - engaging with First Nations on the development of a new campground within two hours of Whitehorse (see [BN #69](#)).

CONFIDENTIAL**#68****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Parks Strategy Implementation****Environment**

- Further actions to come this year include:
 - providing opportunities for public input to modernize park regulations; and
 - creating more year-round recreation opportunities in territorial parks.

Third response:

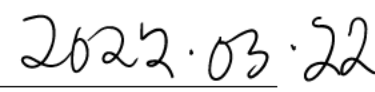
- We are committed to implementing the strategy, setting our long-term direction for Yukon's territorial parks system through to 2030.
- Our longer term initiatives include:
 - providing more accessible wilderness experiences through enhanced front-country and backcountry trails;
 - piloting a new campsite reservation system; and
 - developing a new campground within a two-hour drive of Whitehorse.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about what actions have been completed or are currently underway since the release of the Yukon Parks Strategy in Fall 2020.

Background:

- The Yukon Parks Strategy identifies strategic actions to implement a vision focused on protection, reconciliation, public service and public benefits.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Environment
Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**#69****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****New Campground Planning**Environment

Recommended response:

- I am pleased to share that work is underway to select a new campground location.
- Six Yukon First Nations, whose Traditional Territories are within two hours drive of Whitehorse, were invited to discuss possible campground locations and partnership opportunities with the Yukon Parks Branch.
- We are working with First Nations to identify a location that would meet the requirements for the new campground laid out in the Yukon Parks Strategy.
- Yukoners will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the new campground after a final location has been selected in consultation with affected Yukon First Nations.

Additional response:

- To get to the construction phase, we will also need to complete the necessary planning and design work.
- The new campground will provide economic opportunities for First Nations and the private sector. There will be opportunities to bid on tenders for campground design, construction and ongoing operations.
- The new First Nations procurement policy will be followed to enhance economic outcomes for Yukon First Nations people and businesses.

Third response:

- In addition to being located within a two-hour drive from Whitehorse, the new campground:

CONFIDENTIAL**#69****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****New Campground Planning**Environment

- may be larger with up to 150 campsites;
- have a rustic atmosphere with well-spaced campsites;
- have a quiet zone available; and
- provide active recreation opportunities, like hiking trails.
- We will also continue to add sites to existing campgrounds over the next few years, such as additional walk-in sites at 67(3)(a) and 67(3)(a)

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the Government of Yukon's progress towards establishing a new campground, as committed to in the Yukon Parks Strategy.

Background:

- Establishing at least one recreation park (campground) within two hours of Whitehorse is a commitment under the Yukon Parks Strategy - Strategic Action 4.5.1. (see BN #68)
- Other recent improvements to existing campgrounds include the addition of seven new walk-in campsites and upgrades to the day-use area at Marsh Lake campground with a new change house and more accessible parking.
- Planning is also underway to upgrade day-use areas at Lake Laberge and Pine Lake campgrounds.

Approved by:
a/Deputy Minister of Environment2022 02 07
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****McIntyre Creek Park****Environment**

Recommended response:

- We have initiated discussions with the City of Whitehorse and will be following up with the affected Yukon First Nations, Yukon University, and local stakeholders, towards the creation of McIntyre Creek Park

Additional response:

- The McIntyre Creek area supports a diversity of habitats important to wildlife, including wetlands.
- It is also known to be an important cultural area for both the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
- Yukon University recognizes the importance of the area to support field-based learning and research.

Third response:

- We acknowledge and respect that this is an area with several concurrent planning processes already underway.
- This includes the development of the City of Whitehorse's new Official Community Plan: Whitehorse 2040, the development of the Yukon University Campus Master Plan, and the Lu Zil Mabn [Sloo Zill Mun] Fish Lake Local Area Plan.
- We will continue to work with affected parties to discuss the park's development and ways to ensure the environmental protection of McIntyre Creek moving forward.

Context — this may be an issue because:


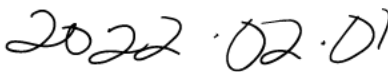
- There may be questions about progress towards the commitment to begin the process to create McIntyre Creek Park.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****McIntyre Creek Park****Environment**

- There has been a longstanding interest from a number of groups and stakeholders to establish a park in this area, including Friends of McIntyre Creek, Yukon Conservation Society, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, and the Porter Creek Community Association.
-

Background:

- The area of interest covers approximately 4600 hectares, divided into three zones: upper, middle, and lower McIntyre Creek.
- The majority of the area is City of Whitehorse lands. The Government of Yukon, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation all have lands within the proposed area.
- Additional interests in this area include mineral holders, gravel extraction, and other commercial and institutional land tenures like Icy Waters and the Yukon University.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Environment
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon Forum Working
Groups-Regional Land Use
Planning**Environment
Energy, Mines, and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations are working together through the Yukon Forum to advance reconciliation and collaborate on important Yukon issues.
- One focal area is the work and priority actions of the Regional Land Use Planning Working Group.
- In addition to supporting efficient regional land use planning processes, actions include completing a legislative review and leading a funding review under Chapter 11 with the Government of Canada.
- These priorities will guide future regional land use planning and can help ensure success for planning commissions.

Additional response:

- The Yukon's Premier, Ministers, and Chiefs met in Ottawa with the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations in December 2018 to discuss the funding needed to complete the remaining regional land use plans.
- The 2019-2020 funding adequacy review found that there was \$4,338,622 remaining in the federal funding allocation for Regional Land Use Planning.
- This represents adequate funding for Regional Land Use Planning in the Yukon through to 2024.
- We are committed to advancing regional planning and continue to meet with First Nations to further Chapter 11 planning processes.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon Forum Working
Groups-Regional Land Use
Planning**Environment
Energy, Mines, and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:


- There may be questions about the need for more and progress of regional land use plans.
- Mandate letter commitment: Complete the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan and advance the planning process for other regions to ensure proactive engagement (2021).

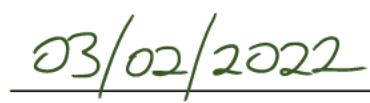
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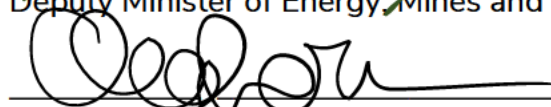
- In accordance with the Yukon Forum's Joint Priority Action Plan, which identifies Chapter 11 land use planning as a priority, leaders of the Government of Yukon, First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations developed a strategic approach to restarting and improving regional land use planning in the Yukon.
- The approach entails working together to implement a number of strategic recommendations to fulfill four Priority Objectives:
 1. Set up commissions for success by:
 - examining the roles of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, Planning Commissions and the Parties;
 - reviewing and agreeing on a broadly applicable process for regional land use planning; and
 - reviewing the information requirements of regional land use planning.
 2. Support several land use planning processes concurrently inside and outside of Chapter 11.
 3. Conduct a legislative review of First Nations and the Government of Yukon laws.
 4. Lead the 2019-2020 review of funding adequacy for regional land use planning under Chapter 11.
- The Yukon Forum Working Group has been meeting with the Yukon Land Use Planning Council monthly to continue to move forward with the implementation of Priority Objectives 1 and 2 (see above).

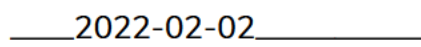
Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Yukon Forum Working
Groups-Regional Land Use
Planning**Environment
Energy, Mines, and
Resources

- Priority Objective 3 is being implemented through multiple initiatives, including the Successor Resource Legislation Working Group, which is advancing work to replace the *Lands Act* and *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* with new lands legislation.
- Executive Council Office leads the Yukon Forum coordination, corporate communications and funding adequacy negotiations on behalf of the Government of Yukon in order to address Priority Objective 4.
- The Premier, Cabinet Ministers, the Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations, and Chiefs of Yukon First Nations sit at the main table and speak to agenda items.
- Representatives from First Nations organizations (e.g., Assembly of First Nations) and transboundary First Nations groups may attend meetings as observers.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

A/Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****ATAC Access Road/Beaver River
Land Use Planning Process**Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Government of Yukon remain committed to the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement that supports a proposed tote road and calls for the completion of a land use plan for the Beaver River Watershed and a road access management plan before road construction occurs.
- We have been advancing the land use planning process for the Beaver River watershed. We have completed three stages of public and stakeholder consultation and are working towards completing the plan in early 2023. The work plan is available on Yukon.ca.
- We remain committed to completing a road access management plan with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and ATAC resources, and recognize that the completion of the Beaver River Land Use Plan will help inform the development of this plan.

Additional response:

- The Beaver River land use planning process is not an Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 11 planning process. It comes out of the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Government of Yukon that supports the proposed ATAC tote road.
- In November 2020, the Government of Yukon did not approve a permit for ATAC Resources Ltd. to construct a tote road in the planning area.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****ATAC Access Road/Beaver River
Land Use Planning Process**Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources

-
- The Beaver River Land Use Planning Committee met with ATAC Resources Ltd. in early March 2022 to initiate discussions and work towards the completion of a Road Access Management Plan, as provided in Section 2 of the Intergovernmental Agreement. The Committee will meet with ATAC Resources Ltd. again in the coming weeks.
 - If ATAC Resources Ltd. wishes to submit another road access management plan, it will need to reconsider the mitigations proposed to better address issues identified in the Record of Decision.
 - The Government of Yukon will continue to accept and review applications from all claim holders in the area who plan to carry out exploration programs. Any applications submitted will follow the regular assessment, review, and approval processes.
 - Through this planning process, we are working to address concerns about the potential impacts of the proposed road on moose and other wildlife species, including harvest considerations for those species.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Mandate letter commitment: Complete the Dawson Land Use Plan and advance the planning process for other regions to ensure proactive engagement (2021).
-

Background:**ATAC Mining Land Use Application**

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****ATAC Access Road/Beaver River
Land Use Planning Process**Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources

-
- ATAC Resources' proposed 65-kilometre, all-season road project crosses settlement land and includes upgrading existing trails, construction of a new road, three access-control gates and numerous river crossings.
 - In February 2018, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun signed the ATAC Road Agreement. According to the agreement, a land use plan and a road access management plan must be finalized before any road construction occurs.
 - On November 27, 2020, the Chief of Mining Land Use concluded that an authorization to construct the road would not be issued on the basis that ATAC's application did not reflect the Road Access Management Plan and Wildlife Adaptive Monitoring Plan.
 - This decision does not affect the Government of Yukon's ability to decide regarding a future application for an all-season road. The nature of any future submission will determine what assessment and regulatory review processes may be required.

The Beaver River Land Use Planning Committee


- In 2018, the Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun established the Beaver River Land Use Planning Committee and tasked it with the development of a recommended land use plan; road access management plan; and a fish and wildlife harvest, monitoring and management plan.
- The Beaver River Land Use Planning Committee is re-engaging with ATAC on the Road Access Management Plan and Fish and Wildlife Adaptive Management plan, in hopes of reaching agreement.
- In December 2021, senior officials of the parties were assigned to oversee the work of the planning committee and the completion of deliverables identified in the agreement.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****ATAC Access Road/Beaver River
Land Use Planning Process**Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources**Prohibition Orders**


- An Order-in-Council under the Quartz Mining Act and Placer Mining Act prohibiting entry for mineral staking is in effect until January 1, 2023, for a one-kilometre-wide area along the length of the proposed road. Existing claims in good standing are not affected.

Moose Management

- Harvest pressure on moose in the Mayo area is a crucial concern.
- Moose population estimates indicate a declining population in the Moose Management Unit that surrounds Mayo and covers a portion of the Beaver River area.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources2020/04/25

Date approved

Deputy Minister of Environment2022.04.22

Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**#91****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Placer Mining in
Wetlands**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

Recommended response:

- We support an approach to wetlands management that enables environmentally responsible development and manages the impacts of activities, including placer mining, on wetlands.
- We continue to work with our partners and stakeholders to complete a wetlands stewardship policy that will guide how we make decisions. (see BN#2)
- We will also be carefully considering the recommendations within the draft Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, which includes guidance for wetlands use and conservation.
- Currently in the Indian River area, we are following an interim approach for placer mining. This approach protects the most sensitive areas (bogs and fens) and requires proponents to develop a wetland reclamation plan for Class 4 projects that overlap wetlands.

Additional response:

- Our regulators continue to work with industry to clarify reclamation planning requirements and review submissions.
- We are committed to continue to improve our knowledge and understanding of wetlands, their location, function and the effectiveness of restoration activities.
- We thank the Yukon Water Board for holding its public interest hearing on 'Placer Mining in Wetlands'. We are considering their recommendation to establish a technical advisory committee on wetlands.

CONFIDENTIAL**#91****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Placer Mining in Wetlands**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment**Context — this may be an issue because:**


- The issue of placer mining in wetlands is important and complex; increasing development pressure from placer mining in wetland areas coupled with polarizing calls for wetland protection versus development has launched wetlands to the forefront of public discussion.
- Several parties, including First Nations and the placer mining industry, are closely watching the Government of Yukon's progress on wetlands management.
- The Draft Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, currently under review, recommends protections for wetlands in some areas and limitations on the development of wetlands in other areas, including the upper Indian River watershed.

Background:

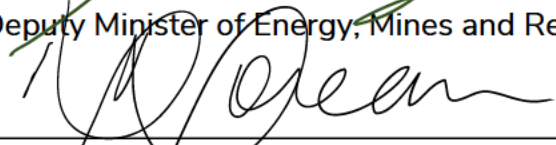
- Placer mining in wetland areas has been going on for decades. With the onset of rising gold prices 15 years ago, the pace and scope of these activities accelerated along the Indian River.
- In January 2017, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work collaboratively to resolve the Indian River wetlands issues.
- In 2017, the Department of Environment received government direction to develop a Yukon-wide wetlands policy in collaboration with partners. Several workshops and roundtable discussions were held with First Nations, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, the Water Board, industry and other stakeholders.
- Public engagement on the draft wetlands stewardship policy occurred from October 4 until December 3, 2021. An online roundtable meeting with partners took place on November 16 and 17, 2021.
- The Government of Yukon brought the Indian River interim approach into effect on January 15, 2020. This measure protects 40 per cent of existing fens and 100 percent of existing bogs found within placer authorizations.

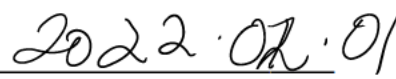
CONFIDENTIAL**#91****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Placer Mining in
Wetlands**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

- In October 2020, the Yukon Water Board held a hearing in the Public Interest on "Placer Mining in Wetlands."
- In August 2021, the Yukon Water Board released its "What We Heard Report" for the Public Interest Hearing on Placer Mining in Wetlands. The Board recommended the Government of Yukon work with First Nation governments, industry and other key stakeholders to establish a *Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection, Use and Reclamation of Yukon Wetlands*. 76(1), 74(1)(a)
- Released in June 2021, the Draft Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, currently under review by the Parties, recommends elements of protection for the region's wetlands, with additional special protection in areas including the upper Indian River watershed.

Approved by:

 Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources


 Date approved


 Deputy Minister of Environment


 Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Department of Environment
COVID-19 response**

Environment

Recommended response:

- As the state of emergency in response to COVID-19 has ended, following the guidance outlined in Forging Ahead: The Yukon's Continuing Response to COVID-19, the Department of Environment is shifting from a pandemic world to an endemic one.
- We will continue to follow the advice of public health professionals and monitor the situation as it evolves.
- Since the pandemic started, the Department of Environment maintained services to Yukoners, and our front counters remained open every weekday. We did this while continuing to ensure potential risks for staff, clients and our partners were minimized.
- As we move towards managing and living with the virus, the department is re-evaluating the delivery of services. While they may have been altered to meet previous public health guidelines, moving forward, we may have better ways to serve the public.

Additional response:

- During the state of emergency, we continued to fulfill our responsibilities and support the public's and industry's sustainable pursuits in the environment through essential roles like conservation, parks and environmental protection officers services.
- We successfully supported licensed hunting and fishing activities, selling 18,444 fishing licences and 5,755 hunting licences in the 2020-21 season.
- Parks staff worked to make sure necessary travel, sanitation, hygiene practices and staff training were in place to allow for a safe and early opening of Yukon's campgrounds season last April.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Department of Environment
COVID-19 response**

Environment

- The department contributed a significant amount of staff time to the front-line of *Civil Emergency Measures Act* enforcement and border check stops.
- Several departmental staff were also temporarily deployed to assist the Emergency Coordination Center, the Health Emergency Operations Centre and to assist with the vaccine rollout effort.
- I am proud of the work Environment staff has done to support government-wide efforts to respond to COVID-19 and their continued focus in providing services despite the uncertainty this pandemic has caused.

Third response:

- The department's remote work arrangements helped ensure the ongoing health and safety of employees and communities while still delivering essential services.
- Even though mandated measures have changed, mask-wearing will continue to be strongly encouraged in public-facing services, in crowds and where physical distancing is a challenge.
- As we move into this post-emergency world, I look forward to welcoming more staff back to the office.

Context — this may be an issue because:


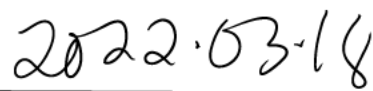
- The Opposition may ask what impact COVID-19 has had on the Department of Environment's service levels.
- There may be questions on staff returning to work and the lifting of measures on March 18, 2022.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Department of Environment
COVID-19 response**

Environment

Background:

- On March 18, 2020, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, under the *Public Health and Safety Act*, declared a public health emergency in Yukon in relation to COVID-19.
- On March 23, 2020, employees were directed to work from home.
- After being in place for 17 months, the Yukon's state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic expired on August 25, 2021.
- On October 15, 2021, the vaccination requirement for Yukon government employees was introduced requiring employees to be vaccinated by November 30, 2021.
- On November 9, 2021, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, declared a public health emergency in Yukon in relation to COVID-19. Supplementary guidance to reduce the number of employees physically in the workplace was re-introduced.
- On March 2, 2022, Yukon government announced plans to lift all remaining COVID-19 public health measures in the territory.
- Although the State of Emergency ended on March 17, 2022, the Department of Environment continues to strongly encourages staff and clients to follow the safe 6, plus 1 guidance.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Environment
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****COVID-19 Government Wide Note**Health and Social
Services

Recommended response:

- It is expected that COVID-19 will present an endemic risk for many years to come. We must continue protecting our health care system and our vulnerable populations. But now, we must start learning how to live with this virus and minimize its impacts on our daily lives.
- *Forging Ahead: Yukon's Continued Response to COVID-19* outlines our goals for ensuring the safety and well-being of Yukoners and how we will adapt to COVID-19 becoming a normal part of our lives.
- This plan includes the steps we are taking to limit the spread of disease, ensure Yukoners are connected to the social, mental and physical health supports and services they require, and move forward with our plan to help Yukoners to succeed.
- Throughout the pandemic and the Yukon's safe and measured reopening, our government has followed the advice and recommendations of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. We will continue to do so.
- While we expect the State of Emergency to be lifted at or before its current timeframe, should the need arise we will respond quickly and effectively, as we have throughout the pandemic as informed by evidence and the needs of Yukoners.

Additional response:

- COVID-19 continues to have a disproportionate impact on our most vulnerable, including seniors, Elders, those with precarious or insecure housing, individuals living with chronic conditions, and unvaccinated individuals.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****COVID-19 Government Wide Note**Health and Social
Services

- Forging Ahead reaffirms our commitment to ensuring all Yukoners remain safe, and outlines the steps we are taking to keep these vulnerable populations protected from COVID-19 and its unintended consequences.
- Our one government approach and close collaboration with communities, First Nations, local partners and non-government organizations allows us deliver the appropriate level of health and social care required to meet our community's needs and remain responsive to their concerns.
- We are well-positioned to increase supports and surge capacity should the need arise. Rapid Response Teams will remain available to provide targeted COVID-19 testing when necessary, and all eligible Yukoners who wish to receive their COVID-19 vaccine will be able to do so.
- We expect to keep a self-isolation facility in Whitehorse operational until at least March 2022, and person-centered social supports and services are being provided in Whitehorse and in communities.
- Targeted public health measures developed by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health are in place for settings such as schools, Whitehorse Correctional Centre, the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter and health care facilities, including Yukon hospitals.
- Moving forward, we are focused on reducing the number of people susceptible to COVID-19 and its variants through partnerships with First Nation governments and First Nations, increased vaccination, maintaining our testing capabilities and the capacity of our health and social care system, providing supports to our most vulnerable, and implementing targeted measures to the areas of highest risk.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****COVID-19 Government Wide Note**Health and Social
Services

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is significant and ongoing interest in the Yukon's plans for moving forward while COVID-19 continues to present a threat.
-

Background:

- The Yukon initially declared a State of Emergency on March 27, 2020. It was lifted on August 25, 2021 but with the arrival of the Delta variant, it was reinstated on November 8, 2021.
 - Public health measures under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* (CEMA) and the *Public Health and Safety Act* (PHSA) remain in place. These include limits on capacity and gathering sizes, requiring proof of vaccination in designated settings, mandatory vaccine for public servants and frontline health care workers and mandatory masking for public indoor spaces.
 - Under the *Public Health and Safety Act*, the Chief Medical Officer of Health is responsible for monitoring, investigating, and responding to a communicable disease. The Act and the *Communicable Disease Regulations* provide the Chief Medical Officer of Health with a number of authorities to ensure the health and safety of Yukoners.
 - The Yukon's original reopening plan, *A Path Forward: Yukon's Plan for Lifting COVID-19 Restrictions*, was released on May 15, 2021 and was informed by the available evidence on COVID-19, risk assessments and timelines for developing and delivering a vaccine.
 - On March 5, 2021, an updated plan, *A Path Forward: Next Steps*, was released and outlined the thresholds for easing public health measures while also ensuring the health and safety of Yukoners.
 - An endemic can be understood as the stable spread of a disease from person-to-person without significant exponential growth amongst a population; or, the presence of a disease within a population but at a rate that does not see widespread transmission.
-

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

COVID-19 Government Wide Note

Health and Social
Services

- Despite having one of the highest vaccination rates in Canada, the Yukon was one of the first jurisdictions in the world to see how quickly COVID-19 could spread amongst a highly vaccinated population.

Approved by:

70(1)

February 9, 2022

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Housing Issues**Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

- As we know, homelessness has far-reaching consequences that impact everyone in this community. The substance use health emergency alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, have placed additional pressures on the local support network, demonstrating increasing need for affordable and supportive housing to help our vulnerable sector.
- We are seeing housing prices increase and vacancy rates drop, and we know that too many people are struggling to find adequate and affordable housing.
- That is why across government, we are working with stakeholders to develop new land parcels, increase housing stock, and to explore innovative approaches to help address housing supply solutions.
- We are also working on initiatives to create more Community Housing options that support the development of a full housing continuum across the Yukon.
- We are moving forward with the implementation of the federal Northern Carve Out, from the National Co-Investment fund, to build new housing for Yukoners.
- Our new approach to housing for employees aims to decrease the housing cost disparities in communities, further incentivize private sector investment in housing, and prioritize the government's existing staff housing units to the critical needs for community well-being.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Housing Issues**Yukon Housing Corporation

Additional response:

- We are guided by the Safe at Home Plan, the Housing Action Plan for Yukon, the Aging in Place Action Plan, and the Putting People First report to work with our partners on initiatives from housing with support services, to Community Housing, to private market rental, to home ownership.
- In November 2020, we launched the Canada Yukon Housing Benefit, a rental subsidy for low to moderate income households to help Yukoners with housing affordability.
- We continue to offer capital incentive programs for partners and are starting to see both small and large-scale successful housing developments that will be ready for occupancy in the months ahead – we are proud to be working with partners to provide Yukoners with places to call home.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, Yukoners have been facing housing challenges including increased housing prices and low vacancy rates.
- The recently declared substance use health emergency in the Yukon and closure of Chilkoot Trail Inn has added strain on the housing crisis.

Background:**Measures during COVID-19:**

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, housing prices in Whitehorse have continued to climb.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Housing Issues**Yukon Housing Corporation

Housing Action Plan and Safe at Home Plan:

- The 10-year Housing Action Plan (HAP) for Yukon was launched in 2015 and provides guidance on housing priorities for the territory.
 - A committee made up of key housing stakeholders and partners from across the territory oversees its implementation.
- The Safe at Home Community Based Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness (Safe at Home) was launched in November 2017.
 - The Safe at Home plan was developed by the Government of Yukon, the City of Whitehorse, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and a number of local NGOs.
 - The Safe at Home Society, oversees implementation, under direction of the key stakeholders, and recently released a three-year progress report.
 - The Safe at Home Society was recently awarded \$10 million under the Northern Carve-Out of the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, \$5 million in funding under the federal Rapid Housing Initiative 2.0, and \$1 million in funding for YHC's Housing Initiatives Fund - for a 55-unit supportive housing project proposal.

Land:

- The Government of Yukon continues to make land available to support the construction of new housing for Yukoners. This includes land development work in Whistle Bend and in Yukon's communities, and work towards releasing the 5th and Rogers parcel in Whitehorse for future development.
- The Land Development Branch is implementing an integrated land development program to maintain lot inventories across the Yukon, support private sector development and support First Nations in developing their land for citizen housing.
- The Government of Yukon continues to build on partnerships with First Nations, municipalities, private sector, non-government organizations, and others in our ongoing efforts to ensure Yukoners have access to safe, affordable and adequate housing options across the Yukon. In recent developments:
 - We are supporting housing needs of some of the Yukon's most vulnerable citizens, by providing a suitable parcel of land to the Council of Yukon

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First Nations, to build a new Whitehorse shelter for women and children who are victims of violence.

- We are working with the Northern Community Land Trust Society to provide land parcels for construction of affordable housing through a land-trust model in the territory.

Major investments in housing include:

- The Canada Yukon Housing Benefit, an eight year rent subsidy program to support low to moderate income Yukoners renting private market rental housing.
- \$4.5 million in funding for the Normandy project, currently under construction in Whitehorse. This project will be a privately owned senior's residence with some supports.
- \$20 million (over three years) for the design and construction of the 4th and Jeckell 47-unit mixed-income housing development in Whitehorse, and \$1.1 million to plan new Yukon Housing Corporation housing in Old Crow, Watson Lake and Carcross.
- \$5.77 million commitment to the Challenge Cornerstone project from 2020-2022, in addition to approximately \$3.4 million in funding already provided for purchase of the land and project development.
- \$2.4 million over 2021-2022 for the construction of three triplexes in Mayo, Watson Lake, and Whitehorse in addition to \$3 million in federal funding under the Rapid Housing Initiative - contributing nine units towards housing options for Yukoners, scheduled to be completed later this spring.
- We have also committed approximately \$400,000 in 2021-2022 for the design of the Watson Lake Housing First project, with design being completed early 2022 and \$4.5 million in 2022-2023 for the construction to begin summer 2022.
- \$0.3 million in 2022-2023 for the design for a 6-unit mixed use housing project in Carcross.
- \$1.15 million for design work to support the housing needs in the communities of Teslin, Carcross and Dawson in 2022-2023.
- \$3.6 million annually under the Housing Initiatives Fund; which is now at \$5.7 million in the fifth intake for 2022-2023.

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- \$2.4 million will flow to Yukon through a Northern Housing Fund under the National Housing Strategy.
- \$6.9 million for First Nation Energy Efficiency Program and \$8.4 million for Community Housing retrofits under the Low Carbon Economy Fund (LCEF). The funding is provided on a 75% (Canada) - 25% (territory) cost-matching ratio between 2019 and 2024.
- \$4.1 million for the construction of a Housing First residence for vulnerable individuals (5th and Wood St.) in Whitehorse.
- Continued commitment by Government of Yukon toward the Municipal Matching Rental Construction program for new rental units.

Community Housing:

- We have an approved “Community Housing” program, which aligns with the National Housing Strategy, and includes a broader range of programs, and removes the stigma attached to social housing.
- Our Community Housing program works to enable more affordable and appropriate housing solutions for low-income Yukoners including direct provision of housing, rent subsidies and loans and grants programs.
- Currently, we offer over 700 homes through our Community Housing program in which eligible Yukoners pay 25% of their income for rent (rent-geared-to-income), support for more than 90 households through our rent supplement program and over 190 Yukoners through the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit.
- Seniors are a priority for this government. We are working on the implementation of the Aging in Place Action Plan and, as we continue to modernize our community housing program, we will tailor our approach to meet the unique housing needs of seniors living in community housing.
- Yukon First Nation’s governments also offer community housing in many communities. To keep this housing in good repair we offer grant programs to help renovate and retrofit First Nations’ housing.

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Affordable rental housing incentives (in partnership with the private market):

- Four Housing Initiatives Fund intakes in June 2018, February 2019, January 2020, and January 2021 resulted in agreements for construction of approximately 470 total housing units (including more than 260 affordable housing units).
- The fifth intake of the Housing Initiative closed on 14th January 2022 and received 29 project applications.
- Since its launch in 2015, the Municipal Matching Rental Construction Grant has supported the construction of over 415 new rental homes throughout the Yukon.
- In 2021-22, our homeownership loans that focus on buying and building rural Yukon, have helped 18 Yukoners buy or build their first homes.

Approved by:

Mary Cameron
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

February 4, 2022
[Date approved]

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Recommended response:

- Households in the Yukon are having to pay more for the things they buy, as inflation has increased across the country at the fastest rate since the early 1990's.
- Inflation in the Yukon generally follows inflation in the rest of the country. The Whitehorse Consumer Price Index increased 3.3 per cent in 2021, marginally below the 3.4 per cent national increase.
- Global factors have increased the cost of essential consumer goods like food and gasoline. Low interest rates have helped push up demand for housing resulting in rising rents and home prices.

Additional response:

- This government is conscious of the effects that rising inflation has on families and has taken action to protect their finances.
- Budget 2022-23 invests in housing supply, universal childcare, paid sick leave and a territory-wide dental plan.
- Budget 2022-23 is also notable for what it does not contain: no new taxes, no increased tax rates and no increases in fees.

Additional response:

- The Council of the Federation met on March 10 to discuss the increasing gas and energy prices being experienced globally.
- We discussed some of the strategies available to deal with the significant impact these prices are having on Canadians.
- We continue to explore options in the short-term.

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- We also discussed the long-term energy security of Canada.
- Premiers are interested in finding ways to reduce the financial burden on Canadians, while reducing our dependence on other countries, and will be seeking to have more conversations with the federal government about this important issue.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Inflation has increased to thirty-year highs in many countries, including Canada.
- Energy prices have been a significant driver and these prices are more obvious to consumers.
- Housing affordability has been a concern in Yukon for several years.

Background:

- Premiers discussed the increasing gas prices on a Council of the Federation call on March 10, 2022.
- They agreed to write to the Prime Minister regarding their concerns with affordability and to seek action from the federal government to reduce the burden.
- Key government led programs and initiatives that address inflation and affordability in the Yukon:

Health and Social Services**Annual increase to support cost of living increases for non-government organizations: 2022-23**

- In the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Department of Health and Social Services will provide a 1.75% increase to manage cost of living to all non-government organizations with transfer of payment agreements.
- The 1.75% increase aligns with past allocations and with considerations in other Yukon Government negotiations and discussions.

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- The department has adjusted its current funding allocation to accommodate a 1.75% increase for non-government organizations.
- This commitment will advance the relationships between the organizations and the department.

Executive Council Office:**Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations**

- In 2021-22, the Youth Directorate provided over \$1.1 million to support operational funding to:
 - Association franco-yukonnaise – \$25,000
 - BYTE-Empowering Youth Society – \$274,000
 - Boys and Girls Club of Yukon – \$277,000
 - Heart of Riverdale Community Centre – \$278, 000
 - Youth of Today Society – \$271,000
- These operationally funded organizations will be starting their renewed three-year transfer payment agreements in 2022-23. All have requested increases to their annual operational funding.
- Commencing in 2022-23 these organizations will receive the following funding increases to offset COVID-related expenses and other operational expenses.
 - Association franco-yukonnaise + \$6000/year (**\$31,000 total/year**)
 - BYTE-Empowering Youth Society + \$20,000/year (\$294,000 + \$10,000 = **\$304,000 total/year**). BYTE receives an additional \$10,000 of project funding to support their Leaders in Training conference which will be amalgamated into their operational funding agreement commencing in 2022-23.
 - Boys and Girls Club of Yukon + \$20,000/year (**\$297,000 total/year**)

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- Heart of Riverdale Community Centre + \$20,000/year (**\$298, 000 total/year**)
- Youth of Today Society + \$20,000/year (**\$291,000 total/year**)
- These bolded values will be the new annual totals of the respective three-year transfer payment agreements.

Education**Funding for early childhood education**

- The Government of Yukon has made significant and ongoing financial investments in Early Learning and Child Care and we signed two agreements with the Government of Canada to access an additional \$54.3 million in federal funding over the next five years to support Universal Child Care in the Yukon.
 - New agreement: the Canada-Yukon Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (signed in July 2021) for \$42M over 5 years (2021-22 to 2025-26).
 - Extended agreement: the Canada-Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (signed in August 2021) for \$10.1M over 4 years (2021-22 to 2024-25), including a one-time Workforce Development Action Plan for \$2.5M in 2021-22.
- The new Universal Program has reduced parent fees to less than \$10 per day on average.
- Wages for early childhood educators employed by operators who opted into the new Universal Child Care program increased effective April 1, 2021. Funding includes an additional payment of 14% of wage costs to operators for mandatory employment-related costs (e.g. CPP, EI, and WCB contributions). Fully qualified early childhood educators in Yukon now make over \$30 an hour – some of the highest wages in Canada.

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- Yukon and Canada announced Cultural Enhancement Funding for child care providers that will enable licensed programs and early childhood educators in the Yukon to have access to \$800,000 in funding, over two years, to develop enhanced, culturally rich, early learning programs.
- Yukon and Canada announced the Early Learning and Child Care Benefits Funding program to establish extended health insurance benefits for employees of Early Learning and Child Care centres as part of Yukon's universal child care model. The program provides total funding of \$800,000 and will pay for the total cost of the benefit program or up to 8% of gross wages (which ever is less) selected by the operator from a registered Canadian insurance provider.
- For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, we have provided over \$3.3 million in funding to the Child Development Centre (CDC), which includes increased funding of \$150,000 through the Canada-Yukon Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement to fully fund the licensed therapeutic pre-school as well as \$46,000 for additional communications and project support.
- Total funding provided to CDC in 2021/22 is \$3,378,006.

Energy, Mines and Resources:**Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency and offset costs**

- Our energy programs are successfully encouraging Yukon residents and local businesses to reduce their energy use, save money and choose low carbon options to live and move.
- Energy efficiency programs are available for the transportation sector, renewable heating sector, and the construction sector focusing on high efficiency buildings.
- For existing homes, the Energy Branch offers the Good Energy rebate program for high performance heating systems and upgrades to thermal enclosures including insulation and windows and high performance new homes. Taking these measures will save homeowners money on their energy costs.

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- For commercial and institutional buildings, the Energy Branch offers rebates for greenhouse gas-reducing retrofits and renewable heating.
- For First Nation and municipal buildings, the Energy Branch offers retrofit and funding support through its Community Institutional Energy Efficiency Program.
- Building efficiently and retrofitting existing buildings, whether your home or your business, will save Yukoners' money.

Economic Development:**Paid Sick Leave Rebate**

- Yukon's paid sick leave program has been extended until September 30, 2022, protecting public health by ensuring Yukoners can stay home when they are sick without facing a financial penalty.
- Our government continues to provide the relief Yukoners need to stay home responsibly without facing financial hardship.
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate for employers and self-employed people provides up to 10 days' wages for workers who are sick, self-isolating or caring for other household members due to COVID-19.
- All eligible Yukon employers and self-employed people may apply.

Yukon Emergency Relief Program (YERP)

In response to the reinstatement of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* (CEMA) on November 8, 2021, Economic Development developed the Yukon Emergency Relief Program (YERP).

- YERP provides supports to Yukon businesses and non-government organizations affected by the orders under CEMA.
- YERP covers those non-tourism businesses that experience an operating deficit directly related to the CEMA orders.

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- Unlike Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supports (TNASS), YERP covers fixed costs, e.g., business insurance, commercial rent or lease, or electricity and heating fuel.
- The program provides up to \$10,000 per month up to the point of break even, up to \$30,000, over the course of the program (will end two weeks after CEMA ends).

Tourism and Culture:**Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan**

- We are entering the third year of our Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan, which provides supports to the tourism sector.
- We anticipate that increasing gas prices, cost of living, housing costs will contribute to the labour shortage that represents a major impediment to the recovery of the tourism sector, both nationally and in the Yukon.
- Additionally, border restrictions and the geo-political context are impacting international travelers and contributing to uncertainty for the recovery of the tourism industry.

Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS) and Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS) programs:

- Yukon government is continuing to work with industry partners and the sector and provide supports through the Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS) and Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS) programs, administered through Economic Development. Currently, these programs are slated to end on March 31, 2022.

Additional funding programs

- Rising inflation, housing and rental prices create challenges for the many small non-profits and individual creators that make up Yukon's thriving creative and cultural sector;

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- We provide supports to the sector through a number of funding programs including:
 - Advanced Artist Award;
 - Arts Fund;
 - Arts Operating Funds;
 - Cultural Industries Training Funds;
 - Culture Quests;
 - New Canadian Events Fund;
 - Yukon Historic Properties Assistance Program;
 - Yukon Historic Resources Fund; and
 - Museums Contribution Program.

Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries

- The Department of Tourism is at the beginning stages of implementing Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries which aims to support the growth and positive contributions of the creative and cultural industries in the Yukon.

Highways and Public Works:

Capital budget for affordable housing

- Projects under the Five-Year Capital Plan which support housing affordability and those in need include:
 - the 47 unit mixed use housing project and the Challenge Disability Resource Group's 45-unit Cornerstone Development, both in Whitehorse, will be completed this summer and will provide housing for those in need;
 - three triplex housing units, located in Watson Lake, Mayo and Whitehorse, will be completed this spring and provide affordable housing to families in need;
 - the Old Crow 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing has entered the construction phase with expected completion in 2022–23; and

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- the 10-Plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake is included in the Northern Carve-Out. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2022. The project is forecast to be complete in summer 2023.

Public Service Commission:**Remote work policy in support of employees working in communities**

- In fall 2021, the Yukon government introduced a new remote work policy to support employees to continue working remotely in the long term.
- Implementing the new remote work policy is an action in the Our Clean Future strategy, as people are supported to work from home and reduce their emissions by commuting less.
- The new remote work policy also enables employees to work remotely from Yukon communities outside of Whitehorse, in some circumstances.
- The Public Service Commission will strive to support more long-term remote work arrangements throughout the Yukon government where it makes sense, and will track data on long-term arrangements going forward.

Yukon Housing Corporation:**Programs to support housing affordability**

- The Yukon is experiencing a high demand for housing, and we recognize that housing affordability and availability are primary difficulties for many Yukoners looking for stable housing.
- Housing needs are unique in each of our communities and affordable housing is important for all Yukoners. Whether rented or owned, affordable housing is normally measured as costing no more than 30% of gross household income, but affordable housing can look different for each individual.
- Yukon Housing Corporation is investing across all parts of the housing continuum including increases to supportive housing, subsidized Community Housing, and rental subsidy programs, including:

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- Continuing to support approximately 1,000 households through our Community Housing programs (Rent Geared to Income, Rent Supplement, and the Canada Yukon Housing Benefit);
- Continuing to offer incentive programs to help with affordability, which complement programs offered by the federal government and private sector such as the Housing Initiatives Fund, the Rural Home Ownership Loan Program and the Municipal Matching Rental Construction Grant that support new construction of affordable rental housing and home ownership options and working in partnership with all levels of government and housing developers to invest in affordable housing stock and programs.
- We negotiated the Northern Carve Out with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to support \$40 million in affordable community housing projects in Yukon.
- Over the last few years, our investments in housing programs and commitments to housing supported the development or upgrade of over 600 homes. We are supporting Yukon families in their efforts to gain and maintain affordable and adequate places to live.

Cross-Jurisdictional Summary of Recent Initiatives to Mitigate Impacts of Inflation in Canada

March 8, 2022

There have been limited announcements from other jurisdictions in Canada regarding mitigating inflationary impacts. Some jurisdictions have announced that they are investigating ways to help consumers with the rising costs linked to inflation.

Federal Government:

- The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is increasing the 2022 tax breaks after adjusting for inflation, which is called indexation. In the light of high inflation, the CRA increased its indexation rate to 2.4% for 2022 from 1% last year. The CRA offers three benefits to every Canadian and all three will be increasing in 2022:

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- Basic personal amount (BPA) tax credit – increase by \$590 to \$14,398
- Minimum taxable amount – increase by \$1,177 to \$50,197
- Age amount tax credit of you are over 65 – increase by \$185 to \$7,898

Alberta

- Suspending 13 cent per litre provincial sales tax on gasoline and diesel effective April 1.
 - This remains in effect through the spring and will be adjusted on a sliding scale depending on oil prices
 - Full 13 cents will be restored if oil prices drop below \$80 US per barrel.
- Three electrical rebates of \$50 for each of the last three months will be provided to almost all homes and businesses.
 - The rebates will be applied directly to customer's bills either as one lump sum or in three installments.
 - Yukon has the mechanism set up for this type of subsidy through the Interim Electrical Rebate

Note: These actions are being funded by Alberta's budget surplus due to royalties tied to rising oil prices

Manitoba

- No information found.

Saskatchewan

- Currently reviewing ways to mitigate rising fuel prices but no decisions made yet – hints that the Province's approach would likely be different than Alberta's due to their more diversified economy.

British Columbia

- No plans to follow Alberta's lead and reduce provincial fuel taxes

Ontario

- Cancelling licence plate renewal fees for most registrations in 2022.

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- Renewal fees and requirements for licence plate stickers for heavy commercial vehicles and snowmobiles remain unchanged.
- current renewal costs range between \$21 and \$175 per year.
- On January 18, 2022, the Ontario government provided 21 days of electricity-rate relief, by lower electricity rates to the lower off-peak rate, half the on-peak rate.

Note: They are doing away with licence plate stickers and have replaced that system with a digital system linked to driver's licences.

Quebec

- In November 2021, Quebec announced one-time payments for low income earners.
 - All single Quebecers whose income is less than \$50,000 will receive a \$275 payment
 - couples whose combined income is less than \$55,912 will get a total of \$400.
 - The government is also doubling an annual payment for low-income people over the age of 70, from \$200 to \$400.

Note: Quebec made the announcement based on cutting their deficit in half between 2020 and 2021

Northwest Territories

- Childcare costs for children under 5 years old reduced by 50%
 - This is part of the GNWT's 2030: Early Learning and Childcare Strategy

Note: Yukon has already reduced daycare costs as part of the Federal funding through the early learning and child care agreements.

Newfoundland and Labrador

- The provincial government is reviewing the gas tax while they prepare for the upcoming provincial budget, but no decisions have been made yet.

New Brunswick

- Currently reviewing ways to mitigate rising fuel prices but no decisions made yet.

Nova Scotia

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- Currently reviewing ways to mitigate rising fuel prices but no decisions made yet.

Prince Edward Island

- Currently reviewing ways to mitigate rising cost of living through increased social programming
 - Payments through social assistance are being increased effective immediately
 - Funds for a home heating rebate provided through a joint program with the Salvation Army would be doubled and the program expanded to increase eligibility.
 - Looking at increased funding for public transit and assisting post-secondary students

Note: In a statement by the provincial government they indicated the provincial gas tax “is part of a framework that is agreed upon by provincial and federal governments and therefore, any change would need consultation from the federal government.”

Appendix – Inflation Finance Briefing Note

Inflation in Yukon has been lower than in the rest of the country for the last several months.

- As of the most recent data from January, the inflation rate in Whitehorse was 3.7 per cent, significantly lower than 5.1 per cent nationally and the second lowest among provinces and territorial capitals after Iqaluit.
- Yukon saw the lowest year-over-year increase in food prices at 2.5 per cent, less than half the rate of increase nationally of 5.7 per cent.
- Utilities prices (water, heating and electricity) also increased at a slower rate than the national average: 9.9 per cent in Whitehorse versus 12.3 per cent nation-wide.
- Yukon was also lower than the national average for 2021, with inflation of 3.3 per cent vs 3.4 per cent nationally.

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Table. Year-over-year growth in Consumer Price Index (per cent)

	Jan 2022	Dec 2021	Nov 2021
Canada	5.1	4.8	4.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	4.0	4.2	4.2
Prince Edward Island	7.1	6.7	7.0
Nova Scotia	4.9	4.8	5.3
New Brunswick	5.3	5.4	5.7
Quebec	5.1	5.1	5.2
Ontario	5.7	5.2	5.0
Manitoba	5.5	4.7	4.6
Saskatchewan	4.2	3.5	3.7
Alberta	4.8	4.8	4.3
British Columbia	4.3	3.9	3.6
Whitehorse*	3.7	4.4	4.1
Yellowknife*	4.0	4.9	4.0
Iqaluit*	2.1	2.7	2.3

Source: Statistics Canada

Consumer price index not available on a territory-wide level.

Much of the elevated inflation was due to catch up growth after weak inflation in 2020.

- The pandemic caused many consumer prices to fall in 2020.
- Some of the higher inflation in January 2022 was due to catch up growth.
- The two-year inflation rate between January 2022 and January 2020 (pre-pandemic) is 1.9 per cent (annual average).

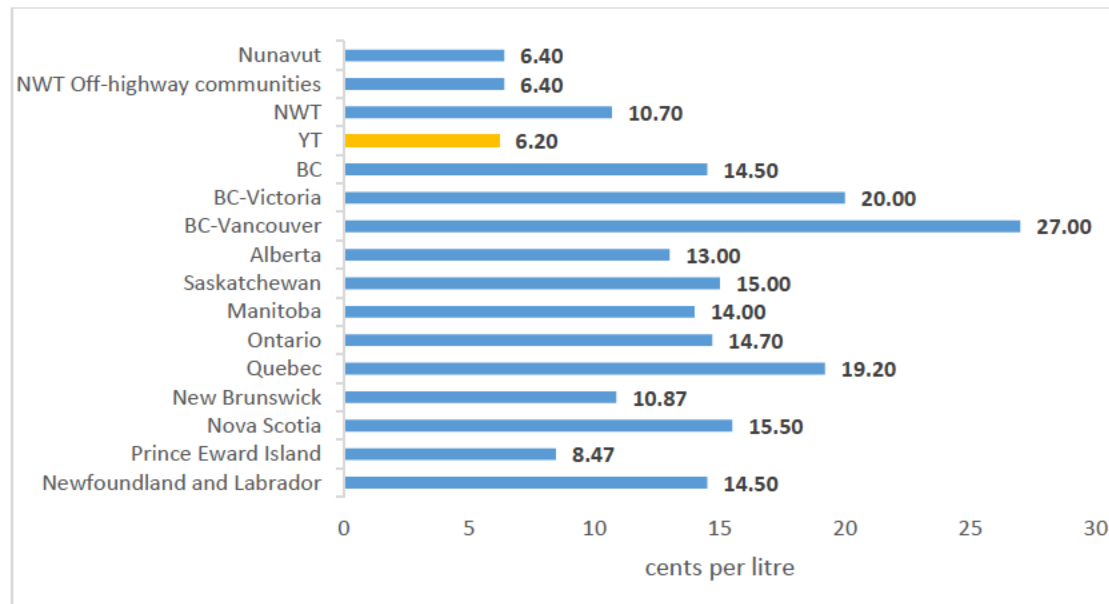
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Gasoline taxes by region in Canada



Global factors such as energy prices have been the driving force behind inflation.

- Inflation is projected to average 3.8 per cent in 2022, rising energy prices are a major factor.
- Oil prices have risen to US\$130 per barrel due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.
- Yukon has little control over fuel prices. The fuel oil tax on gasoline in Yukon is already the lowest in the country at 6.2 cents per litre, less than a quarter of the 27 cent levy in Victoria.
- Even if the government were to eliminate it entirely gas prices would be just 3.5 per cent cheaper at current prices.
- Note: Alberta has announced it will temporarily suspend gasoline taxes for one year beginning April 1.

As in the rest of the country, house prices have been increasing.

- Housing costs across the country have increased due to rising household savings, low interest rates and a lack of housing inventory.
- Over the last two years, the average resale home price in Canada has increased by over 35 per cent compared to 27 per cent in Yukon¹.

¹ Canada Real Estate Association

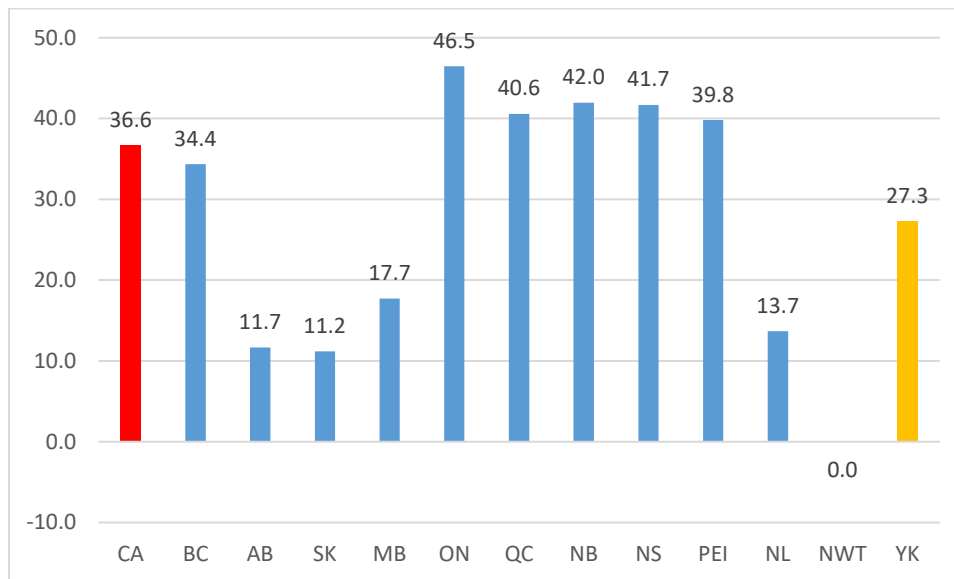
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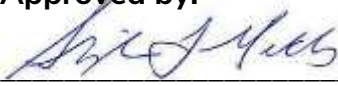
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Per cent change in the average resale home price in Canada between the end of 2019 and the end of 2021



The government is making progress on addressing affordability.

- The government's plan for housing is bearing fruit, with record home building in 2020 and 2021, with around 650 new units created in the territory for both years. This is over 75 per cent higher than the average over the previous 10 years
- We are investing \$255 million in capital over five years to support access to stable, affordable housing and to allow for future development.
- Almost \$27 million for lot development this fiscal year with a plan to add 1000 lots over the next several years.
- Over \$11 million in incentives for residential construction for projects like the proposed Kwanlin Dün First Nation subdivision expansion in Copper Ridge.

Approved by: 	March 14, 2022
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	Date