

# Women and Gender Equity Directorate

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## Briefing Notes – Fall Session 2022

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**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Funding to crisis hotlines**WGED

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**Recommended response:**

- On October 14, 2022, alongside Parliamentary Secretary Jenna Sudds and in partnership with the Federal government, I was pleased to announce \$500,000 to be allocated to the Yukon over the next 4 years to support existing hotlines providing support to Yukoners experiencing gender-based violence.
- We know that crisis hotlines often act as the first – or maybe the only – point of access for victims. The ability of trained staff to listen and offer victims a choice of when or how to report violence is critical.
- This funding will be used to help existing hotlines address the challenges coming out of the pandemic, including training, technology upgrades, enhancing communications, temporary staffing, and enhanced COVID safety measures. We look forward to working with eligible organizations to find the most impactful way to distribute this funding.

**Additional response:**

- Victim Services has a dedicated bilingual victim services worker and can also access VictimLink to assist with translation while providing service.
- All Yukoners can also access VictimLink, a toll-free, multilingual, 24/7 service.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Following the announcement, the Yukon Francophone Health Network raised concerns about the lack of bilingual services in crisis hotlines.

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Fall 2022**

### **Funding to crisis hotlines**

WGED

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- Eligible organizations have raised concerns that the amount of funding available is not sufficient to meet ongoing capacity needs or other emerging needs, such as transportation or permanent staffing.

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#### **Background:**

- The Government of Canada, through its Budget 2021, announced \$30 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, “so that crisis hotlines can serve the urgent needs of more Canadians and offer more robust services, resources, and supports to prevent the escalation of gender-based violence (GBV).”
- Four organizations in Yukon were identified as providing crisis hotlines, all of whom currently hold a Transfer Payment Agreement with HSS or WGED:
  - Yukon Women’s Transition Home Society (including the Sexualized Assault Support Line)
  - Dawson Women’s Shelter
  - Help & Hope Society in Watson Lake
  - Canadian Mental Health Association – Yukon
- Eligible activities for funding include:
  - Reviewing, adapting, or expanding existing service approaches
  - Developing communication and outreach strategies
  - Knowledge exchange and networking
  - Temporary staffing
  - Developing and implementing new resources to better support responders (i.e. training, orientation, supports)
  - Addressing technology gaps
  - Developing and implementing recruitment/retention strategies
  - Activities to maintain safety and emergency precautions (i.e. PPE, cleaning supplies, rental of additional space).

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Funding to crisis hotlines**WGED

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## Next Steps:

- Eligible organizations are working together to submit a proposal to WGED and HSS.
- WGED and HSS will determine distribution of funding to organizations.

**Approved by:****Nicole Morgan****October 21, 2022**\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Yukon's Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women, Girls, & Two-spirit+  
People Strategy**

WGED

JUS

HSS

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**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to taking action to address the ongoing crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people. We continue this work in partnership with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous women's organizations.
- Recent amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act*, development of a First Nations School Board, and the new Community Safety Planning program illustrate our commitment to implementation.
- The Government of Yukon hosted an Accountability Forum in May 2022, attended by more than 200 partners, signatories and affected family members. This event represented the first time since the Strategy was released that partners and contributors were able to hear first-hand from families and survivors.
- The Yukon Advisory Committee continues to lead the work on finalizing the Implementation Plan, which expands on the 31 action items of the Strategy.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Government of Yukon, along with federal, municipal and First Nation government leaders, committed to acting on the implementation of *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy* on December 10, 2020.
- At the Accountability Forum in May 2022, the Yukon Advisory Committee (YAC) on MMIWG2S+ released 10 priorities from the Strategy that represent "critical and timely work that must be started immediately."

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**Background:**

- The Yukon Advisory Committee (YAC) on MMIWG2S+ was created in 2015 and

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2022**

### **Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, & Two-spirit+ People Strategy**

WGED

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HSS

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includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nations governments, all three Indigenous women's organizations, LGBTQ2S+ Yukoners and a First Nations Elder.

- The YAC on MMIWG2S+ worked closely with Yukon First Nations, Yukon Indigenous women's groups and family representatives to finalize *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy*, which was released on December 10, 2020, in ceremony at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.
- As a whole of Yukon strategy, Government of Yukon is only one partner and may not lead or contribute to all actions. Government of Yukon will continue to provide secretariat support to the YAC on MMIWG2S+ and will work with the YAC in recommending options for long-term coordination and the implementation of the Strategy.
- Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy outlines 31 actions under 4 pathways to guide action in response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls:
  - Strengthening Connections & Supports;
  - Community Safety & Justice;
  - Economic Independence & Education; and
  - Community Action & Accountability.
- Input from Yukon First Nations on the first draft of the Implementation Framework was sought through the Yukon Forum, Council of Yukon First Nations Health Commission, Justice Commission and First Nations Education Commission. The Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ is now working to finalize the implementation plan.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate (WGED) co-chairs the Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Truth and Reconciliation with Aboriginal Relations, which, among other groups, has been mandated to provide leadership and coordination to the Government of Yukon's contributions to Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy.
- WGED is leading an interdepartmental working group to review the 10 priorities and the implementation plan to identify items that require Government of Yukon involvement.
- Government of Yukon has not identified dedicated funding to implement Yukon's

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Indigenous Women, Girls, & Two-spirit+  
People Strategy**

WGED

JUS

HSS

MMIWG2S+ Strategy. Government of Yukon's contributions towards implementation of the strategy are being addressed by existing programs and government services.

- The 2022-23 WGED budget includes \$285,000 for Yukon's (MMIWG2S+) Strategy. This funding has been allocated as follows:
  - \$100,000 for research in support of updating the record;
  - \$150,000 for the Yukon MMIWG2S+ Strategy Forum, including a Transfer Payment Agreement with an NGO to coordinate involvement of family members of MMIWG2S+; and
  - \$35,000 to support the ongoing work of the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+.
- The 2022-23 budget also includes a two-year extension of a 1.0 Full Time Equivalent Senior Advisor on MMIWG2S+ to March 2024.

**Approved by:**

Nicole Morgan

September 6, 2022


Deputy Minister, Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

Date

  
Deputy Minister, Justice

2022-09-08

Date

  
Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

2022-09-12

Date

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Expansion of SART Services**

**Fall 2022**WGED, JUS, HSS

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#### **Recommended Response:**

- We know that many victims of gender-based violence experience barriers to accessing services. The Sexualized Assault Response Team has broken down some of those barriers in Whitehorse.
- We are now actively planning approaches to expand SART services to communities beyond Whitehorse. We will conduct engagement with community partners this fall and winter, including First Nation governments, Indigenous women's organizations, and service providers in communities.
- Working in partnership will be essential in order to provide creative and sustainable service options, so that victims can access the emotional, clinical, or legal support that they choose.

#### **Additional Response:**

- Victims of sexualized assault living in communities outside Whitehorse can access the 24/7 toll-free support line and rapid access to counselling through the Mental Wellness and Substance Use community hubs.

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#### **Context - this may be an issue because:**

- The July 5, 2021 mandate letters include a commitment to expand the services of Yukon's SART to Yukon communities beyond Whitehorse.
- The number of victims accessing key SART services, including the 24/7 support line, weekend victim support workers and on-call physicians at Whitehorse General Hospital, remains low.



# **Session Briefing Note**

## **Expansion of SART Services**

**Fall 2022**

WGED, JUS, HSS

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### **Background:**

- SART in Whitehorse was publicly announced on March 6, 2020, days before the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic.
- Current SART member agencies include:
  - Women and Gender Equity Directorate;
  - Health & Social Services;
  - Justice, Victim Services;
  - The RCMP's "M"-Division;
  - Public Prosecution Services of Canada;
  - Yukon Women Transition Home; and
  - Yukon Hospital Corporation.
- SART is based on the core principles of:
  - choice;
  - dignity and respect;
  - preventing re-traumatization;
  - cultural safety; and
  - access, equity, and inclusion.
- There are three main components of SART: victim support; legal/criminal justice services; and medical services.
- Two Government of Yukon positions - the SART Victim Support Coordinator and SART Clinical Coordinator – have improved the coordination of existing medical and victim services. They work in partnership to ensure there is continuity of care and wrap-around services for victims of sexualized assault.
- Current priorities for SART in Whitehorse include:
  - SART member agencies continue to coordinate and organize inter-agency trainings;
  - Signing of the inter-agency SART protocol;
  - Continued outreach and engagement with Whitehorse-based First Nations; and
  - Continued communications of SART services.

# Session Briefing Note

## Expansion of SART Services

**Fall 2022**

WGED, JUS, HSS

- Rates of police-reported sexualized assault are three times higher in the Yukon than in the rest of Canada. The majority of sexualized assaults are not reported to the police and only a small percentage of victims seek any formal supports or services.

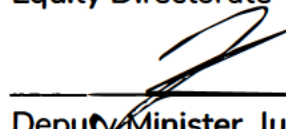
**Approved by:**

Nicole Morgan

September 6, 2022

 Deputy Minister, Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

Date

  
Deputy Minister, Justice

2022-09-08

Date

  
Deputy Minister, Health & Social Services

September 12 2022

Date

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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**Recommended response:**

- Government of Yukon's work to improve inclusion and create equity in its programs and services for LGBTQ2S+ Yukoners is well underway. In the first year since the action plan's release, this important initiative has already resulted in a number of changes.
- Some highlights of work underway or completed across the nine government departments involved includes a variety of new or updated training, new design standards for gender inclusive washrooms, and a new internal peer group for Government of Yukon employees who identify as LGBTQ2S+.
- We are monitoring progress internally and will return to the community in year two to ensure we are still on track and to check in on any shifting priorities. We are excited to keep building on this momentum, in partnership with the LGBTQ2S+ community.

**Additional response:**

- We are pleased to see the federal government's new 2SLGBTQI+ action plan along with \$100 million in dedicated funding to support 2SLGBTQI+ Canadians. The federal plan complements the work of the Yukon government and we look forward to new partnerships and opportunities to advance inclusion along with our colleagues across Canada.

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**Context - this may be an issue because:**

- During the WGED Budget Debate in spring 2022, the MLA for Whitehorse Centre asked questions about the progress of the LGBTQ2S+ Action Plan and funding for Queer Yukon Society.

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**Fall 2022**

### LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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- There is no dedicated budget for the action plan. Most items are covered within existing department budgets; however, some initiatives do not have funding allocated.

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#### Background:

- The LGBTQ2S+ Action Plan was released on July 15, 2021, following a comprehensive public engagement in 2018-19. Queer Yukon Society and All Genders Yukon Society reviewed the draft and final versions of the Action Plan.
- Of all 108 actions outlined in the plan: 9 are completed, 50 are underway/ongoing, 49 are not started.
- Those actions not yet started are the result of competing priorities for policy and program resources, partly attributed to COVID-19 response and recovery.
- **Examples of work underway or already completed:**
  - Expanding health care insurance coverage for gender-affirming therapies, procedures and surgeries.
  - Providing HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) free of charge.
  - Integrating inclusive language into the new official Government of Yukon communications style guide.
  - Incorporating gender-inclusive washroom and change room specifications and design guidelines into Yukon government Design Guidelines and Technical Standards Manual, to improve the gender-inclusivity of future renovations and new buildings.
  - Updating the official name and mandate of the Women and Gender Equity Directorate to reflect the work on LGBTQ2S+ inclusion and the spectrum of gender identity and expression.
  - Including pronouns in email signatures as a best practice for Yukon government employees who feel comfortable doing so.
  - Amended the Family Property and Support Act, which allows separated common-law spouses equal access to spousal support compared to married spouses.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- Providing operational funding for Yukon Pride Centre.
  - Creation of a gender-neutral washroom in the Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre and gender-neutral washrooms and change room at CSSC Mercier.
  - Passing the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act, which bans conversation therapy in Yukon.
  - Making LGBTQ2S+ awareness and inclusion training available to all Yukon government employees through our internal YGLearn website.
  - Offering World Professional Association for Transgender Health mental health training to all Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services clinicians.
- Government of Yukon is providing three-year funding to Queer Yukon Society to establish a Pride Centre (\$500,000 in 2021-22, \$425,000 in 2022-23, and \$375,000 in 2023-24), in addition to \$15,000 a year provided for their gender gear program.
  - After completing community engagement and physical renovations, Queer Yukon Society opened their community drop-in space to the public on August 2, 2022.
  - During the LGBTQ2S+ public engagement in 2018-19, 62% of respondents said that providing funding to support the development of an LGBTQ2S+ resource/community centre is extremely or very important.

**Approved by:**

Nicole Morgan  
Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

September 6, 2022  
Date

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2022**

### Supervised Housing - Women

Justice/WGED

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**Recommended response:**

- Discussions with our partners, local stakeholders and subject matter experts have increased our understanding of how we can support the needs of women involved in the criminal justice system in the Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon will soon be providing supervised housing for women.
- We are committed to working with our partners to ensure this program will recognize the unique needs of women involved with the criminal justice system as they transition from custody to the community.

**Additional Response:**

- The supervised housing program will also provide an alternative to custody and will support women to access services through the Yukon's treatment courts.

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**Context:**

- Supervised housing for men has been provided for over 20 years in the Yukon.
- Currently, no equivalent service exists for women involved in the criminal justice system in the territory.
- Housing limitations within the Yukon create additional barriers for women involved in the criminal justice system.

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Fall 2022

## Supervised Housing - Women

Justice/WGED

### Background:

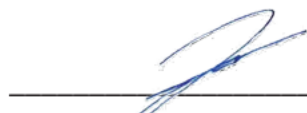
- Supervised housing has been available for men in the Yukon since the mid-1980s. Through contract service providers, men have accessed housing programs and community supports as an alternative to custody or a tool to support discharge planning and community reintegration.
- Fifteen years ago, the Salvation Army provided beds for women. Since then, various solutions have filled this service gap intermittently. These have included attempts by the Elizabeth Fry Society to set up housing and funding two beds in the home of a retired social worker. Unfortunately, neither of these options currently exist for women in the Yukon.
- Case managers at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and the Justice Wellness Centre work with clients to address immediate housing needs.
- In August 2020, the Government of Yukon invited agencies and organizations to submit options for housing locations and program models.
- Some of the community partners and stakeholders engaged to date include the Challenge Disability Resource Group (now called Opportunities Yukon), the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Safe at Home Society, Connective, Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, the Women's Transition Home, and Betty's Haven.
- The Minister of Justice's July 5, 2021, mandate letter included the direction to "establish a program to provide supportive community housing to justice-involved women that will be gender-responsive, culturally sensitive, and trauma-informed, with support from the Women and Gender Equity Directorate."
- In January 2022, the Department of Justice received the Management Board's approval to proceed with the implementation of a 24/7, supervised housing pilot program for women with a budget of \$562,000 per year.
- The Department of Justice has identified Takhini Haven as the location for the Supervised Housing Program and has worked with Highways and Public Works to complete renovations necessary for occupancy.
- Work is currently underway to develop a transfer payment agreement with Connective for the provision of client services.

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**Policy / Legal Advice**

- 74(1)(a)

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Justice

2022-09-29

[Date approved]

Kelli Taylor

A/Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

September 27, 2022

[Date approved]



**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Yukon Advisory Council on  
Women's Issues (YACWI)**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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**Recommended Response:**

- We value the advice and recommendations that the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues has provided to the Government of Yukon since its inception in 1992. However, much has changed in the last 30 years, including the scope and capacity of the Directorate, the emergence of equality-seeking community organizations, and our understanding of gender.
- In recognition of this, we have updated the name of the Women's Directorate to the Women and Gender Equity Directorate and currently we are exploring options to also update the name of YACWI.
- We have worked with Council members to review the function and focus of YACWI in the current Yukon context. We gathered input from women's and LGBTQ2S+ organizations, and current and past YACWI members. This will inform next steps for YACWI.
- In 2021, we recruited a new chair and 3 members. We are continuing to advertise for new members that will bring expertise and representation to this Council. I encourage Yukoners who are passionate and actively working towards gender equality to consider putting their name forward.

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**Context - this may be an issue because:**

- There are currently four vacancies on YACWI. There are three vacancies for rural members, and one vacancy for a member from Whitehorse. Of those vacancies, two must be a member of a Yukon First Nation.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Yukon Advisory Council on  
Women's Issues (YACWI)**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate**Background:**

- YACWI has met three times in 2022 thus far and is working on determining priorities for their term.
- YACWI is comprised of 8 members appointed by the Commissioner in Executive Council. At least 50 percent of the members are from rural areas and at least 25 percent must be members of Yukon First Nations. Members that represent women's organizations are also required.
- The Council is mandated to meet four times each year in Whitehorse and in Yukon communities, and their annual report is tabled each year in the Yukon Legislature. YACWI last met on June 9, 2022.
- The Council was established by the Yukon Council on Women's Issues Act in May 1992 to:
  - Develop public awareness of the issues affecting the status of women;
  - Promote and change of attitudes within Yukon so that women may enjoy equality of opportunity;
  - Encourage discussions and expressions of opinion of Yukon residents on issues affecting the status of women;
  - Review policies, programs, and legislation affecting women, as directed by the Minister;
  - Advise the Minister with respect to such issues as the Minister may refer to the Council for its consideration;
  - Advise the Minister with respect to such issues as the Council considers advisable; and
  - Encourage organizations and groups that promote the equality of women.
- Since 2018, it has become increasingly evident that the council is challenged to fulfill its legislated mandate.
- A revisioning process was proposed by the Women and Gender Equity Directorate. YACWI members reviewed the process in January 2020 and provided feedback.

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Fall 2022**

### **Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues (YACWI)**

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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- Colette Acheson was hired in August 2020 to support the revisioning by engaging with YACWI, women's organizations, LGBTQ2S+ organizations, and the Minister in order to make recommendations.
  - A final report was shared with YACWI in January 2021.

**Approved by:**

Nicole Morgan

Deputy Minister,

Women and Gender Equity Directorate

September 6, 2022

Date

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Prevention of Violence Against  
Aboriginal Women**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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**Recommended response:**

- Violence against women is a critical issue that our Government takes very seriously. In order to help address this, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate provides funding through the Prevention of Violence against Aboriginal Women Fund for community-based projects that directly support and prevent violence against Indigenous women.
- Applicants can apply for up to \$25,000 for a one-year project or \$50,000 for a two-year project. Projects are assessed by an independent adjudication panel of Yukon First Nations women based on the criteria of the fund.
- This year, funding recipients include Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Skookum Jim Friendship Center, Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation, and Carcross/Tagish First Nation. These projects are designed and developed by and for Indigenous women.

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**Context - this may be an issue because:**

- There has been a decline in the number of applications submitted to PVAAW in recent years.
- In 2022-23, only \$150,000 of the \$200,000 budgeted was awarded to applicants.

**Background:**

- In recognition that Indigenous women experience disproportionate rates of violence, PVAAW was developed in 2004 to support Indigenous women's organizations, registered societies, and First Nation governments in developing projects to prevent violence.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Prevention of Violence Against  
Aboriginal Women**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate provides training and support to representatives on the application process, including answering questions and providing recommendations on project applications prior to final submission. During COVID, online training was developed and provided to organizations that requested it, instead of the past practice of travelling to communities.
- Organizations can apply for funding with the same project in subsequent years, as long as the organization and the project meet the fund criteria.
- For 2022-23, \$75,000 was awarded to First Nations in rural communities and \$75,000 was awarded to First Nations/organizations in Whitehorse. For 2021-22, \$125,000 was awarded to First Nations/organizations in rural communities and \$100,000 was awarded to organizations in Whitehorse.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate has committed to review and update the PVAAW fund, reflecting action item 2.6 in Yukon's *Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-spirit+ Strategy*, to ensure the fund is effective, efficient and reflective of the Strategy.
- The next call out for 2023-24 applications is currently planned for October 2022.

**Approved by:**Nicole Morgan

Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

September 6, 2022

Date

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Fall 2022**

### **Evaluation of Sally and Sisters and A Safe Place**

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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#### **Recommended response:**

- Sally and Sisters and A Safe Place have been an invaluable resource for marginalized women and children in Whitehorse experiencing insecure housing, food insecurity, and mental health issues.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate has launched an external review of the Sally and Sisters and A Safe Place programs. While evaluation continues, funding has been identified this fiscal year to sustain the service of offering meals and support in a safe environment for women and children.
- Women and children can currently access emergency meals, supports, and drop-in services through other programs at Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, and the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter. A Friday meal is currently offered by VFWC.

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#### **Context - this may be an issue because:**

- Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre suspended A Safe Place in December 2021, citing the impacts of COVID, difficulties recruiting staff, lack of funding for appropriate training and development, and concerns of organizational oversight of a weekend program.
- Health & Social Services is currently funding emergency take-out food provision through the Family Hotel, but gender-specific options for women and children to access emergency meals, supports, and drop-in services in Whitehorse remain limited.
- Community organizations report that many women do not feel safe accessing the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter. The monthly average of Whitehorse Emergency Shelter guests shows about 668 people identified as male compared to 220 who

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**Fall 2022**

### Evaluation of Sally and Sisters and A Safe Place

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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identified as female. In the last two fiscal years, there have not been any guests who identified as non-binary.

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#### Background – A Safe Place

- A Safe Place began as a joint program of Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and Yukon Status of Women Council after the release of their report: *Repairing the Holes in the Net* in 2015. The report highlighted how women's homelessness is a varied and complex issue and that mental health challenges and addictions are common among women who are looking for housing services in the North. Key themes included the need for a safe, low-barrier place for women and their children to receive meals and supportive services without stigma.
- Program facilitators directed attendees to other agencies and supportive services; the largest number of referrals being to the Women's Transition Home, the Women's Advocate, and housing supports.
- The program offered facilitated drop-in programming and a nutritious hot meal to women and children experiencing homelessness, mental ill health, or intoxication between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- The majority of clientele identified as Indigenous women, comprising 76% of total attendance. Over half of attendees are women at risk of homelessness or experiencing absolute homelessness.
- Program attendance averaged 23 women and children each night. Staff report anecdotally that 2/3 of women and children are returning guests.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate received notice from VFWC to terminate the funding agreement on March 17, 2022 and continues to work closely with VFWC and other community partners, as well as Health & Social Services on the evaluation of the two programs.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Evaluation of Sally and Sisters  
and A Safe Place**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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**Background – Sally & Sisters:**

- The Sally and Sisters program addresses the immediate food security and support needs for women and children in Whitehorse, offering them a place to gather, get support, and enjoy a healthy meal in a safe and sober environment.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is pleased to provide funding of \$65,000 to the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council to continue to operate the Sally and Sisters program from October 1, 2021 to March 2022 and \$143,000 from April 2022-March 2023. This funding will be recovered through Women and Gender Equality Canada
- This funding is in addition to \$25,000 provided through the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund in 2021-22 and again in 2022-23.

**Approved by:**

Nicole Morgan  
Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

September 6, 2022  
Date



**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Women's Equality Fund**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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**Recommended response**

- The work of Yukon women's organizations is critical to creating a more equitable society. These organizations provide direct services to women, girls, Two-Spirit, and gender diverse people as well as research, advocacy, public education and programming.
- In recognition of this important work, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate provides a total of \$197,000 per year via the Women's Equality Fund in operational support to four women's groups in the Yukon.
- In 2022-23, a small increase in funding of approximately 8% was provided to each organization, totaling between \$4,000 and \$5,000 each. We will continue to work with these partners to support areas of collaboration and identify remaining gaps in services.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The women's groups that receive Women's Equality Funding wrote to the Minister of Women and Gender Equity in August 2021 requesting an increase from \$45,000 to \$85,000 per year for each organization. They also met with the Minister on October 4, 2021.
- On March 21, International Francophonie Day, Yvonne Clarke put forward a motion calling for the Government of Yukon to work with Les EssentiElles to establish sustainable core funding for staff and provide flexible and predictable project funding beyond 2022-23.

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**Background:**

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Women's Equality Fund**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- The Women's Equality Fund was initiated in 2007 to support Yukon organizations in their work to advance women's equality.
- The fund is administered by the Women and Gender Equity Directorate and provided to each organization for operational and maintenance costs, upon receipt of a three year workplan and budget.
- The fund can be used to cover operational costs of the organizations to achieve their mandates including:
  - administration;
  - rent;
  - wages;
  - phone, fax, telephone and internet;
  - bookkeeping and audits; and
  - program or project delivery.
- Four organizations currently receive Women's Equality funding. Amounts for 2022-25 are:
  - Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre: \$55,000
  - Yukon Status of Women Council: \$49,000
  - Yukon Women in Trades and Technology: \$49,000
  - Les EssentiElles: \$44,000
- Details of the budget and workplan are negotiated between the department and the organization.

**Approved by:**Nicole Morgan

Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

September 6, 2022

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2022**

### Indicators of Gender Equity webpage

Women and Gender Equity Directorate

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#### Recommended response

- We know that access to data broken down by diverse identity factors helps show us how unique populations experience policies and programs differently. This can help our government make more informed decisions.
- In 2016, to recognize the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the Women and Gender Equity Directorate, the Indicators of Yukon Gender Equality website was launched. It captured an incredible amount of information, statistics, a timeline and interviews with a diversity of Yukon leaders.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is working closely with the Yukon Bureau of Statistics and eServices to move this information to a new Indicators of Yukon Gender Equity webpage on Yukon.ca. It will include several themes with data broken down by age, education, indigeneity, ethnicity, faith, gender, language, and migration status.

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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- On April 27, 2022 MLA Yvonne Clarke asked about the status of the Indicators of Gender Equality website and when it would be updated.

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#### Background:

- Since 2016, WGED has contracted the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to update data on the Indicators of Yukon Gender Equality website.
- In fall 2021, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate began working with eServices on migrating the website to Yukon.ca in order to align with the Government of Yukon visual identity and improve the visibility and sustainability of the content.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Indicators of Gender  
Equity webpage**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- The new page on yukon.ca will include 81 of the approximately 100 existing graphs under the following themes: Diverse Territory; Economic Equality and Employment; Education and Field of Study; Childcare and parenting, Violence and Safety; Physical Activity, Health and Wellness; and Leadership and Activism.
- The webpage is anticipated to be complete by the end of the 22-23 fiscal year and will be updated on a regular basis.
- Since yukon.ca doesn't currently have the functionality to host the existing timeline and sound stories from the Indicators of Yukon Gender Equality website, the sound stories will remain available on Soundcloud. WGED promoted these interviews during Gender Equality Week September 19-23, 2022.
- On a national level, Statistics Canada launched the Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Hub in 2018 to ensure access to disaggregated data. The Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics was created in 2019.

**Approved by:**Nicole MorganSeptember 6, 2022

Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Date

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2022**

### **Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis (GIDA)**

**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate**

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#### **Recommended response:**

- Our government is committed to inclusiveness, equality, and a respect for the diversity of all Yukoners. One way we demonstrate this is by integrating Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis or GIDA into our decision-making processes.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate supports the use of GIDA by providing training along with research, analysis, and support to other departments. The GIDA training has now moved online and was updated in January 2022. Over a hundred public servants have completed the updated training.
- Integrating GIDA is now a shared mandate letter commitment, led by Women and Gender Equity Directorate and supported by Executive Council Office and the Public Service Commission. The GIDA Action Plan outlines clear actions, outcomes, and indicators to guide this work over the next three years.

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#### **Context—this may be an issue because:**

- On April 27, 2022, MLA Emily Tredger asked about GIDA and how WGED supports other departments to undertake an analysis, as well as the workload and capacity of the directorate to do this work.

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#### **Background:**

- GIDA is an analytical process (or lens) used to understand how Yukoners experience policies or programs differently, so that we can work towards mitigating unequitable outcomes.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate launched an updated GIDA action plan in 2022. This action plan will build on past successes and work to enhance the application of GIDA across government.

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Fall 2022**

### **Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis (GIDA)**

**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate**

#### **GIDA in Canada**

- In 2015, the Government of Canada renewed its commitment to Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) and committed to ensuring that policy and legislation are sensitive to the different impacts that decisions can have on inclusion, equality, and diversity. In 2017, GBA+ was made mandatory for all budget proposals. In the 2018 federal budget, a government-wide Gender Results Framework was introduced. In order to ensure access to disaggregated data, the Government of Canada launched The Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Hub in 2018 and the Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics was created in 2019.
- Some jurisdictions across Canada, such as British Columbia, have integrated GBA+ into policy and/or updated legislation to ensure gender and other diversity factors are considered and responded to.
- The FPT Strategic Planning Task Team GBA+ Sub-Group is currently updating a jurisdictional scan from 2015 of GBA+ work in each Canadian jurisdiction. The objective of the report is to create an inventory of GBA+ related initiatives, training, and resources that are currently available at the federal, provincial, and territorial levels. The report will be presented to Ministers at the annual meeting in November 2022.

#### **GIDA Best Practices**

- There are 6 GIDA best practices for any policy, program, or project that are applied throughout various stages of an initiative:
  - Start early
  - Research
  - Developing Options and Considerations
  - Implementation Planning
  - Communications
  - Monitoring and Evaluation
  - Engaging
- The best practices were identified by the Federal Provincial Territorial task team on GBA+. The task team is made up of representatives from Women and Gender

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Gender Inclusive Diversity  
Analysis (GIDA)**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

Equality Canada along with the provincial and territorial departments that do similar work as Yukon Government's Women and Gender Equity Directorate.

- At each stage of any project, GIDA encourages consideration of diverse identity factors including:
  - Age
  - Indigeneity
  - Language
  - Ethnicity
  - Socioeconomic status
  - Education
  - Ability
  - Sexual Orientation
  - Migration status
  - Faith
  - Gender identity
  - Geography
  - Sex
- GIDA prompts public servants to explore whether any assumptions are being made, who could be left behind, who could be engaged with, what data is available and how equitable outcomes can be ensured.

**Approved by:**

Nicole Morgan  
Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

September 6, 2022  
Date

## Session Briefing Note

Fall 2022

### National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence

Women and Gender Equity Directorate

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#### Recommended response:

- Yukon was proud to endorse the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual FPT Meeting of Ministers responsible for the Status of Women on November 9.
- We are very aware of the need for additional funding and capacity to address the high rates of gender-based violence in Yukon.
- Bilateral negotiations will now begin to determine territorial priorities, especially those that align with Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy, and the related funding needs. We look forward to working in partnership with Government of Canada in preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Government of Canada announced \$539 million in Budget 2022 for the next 5 years to support the National Action Plan to end Gender-based Violence.

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#### Background:

- In January 2021, the FPT Ministers responsible for the Status of Women endorsed the Joint Declaration for a Canada Free of Gender-Based Violence, which included a common vision, principles, and goals for the National Action Plan (NAP).
- The vision of the National Action Plan is “a Canada free of gender-based violence. A Canada that supports victims, survivors, and their families, no matter where they live.
- The 5 pillars of the NAP are:
  - Support for survivors and their families
  - Prevention



**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- Promotion of responsive legal and justice systems
  - Support for Indigenous-led approaches and informed responses
  - Social infrastructure and enabling environments
- In 2021-22, engagement was held with Indigenous organizations across Canada on Pillar 4: Indigenous led approaches. In Yukon, engagement was held with Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+.
  - Officials from WGED, HSS, **EDU** and JUS are working together to identify priorities from the NAP that align with Yukon's priorities, including the 10 priorities released by YAC from Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy.
  - \$529 million will flow through bilateral agreements to provincial and territorial governments, including a base plus per-capita amount.
  - 25% of federal funding must be directed towards gender-based violence prevention.
  - Contributions will be based on a 50-50 cost share split, which can include in-kind and existing contributions from provincial/territorial governments.

**Approved by:**

Nicole Morgan  
Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

November 16, 2022  
Date

**Session Information Note****Fall 2022****Women's Legal Advocacy  
Services**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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**Recommended response:**

- Our government is committed to providing services to women who are navigating systemic challenges related to the child welfare system, domestic and sexualized violence, housing insecurity, and other issues.
- We are pleased to provide \$93,000 to fund the Women's Legal Advocate position at Skookum Jim Friendship Centre. The Legal Advocate offers services to Indigenous and non-Indigenous women in Yukon who cannot afford a lawyer or are ineligible for legal aid.
- Although this position is currently vacant, we will continue to work with the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre as they undergo the hiring process.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- WGED was notified on August 11, 2022 that the current Legal Advocate was leaving her position. The position is now advertised until filled.
- There was a question during the last session about whether the program was still available.

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**Background:**

- In 2015, the Government of Yukon announced \$281,000 for a Women's Legal Advocate position as a three-year pilot project (2015-2018). Skookum Jim Friendship Centre was selected to house the position following an Expression of Interest process.
- An evaluation completed in Fall 2017 demonstrated the service is filling a critical need in the community.

**Session Information Note****Fall 2022****Women's Legal Advocacy  
Services**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- The objective of the Women's Legal Advocate position is to develop and deliver support services to women involved in the legal/justice system, including criminal justice, victim support, child welfare, landlord and tenancy issues, wellness court, and family legal matters.
- The Legal Advocate is not a lawyer, but can provide support services to women involved in the legal system.
- The Legal Advocate provides services to remote communities by visits or phone/Zoom.
- In 21-22, the program served 111 people. The vast majority of clients contact the Women's Legal Advocate about Family Law, and the most common combination of needs is Family Law and Victimization.
- The objectives and activities of the Legal Advocate are distinct from the Women's Advocate program offered at Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre. The Legal Advocate deals with involvement in the legal system, whereas the Women's Advocate will deal with other issues such as violence, health, housing, and may provide crisis counselling. The two individuals often work closely together and refer clients, as appropriate.

**Approved by:**

Nicole Morgan  
Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

September 6, 2022  
Date

## Session Briefing Note

Fall Session 2022

### LGBTQ2S+ – Action Plan, SOGI Policy and Education Act Amendment Implementation

Education

#### Value:

- We want to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcome in school.

#### Recommended response:

- Every student attending a Yukon public school has a right to feel safe, and be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability.
- School authorities work with their school administrators, school councils or board of trustees as well as the larger school community to develop, plan and implement proactive strategies to support the inclusion, respect and dignity of LGBTQ2S+ students and their families.
- To support students who identify as LGBTQ2S+, the Government of Yukon will update the system-wide 'Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy', as a part of the LGBTQ2S+ Action Plan.
- The Department is assessing revised timelines and resources needed to advance this work in partnership with students, educators, and the LGBTQ2S+ community.
- As Minister of Education and Women and Gender Equity Directorate, I am very committed to seeing through the LGBTQ2S+ action plan.

#### Additional response:

- In spring 2022, the Government of Yukon was pleased to support amendments to the Education Act to promote equity, non-

## Session Briefing Note

Fall Session 2022

### LGBTQ2S+ – Action Plan, SOGI Policy and Education Act Amendment Implementation

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Education

discrimination and ensure all Yukon schools have safe spaces for LGBTQ2S+ students in the form of activities or organizations.

- At the beginning of the current school year all school counsellors were provided information on the Education Act amendments, and copies of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (or SOGI) and Safe and Caring Schools Policies, along with local and national SOGI and Gender and Sexuality Alliance information.
- Reference materials and resources, as well as reminders about legislative responsibilities were also provided to school administrators in September.
- Several Yukon schools have Gender-Sexuality Alliances and other LGBTQ2S+ initiatives.

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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Some community advocates have campaigned for changes in Yukon schools to be more inclusive of transgender students.
- Yukon schools have a number of universal, stand-alone washrooms available, and we are working to ensure that all school facilities have stand-alone or gender neutral washrooms.
- In the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan, released in July 2021, the Department of Education made a number of commitments, including to update the 'Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy' within one year.
- The updates are intended to address policy issues such as use of a student's correct gender pronouns, update terminology to be trans-inclusive, address gender-identity inclusion in sports, and clarify points of contact and responsibilities at the department and school levels.

## Session Briefing Note

Fall Session 2022

## LGBTQ2S+ – Action Plan, SOGI Policy and Education Act Amendment Implementation

Education

- On March 23rd the opposition asked the Minister to commit to engaging with the school community to update the SOGI policy before the end of the current school year (June 2022) but this work was delayed to the 2022-2023 school-year.
- The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy requires the development of school-based policies and strategies to ensure that LGBTQ2S+ students are treated with respect and dignity at school.
- Amendments to the Education Act make it a legal requirement for Principals to ensure that initiatives and activities in schools are inclusive of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.
- The Department of Education has not normally kept track of school-based strategies that support such initiatives.
- The funding agreement for Catholic schools in Yukon accommodates religious instruction, but emphasizes that they are publicly supported schools with the same responsibilities as other schools, including responsibilities outlined under the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy.

Approved by:

Nicole Morgan

10/11/2022

Deputy Minister, Department of Education

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2022**

### Community Safety Planning

Justice

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**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon continues to prioritize support for safer and stronger communities across the territory.
- We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the Government of Canada, First Nations governments and municipalities to support community safety planning processes and implement community safety initiatives.
- For Yukon First Nations in particular, we recognize that the development of community safety plans and initiatives must be specific to each community's culture and use Traditional Knowledge to ensure safer communities.

**Additional response:**

- A community safety planning process was used at 405 Alexander Street to identify concerns of surrounding businesses, allied stakeholders, members of the public and shelter clients.

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**Context:**

- Yukon First Nations governments and municipalities have expressed interest in community safety planning and implementing community safety initiatives.
- The Minister of Justice's 2021 mandate letter directed the Minister to enhance the Community Safety Planning program to ensure consistent funding to community safety planning activities across the Yukon and investigate how this approach might apply to municipalities and urban neighbourhoods in Whitehorse.

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2022**

### Community Safety Planning

Justice

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#### Current Situation:

- The Department of Justice issued a news release on March 14, 2022, announcing that Phase One of a Community Safety Planning funding program would make funds available in 2022.
- The release commits to providing up to \$200,000 for each First Nation to support community safety planning or related implementation activities.
- In April and May 2022, the Department of Justice reached out to Yukon First Nations for input to aid in developing the Community Safety Planning program guidelines and receive updates on their current safety planning.
- The department received the following feedback from Yukon First Nations.

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## **Session Briefing Note**

**Fall 2022**

### **Community Safety Planning**

Justice

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# Session Briefing Note

## Community Safety Planning

Fall 2022

Justice

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### Background:

- In September 2017, the Yukon Forum approved its Action Plan, which prioritized “working with identified First Nations and the Government of Canada to support the development of Community Safety Plans within the Public Safety Canada framework.”
- In December 2020, the Yukon Advisory Committee released Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy (the Strategy) to address violence against Indigenous Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People (MMIWG2S+).
- The Strategy includes an action item to “Conduct community-based safety assessments designed by communities to identify factors contributing to the ongoing perpetuation of violence and unsafe conditions in each community” and “Develop and implement Community Safety Plans that address these factors and conditions.”
- In 2021, the First Session of the 35th Yukon Legislative Assembly Speech from the Throne committed the Government of Yukon to “keep working with partners to make all Yukon communities safer. [The government would] enhance our

## Session Briefing Note

Fall 2022

## Community Safety Planning

Justice

community safety planning program and ensure a consistent approach to funding community safety planning activities across the territory.”

### Government of Canada - Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative:

- In 2010, PSC created the Aboriginal Community Safety Planning (ACSP) initiative to support Indigenous communities in developing individually tailored approaches to community safety that reflect their concerns, priorities and unique circumstances.
- The ACSP initiative also addresses the Government of Canada’s commitment to addressing the high numbers of MMIWG2S+ people and enhanced accessibility to restorative justice programming.
- PSC has evaluated the ACSP initiative and concluded that communities that participated in community safety planning reported strengthened community relationships, focus and preparedness to address community safety issues.
- However, the federal ACSP program has two significant limitations:
  - PSC requires that First Nations use facilitators that PSC has trained for this purpose. This can create a barrier for Yukon First Nations, where the preference is to work with someone with local knowledge and experience.
  - While the Government of Canada has committed to providing \$1.3 million annually for Aboriginal community safety planning, the federal government discontinued the funding for implementing those plans in the 2020–21 fiscal year.
- The Department of Justice continues to engage with our federal partners on their Aboriginal community safety planning initiatives.

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# Session Briefing Note

## Community Safety Planning

**Fall 2022**

Justice

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Approved by:



Acting Deputy Minister, Justice

2022-08-30

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

Fall 2022

### Gender and Reproductive Care

Health and Social  
Services

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#### Government priority:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting Yukoners in creating reproductive care plans and expanding access to reproductive and gender affirming care.

#### Key messages:

- We are working to support Yukoners to access reproductive care and services by removing barriers to accessing fertility treatments, birth control, and period products.
- We released the *LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan* in July 2021, and are implementing the recommendations of the *Putting People First* report.
- We continue to work with stakeholders and partners including the federal government, health care providers, the Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Registered Nurses Association, and Yukon First Nations to implement these initiatives.

#### Key facts:

- This fiscal year, we are providing **\$1.54M** (\$1,539,444) to support sexual and reproductive healthcare at the Yukon Sexual Health Clinic and the Yukon Women's MidLife Health Clinic.
- Yukon Sexual Health Clinic and the Yukon Women's MidLife Health Clinic are supported by two Nurse Practitioners.
- The Yukon government and Council for Yukon First Nations signed a **\$100K** (\$100,000) Transfer Payment Agreement in March 2022 to deliver period products to Yukon schools and other venues.

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Fall 2022**

### **Gender and Reproductive Care**

Health and Social  
Services

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#### **Abortion Access (U.S. Residents):**

- In June 2022, the United States Supreme Court overruled the Roe v. Wade decision which protected the right to abortion under the Constitution of the United States.
- It is expected that many states will introduce new restrictions or bans, impacting pregnancy termination options in the coming months.
- Abortion rights currently remain protected under the Constitution of the State of Alaska.
- Therapeutic (surgical) and medical (medication) pregnancy termination options are available in the Yukon.
- Both options are covered for Yukoners under the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan to eligible plan beneficiaries and through the reciprocity process with other provinces and territories.

#### **Birth Control:**

- Birth control is covered for social assistance recipients by Income Support Services.
- Coverage for birth control is currently available to youth enrolled in the Children's Drug and Optical Program, which is available to lower income families with children 18 years of age and younger.
- Some funding is also provided directly to the Yukon Sexual Health Clinic to support lower income clients to receive birth control.

## Session Briefing Note

Fall 2022

### Gender and Reproductive Care

Health and Social  
Services

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#### Fertility Treatments

- We are exploring options to subsidize the cost of fertility treatments and related medical travel.
- Currently, when a consult has been approved for initial fertility testing, medical travel will be approved to support an individual to access a consult with a fertility specialist at a publicly funded health facility.
- Physicians who perform intra-uterine insemination can also bill the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan for this procedure with all other costs covered by the patient.

#### Gender-Affirming Care

- On March 12, 2021, the Government of Yukon announced changes to significantly improve access to gender-affirming health care, including surgery for Yukoners.
- Since this announcement, we have determined that additional work must first be done to ensure delivery and access to the additional services announced in March 2021 can be appropriately provided.
- The Yukon is leading the country in our commitments to advancing gender-affirming care access, and we recognize this will come with challenges.
- Currently, the following services **are available**, and can be performed in Whitehorse:
  - Gender affirming voice and mannerisms coaching
  - Hysterectomy
  - Salpingo-oophorectomy
- Coverage for gender-affirming hormone therapy **is available** through the Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Program.

## Session Briefing Note

Fall 2022

### Gender and Reproductive Care

Health and Social  
Services

- Additionally, Yukoners **can access** the following services through the Gender Surgery Clinic located at the Vancouver General Hospital:
  - Feminizing Procedures:
    - Breast reconstruction
    - Orchiectomy
    - Vaginoplasty - 2 year waiting list
    - Vulvoplasty
    - Revision surgery
  - Masculinizing Procedures:
    - Chest masculinization (mastectomy, or also called top surgery)
    - Metoidioplasty
    - Clitoral release
    - Phalloplasty
    - Penile or testicular implant surgery
    - Revision surgery
- The department has determined the following services **cannot be** performed at present, and we are working to address this:
  - Tracheal Shave Surgery
  - Body Contouring Surgery
  - Gender Affirming hair removal
  - Voice Surgery
  - Any gender affirming services performed at GrS Montreal.
- We are working diligently to explore options to create a path forward by the end of 2022.
- The department recognizes the importance of these services for the transgender and gender diverse community, and the growing number of people waiting to access this care.
- We are working to resolve this matter as soon as possible to ensure we can deliver the support they need.

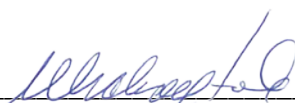


**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Gender and Reproductive Care**Health and Social  
Services

- We continue to implement recommendations in the *LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan* to enhance health equity in the territory.
- We remain committed to working with our partners, including community organizations, to advance gender-inclusive health and social care.
  - In June 2022, we supported Yukon counsellors from both government and non-government organizations to attend training from the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

**Period Products**

- All relevant Yukon schools will be equipped with period products for the 2022-23 fiscal year.
- This is a joint initiative between the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education, and the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- Work with the Department of Highways and Public Works is underway to explore the possibility of distributing period products to public washrooms in Government of Yukon buildings.
- We are working with the Yukon University to provide period products at the Whitehorse and community campuses.
- The Council of Yukon First Nations has also provided period products to non-governmental organizations in Whitehorse.

**Approved by:**


Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

October 31, 2022

[Date approved]

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Fall 2022**

### **Land-Based Healing**

Health and Social  
Services

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**Government priority:**

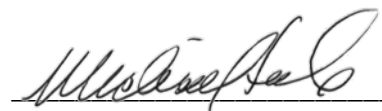
- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting culturally appropriate and safe options for mental wellness and substance use care in the Yukon.

**Key messages:**

- Land-based healing is an important part of mental wellness in the Yukon.
- We are proud to support healing initiatives and continue to work with Yukon First Nations to explore future land-based healing initiatives.
- We continue to coordinate our substance use treatment programs with existing initiatives in the territory.
- Our government has a long history of funding the Jackson Lake land-based healing program run by Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- When requested, we provide clinical supports to Jackson Lake land-based healing program, including counsellors and nursing staff from Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services.
- Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services is developing a land-based healing funding program to support community initiatives.
- We are currently working with Liard River First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council to collaborate on land-based healing initiatives.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Land-Based Healing**Health and Social  
Services**Key facts:**

- This fiscal year, we have budgeted **\$400K** (\$400,000) for the Jackson Lake land-based healing program run by Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- The department routinely incorporates land-based healing components into its youth programming and Intensive Treatment programs through Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services.
- Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services staff in communities routinely support land-based programming in coordination with local First Nations Governments upon invitation.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

August 16, 2022

[Date approved]

## TAB #38

Fall 2022

### Session Briefing Note

#### **Yukon Shelters (Dawson City Men's Shelter and CYFN Women's Shelter)** Yukon Housing Corporation

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##### **Recommended response:**

- It is important that Yukoners have access to the support services they need, across the territory.
- This is why, along with the Government of Canada, we are supporting Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation with the construction of a new Men's shelter in Dawson for homeless or precariously housed men with access to on-site care, addictions and mental health support.
  - "Jëjë Zho" which stands for "Men's Shelter" will provide all adult men living in Dawson City a barrier-free shelter with: 2 emergency rooms, 2 highly supported living units, and 6 transitional housing units.
- We are also pleased to provide a suitable parcel of land to the Council of Yukon First Nations as they build a new, federally funded, Whitehorse shelter that supports women and children who are victims of violence.
- As we heard from the Office of the Auditor General, these are the exact types of vulnerable sector housing support projects, and across government partnerships, which are needed to respond to gaps in the housing continuum.

##### **Additional Response:**

- In a time of acute housing need, these shelters will respond to the challenges presented by the substance use health emergency and both chronic and episodic homelessness and fulfill actions in the:

## TAB #38

Fall 2022

## Session Briefing Note

### Yukon Shelters (Dawson City Men's Shelter and CYFN Women's Shelter) Yukon Housing Corporation

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- Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy, which provides culturally relevant care for indigenous women and children; and
- The Safe at Home Plan to end and prevent homelessness.

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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) announced capital and O&M funding for two shelters in the three northern territories: in the NWT and, for the Yukon, toward the Council of Yukon First Nations application for this shelter.

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#### Background:

##### Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation

- The Yukon Housing Corporation is supporting this project with \$900,000 through the Housing Initiative Fund and Health and Social Services is providing \$125,000 for annual operating costs.
- Received \$491,290 K under Reaching Home 2022-2024.
- The Housing Initiative Fund provides funding for new capital projects to support housing needs at all levels of the housing spectrum. Units funded under HIF are designated as affordable housing for 20 years.
- The JëJë Zho - Dawson City Men's Shelter project represents our continued commitment to collaborating with Yukon First Nations to promote, protect and enhance the well-being of Yukoners.
- 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.

## TAB #38

Fall 2022

## Session Briefing Note

### Yukon Shelters (Dawson City Men's Shelter and CYFN Women's Shelter) Yukon Housing Corporation

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#### Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) project

- CYFN was successful in its proposal to CMHC and work is underway to prepare for the construction of the facility in 2022.
- The shelter will be designed for indigenous women with a variety of family sizes, and children of all ages and genders who are victims of violence. The 15-unit facility will provide a total of 32 beds (5 low barrier beds and 27 high barrier beds) that can be configured to accommodate variations in demand and family size.
- This safe and secure shelter will offer an environment that celebrates Yukon First Nations culture and promotes women's self-determination.
- The building will meet CMHC sustainability targets and will be designed to support parenting.
- Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and Kwanlin Dün First Nation are project leads. Yukon Housing Corporation, Health and Social Services, Community Services and Energy Mines and Resources are working together to support CYFN's project.
- The Government of Yukon and CYFN are working together to finalize the land transfer agreement.
- CYFN published a news release on August 23, 2022 to announce the completion of the land transfer and related community notification to immediate neighbours.

#### Funding opportunity

- CMHC is providing \$13.1 million in capital funding from the National Co-Investment Fund to build 2 shelters in the north.
- The priority is for indigenous groups and governments submitting collaborative projects.
- This is in line with priorities under the Canada-Yukon Bilateral Agreement to appropriately advance housing solutions across the housing continuum based on identified community needs. (see BN #23)

**TAB #38**

**Fall 2022**

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Yukon Shelters (Dawson City Men's Shelter and CYFN Women's Shelter)**

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Yukon Housing Corporation

- Indigenous Services Canada is providing approximately \$1 million in long-term annual operating funding. Funding programs for capital developments seldom provide for ongoing operations and maintenance funding.

**Approved by:**



Mary Cameron

President, Yukon Housing Corporation

September 9, 2022

[Date approved]

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****COVID-19 (Government Wide)**Health and Social  
Services

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**Recommended response:**

- We are all learning how to live with this virus and minimize its impacts on our daily lives.
- As we move from an acute emergency response into the transition phase of the pandemic, we must continue protecting our health care system and our vulnerable populations.
- Throughout the pandemic, our government has been guided by the advice and recommendations of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and we will continue to do so.
- While the State of Emergency has been lifted, 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 populations, including seniors, Elders, those with precarious or insecure housing, individuals living with chronic conditions and unvaccinated individuals.
- Our one government approach and close collaboration with communities, First Nations, local and federal partners and non-government organizations allows us to deliver the appropriate level of health and social care required to meet our community's needs and remain responsive to their concerns.
- Effective July 14, 2022, there are no longer any territorial public health measures in place.
- As we continue to take steps to respond to COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses, we are following the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer of Health who has recommended reducing certain services, such



## Session Briefing Note

Fall 2022

### COVID-19 (Government Wide)

Health and Social  
Services

as the COVID-19 Testing and Assessment Centre, which is operating with new reduced hours.

- Moving forward, we remain focused on reducing the number of people susceptible to COVID-19 and its variants through partnerships with First Nations 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.

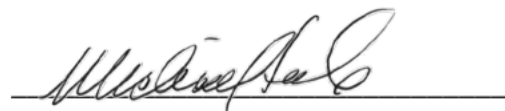
#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is significant and ongoing interest in the Yukon's plans for ensuring the safety of Yukoners, and that our COVID-19 response aligns with the current situation in the territory.

#### Background:

- 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.

#### Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

August 16, 2022

[Date approved]

## **Session Briefing**

**Fall 2022**

### **Note Housing Issues**

Yukon Housing Corporation

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**Recommended Response:**

- As we know, homelessness has far-reaching consequences that impact everyone in the Yukon. The substance use health emergency, alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, has only intensified issues.
- Meanwhile, rental options are too few and often too expensive. Vacancy rates have dropped to 0.8% - the lowest in years –a reality that influences the Yukon Housing growing waitlist.
- Down payment costs remain out of reach for many Yukoners, and homeownership may be less affordable as interest rates rise.
- Across government, we are working with stakeholders to develop new land parcels, increase housing stock, and rapidly increase housing supply while also responding to the findings of the 2022 Office of the Auditor General Report on Housing.

**Additional Response:**

- We continue to enhance the Community Housing stock to support a full housing continuum - 10 units of affordable and supportive housing for seniors through Normandy Living and three new triplexes in Watson Lake, Mayo and Whitehorse are a demonstration of how we are responding to the 2022 Office of the Auditor General of Canada recommendations on housing.
- Partnership with Da Daghay Development Corporation for 98 new units is one of numerous housing examples that further support vulnerable Yukoners.
- Our new approach to house employees aims to decrease the housing cost disparities in communities, further incentive private sector

## Session Briefing

**Fall 2022**

### Note Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

investment in housing, and prioritize the government's existing staff housing units to the critical needs for community well-being.

- Finally, we have expanded the capital incentive programs to include land development for residential housing, while also enhancing our Community Housing stock to part of the response to the 2022 Office of the Auditor General of Canada recommendations on housing.

#### **Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Since COVID-19, Yukoners have faced additional 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 have added strain on the housing crisis.

#### **Background:**

##### Recent interest rate hikes

- The Bank of Canada raised interest rates for a fifth time in September, bringing rates to 3.25%. At the start of 2022, interest rates were 0.25 %. Rising debt costs will make it more challenging for homeowners to qualify for a mortgage and will increase monthly debt costs for existing homeowners and developers.

##### 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.

# Session Briefing

**Fall 2022**

## Note Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- The Safe at Home Society was 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 Development

- The Government of Yukon continues to support new land development to increase the supply of land available for housing development. This includes:
  - Government-led land initiatives in Whistle bend, as well initiatives to sell the 5<sup>th</sup> and Rogers site (See BN# 30) and old Macaulay Lodge site (See BN # 33);
  - First Nations land development projects – KDFN's Copper Ridge West (See BN #31) and Range Point projects;
  - Private Sector land development project initiatives – the Tank Farm (See BN # 36)
- Community Services estimates an additional 1476 new housing lots will come online by 2026, enough to accommodate 2713 additional housing units.

### New Housing Construction and partnerships with the Private Sector

- The Yukon Housing Corporation offers several loans and grants programs (See BN #63) to incentivize new housing construction – namely, the *Housing Initiative Fund* (See BN # 60), the *Developer Build Loan* (See BN # 55), and the *Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program* (MMRCP).
- These territorial-based programs complement new housing construction incentive programs under the National Housing Strategy, including the *National Housing Co-investment Fund* and the *Rapid Housing Initiative*.
- Finally, we provide subsidies to households living in private market housing through the *Canada Yukon Housing Benefit* (See BN # 53) and the *Rent Supplement program*.

### Community Housing and the Most Vulnerable

- The Yukon Housing Corporation and its partners continue to implement the new Community Housing Plan, which aims to improve better client outcomes and fiscal resiliency (See BN# 54)
- Currently, YHC offers over 700 units through the Community Housing program in which eligible Yukoners pay 25% of their income for rent (rent-geared-to-income), we provide

## Session Briefing

Fall 2022

### Note Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

support to more than 90 households through our rent supplement program and approximately 200 Yukoners through the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit.

- In late 2022, YHC will introduce a mixed-income and mixed-use tenant's allocation policy to diverse buildings while providing tenants with appropriate partner supports to help them maintain housing.
- Work continues with the Safe at Home Society to determine how to allocate a percentage of units to individuals on the By-Name List.
- YHC is working to implement the Aging in Place Action Plan, which includes broadening programming to include Senior Supportive Housing Program as an option for seniors who require additional supports.
- Finally, the Yukon Housing Corporation and housing providers have recently completed or currently are making significant capital investments to expand the community housing stock, including:
  - The 47-unit 4<sup>th</sup> and Jeckell building (See BN #15);
  - The 46-Unit Cornerstone building (See BN #69);
  - Three new triplexes in Mayo, Watson, and Whitehorse (See BN # 17);
  - A new Housing First building in Watson Lake (See BN# 21);
  - A new 10-plex in Old Crow (See BN # 19);
  - A new 30-unit multi-family Community Housing building at the Korbo site in Dawson (See BN # 18);
  - Duplexes in Carmacks, Dawson, and Mayo (See BN #16); and
  - New emergency shelters in Dawson and Whitehorse (See BN # 38).

#### 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 (See BN#53).
- \$4.5M for Normandy Living, a private senior's residence with supports (See BN#34)
- \$21.7M for the design and construction of the 4<sup>th</sup> and Jeckell, a 47-unit mixed-income housing development in Whitehorse (See BN#15).
- \$5.77M funding support to the Challenge Cornerstone project from 2020-2022, in addition to approximately \$1.9M in funding provided for purchase of the land and project development.
- \$2.4M over 2021-2022 for the construction of three triplexes in Mayo, Watson Lake, and Whitehorse in addition to \$3M in federal funding under the Rapid Housing Initiative - contributing nine units of housing options. (See BN#17)



# Session Briefing

Fall 2022

## Note Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- \$400K in 2021-2022 for the design of the Watson Lake Housing First project which will be tendered in the Fall 2022 (See BN#61).
- Design work to support the housing needs in the communities of Teslin, Carcross and Dawson in 2022-2023.
- \$5.7M annually under the Housing Initiatives Fund (See BN#60).
- \$2.4M to Yukon through a Northern Housing Fund under the National Housing Strategy.
- \$6.9M for First Nation Energy Efficiency Program and \$8.4M for Community Housing retrofits under the Low Carbon Economy Fund (LCEF) provided on a 75% (Canada) - 25% (territory) cost-matching ratio between 2019 and 2024. (See BN#56 and #57)
- \$4.1M for the construction of a Housing First residence for vulnerable individuals (5<sup>th</sup> and Wood St.) in Whitehorse (See BN#61)
- Continued commitment by Government of Yukon toward the Municipal Matching Rental Construction program for new rental units.

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

- Five Housing Initiatives Fund intakes have brought on line 121 units and 388 are under construction. (See BN #60).
- The sixth intake of the Housing Initiative Fund will be launched in November 2022.
- The Municipal Matching Rental Construction Grant has supported the construction of over 422 new rental homes throughout the Yukon, of which 242 are completed.
- Since 2020, our homeownership loan program, that focus on buying and building projects in rural Yukon, has helped 22 Yukoners to buy or build their first homes. 11 of these projects are completed.

Approved by:



Mary Cameron  
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

September 9, 2022

[Date approved]

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Our Clean Future Annual Report**Environment  
Energy, Mines and Resources

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**Recommended response:**

- On September, we released our second annual report on *Our Clean Future*. It outlines the progress we've made in taking action on climate change in 2021.
- Of the 19 actions with a 2021 timeline, we completed 13, made progress on three and revised three.
- *Our Clean Future* is an adaptive strategy, meaning we assess and adjust the actions we are taking year-over-year to stay on track to meet our long-term goals.
- This year, we introduced five new actions and revised 13 existing actions to better meet our goals.

**Additional response:**

- In 2021, we advanced several key actions and objectives, such as:
  - passing legislation to remove plastic bags from circulation;
  - developing requirements and guidance to support the use of zero-emissions vehicles, which more than doubled in 2021 compared to the previous year from 57 to 129;
  - developing a process to incorporate climate change considerations into the decision-making for the Government of Yukon's major policies, programs, and projects;
  - completing a framework to measure the sustainability of the tourism industry;

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Our Clean Future Annual Report**Environment  
Energy, Mines and Resources

- and, working together with other governments and organizations across the territory to assess climate risks and resilience through the risk and resilience assessment (see [ENV BN #23](#)).

**Third response:**

- Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our 45 per cent greenhouse gas emissions target reduction by 2030.
- 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 this ambitious target.
- This includes reviewing and actioning the recommendations from the Yukon Climate Leadership Council (see [ENV BN #5](#)).
- We are also working to legislate our climate targets for 2030 and 2050 under the Clean Energy Act, the Yukon's first climate change legislation (see [EMR BN #31](#) or [ENV BN #21](#) ).

**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:**

- The *Our Clean Future* 2021 Annual Report and the Yukon Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment were both publicly released on [September 12, 2022](#).
- *Our Clean Future* sets several targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and supports the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change.



**EMR #31 ENV #20****Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Our Clean Future Annual Report**Environment  
Energy, Mines and Resources

- The *Our Clean Future* 2021 Annual Report is the second annual report prepared by the Government of Yukon.
- Five new actions and 13 revised actions were announced in the latest *Annual Report*. This is the first time new actions have been added to *Our Clean Future* since it was implemented in 2020.
- The five new actions, led by the Department of Highways and Public Works, either build off of existing actions or support objectives outlined in *Our Clean Future*.
- The 13 revised actions that were recommended add specificity or further direction to existing actions or represent a change in course after further analysis and research.
- We will continue to build on *Our Clean Future* as we learn more about climate change and introduce more actions, which will be reflected in future annual reports.
- Future reporting on *Our Clean Future* will be delivered through an interactive website.

**Approved by:**


Deputy Minister of Environment

2022.09.01

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Sept. 1, 2022

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2022**

### **Inflation (Corporate Note with ECO)**

Finance

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**Recommended:**

- While Whitehorse's inflation rate for September remains above the national figure, inflation slowed in August and September, potentially signaling that inflation is moderating in line with what was outlined in the Interim Fiscal and Economic Update.
- All Yukon households are seeing their budgets stretched by elevated levels of inflation, but the burden is heavier on lower-income households where much of their expenses go to necessities such as food, energy, and housing, all of which have seen some of the largest price increases at different points during 2022.
- This government is conscious of the effects that rising inflation has on families and has taken action to protect their finances. Last month, we announced almost \$5 million-worth of inflation relief measures. This includes funding targeted to support vulnerable groups such as one time payments of \$150 for Yukoners on social assistance, a one-time payment of \$150 to Yukon Seniors Income Supplement recipients, an additional \$100,000 in funding for Food Network Yukon and payments to seniors through a 10 per cent top-up in the Pioneer Utility Grant.
- Yukoners who heat their home with wood will receive a \$50 rebate on fuelwood purchased from Yukon commercial firewood suppliers.
- There is a six-month extension of \$500 per month to caregivers of children in out of home care.
- We are also extending the Inflation Relief Rebate for another three months, which gave Yukoners a \$50 monthly credit on their power bill.

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2022**

### **Inflation (Corporate Note with ECO)**

Finance

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#### Additional response:

- This government had already established a strong record of making life more affordable for Yukoners before this latest round of inflation.
- These new affordability measures will complement those included in Budget 2022-23, which invested in housing supply, universal childcare, paid sick leave and a territory-wide dental plan with no new taxes or fees.
- Inflation has increased globally due in part to supply-chain disruptions and the war in Ukraine. Nationally, there is excess demand causing labour market and other shortages.
- Inflationary pressure was broad-based with food and shelter costs elevated. Surging fuel prices were a key driver, with significant increases in the price of both gasoline and home heating oil.
- Whitehorse, along with five other provinces, reported inflation in September slowing from August, with September's inflation rate in the remaining seven jurisdictions up from the month prior.

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#### **Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Inflation has increased to decade highs in many countries, including Canada, which is experiencing the highest inflation in almost 40 years.
- Energy prices have been a significant driver and these prices are more obvious to consumers.
- Housing affordability has been a concern in the Yukon for several years.

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#### **Background:**

##### Inflation outlook

# Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2022**

## Inflation (Corporate Note with ECO)

Finance

- The inflation rate in Whitehorse was 7.5 per cent in September. While remaining elevated, inflation in September fell for a second consecutive month, down from 7.6 per cent in August and down from the 30-year high of 7.7 per cent reported in July.
- The price of fuel made a large contribution. Fuel oil and other fuels were up nearly 45 per cent from September of last year and gasoline was up 19.5 per cent.
- Higher energy prices were due to changes in global oil markets caused by sanctions against Russia. Prices have moderated since June. The benchmark North American oil price (WTI) has fallen from US\$120 per barrel to about US\$83 at time of writing.
- Food prices have risen significantly since 2021, as stronger demand coincided with supply side constraints. Food prices in Whitehorse were up 8.8 per cent from last September.
- Prices in Canada are expected to remain elevated throughout 2022. The Bank of Canada does not expect inflation to return to the target range of 1 to 3 per cent until 2024.
- The Bank of Canada has started to take a more aggressive approach to battling inflation by raising interest rates three percentage points since March, including a 0.75 percentage point increase on September 7. Another increase is expected to come on October 26<sup>th</sup>, with many analysts suggesting another 0.75 hike.
- The housing market in the Yukon has stayed hot in the face of higher interest rates that have cooled markets in most other parts of Canada. Residential sales have declined significantly in most other jurisdictions but were up almost 30 per cent year-to-date in the Yukon.
- Prices have also continued to rise. The average price of a single-detached home hit an all-time high of over \$695,000 in the second quarter. Between October 2019 and October 2021, both median and average rents are up by about 10 per cent.

# Session Briefing Note

Fall 2022

## Inflation (Corporate Note with ECO)

Finance

- There are, however, some signs that the Yukon's housing market has started to cool. The sales-to-new listings ratio has declined and inventories of unsold homes have started creeping up as houses stay on the market longer. Further cooling is expected over the remainder of the year.

### Key government initiatives addressing affordability in Yukon

#### New temporary Inflation Relief Rebate

- Recently, the Government of Yukon announced almost \$5 million in new inflation relief measures targeted at vulnerable groups.
- The inflation relief rebate was extended for another three months at a total cost to Government of \$3.2 million. The inflation relief rebate automatically applied a \$50 credit to all residential and commercial ATCO Electric Yukon and Yukon Energy electricity bills.
- Yukoners on social assistance will receive a one-time payment of \$150. This payment will help recipients offset inflation impacts until social assistance payments are adjusted for inflation in November.
- These new measures also include support for seniors through a 10 per cent top up in the Pioneer Utility grant and a one-time payment of \$150 to recipients of the Yukon Seniors Income Supplement.
- Yukoners who heat their homes with wood will be eligible for a \$50 rebate per cord of fuel wood, this program is retroactive to April 1, 2022.
- The pilot program giving an extra \$500 per month to Extended Family Caregiver agreement caregivers and foster caregivers will be extended to the end of the fiscal year.
- In June, the Yukon government extended the Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement and Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement programs, administered through Economic Development.

#### This builds on efforts from Budget 2022-23 aimed at making things affordable

- In 2021-22, the Youth Directorate provided over \$1.1 million to support operational funding to five organizations.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Inflation (Corporate Note with ECO)**

Finance

- 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 over the next five years. The new Universal Child Care Program has reduced fees to less than \$10 per day on average.
- 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.
- A significant portion of the Government of Yukon's five-year capital plan is allocated to housing and land development in order to continue to help address the supply side of the housing equation.
- Yukon Housing Corporation is investing across all parts of the housing continuum including increases to supportive housing, subsidized Community Housing, and rental subsidy programs.

**Survey of government initiatives that are indexed to inflation**

- Higher inflation impacts various government of Yukon programs through indexation, (indexation is updated each April unless otherwise noted), including:
  - Tobacco Tax is updated each January.
  - Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation (with a one year lag).
  - The minimum wage
  - Subsidies for medical travel
  - Pioneer Utility grant
  - Residential rent caps
  - Seniors benefits (updated each October)
  - Social Assistance Payments (updated each November)
  - Student Financial Assistance (updated each school year)

**Impact of inflation on revenue**

- Most of the major sources of revenue will increase in line with inflation; however, some growth will have a lag between inflation and revenue increases.



**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Inflation (Corporate Note with ECO)**

Finance

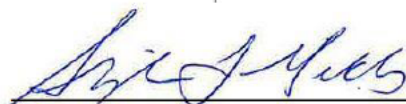
- Territorial Formula Financing is adjusted annually to account for increases in provincial, territorial, and municipal government expenditures.
- Canada Health Transfer & Canada Social Transfer grow with nominal GDP.
- Income Tax: brackets are adjusted annually with inflation
- Insurance Premium Tax grows with nominal increase in premiums.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Department of Finance

October 19, 2022

Date approved



Deputy Minister, ECO

October 19, 2022

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Financial Summary**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate**Changes to the 2022-23 Budget:**

- The 2022-23 O&M Estimate for the Women and Gender Equity Directorate is \$3,680,000. This is an increase of \$663,000 from the 2021-22 Main Estimates as follows:
  - Increase of \$143,000 in Government Transfers to Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council (YAWC) for the Sally & Sisters/Soeurs program;
  - Increase of \$300,000 in Government Transfers for year 2 of three-year operational funding for Queer Yukon Society, bringing the total funding to \$425,000;
  - Increase of \$125,000 to support the planning of expansion of SART services; and
  - Addition of \$110,000 for 1.0 FTE to support the implementation of the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan for a two-year term.
  - Small decreases in advertising, entertainment, and travel.
- The 2022-23 budget includes \$285,000 for the Yukon Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People (MMIWG2S+) Strategy as follows:
  - \$100,000 for research in support of updating the record;
  - \$150,000 for the Yukon MMIWG2S+ Strategy Forum, including a Transfer Payment Agreement with an NGO to coordinate involvement of family members of MMIWG2S+; and
  - \$35,000 to support the ongoing work of the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+.
  - \$25,000 less has been budgeted for the MMIWG2S+ Strategy Forum than 2021-22, due to expected lower costs.



**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Financial Summary**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

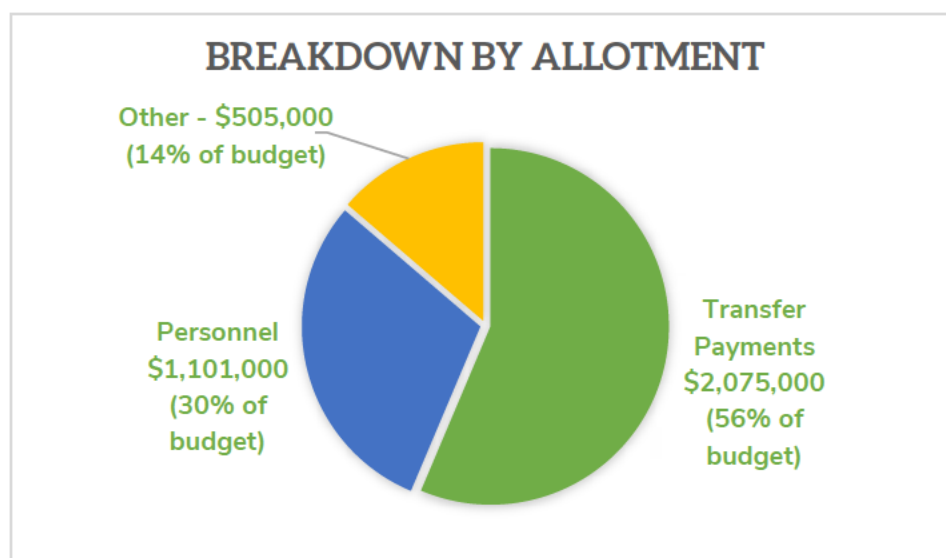
- The budget also includes a two-year extension of 1.0 FTE Senior Advisor on MMIWG2S+ to March 2024.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- On April 11, 2021, Indigenous women's organizations publicly called on all parties to commit to long-term funding.
- On August 6, 2021 women's organizations wrote a letter to Minister McLean requesting an increase of funding in the Women's Equality Fund to \$85,000 per organization.

**Background:**

The breakdown by allotment is as follows:

**Approved by:**

Nicole Morgan  
Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

September 6, 2022  
Date

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Funding to Equality Seeking Organizations**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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**Recommended response:**

- We are grateful for the work that all equality-seeking organizations do in Yukon to reduce gender-based violence and build safer communities. This past year has shown us both the critical importance of these services, and their ability to be flexible in the face of changing community needs.
- This fiscal year, equality-seeking organizations are receiving a total of \$2,075,000 from the Women's Directorate in operational and project funding.
- As we continue to respond and recover from the pandemic, we recognize the increased demands for service and the clear request from NGOs for sustainable and appropriate long-term funding. We are committed to continuing this work with community partners and the Government of Canada, who announced in the 2022 budget \$539 million to advance the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence.
- We are committed to continuing conversations with equality-seeking organizations about the most effective ways to provide services, address gender-based violence, and advance equity. We know there is a need to maintain multiple entry points to service for marginalized populations.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- On April 11, 2021, Indigenous women's organizations publicly called on all parties to commit to long-term funding.
- On August 6, 2021 women's organizations wrote a letter to Minister McLean requesting an increase of funding in the Women's Equality Fund to \$85,000 per organization.

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2022**

### Funding to Equality Seeking Organizations

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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#### Background:

For 2022-23, Women's Directorate funding to women's organizations is as follows:

- Women's Equality Fund - \$197,000 per year in ongoing operational funding to four non-Indigenous women's organizations, including:
  - Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre: \$55,000
  - Yukon Status of Women Council: \$49,000
  - Yukon Women in Trades and Technology: \$49,000
  - Les EssentiElles: \$44,000
- Indigenous Women's Equality Fund - \$600,000 in operational and capacity development funding to three Indigenous women's organizations: Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, and Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council. (\$253,000 YG and \$347,000 from Canada).
- Prevention of Violence against Aboriginal Women - \$200,000.
- Women's Community Project funding – \$10,000.
  - In 2021-22, five organizations accessed \$1K each:
    - Gwaandak Theatre Society
    - Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council
    - Yukon Disc-versity Guild
    - Yukon Circle of Social Change Society
    - Yukon Women in Music
- Women's Advocate – funding of \$100,000 to Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre includes \$70,000 for salary and \$30,000 for public education campaigns.
- Women's Legal Advocate - \$93,000 to Skookum Jim Friendship Centre.
- A Safe Place – \$95,000 is budgeted for the A Safe Place program, which is currently undergoing review.
- Sally & Sisters/Soeurs - \$143,000 to Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2022****Funding to Equality Seeking Organizations**Women and Gender  
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- Program Coordination/Delivery at the Whitehorse Affordable Family Housing Complex - \$76,500 to the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition.
- Sexualized Assault Support Line - \$60,000 is being provided to an NGO to host the Sexualized Assault Support Line.
- Queer Yukon - \$425,000 is being provided in operational funding and an additional \$15,000 to support the Gender Gear program in partnership with Health & Social Services
- Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council - \$75,000 to coordinate the family involvement in the forum on the Yukon MMIWG2S+ Strategy.

**Approved by:**

Nicole Morgan  
Deputy Minister, Women and Gender Equity Directorate

September 6, 2022  
Date

## **BRIEFING NOTE**

### **Meeting with Minister Miller (Crown-Indigenous Relations)**

Prepared for Minister McLean

October 26, 2022

5:30 pm YST

#### **LOGISTICS**

You will meet Minister Miller in the Cabinet Boardroom. Minister Miller is expected to be accompanied by Dionne Savill (CIRNAC Regional Director General) and Alina Dewani (Special Assistant to Minister Miller).

#### **WHAT TO EXPECT**

- Minister Miller is in Whitehorse to participate in the Assembly of First Nation Yukon Region general assembly. He will also be visiting Carcross to meet with the Chooutla Working Group.
- Minister Miller will meet with the Premier on October 26 at 3 pm to discuss Indigenous community infrastructure, Non-insured Health Benefits, Yukon Days, and Residential school burial sites.
- Minister Miller last visited Yukon in May 2022 for the Intergovernmental Forum.
- There is no formal agenda for the meeting. Expected topics include MMIWG and TRC.

#### **ISSUE 1: FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP IN YUKON'S MMIWG2S+ STRATEGY**

##### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:**

- Government of Canada is a signatory to Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy, represented in 2020 by Ministers responsible for Crown-Indigenous Relations, Northern Affairs, and Women and Gender Equality, along with Yukon's MP.
- Federal Budget 2021 announced \$2.2 billion over 5 years and \$160.9 million ongoing to address MMIWG2S+ nationally.
- The MMIWG Secretariat in Crown Indigenous Relations has provided an analysis of linkages between Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy, the Federal Pathway, and Budget 2021 investments. Work continues with WGED and the MMIWG Secretariat to identify which funding is available in Yukon, including to Yukon First Nations or Indigenous women's organizations.
- The 2021 *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan* was developed by the Core Working Group, which included the Chairs from 8 sub-working groups representing First Nations, Inuit, Metis, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, 2SLGBTQQIA+, Data Strategy, Urban Indigenous people, as well as the federal

government and provinces and territories. Former Deputy Minister Valerie Royle served as the Provincial/Territorial Co-Chair on the Core Working Group.

- One section of the National Action Plan is the “Federal Pathway”, developed by Government of Canada outlining actions that will be taken across more than 20 federal departments in four key areas: culture; health and wellness; human safety & security; and justice.
- A progress report on the National Action Plan was released on June 3, 2022. Public and media response centred around disappointment in the rate and amount of progress.
- Some notable recent public federal investments that align with Yukon’s MMIWG2S+ Strategy include, but are not limited to:
  - \$500,000 to support existing crisis hotlines over the next four years;
  - \$13 million in capital funding and \$1.2 million in long-term annual operating funding to CYFN to establish an emergency shelter for women and children through the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Company;
  - More than \$1 million to CYFN to support family violence prevention by working with men at risk of using violence;
  - Support for the Choooutla working group; and
  - \$400,000 to Yukon Aboriginal Women’s Council to provide gender-based violence prevention services and supports; and
  - Canada-Yukon agreement, pending negotiation, to support the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence.

#### SPEAKING POINTS:

- *Canada is a key partner in the implementation of Yukon’s MMIWG2S+ Strategy.*
- *Since we each pledged our commitment to the Strategy in December 2020, the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ has been working hard to complete an Implementation Plan. We are now in the final stages. This work has been more difficult and complex than we first anticipated.*
- *The intent of this Implementation Plan is to provide greater clarity and detail to partners and contributors.*
- *In May 2022, we hosted the first Accountability Forum, bringing partners and contributors together with family members and survivors.*
- *At this time, the Yukon Advisory Committee also released the top 10 priority actions from the Strategy, representing critical and timely work that must be started immediately.*
- *There are opportunities for partnership and federal investment in the actions captured in the 10 priorities.*

- *I want to encourage a renewed commitment between our governments, so that we can leverage federal funding in the territory.*
- *I also encourage regular communication and continued working relationships between our officials.*

## ISSUE 2: CREATION OF FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL/INDIGENOUS PARTNERS TABLE

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

- The Government of Canada is seeking feedback from provinces and territories on the creation of a Federal-Provincial-Territorial-Indigenous partner forum in order to maintain momentum on MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. WGED met with the MMIWG Secretariat in September 2022 on this topic.
- The creation of an FPT table is called for in the National Action Plan on MMIWG (June 2021), the Liberal Election Platform (September 2021), and the Liberal – NDP Supply and Confidence Agreement (March 2022).
- Currently, MMIWG-related priorities are discussed with relevant departments and provincial-territorial ministries across various FPT tables, including:
  - FPT Ministers responsible for Status of Women
  - FPT Ministers responsible for Justice and Public Safety
  - FPT Health Ministers Meeting
  - FPT Meeting of Ministers and Deputy Ministers responsible for Culture and Heritage
- Government of Canada coordinates the FPT Working Group on MMIWG (monthly) and the FPT Deputy Ministers Committee on MMIWG (last met in December 2020).
- Tentative plans are to bring together Ministers responsible with their Indigenous counterparts in December 2022, details to be confirmed.
- A separate engagement is now being conducted on an Oversight Mechanism for the National Action Plan to address reporting on progress and identification of gaps and challenges of the National Action Plan.

### SPEAKING POINTS

- *Yukon is supportive of the creation of a table of federal/provincial/territorial/Indigenous partners, in order to ensure MMIWG remains a priority of all governments.*
- *The establishment of the National Inquiry is the result of decades of grassroots advocacy from Indigenous women. We cannot lose the momentum that the National Inquiry provided.*

- *The dialogue at an FPT table with Indigenous partners will be difficult and complex, but it is necessary.*
- *In Yukon, we have learned that any initiatives to advance reconciliation and equality must be lead with Indigenous voices at the forefront.*
- *Simultaneously, we cannot depend on First Nation governments and organizations to do all the work. All orders of government have a responsibility to respond to the Calls for Justice.*
- *Yukon has a history of strong leadership. Yukon was the first to welcome the National Inquiry here and the first to release a comprehensive strategy. We look forward to supporting the work ahead on a national level.*



# CONFIDENTIAL

## Information Note

### SART Budget transfer

WGED

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#### Issue:

- Transferring budget and expenses for engagement on SART expansion from WGED to Justice, as project lead

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#### Background

- In 2021, Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada approved in principle a funding partnership to support the project management and engagement on expansion of SART services outside Whitehorse.
- In April 2022, Management Board approved \$125,000 in anticipated expenses and corresponding recoveries from Government of Canada for 22-23 and 23-24.
- In May 2022, CCPP provided direction on expansion of SART services, including confirming Justice as the lead department, providing approval to engage, and establishing governance structures that include representation of all three departments.
- In fall 2022, WGED provided updated details to WAGE Canada on the project timeline, workplan, and budget. WAGE Canada confirmed eligibility of expenses, including contractor fees.

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#### Recommendation

WGED transfers the budget for the engagement on SART expansion to Justice during the Period 8 exercise and in advance of 23-24 Mains.

- Opportunities:
  - Aligns federal funding with expenses, allowing one department (Justice) to manage procurement, contract management, and budgetary oversight and control.
  - WGED will maintain representation at the SART engagement working group and Implementation Committee, Deputy Minister level, and Ministerial sub-committee. Budget transfer does not impact the level of decision-making or influence of WGED.
  - Reduces potential budgetary lapses in WGED for 22-23

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## Information Note

### SART Budget transfer

WGED

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- Supports enhanced interdepartmental cooperation and allows WGED capacity and resources to focus on other mandate letter items
- Aligns with action item 2.5 from Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy