

Executive Council Office – Spring Sitting Briefing Notes 2022

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Recommended response:

- I am in regular communication the Canadian government and Northern Premiers on the current situation in Ukraine.
- Arctic nations have always maintained orderly and peaceful relations, but Russia's unjustified attack of Ukraine has put the future of these relations at risk. We are monitoring the situation closely and have been assured the current security threat to the North remains minimal.
- We support the Government of Canada's efforts to advance Arctic cooperation while holding Russia to account for its aggression in Ukraine
- The uncertainty created by Russia's unprovoked attack on a sovereign, democratic nation has reinforced the need for a strong Canadian presence in the North.
- I emphasized the need to bolster the Canadian Rangers – the first line of defense in the North. There is also consensus among Northern Premiers that Arctic sovereignty and security are enhanced by strengthening the resiliency of our people and our communities.
- We remain committed to working in collaboration to ensure Northerners have the tools and resources to support their health, communities and cultures.

Sanctions:

- We support the Government of Canada and other western allies in their pursuit to implement strict sanctions against Russian leadership.
- We are aware that Russia has banned a number of Canadians, including Yukon's Member of Parliament, from entering Russia.

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Arctic sovereignty:

- Russia's actions are a threat to global security and the international rules-based order. They have and have caused disruptions to economic activity across the globe.
- We are keeping a watchful eye on Russia's actions in the Arctic.
- There has been increased attention on and investment in the Arctic region over the past number of years, and it's time that Canada does the same.
- I understand the federal government is considering increased defence spending in this year's federal budget.
- When I spoke to Minister Anand about this, I urged her to consider including specific investments in the Arctic.
- We will continue to remain in close contact with high-level Canadian officials on this.
- We are also meeting with our counterparts in Alaska. I plan to raise the issue of Arctic security and share our views of the changing Arctic geopolitical landscape.
- It is through a strong and unified voice that we can support peace and cooperation in the region.
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine will affect the Arctic Council and its working groups. Such an egregious violation of international law calls into question the possibility of cooperation among Council members, especially since Russia is the Chair until May 2023.

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- As key partners in Canada's Arctic Council network, our government along with the other Northern Premiers have called on the Government of Canada to recognize that cooperation at the Arctic Council is being jeopardized given current realities.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon has donated \$50,000 CAD to the Canadian Red Cross to work with the International Red Cross Movement to support their humanitarian relief effort in Ukraine and neighbouring countries where needed.
- If Yukoners wish to contribute to the relief effort, they can do so through the Canadian Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal.

Response re cybersecurity

- The Yukon government is in regular communication with the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security and relies on the Centre for notices of threats to enable us to immediately action updates on any known digital vulnerabilities.
- The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security assesses threat to critical national infrastructure and provides this service to provincial, territorial, and municipal governments across the country.
- We are advised that the threat from Russian state-sponsored actors is assessed to be low, but we will remain vigilant.

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- The Government of Yukon has defences in place that include redundancy, third party security monitoring and an agreement with Microsoft for access to a quick reaction team if required.

Response to plane in Yellowknife:

- We are aware of a private aircraft carrying Russian nationals that landed in Yellowknife on March 1.
- Transport Canada and the Canadian Border Services Agency investigated this matter, and determined there was a violation of Canada's airspace restrictions on Russian aircraft.
- We are glad to see that Canadian authorities worked quickly to identify and appropriately deal with this incident.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused a massive displacement of people. Support is required to provide the necessities of life to people fleeing the violence and to provide medical care for civilian casualties.
- Many Yukoners have familial ties to Ukraine.
- The plane in Yellowknife was reported in the media. On March 4, the Government of Canada issued a statement speaking to the enforcement measures they have taken.
- Russia is known for its desire to project power by deploying destructive cyber-attacks against strategic critical infrastructure targets of its adversaries. There may be concern of a cyber-attack in Yukon and the opposition has raised the issue in the House in Question Period.
- President Zelenskyy addressed the House of Commons on Tuesday March 15, 2022.
- Arctic security, sovereignty and military spending has received increased media attention over the past few weeks.

Background:

Prepared for Premier Silver
Executive Council Office

Date prepared: March 2, 2022
Last Updated: April 5, 2022
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Arctic security

- North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) conducted Operation NOBLE DEFENDER, an arctic air defense operation involving a number of military aircraft and personnel from Canada and the United States, March 14 to 17, 2022. In Canada, the operation will be based out of Canadian Forces Stations in the three territories as well as Manitoba, Ontario, and Newfoundland and Labrador. This is part of regular NORAD operations and not a response to current world events.
- NATO Secretary General has called on allied nations to spend a "minimum" of two per cent of GDP on defence.
- Canada currently spends 1.39 per cent of its GDP on the military, according to the latest NATO figures, and has had no plan to hit the long-established two per cent target.
- Minister Anand has signalled that options are being considered to reach the two per cent level for the 2022/23 federal budget.
- On March 11, Northern Premiers met with the Minister of National Defence to discuss Arctic security. A follow-up meeting with the Prime Minister has been requested.
- Russia's intentions in the Ukraine conflict do not appear to extend to the Arctic region. Throughout the years, Russia has consistently expressed that the Arctic is a peaceful region, with no need for military interventions. Russia is the current chair of the Arctic Council.
- As climate change makes the area more accessible, there is increasing interest from Arctic and non-Arctic states. Russia and China, in particular, are actively pursuing objectives in the region that run counter to Canadian interests.
- Canada is working to strengthen continental defence and modernize the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), in collaboration with the US, by acquiring new capabilities. This includes investments in Arctic surveillance and infrastructure that will enhance NORAD's ability to detect threats, rapidly respond, and sustainably operate in the region.

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- This work will take years, but the intention is to maximize broader benefits for Northern and Arctic communities, including by exploring shared priorities for infrastructure development and unlocking socio-economic opportunities in the region.
- On March 28 the Reuters media outlet reported Canada's decision to select the Lockheed Martin F-35 as the country's new warplane to replace the CF-18 fighter jet. Reuters reports the deal as worth some \$19 billion, with delivery as early as 2025.

Engagement with Alaska

- Yukon has a long-standing bilateral relationship with Alaska at many levels, from Premier-Governor to working level relations and international fora, including:
 - Regular bilateral engagement between Premier Silver and Governor Dunleavy, discussing issues of mutual interest for the region.
 - Yukon's Deputy Premier presented to Commonwealth North, Alaska's premier non-partisan public policy forum about critical policy issues facing Alaska in January, 2021.
 - Arctic Security Working Group (ASWG), a circle of people from territorial and federal governments, academia, and reps from Alaska and Greenland with common interests in safety, security and defence in the North who actively look for connections and synergies. The next meeting of ASWG will take place May 2022, in Whitehorse.
 - Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER), a regional economic development body founded by Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.
 - U.S. Ambassador and Consul General meetings with Premier Silver and other Yukon government officials.

Humanitarian response in Ukraine

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- The UN has reported that over 1.7 million people have fled Ukraine as of March 14, 2022.
- Support is needed for the humanitarian response in Ukraine and the refugee response in surrounding countries. It will include food, registration, clothing, shelter, psycho-social support, and long-term recovery and resiliency.
- On February 25, Canada announced they will match donations made by individual Canadians to the Canadian Red Cross's Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal between February 24 and March 18 up to a maximum of \$10 million. As of February 28, the \$10 million matching offer has been met.
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has implemented measures to quickly issue travel documents to help Canadian citizens, Canadian permanent residents, and their immediate family members in Ukraine get to Canada as quickly as possible, if requested.
- IRCC is increasing operational capacity and has enacted priority processing of applications for Ukrainian nationals who want to study, work, reunite with family, or start a new life in Canada. The Department of Economic Development is leading engagement on immigration for YG.
- On March 17 IRCC launched the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel program to fast track visa applications for Ukrainian nationals and their families by waiving many of the typical requirements including holding a valid passport, fees, extending the stay in Canada from two to three years, and opening to an unlimited number.

Cyber security

- On February 24, the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security issued an alert to awareness of a new disruptive malware, named HermeticWiper, targeting Ukrainian organizations. The media has also reported about some cyber-attacks in Ukraine.
- The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security assesses that Russian state-sponsored actors likely view the United States and leading European North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members as their highest priority targets.

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- The Centre judges that this threat could increase if Russia perceives Canada or the US to be interfering in Russia's actions in Ukraine.
- Government of Yukon ICT has reviewed the list of threats from the US Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency and confirmed that the systems identified on the list that are in use by YG have been patched against the vulnerabilities identified. This monitoring is ongoing.

Sanctions

- Canada has issued strong sanctions on Russian individuals and businesses. As of March 24, there are 720 individuals and 135 business that have been sanctioned. The sanctioned individuals now include all members of the Russian Federation Council, which is the upper chamber (similar to the Senate) of the Russian federal parliament.
- In response to the atrocities revealed in Bucha, on April 4 Canada announced its intention to impose restrictions on nine Russian and nine Belarusian individuals for having facilitated and enabled the war on Ukraine. These individuals are close associates of the Russian and Belarusian regimes.
- The sanctions impose an asset freeze and dealings prohibition on designated person which includes individuals and entities. It is prohibited for any person in Canada and any Canadian outside Canada to
 - deal in property held by a designated person,
 - enter into or facilitate any transaction related to such a dealing,
 - provide any financial or other related services in respect of such a dealing
 - make any goods available to a designated person, or
 - provide any financial or related service to, or for the benefit of, a designated person
- Additionally, aircraft and ships that are owned, leased, chartered or otherwise hired by Russian individuals and firms are banned from landing in Canada.

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- Sanctions prohibiting Canadians from purchasing Russian oil came into effect on March 10.
- Canada has updated its sanctions six times between February 24 and March 14 2022 to increase prohibitions and the number of individuals and entities included in the sanctions its response to Russian aggression.
- In response to Canada's actions, Russia has released a list of 313 Canadians banned from the country. The list includes many parliamentarians, including the Prime Minister and MP Brendan Hanley.
- On March 24, G7 countries issued a statement underlining their resolved to cooperate on pressure against Russia and Belarus including fully implementing economic sanctions and working with governments outside the G7 countries to adopt similar sanctions. G7 countries stated their readiness to apply additional measures as required, and reiterated their support for Ukrainian people and the resistance to the Russian aggression.
- G7 countries are taking steps to increase the resilience of the infrastructure in their respective nations by strengthening coordinated cyber defences and improving shared awareness of cyber threats. The statement highlights the need to reduce reliance on Russian energy products by switching to alternative supplies, and emphasizing the need to pursue the Paris agreement goals by reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Department

April 5, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB B****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Federal *Emergencies Act***Executive Council
Office**Recommended response:**

- Canadians have the right to peaceful and lawful assembly to voice their views and concerns.
- We've seen that here in the Yukon, where events have been respectful and orderly.
- However, protesters do not have the right to threaten and intimidate other Canadians, or disrupt critical infrastructure and trade.
- The federal government has justified invocation of the *Emergencies Act* because of the disruptive impact the Freedom Convoy had on downtown Ottawa and other critical infrastructure sites such as border crossings.
- We support the provinces most impacted by the illegal blockades, and we support the federal government's targeted, time-limited measures aimed at helping to provide a peaceful resolution to this crisis.

Additional response:

- The federal government promised that the measures would be time-limited and limited in scope. The Act was invoked February 14 and ended on February 23.
- The use of the *Emergencies Act* will be examined so we can learn from it. Parliament is required by law to undertake an investigation into any use of the *Emergencies Act*. Like all Canadians, we will be interested to see the outcomes of that report.

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

- The opposition may probe on the Yukon's position with respect to the use of the *Emergencies Act* and if it was enforced anywhere in the Yukon.
- While the measures have ceased, the investigation and debate on using the *Act* will continue in Ottawa.
- Local reports in Yukon suggested that some individuals felt targeted by the financial measures that were brought in (identifying people who donated to the convoy).

Background:

- The federal government passed two regulations under the *Emergencies Act*: one describing limits of public assembly and protected places, and one describing the financial measures to restrict support for the convoy.
- Checks and balances are built-in to the *Emergencies Act*, including parliamentary votes on supporting the measures, and a parliamentary review once the emergency is over.
- Data from crowdfunding site GiveSendGo was hacked and leaked. It showed that around \$10,000 was donated from people in the Yukon.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Department

March 3, 2022

Date

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Recommended response:

- Yukon's economy continues to show signs of strength with low unemployment and strong GDP growth but the territory is seeing the impacts of inflation which has increased across the country at the fastest rate since the early 1990's.
- The inflation rate in Whitehorse jumped from 3.7 per cent in January to 4.5 per cent in February.
- Inflation in the Yukon generally follows inflation in the rest of the country. The 4.5 per cent increase in the Whitehorse consumer price index remains well below the national rate of 5.7 per cent and is the second-lowest in the country, behind Iqaluit (2.9%). This is the fourth consecutive month that the year-over-year growth in consumer price index for Whitehorse has been below national growth.
- Global factors have increased the cost of essential consumer goods like food and gasoline. Low interest rates have helped push up demand for housing resulting in rising rents and home prices.

Additional response:

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

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Additional response:

- The Council of the Federation met on March 10 to discuss the increasing gas and energy prices being experienced globally.
- We discussed some of the strategies available to deal with the significant impact these prices are having on Canadians.
- We continue to explore options in the short-term.
- We also discussed the long-term energy security of Canada.
- Premiers are interested in finding ways to reduce the financial burden on Canadians, while reducing our dependence on other countries, and will be seeking to have more conversations with the federal government about this important issue.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- Premiers discussed the increasing gas prices on a Council of the Federation call on March 10, 2022.
- Premiers agreed to write to the Prime Minister regarding their concerns with affordability and to seek action from the federal government to reduce the burden.

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As of March 26, no consensus has been reached between PT officials on the content of the letter.

- Key government led programs and initiatives that address inflation and affordability in the Yukon:

Health and Social Services

Annual increase to support cost of living increases for non-government organizations: 2022-23

- In the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Department of Health and Social Services will provide a 1.75% increase to manage cost of living to all non-government organizations with transfer of payment agreements.
- The 1.75% increase aligns with past allocations and with considerations in other Yukon Government negotiations and discussions.
- The department has adjusted its current funding allocation to accommodate a 1.75% increase for non-government organizations.
- This commitment will advance the relationships between the organizations and the department.

Executive Council Office:

Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

- In 2021-22, the Youth Directorate provided over \$1.1 million to support operational funding to:
 - Association franco-yukonnaise – \$25,000
 - BYTE-Empowering Youth Society – \$274,000
 - Boys and Girls Club of Yukon – \$277,000
 - Heart of Riverdale Community Centre – \$278, 000
 - Youth of Today Society – \$271,000

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- These operationally funded organizations will be starting their renewed three-year transfer payment agreements in 2022-23. All have requested increases to their annual operational funding.
- Commencing in 2022-23 these organizations will receive the following funding increases to offset COVID-related expenses and other operational expenses.
 - Association franco-yukonnaise + \$6000/year (**\$31,000 total/year**)
 - BYTE-Empowering Youth Society + \$20,000/year (\$294,000 + \$10,000 = **\$304,000 total/year**). BYTE receives an additional \$10,000 of project funding to support their Leaders in Training conference which will be amalgamated into their operational funding agreement commencing in 2022-23.
 - Boys and Girls Club of Yukon + \$20,000/year (**\$297,000 total/year**)
 - Heart of Riverdale Community Centre + \$20,000/year (**\$298,000 total/year**)
 - Youth of Today Society + \$20,000/year (**\$291,000 total/year**)
- These bolded values will be the new annual totals of the respective three-year transfer payment agreements.

Education**Funding for early childhood education**

- The Government of Yukon has made significant and ongoing financial investments in Early Learning and Child Care and we signed two agreements with the Government of Canada to access an additional \$54.3 million in federal funding over the next five years to support Universal Child Care in the Yukon.
 - New agreement: the Canada-Yukon Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (signed in July 2021) for \$42M over 5 years (2021-22 to 2025-26).

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- Extended agreement: the Canada-Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (signed in August 2021) for \$10.1M over 4 years (2021-22 to 2024-25), including a one-time Workforce Development Action Plan for \$2.5M in 2021-22.
- The new Universal Program has reduced parent fees to less than \$10 per day on average.
- Wages for early childhood educators employed by operators who opted into the new Universal Child Care program increased effective April 1, 2021. Funding includes an additional payment of 14% of wage costs to operators for mandatory employment-related costs (e.g. CPP, EI, and WCB contributions). Fully qualified early childhood educators in Yukon now make over \$30 an hour – some of the highest wages in Canada.
- Yukon and Canada announced Cultural Enhancement Funding for child care providers that will enable licensed programs and early childhood educators in the Yukon to have access to \$800,000 in funding, over two years, to develop enhanced, culturally rich, early learning programs.
- Yukon and Canada announced the Early Learning and Child Care Benefits Funding program to establish extended health insurance benefits for employees of Early Learning and Child Care centres as part of Yukon's universal child care model. The program provides total funding of \$800,000 and will pay for the total cost of the benefit program or up to 8% of gross wages (which ever is less) selected by the operator from a registered Canadian insurance provider.
- For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, we have provided over \$3.3 million in funding to the Child Development Centre (CDC), which includes increased funding of \$150,000 through the Canada-Yukon Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement to fully fund the licensed therapeutic pre-school as well as \$46,000 for additional communications and project support.
- Total funding provided to CDC in 2021/22 is \$3,378,006.

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Energy, Mines and Resources:

Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency and offset costs

- Our energy programs are successfully encouraging Yukon residents and local businesses to reduce their energy use, save money and choose low carbon options to live and move.
- Energy efficiency programs are available for the transportation sector, renewable heating sector, and the construction sector focusing on high efficiency buildings.
- For existing homes, the Energy Branch offers the Good Energy rebate program for high performance heating systems and upgrades to thermal enclosures including insulation and windows and high performance new homes. Taking these measures will save homeowners money on their energy costs.
- For commercial and institutional buildings, the Energy Branch offers rebates for greenhouse gas-reducing retrofits and renewable heating.
- For First Nation and municipal buildings, the Energy Branch offers retrofit and funding support through its Community Institutional Energy Efficiency Program.
- Building efficiently and retrofitting existing buildings, whether your home or your business, will save Yukoners' money.

Economic Development:

New temporary Inflation Relief Rebate

- On March 22, the Government of Yukon announced a new \$150 Inflation Relief Rebate to reduce the impacts that rising prices are having on Yukoners.
- The rebate will be applied automatically to all residential and commercial ATCO Electric Yukon and Yukon Energy electricity bills in the coming months, regardless of energy usage.
- The rebate will appear as a \$50 credit, each month for three months.

Paid Sick Leave Rebate

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

Yukon Emergency Relief Program (YERP)

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

- YERP provides supports to Yukon businesses and non-government organizations affected by the orders under CEMA.
- YERP covers those non-tourism businesses that experience an operating deficit directly related to the CEMA orders.
- Unlike Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supports (TNASS), YERP covers fixed costs, e.g., business insurance, commercial rent or lease, or electricity and heating fuel.
- The program provides up to \$10,000 per month up to the point of break even, up to \$30,000, over the course of the program (will end two weeks after CEMA ends).

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

- We are entering the third year of our Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan, which provides supports to the tourism sector.

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

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

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

Additional funding programs

- Rising inflation, housing and rental prices create challenges for the many small non-profits and individual creators that make up Yukon's thriving creative and cultural sector;
 - We provide supports to the sector through a number of funding programs including:
 - Advanced Artist Award;
 - Arts Fund;
 - Arts Operating Funds;
 - Cultural Industries Training Funds;
 - Culture Quests;
 - New Canadian Events Fund;
 - Yukon Historic Properties Assistance Program;
 - Yukon Historic Resources Fund; and
 - Museums Contribution Program.

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

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

Highways and Public Works:

Capital budget for affordable housing

- Projects under the Five-Year Capital Plan which support housing affordability and those in need include:
 - the 47 unit mixed use housing project and the Challenge Disability Resource Group's 45-unit Cornerstone Development, both in Whitehorse, will be completed this summer and will provide housing for those in need;
 - three triplex housing units, located in Watson Lake, Mayo and Whitehorse, will be completed this spring and provide affordable housing to families in need;
 - the Old Crow 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing has entered the construction phase with expected completion in 2022–23; and
 - the 10-Plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake is included in the Northern Carve-Out. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2022. The project is forecast to be complete in summer 2023.

Public Service Commission:

Remote work policy in support of employees working in communities

- In fall 2021, the Yukon government introduced a new remote work policy to support employees to continue working remotely in the long term.
- Implementing the new remote work policy is an action in the Our Clean Future strategy, as people are supported to work from home and reduce their emissions by commuting less.

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- The new remote work policy also enables employees to work remotely from Yukon communities outside of Whitehorse, in some circumstances.
- The Public Service Commission will strive to support more long-term remote work arrangements throughout the Yukon government where it makes sense, and will track data on long-term arrangements going forward.

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

- The Yukon is experiencing a high demand for housing, and we recognize that housing affordability and availability are primary difficulties for many Yukoners looking for stable housing.
- Housing needs are unique in each of our communities and affordable housing is important for all Yukoners. Whether rented or owned, affordable housing is normally measured as costing no more than 30% of gross household income, but affordable housing can look different for each individual.
- Yukon Housing Corporation is investing across all parts of the housing continuum including increases to supportive housing, subsidized Community Housing, and rental subsidy programs, including:
 - Continuing to support approximately 1,000 households through our Community Housing programs (Rent Geared to Income, Rent Supplement, and the Canada Yukon Housing Benefit);
 - Continuing to offer incentive programs to help with affordability, which complement programs offered by the federal government and private sector such as the Housing Initiatives Fund, the Rural Home Ownership Loan Program and the Municipal Matching Rental Construction Grant that support new construction of affordable rental housing and home ownership options and working in partnership with all levels of government and housing developers to invest in affordable housing stock and programs.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB C****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Inflation**Executive Council
Office

- We negotiated the Northern Carve Out with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to support \$40 million in affordable community housing projects in Yukon.
- Over the last few years, our investments in housing programs and commitments to housing supported the development or upgrade of over 600 homes. We are supporting Yukon families in their efforts to gain and maintain affordable and adequate places to live.

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

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

Federal Government:

- The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is increasing the 2022 tax breaks after adjusting for inflation, which is called indexation. In the light of high inflation, the CRA increased its indexation rate to 2.4% for 2022 from 1% last year. The CRA offers three benefits to every Canadian and all three will be increasing in 2022:
 - Basic personal amount (BPA) tax credit – increase by \$590 to \$14,398
 - Minimum taxable amount – increase by \$1,177 to \$50,197
 - Age amount tax credit of you are over 65 – increase by \$185 to \$7,898

Alberta

- Suspending 13 cent per litre provincial sales tax on gasoline and diesel effective April 1.
 - This remains in effect through the spring and will be adjusted on a sliding scale depending on oil prices
 - Full 13 cents will be restored if oil prices drop below \$80 US per barrel.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB C****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Inflation**Executive Council
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- Three electrical rebates of \$50 for each of the last three months will be provided to almost all homes and businesses.
 - The rebates will be applied directly to customer's bills either as one lump sum or in three installments.
 - Yukon has the mechanism set up for this type of subsidy through the Interim Electrical Rebate

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

Manitoba

- No information found.

Saskatchewan

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

British Columbia

- On March 25, the BC government announced that ICBC, its public auto insurer, will provide a one-time relief rebate to customers to ease the financial burden of increased gas prices caused by the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces.
 - Most ICBC customers with a basic auto insurance policy during the month of February will be eligible for the \$110 relief rebate.
 - Most commercial customers will receive a rebate of \$165 because they generally incur higher expenses.
 - This rebate will total more than \$395 million and comes at time when the global increase in gas prices and other cost pressures have affected day-to-day life for British Columbians.
- BC has raised its minimum wage by 2.8% effective June 1. This is not specifically a reaction to inflation, but in line with their policy over the last 5 years.
- BC is investing in local growers and manufacturers in order to shorten their supply chains.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB C****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Inflation**Executive Council
Office**Ontario**

- On April 4, introduced legislation that would, if passed, cut the gas tax by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre for six months beginning July 1, 2022.
 - Effective July 1 until December 31, 2022, the gas tax rate would be cut from 14.7 cents per litre to 9 cents per litre. The fuel tax rate, which includes diesel, would be reduced from 14.3 cents per litre to 9 cents per litre.
- Ontario's plan to cut gas and fuel taxes is part of a broader package that will provide immediate cost-of-living relief, including:
 - Cutting costs for millions of Ontario vehicle owners by refunding licence plate sticker renewal fees paid since March 2020, and eliminating licence plate renewal fees and plate stickers on a go-forward basis, saving vehicle owners \$120 a year in southern Ontario and \$60 a year in Northern Ontario for passenger and light commercial vehicles.
 - Permanently removing tolls on Highways 412 and 418, effective April 5.
 - Reaching an agreement with the federal government for \$13.2 billion of funding for a Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System, providing Ontario families with children five years old and younger in participating licensed child care centres with up to 25 per cent in savings, to a minimum of \$12 per day, retroactive to April 1, 2022. This agreement will deliver an average of \$10-a-day child care for eligible children by September 2025.
 - On January 18, 2022, the Ontario government provided 21 days of electricity-rate relief, by lower electricity rates to the lower off-peak rate, half the on-peak rate.

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

Quebec

- In November 2021, Quebec announced one-time payments for low income earners.
 - All single Quebecers whose income is less than \$50,000 will receive a \$275 payment
 - couples whose combined income is less than \$55,912 will get a total of \$400.

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- The government is also doubling an annual payment for low-income people over the age of 70, from \$200 to \$400.

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

- On March 22, Quebec announced a one-time payment of \$500 for individuals earning less than \$100,000.

Northwest Territories

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

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

Newfoundland and Labrador

- On March 15, NL announced a five point plan worth \$22.2M to support the high cost of living:
 - Increasing their income supplement by 10%. The supplement is given to 162,000 individuals and families.
 - Increasing their seniors benefit by 10%, supporting over 50,000 seniors and families.
 - Over \$5M in one-time benefit to those already receiving income support.
 - \$1.9M for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and rebates for electric vehicles.
 - \$2M to transition homes that use only oil for heat to electricity.
- The provincial utilities board is tasked with improving the fuel pricing process.

New Brunswick

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

Nova Scotia

The provincial government is providing \$13.2 million to help vulnerable Nova Scotians address the impact of rising fuel prices. The support package includes the following:

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- A one-time payment of \$150 to all current income assistance recipients, including disability support program participants receiving income support.
- A one-time payment of \$150 to all currently eligible recipients of the heating assistance rebate program. The payment is expected to be made by the end of April.
- \$1 million to Feed Nova Scotia to distribute among its 140 food banks province wide.
- \$200,000 to local food banks across the province that are not part of the Feed Nova Scotia network.”

Prince Edward Island

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

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

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Session Briefing Note

Inflation

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Appendix – Inflation Finance Briefing Note

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

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

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

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

Source: Statistics Canada

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

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

- The pandemic caused many consumer prices to fall in 2020.
- Some of the higher inflation in January 2022 was due to catch up growth.

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Session Briefing Note

Inflation

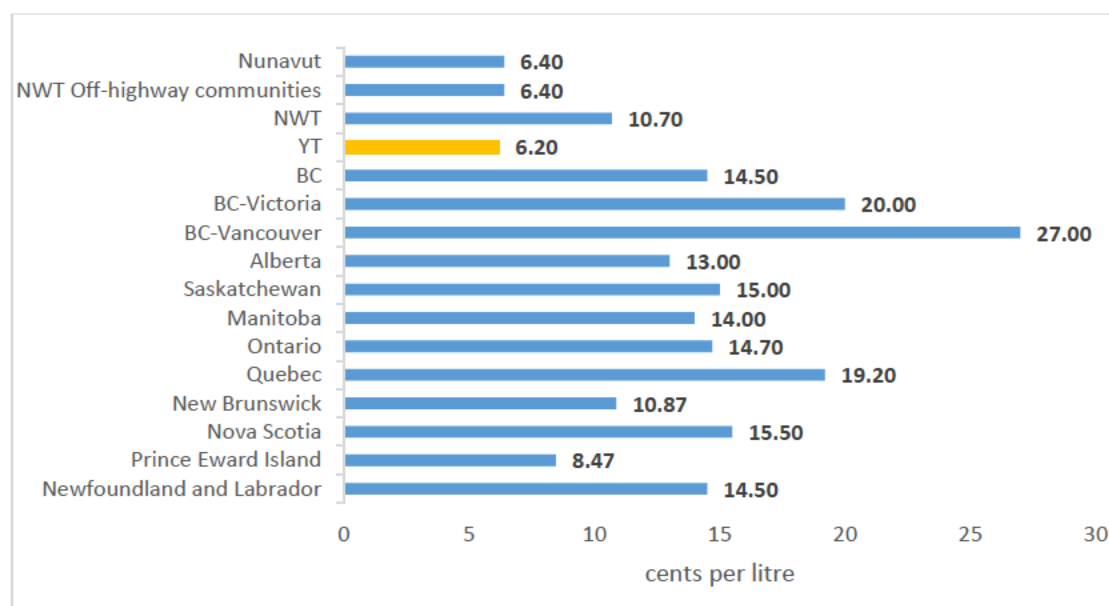
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- The two-year inflation rate between January 2022 and January 2020 (pre-pandemic) is 1.9 per cent (annual average).

Gasoline taxes by region in Canada



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

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

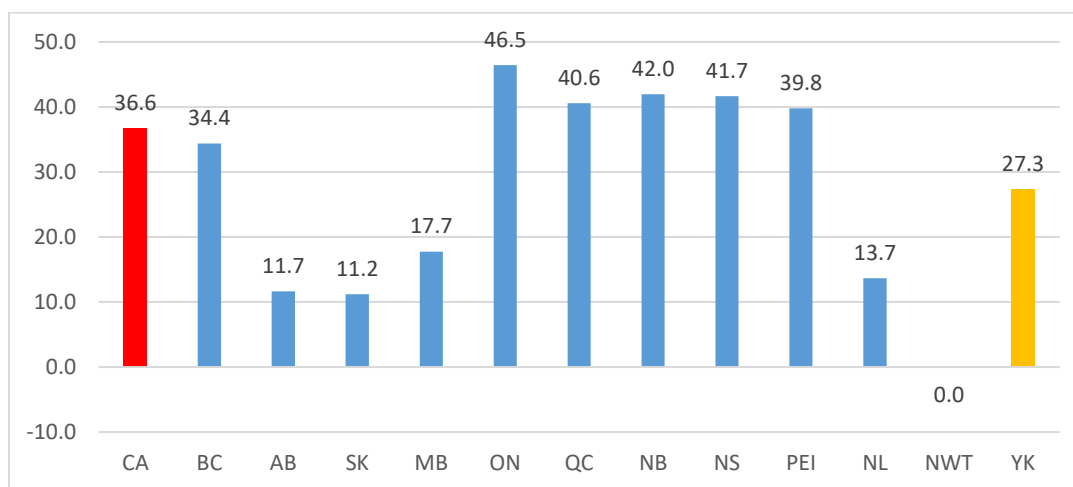
As in the rest of the country, house prices have been increasing.

- Housing costs across the country have increased due to rising household savings, low interest rates and a lack of housing inventory.

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- Over the last two years, the average resale home price in Canada has increased by over 35 per cent compared to 27 per cent in Yukon¹.

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



The government is making progress on addressing affordability.

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

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

April 5, 2022

Date

¹ Canada Real Estate Association

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB D****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Protocol – Intergovernmental
Relations**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon exercises protocol practices through different means including flying special flags, recognizing Yukoners through awards, and holding special events.
- These practices are ways we can recognize and highlight significant milestones and achievements of individual Yukoners and celebrate Yukon as a whole.

Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

- In 2022, Canada is celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, the 70th anniversary of her accession to the Throne.
- Our government recognizes this momentous anniversary. Her Majesty is the longest reigning Sovereign of Canada and the first to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee.
- Commemorations and celebrations will be taking place throughout the territory this year.
- Canada is supporting provinces and territories in developing celebrations specific to their jurisdiction. The Yukon's Commissioner will be hosting a community tour, teas and picnics, as well as developing a jubilee garden to celebrate The Queen at the Taylor House. These events are intended to be inclusive to all Yukoners.
- Yukoners may have seen the Jubilee flag outside the Legislative assembly in February as a kick-off to the Jubilee celebrations. An exhibition is ongoing at the Commissioner's Office until the end of the calendar year.

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Office

- Platinum Jubilee pins are available at the Commissioner's Office.

Royal Tour

- The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall (Prince Charles and Camilla) will tour Canada in May 2022. Events and activities will take place in:
 - Newfoundland and Labrador
 - Canada's Capital Region
 - the Northwest Territories
- This is part of the Royal family's tour to commonwealth countries in celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee.

Additional details on the Platinum Jubilee events

- All events are oriented to community and family experiences to celebrate the Jubilee. The pandemic has highlighted the value and importance of gatherings and celebrations in communities.
- Throughout the year, the Commissioner's Office will provide pins to give away and they will fly the Jubilee banners and flag.
- There is also an exhibit at the Taylor House displaying all of the Royal visits to Yukon since 1954. The Commissioner's Office has a collection of books on the monarchy that guests can come enjoy.
- On June 2, Taylor House will be illuminated with purple lights to coincide with the Queen's Birthday Parade taking place outside Buckingham Palace.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB D****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Protocol – Intergovernmental Relations**Executive Council
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- June 11 is the Commissioner's Jubilee Celebration. This is a cocktail party at the Dawson City Museum hosted by the Commissioner with Yukon's Story Laureate as a special guest.
 - On August 13, there will be a Jubilee Garden Party in Whitehorse from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Commissioner's Residence. Guests can enjoy bocce ball, croquet, and other lawn games. There will also be tours of the residence and a presentation from the Story Laureate.
 - The unveiling of the Jubilee Garden will take place on June 3 at Taylor House. The garden will include a plaque and locally procured flowers and shrubbery to recognize the Queen's Jubilee. .
 - Online, the Commissioner's Office makes a Jubilee post every Friday on their Facebook page providing links to information, different events and special things happening for the Platinum Jubilee.
 - There is also a virtual tour of the Taylor House exhibit on Royal visits on the Commissioner's website.
 - Yukon government's Executive Council Office is working with the Commissioner's Office on the planning for Jubilee events taking place this year. More details will be revealed as planning progresses.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Governor General of Canada announced that Canada will welcome a Royal Tour by The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall in May 2022.
- The Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II is being celebrated in 2022 in the Commonwealth to mark the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on February 6, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB D****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Protocol – Intergovernmental Relations**Executive Council
Office

- The opposition has tabled Motion no. 288 in the Yukon Legislative Assembly urging YG to create a one-time commemorative medal and to provide funding to communities for celebrations in June.
- Flags and the choices for half-masting at government buildings have been a previous line of questioning from opposition.

Flag schedule

Days the flags fly at half-mast:

- April 9: National Day of Remembrance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge;
- April 28: National Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace;
- June 23: National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism;
- Second Sunday in September: Firefighters' National Memorial Day;
- Last Sunday in September: Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial;
- September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation;
- November 11: Remembrance Day; and
- December 6: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Flags will be flown at half-mast at Government of Yukon buildings after the passing of certain people, usually those who have served in government and made notable contributions to Yukon.

Half-mast protocols differ between the Legislative Assembly and other YG buildings.

The Premier has ultimate authority on decisions for flag flying and half-masting at YG buildings.

Background:

- Royal Tours: The last Royal visit to the Yukon was in 2016 when The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (Will and Kate) toured BC and Yukon. The Royal couple visited McBride Museum and engaged in a community festival on Main Street held

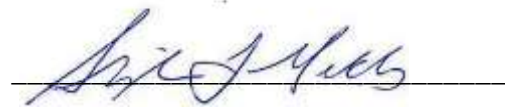
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Office

in their honour. They later travelled to Carcross to partake in traditional music, dancing, and a visit to the mountain biking destination Montana Mountain.

- In 2017, the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall (Prince Charles and Camilla) toured Nunavut, Ontario, and Quebec.
- In 2011 The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge participated in events in National Capital Region; Quebec; Prince Edward Island; Northwest Territories; and Alberta. This visit marked Their Royal Highnesses' first trip abroad as a married couple.
- On the day of the announcement of the 2022 Royal Tour (April 11), the Government of Canada noted that the detailed itinerary will be announced later this spring.
- Canada has released an emblem, a postage stamp, and a coin to commemorate the Jubilee. Canada offered funding to communities to hold events; the application deadline was February 22. The Yukon has received funding for our community events as well as parts of the Jubilee Garden.
- The Commissioner's office understands that it was Her Majesty's wish that medals not be designed for the jubilee, given the hardship and suffering that the pandemic has caused.
- Alberta, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan have confirmed a provincial jubilee medal.
- Ontario, Quebec, and Nunavut are confirmed to not be creating a medal.
- Canada has signaled plans to develop an award program and is engaging provinces and territories in the month of March to advance work. The Government of Yukon's Chief of Protocol is engaged on this project.
- In 2012 to mark the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was created as a way for Canada to honour the Queen, and recognize significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. During the year of celebrations, 60,000 Canadians were recognized, including 271 Yukoners.

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Relations**Executive Council
Office

Approved by:

April 12, 2022

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**Session Briefing Note****Wolverine Mine****Spring 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- Although we are disappointed that the outcome of the sales process did not result in the transition of the Wolverine site to a new owner, we agree with the court that the Receiver - PricewaterhouseCoopers - conducted a fair sale process.
- The Government of Yukon and the Receiver continue to be focused on ensuring protection of the environment by continuing water treatment, maintaining and upgrading critical site infrastructure, and addressing urgent site needs.
- Long-term remedial planning for the site will be developed through discussions with First Nations.

Additional response:

- We are in discussions with PricewaterhouseCoopers on the future transfer of care and maintenance responsibilities to the Government of Yukon in the coming months.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers is analyzing the impacts of a flash flood-induced discharge of mine-impacted storm water from the site on August 6, 2021 and has begun mitigations to prevent similar occurrences in the future.
- We are aware of a non-compliant sample result in treated effluent from the tailings storage facility in late August 2021, and are taking the necessary steps to improve water treatment processes and procedures.

CONFIDENTIAL**Session Briefing Note****Wolverine Mine****Spring 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in the activities, expenditures and remediation approach at the Wolverine site.
- There has been recent media attention related to the results of the site sale process.
- Two water related issues occurred in the second half of 2021 that received local attention.

Background:

- The Wolverine Mine went into temporary closure in January 2015. The owner, Yukon Zinc Corporation, continued to staff the site for care and maintenance.
- On September 13, 2019, the Yukon Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the Receiver of the Wolverine Mine site.
- The Receiver is now overseeing care and maintenance of the site and is responsible for complying with regulatory authorizations and applicable statutes.
- The Government of Yukon continues to inspect the site regularly to ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect the environment and human health and safety.

Water

- The underground mine portal flooded with water that reached the surface in June 2017. To prevent discharge of contaminated water, Yukon Zinc Corporation pumped the water from the mine portal into the tailings storage facility.
- The Government of Yukon required Yukon Zinc Corporation to construct a water treatment plant to treat and discharge water to remain in compliance with its licences. The company did not construct the water treatment plant.
- In fall 2018, the Government of Yukon constructed a water treatment system and in 2019 began seasonal water treatment. Alexco Environmental Group (now Ensero), partnering with Dena Nezziddi Corporation (Ross River Dena Council's

CONFIDENTIAL**Session Briefing Note****Wolverine Mine****Spring 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Development Corporation), was contracted to lease a tailings storage facility water treatment system and to do environmental monitoring in 2019 and 2020.

- The Government of Yukon contracted Linkan Engineering to carry out water treatment at the tailings storage facility in 2021 and 2022 to further reduce water levels and conduct environmental monitoring. Portal water treatment occurs year-round at a rate of approximately 130 cubic meters per day.
- On September 13, 2021, Linkan Engineering notified Assessment and Abandoned Mines of a non-compliant result of acute toxicity to rainbow trout from a sample collected on August 22. Discharge was immediately ceased and subsequent toxicity sample results were within acceptable ranges.
- To date, approximately 228,000 cubic meters of treated water has been safely discharged from the tailings storage facility, bringing water volumes back to within safe levels.
- According to reports from the Receiver, on August 6, 2021, a significant rainfall caused a storm-water collection sump to become overwhelmed, resulting in the need to undertake a controlled discharge of 60 cubic metres of untreated storm-water into Go Creek over a two-hour period. The Receiver is implementing measures to better prepare for similar rainfall events in the future.
- [In response to the non-compliant toxicity result on Sept. 13, 2021 and the controlled discharge on August 2, 2021, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a warning letter to the Receiver on Feb. 18, 2022 noting non-compliance with the Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations.](#)
- [On February 28, 2022, analytical results were received from the portal water treatment system indicating elevated total suspended solids above the allowable threshold in the Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations. In response to receipt of these analytical results, the Receiver ceased discharged.](#)
- [The Receiver adjusted pumping rates to address the elevated suspended solids issue and will resume discharge once acceptable analytical results are received.](#)

CONFIDENTIAL**Session Briefing Note****Wolverine Mine****Spring 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Anticipated Expenditures and Security (See BN #93)**

- The previous estimated mine reclamation and closure liability cost is \$35.5 million, however changes in site conditions suggest reclamation costs are higher.
- Since 2018, the Government of Yukon has spent \$24 million on care and maintenance, water treatment, administrative costs of the Receiver, and legal fees. Approximately \$10.5 million of those expenditures were recovered from financial security posted by Yukon Zinc Corporation.
- Security has now been fully expended, requiring the use of Government of Yukon funds to manage the site.
- Anticipated expenditures in 2022–23 are estimated at \$11.9 million based on the following cost breakdown:

Project/Activity	Cost
Care and maintenance	\$5,458,050
Water treatment	\$4,190,051
Urgent works including water management upgrades	\$550,000
Environmental monitoring	\$482,285
Remedial planning	\$192,500
Receiver's administrative costs	\$500,000
Personnel	\$550,000
Total	\$11,922,886

- Anticipated expenditures reflect the transition of care and maintenance responsibilities to the Government of Yukon in fall 2022.
- The administrative costs of Receiver are less than previous years in consideration of the conclusion of the sales process, winding down of the Receivership, and

CONFIDENTIAL**Session Briefing Note****Wolverine Mine****Spring 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources

resolution of the majority of legal issues.

Sale Process

- The sale process led by the Receiver concluded in fall 2021 following evaluation of multiple bids. No bid met all of the criteria set out in the court-approved Sale and Investment Solicitation Plan. One bid was received for a small portion of the claims partially owned by Yukon Zinc Corporation, which the Receiver, through consultation with the Government of Yukon, determined to be acceptable.
- On January 21, 2022, the court approved the termination of the sale, the sale of the Logan claims, and the sealing of commercially sensitive bid information for a period of three years.

Legal

- The court's decision regarding ownership of assets by a third party, Welichem General Research Partnership, required the Receiver to replace essential assets on site with funding provided by the Government of Yukon.
- On November 4, 2021, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld a decision that mineral claims are not considered "real property", reducing the effectiveness of the Yukon's charge and negating its ability to reclaim costs. Given the finality of this decision, the Government of Yukon will seek to address this issue through upcoming legislative amendments to ensure lack of payment of security by a mining company is viewed as a debt by the court.
- On November 4, 2021, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld a decision that ensures the Government of Yukon is not responsible for funding approximately \$1.2 million in lease back-payments.
- The Receiver and Welichem have reached an agreement in principle requiring Welichem to remove its assets from the site provided all assets used for water treatment become part of the property. The final terms of the arrangement will be captured in a settlement agreement filed in court.

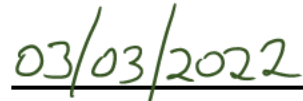
CONFIDENTIAL**Session Briefing Note****Wolverine Mine****Spring 2022**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB F****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Carcross/Tagish First Nation
Proclamation**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government welcomes the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Proclamation that was made public in an important and impressive ceremony in Carcross on March 30.
- I want to thank the government of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and also to recognize the important work by Elders, youth and others that underpin this important initiative.
- The Proclamation reflects a collaborative approach by Carcross/Tagish First Nation to goals important to all Yukoners including economic development, sustainability of cultures and ecosystems and thriving communities.
- I look forward to learning more about Carcross/Tagish First Nation's vision, which they have called "How We Walk with the Land and the Water."

Additional response:

- Our government has a strong and enduring relationship with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, reflected in the joint work actively underway with them in a number of areas across government.
- Both of our governments are fully engaged at the Yukon Forum, where joint priorities and action plans to work towards them are collaboratively established.
- We are active partners supporting the leadership role of Carcross/Tagish First Nation on the Yukon First Nation Governments' Burial Site Investigation Committee and the efforts of all involved to bring to light to and record the harms of residential schools as a key part of reconciliation.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB F****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Carcross/Tagish First Nation
Proclamation**Executive Council
Office

- We continue to work with Carcross/Tagish First Nation on a range of important education initiatives and on priority actions in the implementation of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final and Self-Government Agreements.
- I welcome the important work Carcross/Tagish First Nation has put into Nations Connect, their new consultation portal, and we continue with our commitment to consult fully with them on projects or initiatives that may impact their rights and their Traditional Territory.


Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Proclamation includes language suggesting C/TFN jurisdiction in decisions across their Traditional Territory and not only on Settlement Land.
- It also threatens legal action through peacemaker or “mainstream” courts if there are any uses of their lands and waters not in compliance with the Proclamation and Notice.

Background:

- The Proclamation was developed internally by C/TFN without involvement by Government of Yukon.
- It explicitly applies to the C/TFN Traditional Territory in Northern British Columbia and Yukon;
- No mention is made of the C/TFN Final Agreement or the interaction of the Proclamation with it.
- The Proclamation references the need for free, prior and informed consent regarding any future uses of lands, waters and resources, though it does not explicitly reference the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

April 4, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 01****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Mineral Staking Prohibition in
Response to Litigation**Executive Council
Office/Energy, Mines
and Resources

Recommended response:

- We have put mineral staking prohibitions in place within Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon to allow time to address court declarations made in the Ross River Dena Council and Kaska Dena Council mining cases.
- We have also put a mineral staking prohibition in place for the Áashú Village site and surrounding area in the asserted traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to support our ongoing discussions.
- Our goal is to identify solutions that address our shared interests in land and resource matters, provide certainty to industry and benefit all Yukon communities.
- We anticipate that the work being done in collaboration with First Nations to develop new mining legislation will help address many issues, including the court declarations.

Additional response:

If asked about the Ross River Area:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River Area is in place until April 30, 2024, to allow time to advance consultation with the Ross River Dena Council and other Kaska on how best to address the declarations regarding mineral staking, exploration and development.

If asked about the southern portion of Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the southern portion of the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon withdraws land from staking until April 30, 2024.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 01****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Mineral Staking Prohibition in
Response to Litigation**Executive Council
Office/Energy, Mines
and Resources

If asked about White River First Nation:

- We are addressing a range of issues through bilateral negotiations with White River First Nation, including consultation obligations related to the mineral declarations.

If asked about Taku River Tlingit First Nation:

- The Government of Yukon and the Taku River Tlingit First Nation have agreed to suspend the application of the first mineral declaration from the Taku River Tlingit First Nation lawsuit until **September 30, 2023**. We are seeking solutions to address the consultation obligation set out in this declaration.
- In support of ongoing bilateral discussions, the Government of Yukon has withdrawn 11 square kilometres of land associated with the Áashú Village in southern Yukon from potential land disposition and mineral staking until **September 30, 2023**.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Mineral staking prohibitions in asserted traditional territories remain a focus of discussions with affected First Nations and are of interest to other First Nations, industry and stakeholders.

Background:

- In 2012, the Yukon Court of Appeal made two declarations with respect to the *Ross River Dena Council v. Yukon* (2012 YKCA 14) mining case: (1) the Yukon government (YG) has a duty to consult with Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) in determining whether mineral rights on Crown lands within the Ross River Area are to be made available to third parties under the provisions of the *Quartz Mining Act*; and, (2) YG has a duty to notify and, where appropriate, consult with and accommodate RRDC before allowing any mineral exploration activities to take place within the Ross River Area.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 01****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Mineral Staking Prohibition in
Response to Litigation**Executive Council
Office/Energy, Mines
and Resources

- In 2013, YG took steps to comply with the second declaration by amending the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act* to implement a new regime for Class 1 mining activities.
- In 2014, both the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) and Kaska Dena Council started court proceedings seeking the same mineral declarations granted in the Ross River Area for their respective asserted traditional territories in the Yukon. The declarations were granted by consent.
- In April 2021, the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy Panel released the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy and Recommendations.
- On August 4, 2021, YG informed RRDC that the YG/RRDC mineral table will not resume, as the New Mining Legislation development process will create the foundation to address the issues covered by the two court declarations.
- YG is making efforts to proactively engage Liard First Nation and White River First Nation, recognizing that they could seek and receive similar declarations.

76(1)

Approved by:


 Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

April 11, 2022
 Date

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date

Youth Panel on Climate Change

Question 1 Asked:

The panel called for free tuition at Yukon University, a ban on corporate donations to political parties, and veto power for self governing First Nations. Has the minister implemented any of these recommendations?

Approved Response:

- We have made progress on several of the recommendations provided last fall by the first Youth Panel on Climate Change.
- In many instances, the Youth Panel's recommendations closely align with existing efforts being led by the Government of Yukon.
- We are currently undertaking further analysis to assess the Youth Panel's recommendations and identify where we can meaningfully address the full suite of recommendations.

Question 2 Asked:

Why isn't he implementing all of the youth panel's recommendations right now?

Approved Response:

- Some recommendations require further consideration. Over the next year, we will continue to work with external partners and internal departments to explore how the full suite of recommendations can be addressed.

Question 3 Asked:

When will the minister start working on all of the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change's recommendations instead of sending letters of excuses?

Approved Response:

- Work is already underway to identify opportunities where departments may be able to build on the recommendations and identify emerging opportunities.
- Incorporating the Panel's recommendations is an important step towards developing inclusive policies and approaches to climate action that reflect the needs and priorities of our younger generations. This incorporation will take time.
- We look forward to incorporating the insights and perspectives of the youth panel's work into government decision-making moving forward.

Blues Transcript**Date: Monday, March 21, 2022****QP YPCC**

Tredger: It has been almost six months since the Youth Panel on Climate Change made their ground-breaking recommendations to this government. The youth pointed out all kinds of ways that this Liberal government is falling short on climate action. The government responded by saying that they're already doing the recommendations. I tabled that letter today. So, let's start with a few of those recommendations: The panel called for free tuition at Yukon University, a ban on corporate donations to political parties, and veto power for self-governing First Nations. Has the minister implemented any of these recommendations?

Streicker: Again, I wish to thank the Youth Panel on Climate Change for their recommendations to us. I believe that I, the Minister of Environment, and possibly the Premier have all stood in this House and said that what we would do is prioritize the recommendations that came from the youth panel that would directly affect our goals of reducing emissions in the territory by 45 percent, and that's our climate lens. That's what we stated that we would do in Our Clean Future, and that's what we're doing. When I received the recommendations from the Youth Panel on Climate Change, we said exactly that to them as well — that we would prioritize those recommendations that would help us in reducing our emissions and make life more sustainable

here for our young folks. I can let the House know that we have been working through the next intake for the Youth Panel on Climate Change where they will build on the work of the first one. I will be happy — myself or the Minister of Environment — to present those announcements shortly. I look forward to further questions.

Tredger: Young people already know that they will have to bear the consequences of government inaction for years to come. In the letter that I tabled today, they were told that it's too complicated to implement some of their recommendations. I would like to remind the minister that he is just that: a minister. He has the power to take real climate action if he wants to. The Liberals could stop accepting corporate donations right now. The Liberals could respect First Nation consent on extraction right now. The Liberals could make tuition free at Yukon University right now. If the minister really believes that we are in a climate emergency, why isn't he implementing all of the youth panel's recommendations right now?

Streicker: I do believe that we are in a climate emergency, and I appreciate that every member of this Legislative Assembly has agreed with that statement. That is why we are prioritizing those recommendations that will have an effect on addressing the climate emergency. That is the whole point with all of the things that we try to do — whether it be responding to a pandemic, or whether it be dealing with flooding, or whatever the issues are that we are trying to address here in the territory as a responsible government. The point would be that we should prioritize those things that have the greatest effect, and that is what we said to the young folks when we met with them early on, before they presented their recommendations to us. That is what we said to them when they presented their recommendations to us. That is what we will continue to say, because we do care about them and we do want to shift our energy economy. It is incredibly important. That is why we are investing so much in shifting our energy economy through this budget. There is a ton here around that, and it is really important that we make that prioritization around what is going to have the greatest effect to shift the energy economy to a more renewable, sustainable energy future.

Tredger: In the letter replying to the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change, they acknowledge the climate the panel talked about — shifting our relationships with the environment — and that is bigger than any one area. For the first few panels on climate change, the government was so happy to use their work to make it look like they were taking action on climate change, but the panel saw through this government's shallow action. They called for serious changes across the board. This government wasn't expecting that. In response to these brave, well-researched calls to action, this government sent a pointless letter and hoped that the panelists wouldn't read it too closely, but they have. This is their future at stake, and they can see how much this

CONFIDENTIAL**Executive Council Office
Energy Mines and Resources
Environment**

government doesn't want to listen. When will the minister start working on all of the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change's recommendations instead of sending letters of excuses?

Clarke: As indicated by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, our focus with respect to Our Clean Future is the reduction of greenhouse gases by 45 percent in 2030 from 2010 levels. We, of course, are listening to the youth and to all Yukoners. But these are exciting times, Mr. Speaker. You will know that we have the grid-scale battery project, and we have very promising negotiations taking place in Atlin. We will electrify the Yukon highways much ahead of the days that we said we would. We said we would do it by 2027; we will likely have that done much sooner. We will work with the federal government to ensure that there is electric connectivity between Dawson Creek and Watson Lake. In my capacity as Minister of Highways and Public Works, we will identify the large public structures in the Yukon that will benefit the most from retrofits and that will meaningfully reduce greenhouse gases as well and provide, of course, a brighter and healthier economy and a brighter Yukon for youth and for all Yukoners. This is an exciting time. We are taking action.

CONFIDENTIAL

Session Briefing Note

TAB 2 URGENT

Spring 2022

Public COVID-19 Forum Petition

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Throughout the pandemic the Government of Yukon has worked closely with the Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health to keep Yukoners informed, and provide essential public health information as we continue to try and prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- We have taken a number of steps to ensure information is reaching the public including:
 - more than 120 COVID-19 livestreams
 - more than 540 COVID-19 related news releases
 - Updates to hundreds of Yukon.ca pages providing COVID-19 health information
- We are focused on providing Yukoners with the information they need to make the best health decisions possible and I am proud of the work we are doing to make sure that happens.

Additional response:

- We continue to provide up to date and relevant COVID-19 information to the Yukon public.
- In February, the Government of Yukon launched its COVID-19 dashboard to give the public even more health information.
- Our vaccination campaign has given out:
 - 36,575 first doses;
 - 35,059 second doses; and
 - 19,991 boosters and 3rd doses

CONFIDENTIAL Session Briefing Note

TAB 2 URGENT
Spring 2022

Public COVID-19 Forum Petition

Executive Council
Office

-
- This government is trusting the science and we will continue to make decisions that support healthy individuals, healthy families, and healthy communities.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On March 27, MLA Brad Cathers tabled a petition from Yukoners looking for a public forum on the Government of Yukon's COVID-19 response.

Background:

- On March 27, MLA Brad Cathers tabled a petition from Yukoners looking for a public forum on the Government of Yukon's COVID-19 response.
- The petition urges the government to hold such a forum before June 30, 2022.
- A response to the petition was tabled by the Premier and presented in the legislative assembly on April 5, 2022.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

April 20, 2022

Date.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 02****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Truth and Reconciliation Commission
– Update on Calls to Action**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is continuing to fulfill its commitment to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- The Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan has helped focus our efforts on a number of key areas identified in the Calls to Action, including health and social services, education, justice and heritage.
- We are also working collaboratively with Yukon First Nations to implement Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy*, which will further advance reconciliation and address the Calls to Action.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations governments are leading the nation in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- Our government remains committed to working collaboratively with Yukon First Nations to address the Calls to Action, including amending Yukon's *Child and Family Services Act* and implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations for health and social services.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Premier's 2021 mandate letter references the government's intention to fulfill its commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC's) Calls to Action.
- At the June 4, 2021 Yukon Forum, Yukon First Nations requested that the Yukon government (YG) track and report back on the progress made on the Calls to Action.

Background:

- The TRC report *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future* was released in June 2015. It contains 94 Calls to Action focused on redressing the harms resulting from

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 02****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Truth and Reconciliation Commission
– Update on Calls to Action**Executive Council
Office

Indian Residential Schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. Thirty-two of the Calls to Action relate directly to YG.

- YG and Yukon First Nations (YFNs) collaborate on addressing the Calls to Action through the Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan (refer to **Yukon Forum and Joint Priority Action Plan**).
- YG has taken steps to address the Calls to Action, including:
 - establishing the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations Initiatives at the Department of Education, signing an agreement to establish a YFN School Board, and entering into education agreements with all YFNs;
 - supporting Indigenous athletes and the North American Indigenous Games;
 - implementing the YFN Procurement Policy and the Representative Public Service Plan: *Breaking Trail Together*;
 - working with Yukon First Nations and Yukon Indigenous women's groups to implement Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy* (MMIWG2S+ Strategy);
 - participating at the Trilateral Table on the Wellbeing of YFN Children and Families to address gaps for culturally-appropriate parenting programs; and
 - receiving input from YFNs on Health and Social Services programming through the Mental Health Advisory Committee.
- YG has also established a multi-department ADM Committee to support the implementation of the Calls to Action and the MMIWG2S+ Strategy, and advise on the application of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in the Yukon (refer to "**United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**").

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 4, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 3****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People**Executive Council
Office/Justice

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government continues to support Canada's commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The Final and Self-Government Agreements between the governments of Yukon, Canada and 11 Yukon First Nations reflect many principles contained in the Declaration.
- Our government is working with all Yukon First Nations and other Indigenous partners to advance reconciliation by implementing the Final and Self-Government Agreements, negotiating new government-to-government arrangements, and collaborating on shared priorities including modernizing Yukon's mining legislation.

Additional Response:

- The federal *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* is Canada's new legislative framework for improving the lives of Indigenous peoples and improving and strengthening its relationships with Indigenous governments.
 - The Yukon government is committed to actions that advance reconciliation, while recognizing that each province and territory has its own approach to reconciliation and the Declaration.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Canada and British Columbia have affirmed in legislation that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the "Declaration") applies to their laws, which has raised expectations that other jurisdictions will adopt similar legislation.
 - Questions about the Yukon government's intentions with respect to the potential implementation of the Declaration in Yukon have arisen in some contexts, including at the Yukon Forum and in discussions with some Yukon First Nations and the Inuvialuit.
-

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 3****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People**Executive Council
Office/Justice**Background:**

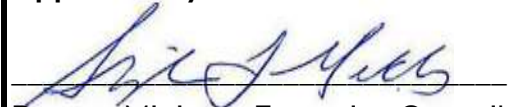
- The Declaration, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007 and fully endorsed by the Government of Canada (Canada) in 2016, speaks to the individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples, taking into account their specific cultural, language, identity, religion, health, education, economic and social circumstances.
- The Declaration is an international set of standards that emphasizes Indigenous peoples' right to live in dignity, to maintain and strengthen Indigenous institutions, cultures and traditions, and to pursue self-determined development in keeping with Indigenous needs and aspirations. It has been supported by 151 countries.
- The Declaration was designed as a guiding document rather than a specific legal instrument and may not be directly compatible with or easily implemented in Canadian or Yukon law.
- In 2016, Canada committed to developing legislation regarding the implementation of the Declaration. In April 2021 the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations made submissions to the committee hearings on the federal bill asking that the federal legislation be made to apply to the Yukon.
- On June 21, 2021, the federal *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* came into force. It requires Canada to take all measures necessary to ensure that "the laws of Canada" are consistent with the Declaration.
- YG will need to assess the implications of the federal Act and how its implementation may affect federal laws in the Yukon such as the Yukon Act, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act, the Yukon First Nations Land Claims Settlement Act and the Yukon First Nations Self-Government Act.
- On December 9, 2021, Canada informed YG that it was initiating its process of consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples. As required by the federal Act, Canada intends to develop an action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration by June 2023, to explore measures to ensure consistency of federal laws with the Declaration, and to table annual progress reports in Parliament.
- In that letter, Canada also committed to engaging YG and other provinces and territories, either bilaterally or through existing federal/provincial/territorial processes, during the consultation process.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 3****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People**Executive Council
Office/JusticeThe Yukon Context

- The Yukon Legislative Assembly passed a motion in 2014 supporting Canada's endorsement of the Declaration (when Canada's support was still qualified).
- In August 2021, an Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADM) Committee on Truth and Reconciliation was established by the Deputy Minister's Review Committee to provide recommendations on the development of a workplan/strategy to guide YG's approach to the Declaration.

YG's Commitments Related to the Declaration

- Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People* Strategy includes a commitment to "explore options to consider the application of the Declaration in the context of Yukon's Final Agreements, other modern treaties, and the evolving relationship with First Nation governments without agreements".
- Strategic Priority 1 of the *Yukon Mineral Development Strategy and Recommendations* is to establish a modern mineral resource management regime that aligns with treaties, Canada's Constitution Act, court-guided agreements, recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and the principles of reconciliation in the Declaration.
- The July 2021 mandate letters reconfirm YG's commitment to the TRC's Calls to Action, which include a call to federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the Declaration as the framework for reconciliation.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Approved by JUSTICE

February 8, 2022

Date

February 23, 2022_____
Deputy Minister, Department of Justice_____
Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 04****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Collaboration with Yukon First Nations Related to COVID-19**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Partnering with Yukon communities and Yukon First Nations is one of the six pillars of *Forging Ahead: Yukon's continuing response to COVID-19*, and this continues to be a priority for our government.
- First Nations governments and community leaders play an integral part in ensuring the safety and protection of all Yukoners.
- We will continue to work with and share information with First Nations governments to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, respond to community spread and increase vaccine uptake in all communities.

Additional response:

- The Aboriginal Relations Community Outreach Team continues to work directly with First Nations governments to provide information and answer questions about the Yukon government's evolving response to COVID-19 including the Omicron wave.
- As always, we ask Yukoners and visitors to respect each community's approach to managing COVID-19 and the local initiatives designed to protect their residents.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- First Nations governments continue to express a strong interest in being engaged by and working with the Yukon government (YG) in the implementation of public health measures intended to manage the impacts of COVID-19.
- Some Yukon First Nations governments have expressed concerns about the lack of engagement and information on the rapidly evolving COVID-19 measures, the vaccine requirement for public servants, community case counts and YG's shift in the approach to testing.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 04****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Collaboration with Yukon First Nations Related to COVID-19**Executive Council
Office**Background:**

- Since March 2020, the Aboriginal Relations Community Outreach Team has coordinated meetings on COVID-19-related matters between Yukon and transboundary First Nations and Ministers, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, enforcement officials and other YG staff.
- Aboriginal Relations Liaisons continue to provide support to Yukon First Nations and regularly share vaccine and case count updates with each First Nation.
- In response to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant in the Yukon, YG has shifted its testing strategy. YG is now prioritizing PCR tests for those who are most vulnerable to severe illness from COVID-19. This includes people who live in communities outside of Whitehorse.
- YG is also now offering free at-home rapid antigen test kits to Yukoners with symptoms of COVID-19 in Whitehorse.
- The Council of Yukon First Nations has been receiving rapid tests from the Public Health Agency of Canada for the last several months. Many First Nations have been offering at home asymptomatic rapid testing to their citizens for several months.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 4, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL

Session Briefing Note

Court Cases Updates

TAB 05

Spring 2022

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun have asked the courts to address issues related to Yukon government decisions regarding a subdivision application and a Class 3 mining application in their Traditional Territories. One of the issues identified is the need to complete land use plans.
- Our government has committed to work with Yukon First Nations to accelerate the pace of land use planning in response to their concerns.
- We will not comment further on these cases while they are before the court. However, we look forward to the court providing clarity on the issues raised in each case.

Additional response:

- The decision of the Court of Appeal in the *Dickson versus Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation* matter provided important clarity about the application of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to Self-Government Agreements in Yukon. We look forward to learning if the Supreme Court of Canada will take up this case and provide further guidance.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Court cases involving Yukon First Nations receive a high level of public interest. Two of the current cases reference land use planning, which may trigger negative recollections of the Peel Watershed planning process.

Background:

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun v. Government of Yukon and Metallic Minerals Corp.:

- On March 15, 2021, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) filed a petition for judicial review of a Yukon government (YG) Decision Document under the Yukon

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 05****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Court Cases Updates**Executive Council
Office

Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act to allow a proposed Class 3 quartz mining exploration program to proceed to the regulatory phase.

- FNNND asserts YG breached its duty to consult by failing to engage directly with community members and failing to complete land use planning pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement between YG and FNNND and under Chapter 11 of the FNNND Final Agreement.
- YG applied to strike parts of the petition that relate to the regional land use planning provisions in the FNNND Final Agreement and the ATAC Road Access Agreement; the Court denied that application. On September 15, 2021, YG asked the Court to strike a number of the declarations prior to the hearing; the Court also denied that application. YG has now filed a Response and affidavits and FNNND's affidavits have also been filed.
- Next step: YG will file a Response Outline by April 14, 2022, after which FNNND will have until April 22, 2022 to file a response if they choose to do so. The judicial review hearing is set for May 4, 5, and 6, 2022.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation v. Government of Yukon et al.:

- On March 8, 2021, Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) filed a petition for judicial review of YG decisions under the *Subdivision Act*, which approved two subdivision applications in the Ten Mile area of Tagish.
- C/TFN asserts that YG breached its duty to consult and accommodate C/TFN in making the decisions, and failed to uphold obligations under Chapter 16 of the Final Agreement by neglecting to coordinate land and resource management activities with C/TFN in critical caribou habitat and by allowing decisions to be made in the absence of Chapter 11 land use planning for the area.
- YG filed a Response to the petition on August 13, 2021 and a supporting Affidavit on August 31, 2021. The other Respondents have also filed their Responses.
- Next step: YG will seek a case management conference and will be seeking leave to file an additional affidavit.

Dickson v. Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (2021 YTCA 3):

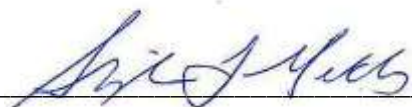
- This was an appeal of a 2020 decision of the Yukon Supreme Court which found that a modified version of the requirement for elected members of the Vuntut Gwitchin

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 05****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Court Cases Updates**Executive Council
Office

First Nation (VGFN) Council to reside on Settlement Land did not violate s. 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (Charter).

- VGFN cross-appealed, arguing that the Charter does not apply to the VGFN Constitution. The Yukon government was an intervenor on the appeal and made submissions arguing that the Charter applies to Yukon First Nation governments.
- Outcome: The Court of Appeal issued a decision on July 21, 2021, dismissing Ms. Dickson's appeal. The Court of Appeal found that the Charter applies to the residency requirement of VGFN's constitution, and while it infringes the equality rights under s. 15(1) of the Charter, it could potentially be justified under s. 1 which allows for reasonable limits on the guarantee of rights and freedoms. If the residency requirement cannot be saved by s. 1, it is still saved by s. 25 which specifies that no other rights guaranteed by the Charter can override or detract from Aboriginal or treaty rights established by current or future land claim agreements.
- Next step: Ms. Dickson applied for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada on September 29, 2021. On November 25, 2021, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation filed a conditional leave to cross appeal. As of March 7, 2022, the Supreme Court has not yet indicated whether it will hear the appeal.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

April 11, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 06****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Reconciliation with First Nations**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Our government is committed to building strong partnerships with First Nations.
- We are working with First Nations to address the harms caused by a long history of inequality and discrimination, and to achieve meaningful change and tangible benefits for all Yukoners through a range of environmental, economic and social projects.

Additional response:

- We are continuing to work with the Government of Canada and Yukon First Nation governments to implement the Final and Self-Government Agreements.
- We have now fully implemented the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy, and are working with our partners to develop an implementation plan for Yukon's Strategy for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ Peoples.
- We have also established a Yukon First Nation School Board, and are implementing the Representative Public Service Plan and advancing land use planning.
- Through the Successor Resource Legislation Working Group, we have established a collaborative process to develop new legislation for lands and mining in which all Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups have been invited to participate.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- All of the 2021 Mandate Letters reference the Yukon government's commitment to reconciliation and strengthening relationships with Yukon First Nations (YFNs), and there is broad interest in knowing what the government is doing to support reconciliation.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 06****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Reconciliation with First Nations**Executive Council
Office**Background:**

- The Yukon government supports reconciliation with YFNs and transboundary Aboriginal groups in a number of areas, including:
 - Working with YFNs through the Yukon Forum and implementing the Joint Priority Action Plan (refer to “**Yukon Forum and Joint Priority Action Plan**”).
 - Presenting a united, collaborative voice to the federal government at Yukon Days.
 - Negotiating and implementing bilateral and trilateral agreements, including government-to-government accords that identify shared priorities.
 - Meeting our consultation obligations and building shared expectations about how consultation will occur through the negotiation of consultation plans and protocols.
 - Developing an implementation plan for the Yukon Strategy on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People with YFNs, Indigenous women’s organizations, families, survivors and representatives of the RCMP and Government of Canada.
 - Implementing the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy to enhance economic outcomes for Yukon First Nations and businesses.
 - Working with YFNs to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action (refer to “**Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on the Calls to Action**”).
 - Extending the Indigenous hiring preference initiative that began in October 2020, until the end of 2029, in support of meeting the program goal of increasing Indigenous representation in the public service to 22 per cent.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

April 20, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 07****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Support for Burial Sites
Investigations**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government recognizes the lasting impact of the trauma caused by the residential school system on Survivors, their families and communities.
- We will continue to support Yukon First Nations, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and transboundary First Nations in their efforts to bring to light and record the harms of residential schools as a key part of reconciliation.
- We remain committed to providing support to Yukon First Nations who wish to conduct searches or other work at former residential school sites.

Additional response:

- The Yukon government has offered our support to the Yukon First Nation Governments' Burial Site Investigation Committee. We look forward to continuing to help the Committee advance this important work in ways that are respectful and support healing and reconciliation.
- We were pleased to hear that the Government of Canada is providing additional funding to support residential school Survivors and their communities across the country.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There has been extensive media coverage of the discovery of buried remains on the grounds of former residential schools across Canada over the past year. This has spurred an outpouring of grief across the country, and calls for the preservation and investigation of all residential school sites in Canada.

Background:

- There were five residential schools in the territory and one in northern British Columbia (BC) for Yukon First Nations students: Choooutla Residential School in Carcross; Coudert Hall (predecessor to Yukon Hall) and Whitehorse Baptist Mission in Whitehorse; the Shingle Point School in Shingle Point (predecessor to All Saints in Aklavik); St. Paul's Hostel in Dawson City; and the Lower Post Residential School in BC.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 07****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Support for Burial Sites
Investigations**Executive Council
Office

- At the Yukon Forum on June 4, 2021, the Yukon government (YG) committed to provide supports to Yukon First Nations (YFNs) for the investigation of former residential school sites.

Yukon First Nation Governments' Burial Site Investigation Committee

- A Yukon First Nation Governments' Burial Site Investigation Committee (the Committee) was established by Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) Chief Doris Bill and Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) Haa Shaa du Hen Lynda Dickson. The Committee has formal representation from nine YFN governments, and continues to correspond with transboundary and Yukon First Nations as well as the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. YG and Canada regularly attend Committee meetings to assist in project planning when invited to do so, though neither are official members of the Committee.
- The Committee's mandate is to identify and locate (by searching with ground penetrating radar) unmarked graves at former Residential School sites in the Yukon, and to develop a work plan on behalf of all 14 YFNs with short- and long-term goals of resolving issues related to residential schools.
- On October 27, 2021, the Committee submitted a funding request to Canada and YG for fiscal years 2021/22 to 2024/25. The initial work plan focuses on C/TFN's ongoing work at the Choooutla residential school site in 2021/22, to be followed by work at the Whitehorse sites with KDFN starting in 2022/23, and work at the northern Yukon sites with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation starting in 2024/25.
- To date, YG has committed \$218,000 for the first year of operation of the Committee.
- YFNs will lead the search for potential burial sites, as provided for by the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) which specifies that activities related to burials are at the discretion of YFNs.
- A permit to search or excavate for historic objects would normally be required under the Yukon Historic Resources Act (YHRA), but as the UFA takes precedence over the YHRA, a permit will not be required provided that the work is led by a Yukon First Nation.
- Technical experts at the Heritage Resources Unit of Tourism and Culture will be available to support First Nations with planning and undertaking research upon request.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

March 8, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 08****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Forum and Joint Priority
Action Plan**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Forum is an important venue for government-to-government collaboration, where leaders from First Nations governments and the Government of Yukon work toward lasting solutions to issues affecting our territory and communities.
- We look forward to continuing to work with Yukon First Nations governments at the Forum on important initiatives that improve the lives of all Yukoners and advance reconciliation.

Additional Response:

- At the March 4, 2022 meeting in Carcross, Yukon Forum leaders discussed the Substance Use Health Emergency, community safety planning and the Putting People First Plan. We also had the opportunity to hear directly from youth on the issues impacting them and discuss how to increase youth engagement on matters such as climate change, substance use and mental health.
- The next Yukon Forum of 2022 is scheduled for June 16, 2022.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Premier's 2021 mandate letter includes a commitment to advance the work of the Yukon Forum.
- The 5-year Joint Priority Action Plan ends in fall 2022. Before then, officials from each government will be meeting to discuss a renewed mandate for the upcoming years.

Background:

- The Yukon Forum is a regular meeting between leaders of the Yukon government (YG), Yukon First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- In accordance with the Joint Priority Action Plan, YG has:

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 08****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Forum and Joint Priority
Action Plan**Executive Council
Office

- Signed an agreement to clarify how resource royalties will be shared under Chapter 23 of the Final Agreements;
 - Advanced the Mining Memorandum of Understanding, including establishing the Progressive Reclamation Working Group and a Class 1 mineral exploration program notification system;
 - Advanced the implementation of the *Representative Public Service Plan: Breaking Trail Together*, a 10-year strategic plan to achieve a representative Yukon public service that is inclusive of Yukon First Nations people;
 - Implemented the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy;
 - Initiated a review of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to ensure it continues to be an effective component of the Final Agreements for managing fish and wildlife in the Yukon;
 - Created a new Joint Senior Executive Committee to support a whole-of-government approach to collaboration with Yukon First Nations government partners; and
 - Established formal processes for collaboration on heritage management, making recommendations to improve the environmental and socio-economic assessment process and sharing education data with the Chiefs' Committee on Education.
- In accordance with the 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal and NDP Caucuses, a request was put forward to First Nations Chiefs in May 2021 for the full participation of the Yukon NDP Leader in the Yukon Forum. First Nations leaders did not agree to the request.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

March 7, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 9****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Interest in the Aishihik Hydro Facility**Executive Council
Office**Recommended response:**

- Our government is committed to working with Yukon First Nations to find ways to meet Yukon's energy needs.
- The Aishihik hydro facility is a critical source of reliable renewable electricity in the territory. In the winter months, it generates up to 50 per cent of the electricity produced by the Yukon Energy Corporation.
- We are committed to working with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Yukon Energy Corporation to identify opportunities for the continued operation of this facility in a way that benefits the First Nations.

Additional response:

- The continued operation of the Aishihik hydro facility was assessed under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*. The governments of Yukon and Canada, in consultation with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, then developed a joint decision document covering a five-year term. We anticipate that the project will go through the water licensing process starting this spring.
- Discussions between the Yukon Energy Corporation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Yukon government regarding the long-term operation of the facility are ongoing.
- Long-term access to renewable energy remains a priority for our government. We will continue to work with our partners to develop solutions that will ensure that Yukoners have clean energy now and in the future.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) publicly opposed Yukon Energy Corporation's (YEC's) application for the relicensing of the Aishihik facility with similar terms and conditions as the previous licence and provided extensive comments opposing the operation of the facility during the assessment.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 9****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Interest in the Aishihik Hydro Facility**Executive Council
Office**Background:**

- The Haines Junction Designated Office of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board released an Evaluation Report in June 2021 recommending that the Aishihik Generating Station Long Term Relicensing Project (the "Project") be allowed to proceed subject to 44 terms and conditions.
- The Evaluation Report assesses the effects of the Project for five years rather than the 25 years set out in the Project scope by the proponent. Additionally, it contains recommendations that change the operational water levels for the Project, which may fetter the Yukon Water Board's determination of regulatory thresholds under the Yukon Waters Act, and that call for 'harmonizing' approaches to water levels, which is likely not within the scope of an effects assessment.
- A joint Decision Document was issued by the Yukon government (YG) and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans in October 2021, after extensive consultation with CAFN.
- In support of an anticipated future application by YEC for a longer-term licence, YG, YEC and CAFN are continuing to discuss ways to advance reconciliation by providing economic opportunities and financial benefits to CAFN related to the ongoing operation of the facility that cannot be addressed through the water licence compensation process, and by addressing CAFN's broader interests in the Aishihik area through collaboration on shared priorities.
- Through these discussions, YG hopes to address CAFN's concerns in order to mitigate issues that could be raised in the assessment and licensing processes for the longer-term licence. This should improve both process efficiency and the relationships between CAFN, YG and YEC.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

March 17, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 10****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Liard First Nation – Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government and Liard First Nation are working together to identify and advance shared interests and priorities including capacity development, consultation, land planning in the Watson Lake area, fish and wildlife management, hunting, and a renewed government-to-government relationship.
- We understand Liard First Nation is interested in exploring approaches to reconciliation outside the Umbrella Final Agreement, including self-government. We look forward to participating in those discussions along with the federal government.
- Our government has maintained the mineral staking prohibitions within Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon, and is now collaborating with First Nations to develop new mining legislation that addresses mineral staking, exploration and development.

Additional response:

- We will continue to consult Liard First Nation on activities that may affect their asserted Aboriginal rights in the Yukon, including mineral development proposals such as Kudz Ze Kayah.
- Our two governments have signed an agreement on phase one of the Nahanni Range Road improvements that will ensure Liard First Nation can meaningfully participate and benefit from this project.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Liard First Nation (LFN) has expressed concern about mineral exploration and development projects (including Kudz Ze Kayah and the 3 Aces advanced exploration project), and the potential cumulative impacts to wildlife and their Aboriginal rights.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 10****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Liard First Nation – Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office

Background:Self-Government Agreement

- YG and LFN have established a bilateral negotiation table for matters related to LFN's self-government interests; a protocol for negotiation is anticipated in early 2022.

Town of Watson Lake Official Community Plan

- In 2021, YG approved the Town of Watson Lake's Official Community Plan (OCP) under the *Municipal Act*. LFN has indicated that it has concerns with the OCP and with the OCP development process. YG is working with the Town and LFN to address the concerns.

Mineral Staking Prohibition

- YG consented to two mineral declarations in Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon, like those resulting from litigation by the Ross River Dena Council. A mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River Area (RRA) is in place until April 30, 2024 (refer to "Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation").

Major Projects

- BMC Minerals' proposed Kudz Ze Kayah (KZK) mine is located in the southern portion of the RRA. LFN is involved in direct consultation and engagement with the company. YG and Canada are also making efforts to consult with LFN on the KZK proposal, the terms and conditions proposed by the Executive Committee and the revisions proposed by YG and Canada (refer to "Executive Committee Screening of the Kudz Ze Kayah Project (BMC Minerals)").
- On January 16, 2020, YG and LFN reached an agreement to collaborate on the development, environmental assessment and regulatory aspects of the Nahanni Range Road Phase 1.

Land Use Planning

- LFN has expressed interest in land use planning as a way to manage effects from mineral exploration and development projects.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 10****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Liard First Nation – Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office

Capacity Funding and Consultation

- YG anticipates establishing a new funding agreement with LFN in April 2022 to support participation in consultation and engagement processes related to lands and resources and fish and wildlife.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister, Executive Council OfficeApril 20, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 11****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government and Ross River Dena Council are working together to identify and advance shared interests and priorities including capacity development, fish and wildlife, and economic opportunities.
- We continue to work with Ross River Dena Council to find ways to address the court declarations on mineral staking, exploration and development in the Ross River Area. In particular, we anticipate the work being done in collaboration with First Nations to develop new mining legislation will help do so.
- We are committed to fulfilling our consultation obligations to Ross River Dena Council and respecting the rights of all First Nations.

Additional response:

- We are pleased to see Ross River Dena Council engaged in the remediation at the Faro mine. Their ongoing involvement will yield long-term benefits for the community.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) will be interested in continuing consultation on the two mineral declarations made by the Yukon Court of Appeal in 2012.

Background:Mineral Staking Prohibition

- In 2013, YG implemented a notification and consultation regime for Class 1 mining activities in the Ross River Area (RRA) and withdrew the RRA from mineral staking. The staking prohibition was extended to April 30, 2024 to continue consultation and negotiation with RRDC on implementing the mineral declarations (refer to “Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation”).

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 11****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office

- In August 2021, YG informed RRDC that the YG/RRDC Mineral Table will not resume as the Successor Resource Legislation development process is expected to address the issues covered by the two court declarations.

Major Projects

- RRDC initially represented all Kaska rights-bearing groups in consultation and engagement on BMC Minerals' proposed Kudz Ze Kayah (KZK) mine in the RRA. Liard First Nation (LFN) and the Pelly Banks First Nation (Na'han'i Dena) have since sought direct engagement and consultation with the company (refer to "Executive Committee Screening of the Kudz Ze Kayah Project (BMC Minerals)" and "Pelly Banks First Nation Recognition Request").
- In April 2020, YG and RRDC signed an agreement for the North Canol Road and Robert Campbell Highway projects under the Yukon Resource Gateway Program.
- Pelly Construction, in partnership with RRDC's development corporation (Dena Nezziddi Corporation), has a contract estimated at \$44 million for the multi-year North Fork Rose Creek diversion channel realignment project at the Faro Mine site.
- In April 2020, YG granted approval to advance negotiations with Canada and RRDC regarding granting exclusive mineral rights to RRDC and an entity of their choosing for the purpose of locating, prospecting and mining on the Vangorda lands.

Capacity Funding and Consultation

- YG anticipates establishing a new funding agreement with RRDC by June 2022 to support participation in negotiations and consultation related to lands and resources and fish and wildlife.

Election

- On March 14, 2022, Dylan Loblaw, a former Councillor, was elected RRDC Chief. The outgoing Deputy Chief indicated that a priority for the new Council will be the remediation of the Faro mine and how the Ross River Dena can benefit from it.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

April 19, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 12****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****White River First Nation – Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon and White River First Nation are actively working together, and with the Government of Canada, to advance shared interests and priorities.
- We have a government-to-government accord with White River First Nation focused on capacity development, education, justice, health, infrastructure, emergency planning, hunting and relationship building.

Additional response:

- We understand White River First Nation has signed an Impact-Benefit Agreement with the Newmont Corporation regarding the proposed Coffee Gold mine, and that White River has indicated their support for the project to the Executive Committee of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.
- We are encouraged to see this positive example of a proponent and First Nation working together to address their shared interests.
- We are committed to working with White River First Nation and nearby First Nations to find constructive solutions to issues that affect overlapping areas within their asserted traditional territory.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- In March 2017, White River First Nation (WRFN) revived its assertion of a traditional territory with different boundaries than those used during Final Agreement negotiations under the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA).
 - The announcement of Newmont's Impact-Benefit Agreement with WRFN and WRFN's letter of support for the project is a significant step forward for the project.
-

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 12****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****White River First Nation – Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office**Background:**Government-to-Government Accord

- On June 5, 2020, WRFN and the Yukon government (YG) signed a government-to-government accord; status updates on shared priorities are regularly discussed.

Approach to the WRFN Assertion

- WRFN asserts traditional territory that extends beyond their UFA Traditional Territory. YG has commissioned reports by an archaeologist and an ethno-historian to better understand WRFN's asserted area in the Yukon.
- YG prepared an interim approach to consultation based on the commissioned reports, and is working with WRFN to consider longer-term solutions.

Bilateral and Trilateral Negotiations

- WRFN and YG have developed a Negotiation Agreement to guide bilateral negotiations on topics such as the mineral declarations.
- YG, WRFN and the Government of Canada engage in trilateral discussions about shared priorities, including economic development and land management regimes.

Interim Protected Lands (IPLs)

- Approximately 136 land parcels have been protected since 1989 for a future treaty with WRFN. The current protection orders expire on March 31, 2022. It is anticipated that the trilateral table will discuss potential replacements for the IPLs.
- Between September 2017 and August 2018, after consultation with WRFN, YG allowed the six WRFN IPLs in the Kluane First Nation Core Area to expire.

Major Projects

- YG and WRFN signed a consultation plan for the Coffee Gold project in September 2018. YG is continuing to work with WRFN to understand and address their interests with respect to this project (see "**Executive Committee Screening of the Coffee Gold Mine Project (Newmont)**").
- YG will consult with WRFN on Yukon Resource Gateway Program road components as consultation obligations arise.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 7, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 13****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Pelly Banks First Nation Recognition Request**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government understands that representatives of the Na'han'i Dena are in discussions with the Government of Canada seeking recognition as a separate *Indian Act* band called the Pelly Banks First Nation.
- The Na'han'i Dena have not directly sought such recognition from the Government of Yukon.

Additional response:

- It is our understanding that the majority of the Na'han'i Dena people are members of either Ross River Dena Council or Liard First Nation.
- While discussions between the Government of Canada and representatives of the Na'han'i Dena are ongoing, we remain committed to fulfilling our consultation obligations to all Kaska rights-bearing groups.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Representatives of the Na'han'i Dena have publicly requested that the Government of Canada (Canada) re-establish the Na'han'i Dena as a separate *Indian Act* band called the Pelly Banks First Nation and enter into treaty negotiations. The Yukon government (YG) may be asked for its position on participating in treaty negotiations.
- The Na'han'i Dena are active in the media and wrote an open letter to Member of Parliament Brendan Hanley (published in the *Whitehorse Star* on September 30, 2021) regarding their separation request and concerns regarding mineral development.

Background:

- In the mid-1950s Canada amalgamated a number of *Indian Act* bands within Kaska asserted traditional territory, with the Na'han'i Dena (Pelly Lakes Indian Band) members being divided between Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) and Liard First Nation (LFN).

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 13****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Pelly Banks First Nation Recognition Request**Executive Council
Office

- Representatives of the Na'han'i Dena wrote to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board in May 2020 stating they were seeking to enter into treaty negotiations and to be re-established as an *Indian Act* band. They also requested direct consultation on BMC Minerals' Kudz Ze Kayah (KZK) project.
- The Na'han'i Dena held a General Assembly on August 29, 2020 and indicated to Canada it was well attended.
- Canada met with Na'han'i Dena leaders in September 2020 and is planning another meeting to discuss their interest in becoming an *Indian Act* band.
- Na'han'i Dena leadership wrote to BMC Minerals in November 2020 informing the company that the Na'han'i Dena oppose the KZK mine going into production.
- On January 19, 2021 Na'han'i Dena leaders wrote a detailed letter to Canada and YG detailing their opposition to BMC Minerals' KZK project.
- In the March 14, 2022 Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) election, Na'han'i Dena were elected to three of the four councilor positions, including Dorothy Smith, one of the Na'han'i Dena traditional leaders.
- YG has not engaged in any formal discussions with representatives of the Na'han'i Dena.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

April 20, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 14****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****British Columbia based-Kaska –
Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to advancing reconciliation with all Kaska rights-bearing groups.
- We consult and engage directly with Dease River First Nation and Kwadacha Nation, the two British Columbia-based Kaska rights-bearing groups, and with Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Our approach to consultation and engagement with the Kaska is consistent with the 2019 ruling of the Supreme Court of Yukon.
 - The Yukon government's preference is always to resolve matters between our governments outside of court.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Ensuring the Yukon government (YG) meets its consultation obligations is essential. Yukon and BC-based Kaska representation has varied over the last several years and our approach to consultation and engagement has been partly informed by the outcomes of court decisions.
-

Background:

- Southeast Yukon is an area without modern land claim agreements where four Kaska rights-bearing groups, as well as other Aboriginal groups, assert Aboriginal rights. These complexities affect YG's efforts to resolve outstanding issues in this region.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 14****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****British Columbia based-Kaska –
Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
OfficeMineral Declaration Negotiations from Kaska Dena Council v. Yukon (S.C. No. 13-A0173)

- In March 2014, Kaska Dena Council (KDC) litigated seeking application of the two court declarations from the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) mining case to the southern portion of Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon.
- In August 2015, YG consented to two declarations in the southern portion of Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon similar to those resulting from litigation by RRDC. A mineral staking prohibition outside the Ross River Area began in February 2017, which is currently in place until April 30, 2024 to allow time to address the Court's declarations (refer to "Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation").

Kaska Dena Council v. Yukon (S.C. No. 16-A0161) Regarding Hunting

- In 2019, the Supreme Court of Yukon declared that KDC is not a Kaska rights-bearing group and that the Daylu Dena Council is a sub-group of Liard First Nation, not a rights-bearing Kaska entity or an Indian Act band.
- In June 2020, YG advised KDC that it would not directly engage with KDC regarding implementation of the two declarations unless one or more Kaska rights-bearing group pass a Band Council Resolution appointing KDC as their representative for discussions related to their asserted Aboriginal rights and title.
- KDC formally abandoned their appeal of the ruling in August 2020.

Approved by:

April 19, 2022

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 15****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Taku River Tlingit First Nation –
Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to advancing reconciliation with all First Nations including the Taku River Tlingit First Nation.
- We are currently in discussions with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on a number of matters including consultation and their land interests in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- To support the ongoing discussions, our government has withdrawn the Áashú Village area – 11 square kilometres within Taku River Tlingit First Nation's asserted traditional territory in the Yukon – from mineral staking.
- The energy development corporation of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation has proposed to build an electric transmission line from Atlin, BC to Jake's Corner. As a decision body for the project, the Yukon government is considering its response to the recommendation from the Teslin Designated Office that the project be allowed to proceed, subject to terms and conditions.
- We are committed to consulting with Yukon First Nations about any potential impacts to their treaty rights that may arise from the project.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) initiated court proceedings in 2014 to protect its asserted Aboriginal rights, title and land interests in the Yukon.
- The Atlin Hydro project, which affects the TRTFN and Yukon First Nations, has generated public interest as it advances.
- Aboriginal Relations and Energy, Mines and Resources are engaging with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and third party interests regarding the potential transfer of the Áashú Lands as a settlement measure to resolve the litigation.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 15****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Taku River Tlingit First Nation –
Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office**Background:**

- TRTFN is a transboundary First Nation based in Atlin, British Columbia. TRTFN asserts a traditional territory in the Yukon that overlaps portions of the Traditional Territories of Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Teslin Tlingit Council.

Statement of Claim

- In 2014, TRTFN filed a Statement of Claim requesting court declarations on three matters: consultation on mineral staking and exploration, the proposed Atlin Lake Campground and the issuance of hunting licenses and seals.
- The court granted two mineral declarations. A consent order which suspends mineral declaration 1 from coming into effect is currently in place. Declaration 2 regarding mineral exploration is in effect and was addressed through the implementation of the Class 1 notification system.
- In July 2017, YG and TRTFN filed an Abeyance Agreement with the Supreme Court of Yukon in which each agreed to provide notice prior to taking steps on the other matters set out in the 2014 Statement of Claim.
- In March 2019, YG prohibited entry for mineral staking and withdrew the Áashú Village area from land dispositions.

Tripartite Negotiations and Tlingit Nation Rebuilding

- The Government of Canada, YG, and TRTFN will continue tripartite discussions on matters of priority to TRTFN this spring.
- TRTFN has informed YG of its preliminary engagements with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council to rebuild a Tlingit approach to governance.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

March 8, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 16****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****YESAA Reset Oversight Group**Executive Council
Office**Recommended Response:**

- The YESAA Oversight Group is a joint effort between the Governments of Canada, Yukon and Yukon First Nations to work together to find efficiencies and ongoing improvements to the YESAA process.
- As part of its mandate, the Oversight Group is considering changes to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* and/or its regulations in an effort to reduce unnecessary assessments.
- The Oversight Group has made progress in identifying changes to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* to address the issue of whether an assessment is required when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- A consultation plan and work plan for advancing this amendment is being reviewed by the Oversight Group at their next meeting, May 4, 2022.
- Following the May 4th, 2022 Oversight Group meeting, it is anticipated that phase one consultations on the concept of the proposed amendment will take place between June and September 2022.
- The process to amend federal legislation is lengthy and time consuming; we anticipate that this amendment will be completed sometime in 2024.
- We expect the Oversight Group will facilitate the review and continue to work with the YESAA Board to advance further improvements to the YESAA process.

CONFIDENTIAL

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YESAA Reset Oversight Group

TAB 16

Spring 2022

Executive Council
Office

Additional Response:

- The most recent YESAA Forum was held January 26-29, 2021 on the topic of cumulative effects. A follow up Forum on Cumulative Effects is tentatively scheduled for fall 2022.
- A review of YESAA by 2027 is a commitment of the Reset MOU and will be led by Canada. Issues such as current assessment thresholds would be addressed in that review.

Context - this may be an issue because:


- Some industry representatives may be frustrated with the length of time it has taken the Yukon government (YG) and the Oversight Group (OG) to make progress on YESAA amendments.

Background:

- The OG exists to "...oversee the development assessment process in Yukon and promote its ongoing improvement."
- The OG has adopted joint priorities which focus on three main areas:
 - revitalizing the YESAA Forum;
 - improvements to consultation and engagement; and
 - policy development and targeted technical working groups.
- YG took over as Chair and Secretariat of the OG on July 30, 2020. The OG meets regularly to continue its work under the YESAA Reset MOU.
- The YESAA OG representatives include:
 - Kate Durand – Chair (Government of Yukon)
 - Dionne Savill (Canada)
 - Daryn Leas (Council of Yukon First Nations)

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 16****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****YESAA Reset Oversight Group**Executive Council
Office

- Emmie Fairclough (Council of Yukon First Nations)
- YG and the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) sent a joint letter to Minister Vandal in December 2020 requesting a focused review of the YESAA.
- In February 2021, Minister Vandal indicated his commitment to working with members of the OG on amendments and renewals.
- The purpose of the review will be to propose amendments to address issues surrounding the need for an assessment when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- Yukon First Nations have maintained that any decisions concerning determining the need for an assessment of project amendments and renewals within First Nations' traditional territories will require the agreement of that First Nation. YG supports the Yukon First Nations' position.
- The OG approved a terms of reference to establish a technical working group with representatives from CYFN, YG, the Government of Canada and YESAB to recommend, for the OG's consideration, legislative changes to address the issue of whether an assessment is required when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- The OG most recently met on February 23, 2022 and discussed the assessment of amendments and renewals, YESAA Forum updates, and approaches for cumulative effects.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council OfficeApril 20, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 17****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Executive Committee Screening of
the Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project
(BMC Minerals)**Executive Council
Office**Recommended response:**

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

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 17****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Executive Committee Screening of
the Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project
(BMC Minerals)**Executive Council
Office

Background:

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

Consultation with First Nations

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

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 17****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Executive Committee Screening of
the Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project
(BMC Minerals)**Executive Council
Office

- In July, the decision bodies wrote the Kaska First Nations to request a meeting to discuss the Project and modifications to the terms and conditions in an effort to address the Kaska concerns.
- The decision bodies sent the proposed modified terms and conditions and supporting documents for review to LFN and RRDC on September 21 and October 5, 2021, respectively.
- On December 9, 2021 decision bodies notified Kaska First Nations that they are preparing to make a decision for the Project in February 2022, while also ensuring that we have met our duty to consult.
- On January 13, 2022 YG and federal decision bodies met with representatives of LFN and RRDC. During the meeting the FNs reiterated their concerns about the Project and sought information from the decision bodies on the process for making a decision, decision options and outcomes.
- Following up on the January 13, 2022 meeting, decision bodies have corresponded with RRDC and LFN, re-iterating our interest to meet in the coming weeks to discuss the modified terms and conditions. The goal of making a decision was extended to March to respond to Kaska's availability.
- On March 1, 2022 RRDC and LFN confirmed their availability to meet on March 10 to discuss reconciliation around the project. Subsequently, RRDC requested the meeting be postponed until after March 28 on account of the RRDC election on March 14.
- RRDC and LFN met with YG and federal decision bodies on March 30 to consult on the proposed mine project.
- YG and federal decision bodies sent the Kaska First Nations a consultation letter on April 27, 2022 that invites Kaska to additional consultation meetings in mid-May. The letter included a preliminary risk characterization by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on projects impacts to the Finlayson Caribou Herd (FCH). ECCC/Canada Wildlife Service has concluded that decision bodies need to include additional measures in their decision, specifically offsets, to ensure decision bodies are meeting their responsibilities under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). It is expected

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(BMC Minerals)**Executive Council
Office

ECCC's draft risk characterization will be discussed with the Kaska First Nations during consultation meetings.

- ECCC's work on a risk characterization was prompted by a April 12, 2021, request from Liard First Nation who submitted a letter to the federal government urging the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) "to recommend to the federal cabinet that it make an order for the herd's immediate protection under section 80(1) of the Species at Risk Act" (SARA). The letter alleges that the KZK mine proposes significant adverse effects to the FCH and these effects are not being (and cannot be) effectively mitigated. In the context of this emergency order request, Canada Wildlife Service initiated an assessment of threats that will be completed after a decision has been made on the project.

Engagement with BMC

- On November 1, 2021, decision bodies sent a joint letter to BMC Minerals Ltd. providing the proposed modified terms and conditions and supporting documents for reasons of transparency and procedural fairness seeking BMC's views on how the proposed terms may affect the viability of the Project.
- On November 29, 2021, BMC responded by letter indicating that the modified terms as proposed do not affect the viability of the Project, and provided comments with suggested minor revisions to the terms. The decision bodies have shared the BMC response with LFN and RRDC to inform ongoing consultation.
- BMC was informed of the January 13, 2022 meeting with LFN and RRDC and that Kaska First Nations were notified that decision bodies were preparing to make a decision in March.
- BMC is aware of ECCC's draft risk characterization and has requested that ECCC share the report with them.

Approved by:**April 28, 2022**

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Prepared for Premier Silver
Executive Council Office

Date prepared: February 4, 2022

Last Updated: April 28, 2022

Page 4 of 4

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 18****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Executive Committee Screening of the
Coffee Gold Mine Project (Newmont)**Executive
Council Office**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada have come to a joint decision to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation that the Coffee Gold project be allowed to proceed. The joint decision was made within the regulatory time period for decision making for this type of assessment.
- Prior to issuing the Decision Document, the Government of Yukon consulted with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Selkirk First Nation, White River First Nation, and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun. We look forward to further engagement and consultation with these First Nation governments as regulatory approvals related to the project are considered.
- The Government of Yukon engaged closely with federal decision bodies – Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada – to ensure a timely decision-making process.

Additional response:

- Our government supports responsible mineral resource development and remains committed to finding efficiencies in the assessment and regulatory review of projects.
- We closely monitored and participated in the Project as it proceeded through an Executive Committee screening under the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- We were encouraged that the Executive Committee issued a final screening report recommending the Project proceed subject to terms and conditions. Terms and conditions include 48 mitigation measures and 10 monitoring measures.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 18****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Executive Committee Screening of the
Coffee Gold Mine Project (Newmont)**Executive
Council Office

Context - this may be an issue because:

- The issuance of a Decision Document is a significant milestone on a major project.
- Industry is concerned with a number of timelines not being met in other projects.

Background:**Project Information**

- The Coffee Gold project is located approximately 130 km south of Dawson City. The project is proposed as an open pit gold mine that will have a 30-month construction period followed by a 10-year operation phase and an 11-year closure phase. The project proponent is Newmont.
- Access to the project is proposed to be by a 214 km all-season road with barge crossings at the Stewart and Yukon Rivers. The access route is a combination of existing roads, roads that require improvements and new construction.

YESAA Executive Committee Screening Process

- The Executive Committee issued its final screening report in October 2021. The Executive Committee recommended the project proceed subject to additional terms and conditions. Federal decision bodies referred the screening report back to the Executive Committee for reconsideration.
- The Executive Committee issued an updated Screening Report and Recommendation on February 1, 2022, concluding their reconsideration process. The updated report recommends that the project proceed subject to terms and conditions.
- The decision bodies for the Coffee Project are Natural Resources Canada, Transport Canada, and the Government of Yukon.
- The deadline for decision bodies to issue a decision document within the legislated timelines was March 3, 2022. The Executive Committee Screening is now complete.

Consultation with First Nations

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 18****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Executive Committee Screening of the
Coffee Gold Mine Project (Newmont)**Executive
Council Office

- The project is located within the Traditional Territories of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH), Selkirk First Nation (SFN), and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND). It is also located within an area where White River First Nation (WRFN) asserts Aboriginal rights. YG committed to consult with WRFN on the Coffee Gold project.
- Consultation plans are in place with TH and WRFN, signed in March 2018 and September 2018, respectively. The plans establish process steps, and roles and responsibilities for each government to guide consultation.
- YG and Canada jointly conducted consultation with affected First Nations for the decision-making stage.

76(1)

- The Executive Committee recommended a surface and linear disturbance monitoring program, in part to address cumulative effects. The implementation of this condition will require ongoing collaborative work among YG, Canada, and the four affected First Nations.

Next Steps:

- The Project requires various regulatory authorizations. Regulatory processes will begin once Newmont submits the respective applications.
- YG will continue to consult with affected First Nations throughout the regulatory phase.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

March 8, 2022

Date

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

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

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

Environment

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

Third response:


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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

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

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

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Environment

2022 03 10
Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 20****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Executive Committee Faro Mine
Remediation Project Canada**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports responsible remediation of historic mine sites including appropriate assessment and regulation.
- Through the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* screening process, the Faro Mine Remediation Project's environmental and socio-economic effects will be considered and evaluated.
- As a decision body for this project, Yukon government is consulting with the Kaska First Nations, Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation on the Faro Mine Remediation project in a way that meets our obligations and our commitment to build strong relationships with First Nations.

Additional response:

- We are committed to continuing our participation in all stages of the assessment of this project.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The project is of broad interest to Yukoners, particularly to the communities of Faro and Ross River and other Kaska First Nations, Selkirk First Nation (SFN) and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

Background:**Project Information**

- The Faro Mine was an open pit lead-zinc mine that began operations in 1969. The site was abandoned in 1998 and is currently in care and maintenance.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 20****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Executive Committee Faro Mine
Remediation Project Canada**Executive Council
Office

- In May 2018, the Government of Canada assumed responsibility from the Yukon government (YG) for the care and maintenance operations at the mine site.
- A Transition Agreement between the Government of Canada and YG has been signed by YG and has the support and agreement of the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) and SFN.
- The Faro Mine Remediation Project is an important initiative of the Government of Canada – Crown Indigenous Relations Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) – to improve the existing conditions at the Faro mine site.
- The project includes active remediation for a 15-year period to stabilize contaminants in place.
- A news release noted that the Vangorda plateau portion of the Faro mine site will be acquired by RRDC's Dena Nezziddi LP and Broden Mining partnership. The Vangorda plateau is not included in the Faro Mine Remediation project.

Assessment Process

- The screening of the project has commenced. The Executive Committee (EC) is currently considering comments submitted during the public comment period.
- Yukon government submitted comments during the public comment period on February 15, 2022. YG's comments include information requests related to heritage resources, fish, and surface water quality.
- To date, the proponent has responded to five information requests. A sixth information request was issued on March 9th, 2022 and includes twenty-eight questions on a broad range of topics including heritage, climate change, adaptive management, water quality etc.
- As part of the project's adequacy review, the EC held four technical sessions on water, scope of the assessment(2 sessions), and adaptive management in December 2020, January 2021, February 2021 and October 2021 respectively. YG has participated in each of the technical sessions. A third scope of assessment technical advisory committee session is scheduled to take place March 22-24,

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 20****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Executive Committee Faro Mine
Remediation Project Canada**Executive Council
Office

2022, and will inform the selection of indicators for values being considered in the assessment.

- CIRNAC issued a call for supplemental participant funding in 2021 for individuals and groups including Indigenous people and governments participating in the assessment of this project. SFN was allocated 76(1) and LFN 76(1) for 2021/22.
- Groups that were previously funded by this program for this project include LFN 76(1) RRDC 76(1), SFN 76(1)) and the Yukon Conservation Society 76(1).

Consultation with First Nations

- YG is consulting Kaska First Nations, as the project is located within the Kaska Traditional Territory.
- SFN and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation are being consulted as well due to potential downstream effects from the Faro Mine on treaty rights.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

March 17, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**EMR #1****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson Regional Land
Use Planning**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment**Recommended response:**

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

Additional response:

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

CONFIDENTIAL**EMR #1****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson Regional Land
Use Planning**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment**Context – this may be an issue because:**

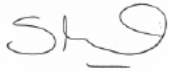
- Questions may be raised regarding the planning status, the Government of Yukon's response to the Draft Plan, and the future of the interim withdrawals.

Background:

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

CONFIDENTIAL**EMR #1****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson Regional Land
Use Planning**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

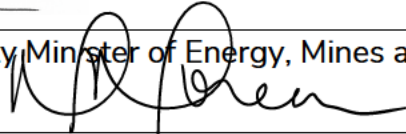
Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

2022/04/14

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Environment

2022.04.04

Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**#7****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Successor Resource
Legislation - Mining**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is fully committed to developing [new mining legislation](#).
- We are collaborating with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups to improve the management of the Yukon's mineral resources in a way that respects First Nations' relationships with the land and supports a modern and sustainable mining industry.
- The new legislation will work to improve the territory's regulatory system, strengthen the Yukon's economy, protect the environment and support the modern day needs of the Yukon.
- This important government-to-government work is underway and we are making good progress.

Additional response:

- We will carefully consider the key elements of mining legislation in a manner that respects all of the different interests in the Yukon.
- The government-to-government process underway [will include](#) meaningful engagement with industry, stakeholders and the public.
- We will not be taking a position on particular issues related to the new mining legislation until we have heard from industry and the public through our collaborative work with First Nations.

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Legislation - Mining**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Developing new mining legislation is a high priority item for the Government of Yukon and First Nation governments.
-

Background:**Steering Committee status:**

- The Steering Committee is currently in Phase 2: development of options for key policy issues
- The Steering Committee meets monthly and will hold its sixth meeting on March 23 and 24, 2022.
- On average, 16 First Nation governments are actively participating in the Steering Committee for New Mining Legislation.
- The Steering Committee has identified a list of key policy issues which will serve as the framework for new mining legislation. These include:
 - mineral rights - disposition, acquisition, and maintenance;
 - security, reclamation, and closure;
 - compliance, monitoring, and enforcement;
 - royalties; and
 - licences and regulatory alignment.
- The Steering Committee is actively engaged with both the Industry Table and Environmental Non-Government Table and meets with them monthly.
- The Steering Committee has established three Technical Working Groups to develop options on 1) mineral disposition and acquisition, 2) reclamation and 3) compliance, monitoring and enforcement.
- The Steering Committee is currently focused on developing options to address these key policy issues and on facilitating collaboration between participating governments and industry and non-government organizations.

CONFIDENTIAL**#7****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Successor Resource
Legislation - Mining**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Steering Committee Structure**

- All Yukon First Nations, Transboundary First Nations and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation have been invited to participate on the Steering Committee.
- A Core Steering Committee comprised of two Government of Yukon and two First Nations representatives has been established to provide a coordination role.
- An Industry Table and an Environmental Non-Government Organization Table has been established to provide a structured and meaningful role for these organizations.
- Organizations represented at the Industry Table are the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, the Yukon Prospectors' Association, the Yukon Chamber of Mines, and the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board.
- Organizations represented on the Environmental Non-Government Organization Table are the Yukon Conservation Society and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter.
- Information related to socio-economic issues and the perspectives of socio-economic non-governmental organizations (e.g., Liard Aboriginal Women's Society and Chambers of Commerce) is being incorporated into the Steering Committee's process via contracted support and engagement of key organizations.

Steering Committee Process

- The Steering Committee's draft workplan has eight phases:

Phase		
1	Initialization	Establishment of the Steering Committee and its tables
2	Development of key policy issues and options	The Steering Committee will identify major policy issues and then develop options for each
3	Consultation and engagement	Consultation and public engagement on key policy issues and options

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Legislation - Mining**Energy, Mines and
Resources

4	Operational details	Development of operational details of the legislation
5	Draft legislation	Development of drafting instructions and drafting
6	Review	Review of draft legislation and a second phase of consultation with First Nations on the draft legislation
7	Approvals	Approval by the Legislative Assembly
8	Transition and implementation	

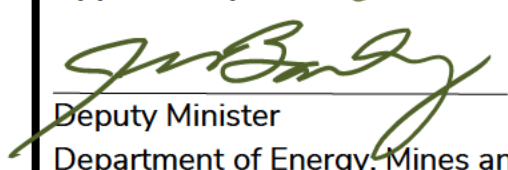
- New mining legislation is a priority that has been identified in many forums, including the Yukon Forum, Mining Memorandum of Understanding discussions, Mineral Development Strategy recommendations, and the 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Yukon New Democratic Party.
- The Confidence and Supply Agreement timeline would see tabling of new legislation in fall 2022, subject to meaningful consultation with First Nations.
- [A commitment to develop new mining legislation was set out in the 2003 Yukon Northern Affairs Program Devolution Transfer Agreement.](#)
- Separate steering committees have been set up for the development of lands and mining legislation.

Mineral Development Strategy

- The Mineral Development Strategy Panel's final report focused on six strategic priorities and sets out 125 specific recommendations for a future mineral development and management regime for the Yukon.
- [About half of the recommendations are related to, or contingent upon,](#) development of new mining legislation.

CONFIDENTIAL**#7****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Successor Resource
Legislation - Mining**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:


Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL

Session Briefing Note

COVID-19 Research Funding

TAB 23

Spring 2022

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to an evidence-informed recovery from the impacts of the pandemic.
- That is why we established two research-funding opportunities to study the impacts of COVID-19 and to inform our path forward:
 1. Yukon-Mitacs Student Research Internships Program - We expanded and extended our partnership with Mitacs to deliver a student research internship program to help Yukon businesses and non-profit organizations assess pandemic impacts and adaptation strategies. In addition, last year we offered support for innovation-related research internships that will benefit Yukon's economy.
 2. COVID-19 Recovery Research Program – This program is funding high-quality research to help us better understand the social, economic, health and cultural impacts of the pandemic so we can emerge better and stronger than ever. Building on the projects announced in December 2021, projects to be funded this spring will help us address outstanding information gaps and emerging issues.

Additional response:

- These initiatives advance the Government of Yukon's Science Strategy and its commitment to evidence-informed decision making and surveys of Yukon businesses and individuals.
- The Recovery Research program's focus on Indigenous-led research, Indigenous methods and Indigenous knowledge, values and perspectives supports the advancement of reconciliation in research.

CONFIDENTIAL

Session Briefing Note

COVID-19 Research Funding

TAB 23

Spring 2022

Executive Council
Office

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Investments in COVID-19 initiatives may be of high interest. There may be some questions about how funded research differs from what we learn through government-funded surveys.

Background:

Mitacs

- The Yukon Mitacs Student Research Internships program was publicly launched in July 2020. 10 internship units were supported by this program last year.
- For 2021-22, 11 Mitacs internship units of four-to-six-months were supported. Eligible host organizations include businesses and non-profit organizations. The student, host organization or associated academic institution must be based in Yukon, and the research must address priorities identified by Yukon government (YG) and Yukon University.
- The Yukon Mitacs Internship Program is offered in partnership with Mitacs, Yukon University, University of Alberta North and ArcticNet.
- \$15,000 is awarded for each Mitacs internship. Host organizations are responsible for 25 per cent of that, with the remainder coming from YG and Mitacs.
- Of the total two-year program cost of \$332,000, YG contributed \$84,000 and Mitacs \$187,000 (through its core operating grant from the Government of Canada). The remaining \$61,000 was provided by industry and not-for-profit partners.
- The current agreement with Mitacs has now ended, and Yukon government is exploring the potential value and magnitude of a new agreement.

Recovery Research Program

- The Recovery Research program is funded entirely by the federal government, via a \$1 million contribution from Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 23****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****COVID-19 Research Funding**Executive Council
Office

- The Recovery Research program provides up to \$75,000 in funding to each successful project.
- The Recovery Research program development was guided by leaders from YG, First Nations and academia. They identified thematic priorities, program objectives, guiding principles and evaluation criteria and will guide funding decisions.
- A broad call for expressions of interest was announced in November 2020, followed by an invitational call for proposals in February 2021. A rigorous review process led to success for seven of the seventeen proposals received, and funding agreements are now in place for all seven recipients. Funded projects were jointly announced by YG and Government of Canada in December 2021.
- Roughly \$454,000 is currently committed to the first seven recipients, with \$546,000 remaining in the fund. The funded projects and recipients are as follows:
 - *The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Selkirk First Nation's traditional food-related pursuits (Selkirk First Nation):* This project is exploring the collective impacts of COVID-19 on cultural events, socializing, food sharing and related activities among SFN citizens, as well as the adaptations and resilience that may have been demonstrated in relation to these impacts.
 - *Enhancing access for rural Yukon First Nations citizens to culturally appropriate mental health supports during COVID recovery (The Firelight Group / Tr'ondëk Hwëchin):* This research is exploring challenges that First Nations citizens have encountered in accessing mental health supports during the pandemic to support decisions on culturally appropriate services during emergencies and otherwise.
 - *Yukon First Nation Emergency Response – Through a First Nation COVID-19 Response Team (Council of Yukon First Nations):* This project is investigating the function of federal, territorial and First Nation intergovernmental collaboration during COVID-19, to support identification of lessons and best practices for emergency response.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 23****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****COVID-19 Research Funding**Executive Council
Office

- *The impact of COVID-19 on the livelihoods and well-being of women in the Yukon: toward a resilient and inclusive recovery (Yukon Status of Women Council / University of Northern British Columbia):* This project is looking at the impacts of COVID-19 on both market and non-market work of women and gender diverse individuals, including an exploration of factors that have contributed to these impacts and how these may differ for specific sub-groups.
 - *The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and well-being of educators in Yukon (Lakehead University):* This project is investigating impacts of the pandemic on educators' well-being, as well as gathering educators' perspectives on how the pandemic has impacted learning for students (kindergarten to grade 12).
 - *The Yukon Entrepreneur Adaptability Project: Business Model Transitions during the COVID-19 pandemic (Kari Johnston):* This project aims to gather information on operational changes and adjustments for Yukon businesses during the pandemic, and to identify policies and supports that may serve this sector during future emergencies.
 - *Understanding COVID-19 impact on housing insecurity among LGBTQIA2S+ Yukoners (Queer Yukon Society):* This project provides a literature review on existing research and data related to housing hardship among LGBTQIA2S+ Yukoners during the pandemic.
- A second invitational call for proposals was issued in November 2021, with funding decisions issued in late February and early March. Information on these recipients and their proposals will be issued once funding agreements are in place.
 - A third and final targeted call for proposals was issued on April 4 and aims to address specific questions prioritized by the leadership team. Funding decisions for this targeted call are expected for early June 2022.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 23****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****COVID-19 Research Funding**Executive Council
Office

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- Funded projects address priorities agreed on by the program leadership team, but in broad terms focus on research that supports recovery from the social, cultural, environmental, economic and health impacts of the pandemic.
 - Survey results, such as those from the Community Wellbeing Survey, will complement this work and may be a source of data for researchers.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

April 19, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 24****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Youth Directorate Funding to
Community Organizations**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Youth Directorate supports youth programs and services that promote wellness and help youth reach their full potential.
- The primary clients of the Youth Directorate are youth-serving organizations including First Nations, non-government organizations, municipalities, and other Government of Yukon departments.
- The Youth Directorate provides annual contributions of over \$1.5 million to youth-serving organizations and community groups through several funding programs.

Additional response:

- The Yukon government is committed to supporting organizations that provide valuable supports and services to our youth and communities.
- Youth-serving organizations had to modify their programming delivery to respond to youth needs during the pandemic and in order to comply with COVID-19 guidelines.
- The Yukon government contributions supported these organizations to keep Yukon youth engaged and safe.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the Yukon government's support for youth organizations during the pandemic.
-

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 24****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Youth Directorate Funding to
Community Organizations**Executive Council
Office**Background:**

- In 2021-22, the Youth Directorate provided over \$1.1 million to support operational funding to:
 - Association franco-yukonnaise – \$25,000
 - BYTE-Empowering Youth Society – \$274,000
 - Boys and Girls Club of Yukon – \$277,000
 - Heart of Riverdale Community Centre – \$278, 000
 - Youth of Today Society – \$271,000
- These operationally funded organizations will be starting their renewed three-year transfer payment agreements in 2022-23.
- All of these organizations have requested increases to their **annual** operational funding commencing 2022-23.
- Commencing in 2022-23 these organizations will receive the following funding increases to offset Covid-related expenses and other operational expenses.
 - Association franco-yukonnaise + \$6000/year (**\$31,000 total/year**)
 - BYTE-Empowering Youth Society + \$20,000/year (\$294,000 + \$10,000 = **\$304,000 total/year**). BYTE receives an additional \$10,000 of project funding to support their Leaders in Training conference which will be amalgamated into their operational funding agreement commencing in 2022-23.
 - Boys and Girls Club of Yukon + \$20,000/year (**\$297,000 total/year**)
 - Heart of Riverdale Community Centre + \$20,000/year (**\$298, 000 total/year**)
 - Youth of Today Society + \$20,000/year (**\$291,000 total/year**)
- These bolded values will be the new annual totals of the respective three-year transfer payment agreements.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 24****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Youth Directorate Funding to
Community Organizations**Executive Council
Office

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- The Youth Directorate also provides up to \$420,000 of annual project funding to support:
 - The Youth Developmental Asset Program - \$320,000 for youth activities, training and employment for Kwanlin Dün First Nation and 16 Yukon communities.
 - The Youth Investment Fund - \$102,000 that is a dedicated fund for youth projects. It recognizes the value of community-driven initiatives aimed at marginalized youth ages 18 and under.
 - Association franco-yukonnaise provides programming for francophone youth.
 - BYTE-Empowering Youth Society is a “for youth, by youth” organization, focused on empowering youth ages 12 to 25 throughout the Yukon and Canada’s North. The society travels to northern communities to deliver innovative programming and hosts events in Whitehorse that foster creativity, culture and sport.
 - The Boys and Girls Club of Yukon provides a safe and supportive drop-in centre where children and youth ages 6 to 17 can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life.
 - The Youth of Today Society (YOTS) is home to Ogilvie Creative House, which is a rebranding and new focus for their drop-in centre. The reconfigured youth centre is to become a hub of scheduled creative workshops by professional educators that support the digital arts. YOTS plans to enhance social media skills for youth to begin their journey in business. Shakat Journal is also part of YOTS. This magazine presents a millennial centered view and acts as a megaphone for Yukon youth. It incorporates indigenous and non-indigenous perspectives and talents.
 - The Heart of Riverdale Community Centre (THOR) offers a variety of youth programming, the development of arts, citizenship and leadership skills for youth, and engages community members across generations.
 - Commencing in 2020-21, THOR received a total of \$278,000 annually as the organization has demonstrated a clear need for an \$80,000 increase in operational funding. With this increase, THOR will also be more in-line with the other operationally funded youth-serving organizations.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 24****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Youth Directorate Funding to
Community Organizations**Executive Council
Office

- BYTE's annual Leaders in Training conference provides a space for youth from rural communities to build confidence, develop leadership skills and network with other young leaders from across the North.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

March 3, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 25****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Notable Yukon Water Board Applications**Executive Council
Office**Topic:** Current Yukon Water Board licence applications of note.

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Minto Explorations Ltd. (Pembroke – formerly Capstone Mining Corporation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minto Explorations Ltd. has a current Type A Water Licence and in August 2016 filed an amendment application for their Reclamation and Closure Plan as per an existing licence condition. In addition the company applied to licence their new underground workings (Phase VII). The public comment period for the application closed in April 2021. YG and Selkirk First Nation have advised the Board that activities applied for have not been assessed. The company has indicated that an amended application will be submitted early in 2022.
Victoria Gold Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company has a Type A Water Licence and was required to submit an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan along with updated security costing which they did in October 2020. The Board and EMR signed an agreement in January 2021 to pilot a process in which the two regulators will conduct a collaborative review of the submission and hold joint meetings with the company. On January 12, 2022 the Board determined that it will seek public input on the plan and closure costing. The Board is reviewing the plan and costing.
Elsa Reclamation and Development Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In February 2021 the Elsa Reclamation and Development Company applied to renew their Type B Water Licence for the United Keno Hill Mines Reclamation Project which expires on August 8, 2022. The purpose of the renewal is to implement the site wide Reclamation Plan and associated long term monitoring. The application was advertised for public input and the public comment period ends on March 25. The Board is awaiting a response from the company related to

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 25****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Notable Yukon Water Board Applications**Executive Council
Office

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
	the public comments.
BMC – Kudz Ze Kayah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2020 the company created an application for a Type A Water Licence on Waterline and began submitting documents in support of the application. On November 30, 2020 the company was provided a letter advising that the application was incomplete. This is largely due to the fact that the project is still being assessed under YESAA and a Decision Document has not been issued. The Water Board Secretariat is reviewing the information that was submitted to ensure it conforms with the application submission standards as it awaits a Decision Document allowing the project to proceed.
HYDRO UNDERTAKINGS	
Yukon Energy Corporation – Aishihik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In May 2021 YEC submitted an application for a 25 year renewal of the the Aishihik Generating Station Type A Water Licence which expires on December 31, 2022. A consolidated Decision Document was issued on October 21, 2021 limiting the renewal to 5 years. On January 27, 2022 the application was withdrawn by YEC and they indicated a new application for the renewal will be submitted in March 2022. YEC submitted an application on April 8, 2022 and it is being reviewed by the Water Board Secretariat to ensure it conforms with the application submission standards.
Yukon Energy Corporation – Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station and Lewes Dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An application for an emergency amendment to the Whitehorse Generating Station and Lewes Dam Type A Water Licence was received on February 28, 2022. YEC is seeking a 10 centimetre reduction to the low supply level requirement for Marsh Lake in order to mitigate the potential for high water related impacts in the southern lakes region in 2022.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 25****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Notable Yukon Water Board Applications**Executive Council
Office

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YEC has requested the lower limit to take effect on or before March 30, 2022 to June 30, 2022. • This is the same emergency amendment that YEC applied for on April 9, 2021 and the Board issued on April 28, 2021. • The Board issued an amended licence on April 1, 2022.
MUNICIPAL UNDERTAKINGS	
YG Community Services – Dawson City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In July 2021 Community Services applied to amend their Type A Water Licence for the Dawson City Wastewater Treatment Facility in order to improve treated effluent quality. • The Secretariat is currently reviewing the application to determine if it conforms with application submission standards.
Haines Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In May 2021 the Village of Haines Junction opened an application to renew their Type B Water Licence for municipal water supply and waste disposal which expired on January 29, 2022. • A Decision Document has not yet been issued allowing the project to proceed. • The Secretariat is currently reviewing the application to determine if it conforms with application submission standards.

PLACER UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Tamarack Inc. – Indian River and Montana Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamarack applied for a Type B Water Licence and Placer Mining Land Use Approval for a project in the Indian River wetlands complex. • In June 2017 Tamarack was advised that the Yukon Water Board was satisfied that it would be in the public interest to hold a public hearing given the matters raised in the application and the interventions. Of note was the request for a public hearing by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. • The Board is waiting for a response from Tamarack to an

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 25****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Notable Yukon Water Board Applications**Executive Council
Office

	information request before it can continue to process the application and determine when a public hearing can be held.
Indian River Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board has a number of active applications before it which are located in the Indian River wetlands complex. • YESAB has recommended terms in evaluation reports stating there should be no mining in undisturbed wetlands within the Indian River complex. • The decision body (Energy Mines and Resources) varied the recommendation to allow for mining in these areas subject to submitting an approved wetlands reclamation plan. • Interventions in the water licence process from Yukon Conservation Society and First Nations requested the Board hold public hearings on the matter of wetlands and have encouraged the Board to develop a policy to guide decision making. • A three-day virtual public interest hearing was held in October 2020. • Interventions included reference to an MOU between the Yukon government (YG) and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) in which YG committed to work with TH to develop a policy and guidelines for the protection and reclamation of Indian River wetlands. • In August 2021 the Board released a "What We Heard Report" and made a recommendation to the Premier to consider the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection, Use and Reclamation of Yukon Wetlands. The Board is participating in the YG Wetland Policy Group and is working on the development and implementation of Water Board Wetland Information Guidelines, which will eventually be informed by the wetland policy. • The Board continues to deliberate each application on a case-by-case basis given the evidence provided by all parties.

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Applications**Executive Council
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Statistics - Water Licence Applications Received 2012 to Date			
Year	Type B	Type A	Total
2012	84	4	88
2013	99	3	102
2014	120	4	124
2015	133	2	135
2016	123	8	131
2017	135	7	142
2018	121	5	126
2019	102	7	109
2020	116	5	121
2021	93	6	99

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

April 19, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL
Session Briefing Note
Youth Panel on Climate
Change

EMR #40 ENV #23 ECO #26
Spring 2022
Environment
Energy Mines and Resources
Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- We have made progress on many of the recommendations provided last fall by the first Youth Panel on Climate Change and appreciate the breadth of the recommendations from the first cohort.
- In many instances, the Youth Panel's recommendations closely align with existing efforts being led by the Government of Yukon.
- Over the next year, we will continue to work with external partners and internal departments to explore the best course of action on recommendations that are more systemic and broad reaching.
- We will prioritize recommendations that have the greatest impact impact on reducing emissions and that make life more sustainable for all Yukoners.
- I would like to once again thank the Youth Panel for its perspectives and contributions, and for bringing forward youth climate change priorities in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- We are excited to welcome the second cohort of the Youth Panel on Climate Change.
- We launched the call for applications in December 2021. After receiving a total of 26 applications, 10 panelists were selected.
- The panelists include youth between the age of 13 and 25 who are representative of the cultural, gender and regional diversity of the

CONFIDENTIAL**EMR #40 ENV #23 ECO #26****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Youth Panel on Climate Change**Environment
Energy Mines and Resources
Executive Council Office

Yukon. Seven are from Whitehorse and there is one each from Haines Junction, Pelly Crossing and Watson Lake.

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

CONFIDENTIAL**EMR #40 ENV #23 ECO #26****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Youth Panel on Climate
Change**Environment
Energy Mines and Resources
Executive Council Office

- The report, and the government's March 8, 2022 response, is available on the Government of Yukon's youth panel webpage.
- MLA Tredger submitted a petition in the house on March 22, 2022. It contained points urging the government to do more to counter climate change.

Approved by:

 Deputy Minister of Executive Council Office

 April 13, 2022
 Date approved

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Deputy Minister of Energy Mines and Resources

Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 27****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Canadian Index of Wellbeing**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- There is a growing movement across the world to use wellbeing as a lens for decision-making and the Government of Yukon is a proud supporter of this approach.
- In 2020, we launched the Community Wellbeing Survey in partnership with the Canadian Index of Wellbeing and the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- The wellbeing survey offered a chance to hear directly from Yukoners about how things are going during these challenging times, and what government can do to improve wellbeing across the territory.
- The survey received close to 5,000 responses, the highest ever for one of our engagements, and we thank everyone who took the time to feed into this territory-wide study of wellbeing.
- The [report is available](#) on Yukon.ca and will serve as a valuable resource for Yukoners and partners.

Additional response:

- While Yukon communities are resilient, we know the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on our overall wellbeing.
- We encourage everyone to use the data and survey results to inform strategic planning and take action to improve quality of life in Yukon communities.
- This work is aligned with the goals of the Government of Canada's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 agenda focuses on the commitment to "leave no one behind".

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 27****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Canadian Index of Wellbeing**Executive Council
Office

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- The sustainable development goals overlap with the Canadian Index of Wellbeing measures, providing a framework for us to advance progress in the areas of education, good health and wellbeing, community vitality, democratic engagement, the environment and more.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

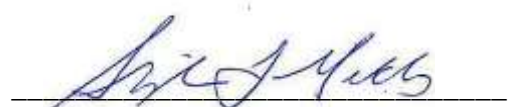
- Given the high profile of the survey and the outreach involved with the overall initiative, all orders and levels of governments will have a wealth of information to review that will support their own decision making.
 - Stakeholder groups may be interested in knowing where they can find the report and how to follow up if they have questions.
-

Background:

- The Canadian Index of Wellbeing model and the Community Wellbeing Survey helps Canadians plan for a better and more sustainable future by offering a rigorous and academically-grounded framework that measures social progress and wellbeing using a collection of indicators that are tracked across the country.
 - The Executive Council Office has been working with the University of Waterloo's Canadian Index of Wellbeing since 2018. The final Yukon report was released on March 28, 2022, and includes a more robust analysis and discussion of the state of wellbeing in the Yukon.
 - The project was supported in part by a grant from the Government of Canada's Sustainable Development Goals funding program.
 - The Yukon's campaign is also being featured in the National Strategy to illustrate the different types of actions underway across Canada and how they are in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Economic indicators, such as GDP, have been used in the past, and continue to be used by many governments, as a measure of economic and social progress. However, GDP is insufficient at demonstrating equality, equity and wellness among members of a population.
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CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 27****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Canadian Index of Wellbeing**Executive Council
Office

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- ECO led a 10-week public engagement in 2019 to obtain public input on potential new indicators and priority areas for enhancing wellbeing. The results of that engagement were used to refine the 2020 Community Wellbeing Survey.
 - The data from the Community Wellbeing Survey can be used by many different organizations for a variety of purposes, including evidence-informed planning, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life for residents, in measurable terms.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

March 29, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 28****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Intergovernmental Relations
(General)**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response (Canada relations):

- Advancing the Yukon's priorities with other governments is key to ensuring our perspectives are heard and considered on the national stage and in the development of national initiatives.
- Strong intergovernmental relations have been important during the pandemic, as it has promoted collaboration and partnership with other territories, provinces, and the federal government.
- In December, the Yukon government and Yukon First Nations leadership brought a joint voice to Ottawa in virtual meetings with federal ministers to discuss topics of mutual interest. This was our seventh Yukon Days alongside Yukon First Nations governments, demonstrating our commitment to strong partnership and collaboration with both the Government of Canada and Yukon First Nations.

Recommended response (US relations, Shakwak):

- The Yukon and the United States, in particular Alaska, share many common interests and challenges. We regularly engage with our American and Alaskan counterparts as part of our long-standing positive relationship.
- The Alaska Highway is an important component of highway infrastructure for life in the North and the tourism sector. Our work with American and Alaskan officials has led to recognition of the Shakwak corridor in the US *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 28****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Intergovernmental Relations
(General)**Executive Council
Office

- Officials in federal, state and territorial governments are all working to define the path to put this legislation into action and get the project up and running.
- The tourism industry has been significantly affected by the pandemic. We are laying the groundwork for rejuvenated cross-border tourism with Alaska.

Recommended response (Arctic Encounter Symposium):

- Unfortunately, I was not able to attend this year's Arctic Encounter Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska.
- I am focused on the important work being done in the Yukon during this legislative session however a small delegation from Yukon attended the conference. They continued our connections and conversations with Arctic counterparts.
- We maintain relationships and are in regular conversation with our counterparts throughout the Arctic. Our government is engaged on issues and developments that impact Yukoners and the North.

Recommended response (COVID-specific):

- Since March 2020, I have participated in regular virtual meetings with the Prime Minister and all Premiers to discuss our response to COVID-19.
- These discussions provide an opportunity to share information, resources, best practices, as well as secure support to address Yukon's distinct needs.
- This cooperation has led to significant benefits to Yukoners, including Safe Restart funding supporting businesses, individuals, as well as our

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 28****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Intergovernmental Relations
(General)**Executive Council
Office

public health response to COVID-19, international border security and early access to vaccines.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Opposition may question where the Premier has been engaging with other governments and how those meetings have benefited Yukon.
- Travel or engagement in intergovernmental meetings outside the territory is regularly under scrutiny from a public health and fiscal responsibility lens.
- While meetings throughout the pandemic have been held virtually, planning is underway for potential in-person meetings in 2022.
- Media have asked why Premier did not attend the Arctic Encounter Symposium on April 7-8 in Anchorage, AK, particularly since Premiers from NWT and NU did attend.

Background:

- Regular Council of the Federation and First Ministers' calls throughout the pandemic have served as a critical forum for provincial, territorial, and federal leadership to identify emerging concerns and update on new developments, in areas such as PPE supply, the US-Canada border, vaccine deployment, and proof of vaccination credentials.
- The Government of Yukon's engagement with the federal government has resulted in significant direct funding to the territory to support the public health response to COVID-19 as well as individual and business relief programs.
- Premier Silver spoke with the Alaskan Governor and the Mayors of Haines and Skagway throughout the past year. Conversations focused on economic recovery, notably in the tourism sector; caribou management; and safe cross-border travel.
- Premier Silver spoke with the US Ambassador to Canada and US Consul General in January 2022. The conversation touched on the importance of the Skagway ore terminal, tourism revitalization, *Infrastructure Act* funding, and collaboration in higher education.

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(General)**Executive Council
Office

- New provisions for construction of portions of the Alaska Highway are contained in the US *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. Officials are working to define the next steps to get the funds moving.
- Since President Biden assumed office in January 2021, there have been significant changes in foreign and domestic policy. The Canada/US Roadmap seeks a better relationship and includes climate, ANWR and Indigenous priorities.

Arctic Encounter Symposium

- The Arctic Encounter Symposium is an annual Arctic policy event in the United States. The symposium aims to raise awareness, engage challenges, and develop solutions for the future of the Arctic region and people.
- This year's agenda topics included climate change, economic development, housing, reconciliation, healthy and resilient communities, and youth development
- Arctic Encounter organizers declined to allow any virtual participation in this year's symposium.
- Public service representatives from IGR attended the symposium, participating in plenary sessions, breakout groups and social events to hear from experts, other delegates, and attendees on various issues that impact the North.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council OfficeApril 19, 2022
Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 29****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Federal Health Funding Negotiations
Status**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Premiers have called on the federal government to increase its contribution to health spending through the Canada Health Transfer.
- I am pleased that the Prime Minister has recognized the need for the federal government to play a stronger role in funding health care across the country and I am looking forward to these discussions.
- This pandemic has highlighted opportunities in our health care system, and a long-term financial boost to our funding will help implement our Putting People First Plan and improve quality and access to care for all Yukoners.
- I look forward to continued dialogue among First Ministers to ensure our health systems are well-resourced and prepared for future challenges.

Additional response:

- The Yukon faces additional challenges in delivering health services due to our northern, rural and remote geography.
- We are also burdened with recruitment and retention challenges of health professionals in a competitive healthcare labour market.
- To help address some of these distinct challenges, the Yukon receives funding through the Territorial Health Investment Fund in addition to the Canada Health Transfer.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 29****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Federal Health Funding Negotiations
Status**Executive Council
Office**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- There may be questions about the Yukon's position on seeking increased health care funding as Premiers have called on the federal government to increase funding.
- On March 25, the federal government introduced Bill C-17 in the House of Commons, which would provide \$2 billion to provinces and territories through an additional one-time top-up of the Canada Health Transfer.

Background:

- Provincial and territorial governments, through the Council of the Federation, are expressing concern with the continuing rise in health care expenditures. Premiers are calling on the federal government to increase the federal share of aggregate provincial/territorial health care costs from 22 per cent to 35 per cent, representing approximately \$28 billion in additional funding through the Canada Health Transfer (CHT).
- On March 25, the federal government announced a \$2 billion one-time top-up to the CHT to address pressure from backlogs of surgeries and medical procedures.
 - Yukon's per capita allocation is \$2.244 million.
- The federal government has also announced five priority areas for collaboration with PTs. These priorities include:
 1. Health Human Resources, addressing delays in treatments, diagnosis and surgeries;
 2. Access to primary care, especially in rural and remote areas;
 3. Aging population, support for long-term care, and aging with dignity;
 4. Mental health and substance use; and
 5. Digital health and virtual care.
- The current CHT formula is allocated on an equal per capita basis and its annual growth is linked to Canada's GDP, not actual provincial/territorial health system costs. The annual CHT escalator is the three-year moving average of nominal GDP growth, with a floor of 3 per cent. This represents a decrease from an annual 6 per cent growth rate, which had been in place prior to 2017-18.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 29****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Federal Health Funding Negotiations
Status**Executive Council
Office

- The Prime Minister has stated he will only contemplate negotiations on the CHT after the pandemic is over.
- The federal Budget 2021 announced \$12.8 million over two years to renew the Territorial Health Investment Fund (THIF) agreement with the Yukon government. Federal officials have also been authorized to engage in discussions on the long-term future of THIF, beyond the next two years.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

March 29, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL

Session Briefing Note

Federal Engagement

TAB 30

Spring 2022

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Over the last year, our work with the federal government has yielded important investments in the Yukon – such as funding to implement *Our Clean Future*, Northern-specific supports to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and funding for universal affordable child care.
- The Government of Canada is a critical partner to achieving many of our priorities and addressing emerging issues, like the substance use health emergency.
- We are committed to strategic, coordinated engagement with the federal government to advance the Yukon's interests.

Additional response:

- We look forward to continuing to work with the federal government to advance Yukon priorities, including the Atlin Hydroelectric Expansion Project, mental health supports, affordable housing, and community infrastructure.
- We continue to move forward on joint discussions with our First Nation partners and the federal government through initiatives such as Yukon Days to ensure that we bring a joint voice to Ottawa.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Premier's mandate letter commits ECO to leading whole-of-government coordination to support strategic engagement with the federal government.
- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and substance use health emergency may prompt questions about what supports YG is seeking from the federal government.

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Session Briefing Note
Federal Engagement

TAB 30
Spring 2022
Executive Council
Office

Background:

- The ECO Intergovernmental Relations branch is coordinating engagement with the federal government on Yukon's priorities, including: the Atlin and Moon Lake hydroelectric projects, mental health and substance use supports, YESAB, housing, land use planning, and community infrastructure requirements.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 9, 2022

Date

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 31****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Housing Issues**Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

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

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB #C2****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Housing Issues**Yukon Housing Corporation

Additional response:

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB #C2****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Housing Issues**

Yukon Housing Corporation

Housing Action Plan and Safe at Home Plan:

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

Land:

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

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

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

Major investments in housing include:

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

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

Community Housing:

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

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Yukon Housing Corporation

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

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

Approved by:

Mary Cameron
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

February 4, 2022
[Date approved]

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

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

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

Third response:

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

Approved by:


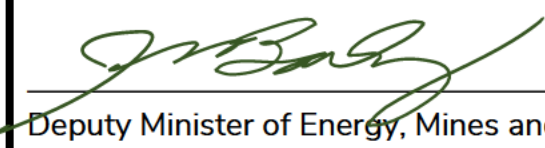
Prepared for Ministers Clarke and Streicker
Department of Environment; Energy, Mines and
Resources

Date prepared: February 4, 2022

Last Updated: N/A

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Energy, Mines and Resources

 _____ Deputy Minister of Environment	2022 02 04 _____ Date approved
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CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 169****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****COVID-19 Government Wide Note**Health and Social
Services

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

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Services

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

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Services

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

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Services

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

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

February 9, 2022

[Date approved]