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Session Briefing Note

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR #1 / ENV #94
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are making progress on consensus discussions regarding the decision on the Dawson Regional Land Use Recommended Plan.
- Engagement on the Recommended Plan concluded December 20, 2022. A What We Heard report detailing feedback received during the engagement was released in June 2023.
- Input gathered from the engagement will inform the Parties' decision whether to accept, reject or request modifications to the Recommended Plan.
- If the Parties reject or request modifications to the Recommended Plan, the Commission will prepare a Final Recommended Plan. We anticipate they could provide a Final Recommended Plan by late 2024.

Additional response:

- If a Final Recommended Plan is required, there will be another round of public engagement and First Nations consultation, and the Government of Yukon will provide detailed feedback to the Commission to support their work developing this plan.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- The Dawson Regional Land Use Plan and the Government of Yukon's response to the Recommended Plan, and the future of the interim withdrawals are of high interest to Yukoners.

Session Briefing Note

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR #1 / ENV #94
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

Background:

- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in formed the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Commission in December 2018.
- The *Umbrella Final Agreement* Chapter 11 process provides the Commission with the autonomy to develop and recommend a plan to the Parties for their consideration.
- The Commission conducted a public consultation on the Draft Plan from June 15 to November 1, 2021.
- The Government of Yukon's response to the Draft Plan in November 2021 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.
- Subsequent comments submitted to the Commission by the Government of Yukon pertained to critical minerals, access, rivers and watercourses, cumulative effects and working within the Draft Plan prohibition of entry order (interim and permanent).
- The Planning Commission delivered the Recommended Plan to the Parties (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon) on June 10, 2022.
- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in conducted a public consultation on the Commission's Recommended Plan from September 20 to December 20, 2022.
- Interim withdrawal of land proposed by the Commission was approved by Order-In-Council on June 15, 2021. This Order was amended on September 7, 2022, to reflect the Recommended Plan. The interim withdrawal is in effect until December 1, 2023 and may be extended to allow time to complete a final plan for the region.

Session Briefing Note
Dawson Regional Land
Use Planning

EMR #1 / ENV #94
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment


Approved by:



September 1, 2023

A/Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved



2023-09-01

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Gladiator Metals

#2
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to responsible resource development and adherence to our regulatory framework.
- On receipt of a complaint about the Gladiator Metals Class 1 exploration project near Cowley Creek, the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch inspected the site.
- As a result of infractions observed, the Government of Yukon laid charges to which the company pled guilty and was fined a total of \$43,700.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections continues to monitor this exploration site and work with Gladiator Metal to ensure it meets all operating and reclamation requirements.

Additional response:

- The company continues to operate under the current permit for Class 1 exploration. It has until the end of the permit period on April 17, 2024 to complete exploration and the required reclamation of the associated disturbance.
- [Gladiator Metals recently applied to amend its existing Class 1 authorization to conduct additional exploration drilling in the Cowley Creek area. Following consultation with affected First Nations, we agreed to amend the authorization.](#)
- If the company wishes to engage in exploration work beyond the April 17, 2024 permit period, it will need to apply for another permit. An environmental and socio-economic assessment may be necessary if the scope of the application is expanded.

Session Briefing Note

Gladiator Metals

#2
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Mineral staking is prohibited in most of the City of Whitehorse; the boundary of this prohibition area is set out in the regulation and does not follow the city boundary exactly.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the Gladiator Metals Ltd. drill site given the recent court case. Protestors rallied on August 15 outside the Law Centre in opposition to mining in Whitehorse, which garnered media attention.

Background:

- Gladiator Metals has a Class 1 exploration project near Cowley Creek, an area that is beyond the south end of Whitehorse City Limits.
- The Mineral Resources Branch received a complaint about this site on May 11, 2023, and requested the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch inspect the site. A Natural Resource Officer inspected the site and identified non-compliance issues.
- The Government of Yukon laid charges as a result of infractions observed. The company pleaded guilty to six offences involving illegal activities related to clearings, roadwork, heritage resources, reclamation, fluids and rutting and gouging of roads and trails. On August 30, 2023, the company was fined \$38,000, plus a \$5,700 victim fine surcharge.
- Natural Resource Officers conduct inspections, monitor compliance, and enforce legislation regulating natural resources including mining, forestry, land use, water, and environmental protection.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch plans inspections based on a risk management framework that focuses on activities that pose significant harm to persons, property, and the environment. Class 1 mining activities are normally inspected at the request of the Mineral Resources Branch (MRB), the regulator.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections follows a progressive enforcement approach when dealing with mining offences starting with efforts to achieve voluntary compliance, and proceeding to charges when less formal efforts are unsuccessful.

Session Briefing Note

Gladiator Metals

#2
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Gladiator Metals applied for another Class 1 quartz exploration permit on their Arctic Chief property, which was issued on November 9, 2023. The Arctic Chief property lies along the copper haul road, north of the Mt. Sima road, and is not near residential subdivisions.
- This new application covers 59 quartz claims, owned by H. Coyne & Sons (52 claims) and Josh Bailey (7 claims). These claims were pre-existing inside and outside the OIC boundary, but all within the City of Whitehorse.
- The new application includes 40 drill holes, use of existing roads, creation of trails, and a building to be located within the claim block. If issued, the company will have one year to complete the exploration activity and all associated reclamation requirements.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 16, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Hecla - Keno Hill

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Natural Resource Officers regularly visit mine sites and when infractions are identified, we have a range of progressive enforcement responses, from issuing warnings to pursuing formal charges through the courts.
- In 2023, the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch has identified a number of concerns at the mine site and has been working with Hecla Mining Corporation on corrective measures.
- An inspection in late June 2023 identified some continued contraventions at the Keno Hill site that the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch is addressing.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon holds \$10.2 million in financial security for the mining operations in the Keno Hill Silver District.
- Hecla Mining Corporation is ramping up production at its Keno Hill property. The company recently announced its operations in the territory produced 184,264 ounces of silver during the second quarter of 2023.
- Inspection reports are publicly available on Waterline, the Yukon Water Board's public registry.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about the status of site operations, plans for the district and the June 2023 Inspector's Report that has received attention recently from news media.

Session Briefing Note

Hecla - Keno Hill

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- Alexco began mine production at Keno Hill in 2010. The site went into temporary closure from 2013 to 2019 due to low metal prices.
- In a business arrangement that was finalized in September 2022, Hecla Mining Company took on a majority of shares in Alexco. The company stated that it will provide financial stability to the project and focus on long-term development across the district.
- The Keno Hill Silver District hosts numerous historical mining developments that are federal liabilities.
- The Elsa Reclamation and Development Company, an Alexco subsidiary, is under contract with the Government of Canada to carry out the site-wide closure and reclamation plan for these liabilities.
- On September 8, 2023, Yukon Water Board issued an Order for a total of \$11.3 million in security following its completion of the 2021 Reclamation and Closure Plan review. The Government of Yukon already holds \$10.2 million in security. The additional \$1.1 million is due no later than December 7, 2023.
- The Government of Yukon and Yukon Water Board will receive a 2023 Reclamation and Closure Plan on November 27, 2023. A revised financial security determination will be conducted following review of the 2023 plan.

Compliance and Enforcement Status

- Natural Resource Officers regularly inspect mining and reclamation sites and activities. (See BN#41)

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 18, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**ECO #2 / EMR #4 / ENV #34****Fall 2023****Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**ECO – EMR - ENV

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government is committed to continuing consultation with the Kaska First Nations on the Kudz Ze Kayah mine licensing in a way that supports our commitments to build strong relationships with First Nations and meets our obligations to consult on this project.
- We are committed to implementing the Finlayson Caribou Herd Oversight Committee and implement terms and conditions of the decision document in collaboration with the Ross River Dena Council and the Liard First Nation.

[If a court decision has been issued]

- We are currently reviewing the court decision. Once we have analyzed the decision, we will decide on next steps.

[If a court decision is still pending]

- We look forward to the court providing clarity on the issues raised in the judicial review. As this case is before the court, we will not be commenting on it further at this time.

Additional response:

- Our government is committed to responsible mineral resource development and collaborative resource stewardship.
- We are partnering with Yukon First Nations to develop new minerals legislation. We are proud of this government-to-government collaboration to develop a modernized resource management regime that serves the interests of Yukoners.

Session Briefing Note**ECO #2 / EMR #4 / ENV #34****Fall 2023****Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

ECO – EMR - ENV

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Supreme Court is expected to issue a decision in early fall 2023 on the judicial review of the decision to approve the Kudz Ze Kayah project.
- Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation identified impacts of the project to their Aboriginal rights and title. The Kaska Nations requested the project be rejected or be referred to a panel during the assessment.

Background:

- On June 15, 2022, a joint decision document was issued by the governments of Canada and Yukon to vary the Executive Committee's recommendations that the project be allowed to proceed, subject to terms and conditions specified in the Final Screening Report.
- On July 20, 2022, the Ross River Dena Council, on its own behalf and on behalf of the Kaska Nations, filed a petition for judicial review of the decision. A Yukon Supreme Court hearing was held in April 2023.
- In August 2022, BMC Minerals submitted the application to the Yukon government for a quartz mining licence, a Type-A water licence and land leases. The Yukon government's regulatory review is ongoing.
- The Yukon government submitted an intervention to the Yukon Water Board on April 21, 2023, outlining concerns and gaps in BMC's water licence application.
- The Yukon government is aiming to establish the Finlayson Caribou Herd Oversight Committee and implement terms and conditions of the decision document. The Yukon government has committed to providing Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council capacity funding.
- Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council have indicated they would prepare a draft Terms of Reference for the Finlayson Caribou Herd Oversight Committee and noted the need for capacity funding to support development of the committee and consultation with the Yukon government on the project.

Session Briefing Note**ECO #2 / EMR #4 / ENV #34****Fall 2023****Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

ECO – EMR - ENV

- Discussions with the Yukon government, Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council on the Oversight Committee, capacity funding, and the regulatory review and oversight of the proposed project are ongoing. (See ECO TAB 31 Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives).

Approved by:


September 11, 2023

A/Deputy Minister of the Executive Council Office

Date approved



September 8, 2023_

a/Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved



2023-09-08

Briar Young

Date approved

A/Deputy Minister of Environment

Session Briefing Note

Mining Intensity Target

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is [working towards](#) establishing an intensity-based target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per unit of production [in the mining sector](#).
- The Government of Yukon recognizes our approach is unique and ambitious [and we are taking the time needed to get it right](#).
- We are working with a consultant and the mining industry to set baselines and find solutions which enable industry to achieve the target.

Additional response:

- An intensity-based approach accounts for progress made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourages mine operators to innovate and adopt low-carbon practices, and accounts for the growth and substantial year-to-year fluctuations that occur in the Yukon's mineral sector.
- The mining intensity approach recognizes the differences between the types of activities undertaken by different quartz and placer operations throughout their mining lifecycles.
- Mining emissions are included in the economy-wide, net-zero, 2050 target legislated in the *Clean Energy Act*.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Some questions regarding Action I9 in *Our Clean Future* may be raised regarding establishing an intensity-based greenhouse gas reduction target for the Yukon's mining industry. [\(See BN #35\)](#)

Session Briefing Note

Mining Intensity Target

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

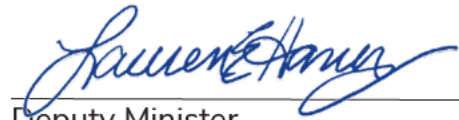
- The percentage of emissions from mining is variable year-to-year. From 2009-2020 it contributed eight to 15 per cent of the Yukon's total greenhouse gas emissions.
- Energy, Mines and Resources conducted an engagement on the mining intensity target in the fall of 2022. A What We Heard report from that engagement is available on Yukon.ca.
- The target proposed in the engagement was for the mining sector to reduce 45 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of production by 2035.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is working with a consultant and the mineral industry to establish mining intensity baselines and benchmarks.
- Through the quartz mine licensing process, quartz mines are required to project their anticipated greenhouse gas emissions, identify measures to reduce emissions, and annually report greenhouse gas emissions. This fulfills an Our Clean Future commitment.
- Using data provided through the quartz mine licensing process and from fuel tax data, the Government of Yukon will track the sector's progress toward achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.
- Canada's approach to pricing carbon pollution for emission-intensive trade-exposed industries, such as mining, includes an Output-Based Pricing System. Depending on their size, quartz mines in the Yukon may be subject to this pricing system.
- The Department of Finance is leading the development of a separate rebate that will return carbon levies collected from larger mines under the Output-Based Pricing System to the mining industry to help the industry achieve the mining intensity target. Energy, Mines and Resources is assisting with this work. (See BN #29)

Session Briefing Note

Mining Intensity Target

Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 5, 2023

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Following the operator's decision to abandon the Minto mine site in May, the Government of Yukon is applying lessons learned from the Wolverine mine and taking necessary steps to protect people, property and the environment.
- We are undertaking water management and treatment activities at site and working closely with Selkirk First Nation on the planning for early reclamation and closure.
- We are pleased the outstanding royalty payments owed to Selkirk First Nation were recently resolved through a court order.
- We are cooperating with the Receiver, PricewaterhouseCoopers, in its efforts to find a buyer for the site. We remain hopeful for a sale, given the significant copper reserves still in the area.

Additional response:

- Yukon businesses that are owed money are now able to advance their claims through PricewaterhouseCoopers in their role as Receiver for the site.
- Since May 13, we have issued several direct award contracts given the immediate need to ensure ongoing human health and safety and environmental protection of the site. Planning is underway to ensure any future contracts are procured in an open and competitive manner, should they be required.
- The Government of Yukon expects to spend approximately \$25 million in 2023-24 on work at the mine site, anticipating this will be recovered from the \$75.2 million in security we currently hold.

Session Briefing Note

Minto Mine

#6
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There has been significant media attention on the recent abandonment of the Minto Mine. Selkirk First Nation and the public will want to know that the environment is being protected at the mine site. There may be questions about the amount of money expended on-site and the number of direct awards related to the project.

Background:

- The Minto Mine is an underground copper mine with gold and silver byproducts located on Selkirk First Nation's Category A Settlement Land.
- On May 13, 2023, Minto Metals abandoned the site, and the Government of Yukon took over short-term environmental management of the site.
- The Government of Yukon contracted JDS to immediately mobilize the site under a short-term contract to secure critical resources and subcontractors and initiate required activities. This contract ended on July 27, 2023, when Boreal Engineering took over as the site operator.
- On July 24, 2023, the B.C. Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the receiver of the Minto Mine site. The receiver is responsible for all of Minto's assets, undertakings and property, and has the authority, among other things, to put the mine up for sale.
- As Minto Mine is on Category A Settlement Land, Selkirk First Nation holds surface and subsurface rights and the Government of Yukon collected royalty payments on behalf of Selkirk First Nation under the *Quartz Mining Act*.
- Through a court Settlement Order, royalties owed to Selkirk First Nation were resolved by a payment of \$1.3 million USD and the retention of \$700,000 CAD previously paid to Selkirk directly by Minto Metals Corporation.
- Selkirk First Nation also received additional financial benefits under its net smelter royalty arrangement with Minto Mine's owner, Minto Metals Corp. There are still monies owed to Selkirk First Nation from this arrangement.

Session Briefing Note Minto Mine

#6
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Now that the site is under receivership, former employees are able to access the federal government's Wage Earner Protection Program.
- The Government of Yukon holds \$75.2 million through a combination of cash and a surety bond for the Minto mine and intends to use this funding to cover eligible costs to protect the environment and for remediation activities.
- Contracts to support this work include:
 - JDS Energy and Mining for interim water management – \$6.87 million (contract over)
 - Ensero Solutions for water monitoring – \$1.26 million
 - BQE Water for water treatment - \$1.94 million
 - Boreal Engineering Ltd. for maintenance - \$11.6 million

Approved by:



August 30, 2023

A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to advance regional land use planning in collaboration with Yukon First Nations, communities and stakeholders.
- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are making progress on consensus discussions regarding a decision on the Recommended Plan for the Dawson Region. These discussions are based on feedback heard during public consultation which concluded in December 2022.
- We are meeting with Yukon First Nations to begin work on the four remaining regional land use plans and will move forward with the plans as soon as our First Nations partners are ready.
- We are at the pre-planning stage with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun and have begun preliminary conversations with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, and the Teslin Tlingit Council.

Additional response:

- We are working with our First Nations partners and the Government of Canada to ensure there is adequate funding to support implementing Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements.
- The Government of Yukon is exploring options for how conformity checks are completed for projects proposed in approved Regional Land Use Plan areas. We will collaborate with First Nations on a path forward.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Multiple audiences including Yukon First Nations, the mining sector, and environmental stakeholders are interested in the status and progress of regional land use planning and the funding available for these processes.
- Concerns have been raised regarding conformity checks and who will perform them after plan approval.

Background:

- The process to complete regional land use planning in the traditional territories of Yukon First Nations is defined in Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements. These processes can involve the participation of multiple First Nations governments.
- The Final Agreements and Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act outline the continued responsibility of Regional Land Use Planning Commissions in conducting conformity checks for proposed projects in areas with approved land use plans.
- During the development of regional land use plans, commissions are funded through Federal Umbrella Final Agreement implementation funding.
- We are working with Canada and the Council of Yukon First Nations on the 2024 Umbrella Final Agreement implementation funding review.
- There are no Chapter 11 sub-regional or district planning processes underway in the Yukon. The Beaver River land use planning process is not an Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 11 sub-regional planning process; rather, it comes out of the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Government of Yukon. (See BN #79)

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:



August 28, 2023

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Successor Resource
Legislation – Minerals and
Public Lands**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is developing new minerals legislation and new public lands legislation in collaboration with Indigenous governments.
- Made-in-Yukon legislation will improve our regulatory system, respect First Nations' relationships with the land, protect the environment and strengthen our economy.
- We greatly appreciate the important insights and perspectives that industry representatives, environmental organizations, and the public have provided as we work together on new minerals legislation.

Additional response:

- In May 2023, the Government of Yukon completed a public engagement with meetings held throughout the territory on approaches we are considering for new minerals legislation. A What We Heard document will be released later this year.
- This feedback will be used by the Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups as we work to collaboratively develop the legislation.
- Last year, the Government of Yukon engaged the public on new public lands legislation. A “What We Heard” report is available online at Yukon.ca.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The desire to see new minerals and public lands legislation developed has been a longstanding interest of First Nations governments stemming from commitments in the 2003 Yukon Northern Affairs Program Devolution Transfer Agreement.
-

Background:**Minerals**

- A Steering Committee for New Minerals Legislation was struck in September 2021. It includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous governments.
- The Steering Committee for New Minerals Legislation worked to develop potential approaches for key policy issues from August 2021 to December 2022.
- This work formed the basis of a 90-day public engagement which concluded in early May 2023. It is anticipated that a “What We Heard” report will be released by the end of the year.
- The Steering Committee has resumed its monthly meetings to discuss the results of public engagement and to work together to develop a recommended framework for new minerals legislation.

Public Lands

- Work on new public lands legislation has been ongoing since 2020. In November 2022, a Steering Committee was established to direct legislative development that includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous governments.
- The Government of Yukon carried out First Nations consultation and public engagement on concepts for new lands legislation in spring 2022. This work is being considered by the Steering Committee for new public lands legislation.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Successor Resource
Legislation – Minerals and
Public Lands**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Steering Committee is currently identifying interests related to key policy issues and developing potential approaches to address those interests in a new legislative regime.
- Once a suite of potential approaches is developed for each key policy issue, public engagement and consultation on the options will occur.
- This work will lead to a modernized land regime that balances a wide range of interests and values, including the sale and lease of public land.

Approved by:

August 30, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Victoria Gold Royalties

Fall 2023Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Victoria Gold began commercial production, as defined in Yukon's mining regulations, in June 2021. It did not meet the production threshold to pay royalties before then.
- We are finalizing the 2021 and 2022 royalty amounts for Victoria Gold. Royalties for 2021 are in the appeal process. Payment of the 2022 royalties was received on September 29, 2023, and is now moving through the required audit and review process.
- When concluded and paid, royalty amounts will be published on the Government of Yukon's website.

Additional response:

- Under the *Quartz Mining Act*, mining royalties accrue each year on January 1 for minerals mined the previous calendar year, and payment of the accrued royalties is due nine months later, on October 1.
- After royalty returns are provided by a company on April 1, they are reviewed for accuracy by an external accounting firm, and then the Government of Yukon issues a notice of assessment for royalties owing. The company then has 90 days to appeal this amount.
- Royalties are one of the key issues that we are examining as we develop new minerals legislation with our First Nations partners.

Session Briefing Note

Victoria Gold Royalties

Fall 2023Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- As Victoria Gold Corp began production in 2021, the public may be interested in what royalties are being paid to the Government of Yukon.
- Royalties are often viewed as an important part of ensuring that the public sees meaningful financial benefits from mining in the territory.

Background:

- The Eagle Gold Mine is a large conventional open pit and heap leach gold operation located in north-central Yukon within the traditional territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. Victoria Gold is operating in year four of the anticipated eight years of production. (See BN #89)
- Victoria Gold and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun developed and implemented a Comprehensive Cooperation and Benefits Agreement in 2011.
- The company declared the start of commercial production at the Eagle Gold Mine on June 30, 2021, as required by the Quartz Mining Royalty Regulation, for royalty determinations.
- The company's announcement that it had started commercial production on July 1, 2020, is unrelated to the requirement to declare commercial production under the Regulation.
- Victoria Gold has appealed the 2021 Notice of Assessment. The appeal focuses on allowable deductions and remains on-going.
- The Government of Yukon's contracted accountant is currently gathering information to prepare the final Notice of Assessment for 2022. The company must pay the royalty by October 1, 2023, whether or not the final Notice of Assessment has been issued.
- Victoria Gold is entering the assessment process to undertake the Eagle Gold Mine Extension Project which proposes to extend the mine life to 15 years.

Session Briefing Note
Victoria Gold Royalties

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 18, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note BC Grid Connect

**EMR #10/YDC #10
Fall 2023**

Energy, Mines and
Resources and
Yukon Development
Corporation

Recommended response:

- In Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon committed to responding to the climate emergency; one of these commitments is that 97 per cent of electricity on the Yukon's main grid would come from renewable sources; [up from the 92 per cent it is today](#).
- The Yukon – British Columbia Grid Connect project could be a key part of the Yukon maintaining [high levels of renewable energy](#) over the long term. It will be a complex, major, long-term infrastructure project that crosses multiple traditional territories, as well as provincial/territorial borders.
- Increasing the Yukon's renewable electricity supply supports our ambitious electrification goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from [the Yukon's](#) largest emission sources: transportation, [heating and mining](#).

Additional response:

- We are initiating the work required to understand the interests and perspectives of Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups; technical feasibility and options; potential cost and funding opportunities, as well as other key forms of information.
- [Connecting the Yukon to British Columbia's electrical grid is a tremendous opportunity for shared growth and prosperity, economic reconciliation and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use.](#)

Session Briefing Note BC Grid Connect

**EMR #10/YDC #10
Fall 2023**

Energy, Mines and
Resources and
Yukon Development
Corporation

- Connecting to British Columbia's electrical grid will also help facilitate development of critical minerals in the Yukon. Additional available power will make critical mineral projects more feasible.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in what the Government of Yukon is doing to increase the Yukon's ability to generate energy from renewable sources.
-

Background:

- In 2019, Midgard Consulting produced the 'Yukon-British Columbia Interconnection Development Plan.' The report identified objectives of the project, a proposed development approach and a very preliminary cost estimate.
- Work on the feasibility of the grid connect project will require the completion of a new development plan with updated costing.
- At the March 31, 2023 Yukon Forum meeting in Haines Junction, leadership discussed the potential for the connection of the Yukon and British Columbia's grids. This discussion represents the beginning of the government's collaboration on the project.
- Currently, approximately 92 per cent of the Yukon's electricity is obtained from renewable energy sources, with hydroelectricity accounting for approximately 80 per cent of the Yukon's total electricity generation.

Session Briefing Note
BC Grid Connect

EMR #10/YDC #10
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources and
Yukon Development
Corporation

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

October 10, 2023

Date approved



President and CEO
Yukon Development Corporation

October 10, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Interest Rates

#11
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are exploring options to address the accrual of interest prior to completion of development work for lot purchasers in Phase 6B.
- We are aware Phase 6B lots in Whistle Bend were sold prior to the issuance of a Construction Completion Certificate. Once a certificate is issued for development work, clients can start building.
- Phase 6B purchasers who choose not to pay for their lots in full begin to accrue interest under their Agreements for Sale.
- Releasing lots prior to completion of development work provides purchasers lead-time to plan their build and secure financing.

Additional response:

- On September 21, 2023, the Construction Completion Certificate was issued for 40 lots in Phase 6B, allowing builders to access their lots and start construction.
- On October 6, 2023, the Construction Completion Certificate was released for the remaining lots in Phase 6B.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Some clients who purchased lots in Whistle Bend Phase 6B are accruing interest as per their Agreements for Sale but [were](#) unable to access their lots to begin construction until a Construction Completion Certificate [was](#) issued by the City.

Session Briefing Note

Interest Rates

#11
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

Phase 6B Lots

- In April 2023, 100 lots in Phase 6B were released through a lottery process.
- The lottery information outlined building timelines (three years), interest rates, and described the outstanding development work to be completed, [noting that final construction work would be ongoing in Phases 6B and 8 during spring and early summer 2023](#).
- Phase 6B purchasers who did not pay for their lots in full began to accrue interest as per their Agreements for Sale in April/May 2023. The first interest payment for Phase 6B clients is due April/May 2024.
- Of the 100 lots sold, 19 development permit applications have been submitted to the City of Whitehorse. Development permits are required in order to commence construction.
- [All](#) clients who have submitted development permit applications now have access to their lots.

Agreements for Sale

- An Agreement for Sale is a contract between the client to purchase the land and the Government of Yukon to sell the land. These identify the terms and conditions of sale and enable the client to purchase a lot in installments over a period of time (typically five years).
- The land title remains with the Government of Yukon until all the terms and conditions of the Agreement for Sale are met.
- Individuals have the opportunity to pay out the purchase price on their Agreement for Sale at any time to avoid paying interest to the Government of Yukon.
- Interest rates for public land purchases in the Yukon are set in legislation. The rate of interest charged on the outstanding balance owed per the Agreement for Sale is established in the *Lands Act* and the *Lands Regulation* and is tied to the Bank of Canada Bank Rate.

Session Briefing Note

Interest Rates

#11
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The interest rate is set at “the Bank Rate plus 2.5 per cent,” with a minimum interest rate set at 5 per cent.
- The most recent interest rate announcement from the Bank of Canada on September 6 set the Bank Rate at 5.25 per cent. Interest rates in Agreements are calculated quarterly. As of October 1st, 2023, the interest rate is 7.75 per cent (5.25 per cent + 2.5 per cent).
- Agreements for Sale have set payments; the interest rate is calculated at the point in time the Agreement is signed.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 31, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Regulations for the
Animal Protection and
Control Act**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources**Recommended response:**

- The new *Animal Protection and Control Act* modernizes the Yukon's animal protection and control framework to better protect Yukoners and animals in the territory.
- The new Act strengthens enforcement of animal care and control, improves animal welfare standards and regulates animal-related businesses.
- While the Act received assent in the Fall 2022 session of the Legislative Assembly, the Act will not come into force until the regulations are developed.
- We expect the regulations to be completed and the Act to come into effect by spring of 2024.

Additional response:

- The Act provides a broad framework for animal care and control and the regulations will provide the specific detail required to implement this new law.
- It is important that these regulations reflect Yukoners' values, our relationships with animals and our way of life.
- We have engaged broadly on the development of the *Animal Protection and Control regulations* with industry associations, municipalities, First Nations, the public and interest groups.

Session Briefing Note**Regulations for the
Animal Protection and
Control Act**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

-
- This engagement focused on standards of care for domestic animals, exotic animals, control standards for livestock and prohibited cosmetic surgeries.

Third response:

- A report on what we heard during engagement will be released later this fall.
- We are now considering all feedback from the engagement process as we develop the regulations for the new *Animal Protection and Control Act*.
- Once the regulations are developed, we will consider how best to support communities and governments that are interested in taking on animal protection and control enforcement roles.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on how the Government of Yukon is engaging with stakeholders and the public on the development of the *Animal Protection and Control Act* regulations and when the Act and regulations will come into force.

Background:

- Invitations to engage were sent to stakeholders including First Nations governments, Renewable Resources Councils and local religious groups in May 2023, with meetings held from May to September. Local religious groups did not respond.

Session Briefing Note**Regulations for the
Animal Protection and
Control Act**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

-
- In addition to many members of the public, we spoke to and heard from:
 - Municipal and First Nations governments,
 - Association of Yukon Communities,
 - Local advisory councils,
 - Renewable Resources Councils,
 - Yukon Conservation Society,
 - Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon,
 - Yukon Dog Mushing Association,
 - Dog Powered Sports Yukon,
 - Yukon Outfitters Association,
 - Yukon Agriculture Association,
 - Yukon Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee,
 - [Equine Association of Yukon](#),
 - [Yukon Game Growers Association](#),
 - Growers of Organic Food Yukon,
 - Klondike Farmers Forum,
 - Boarding facilities, and
 - Animal rescues and humane societies.
 - Public engagement took place between June and September 2023, with members of the public invited to respond via email or participate in individual interviews with Government of Yukon staff.

Session Briefing Note

**Regulations for the
Animal Protection and
Control Act**

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Environment

2023-10-17

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 17, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Regulations for the Animal Protection and Control Act

Fall 2023

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Record of Engagement on the Animal Protection and Control Act (Phase 1 and Phase 2 from 2018- 2023) (last updated October 4, 2023)

Summary:

Phase 1: The Department of Environment sent letters and follow-up emails to First Nations, communities, organizations, and other interested stakeholders. 10 public meetings were held and a public survey was released. Formal meetings and correspondence recorded, informal discussions and ongoing correspondence not included.

Phase 2: The Department of Environment sent letters to the same stakeholders as in Phase 1 which included invitations to meet.

Detail:

Phase 1 Community Meetings

Community	Date (2018)	Time	Location
Carmacks	Monday, November 5	6:30-8:00pm	Carmacks Recreation Centre
Mayo	Thursday, November 8	6:30-8:00pm	Mayo Curling Rink Lounge
Teslin	Tuesday, November 13	6:00-8:00pm	Teslin RecPlex
Tagish	Wednesday, November 21	6:30-8:30pm	Tagish Community Centre
Pelly Crossing	Monday, November 26	4:00-6:00pm	Selkirk Old Community Hall
Dawson City	Tuesday, November 27	1:00-3:00 or 6:00-8:00	Downtown Hotel
Old Crow	Wednesday, November 28	6:00-8:00pm	Community Hall
Whitehorse	Monday, December 3	6:30-8:30pm	High Country Inn
Carcross	Tuesday, December 4	10:00-12:00pm	Carcross Learning Centre

Session Briefing Note

Regulations for the Animal Protection and Control Act

Fall 2023

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Phase 1 Engagement Summary (2018)

Who	Engagement	Date
Animal Protection Officer	Meeting	December 13, 2018
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and Community of Carmacks	Meeting	November 5, 2018
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	Meeting	November 14, 2018
Mayo community	Meeting	November 8, 2018
Teslin community	Meeting	November 13, 2018
Several dog team owners and dogsledders (Yukon Quest, Yukon Dog Mushing Association, etc.)	Meeting	November 15, 2018
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)	Correspondence (email)	
RCMP	Meeting	October 29, 2018
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	Correspondence (letter)	July 23, 2018

Phase 2 Engagement Summary (2019)

All (First Nations, municipalities First Nations, municipalities, advisory groups and stakeholders, etc.) received letters on August 5, 2019 with the 2018 engagement What We Heard attached, and invitation to meet.

Who	Engagement	Date
Dog Musers incl.: Muktuk Adventures, Dog Powered Sports, Wilderness Tourism Association Yukon (Yukon Quest and Yukon Dog Musher's Association not in attendance)	Meeting	August 1, 2019

Session Briefing Note

Regulations for the Animal Protection and Control Act

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Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Kluane First Nation	Meeting	October 16, 2019
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation	Correspondence (email)	August 28, 2019
Livestock Health and Wellness Subcommittee	Meetings	October 25, December 2, and December 7, 2019
RCMP	Correspondence (email)	August 30, 2019
Selkirk First Nation	Correspondence (letters/emails)	September 2019
Watson Lake	Meeting (and follow up email)	Nov 2019 (December 2, 2019)
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	Meeting	October 22, 2019
Yukon Wildlife Preserve	Correspondence (email)	January 13, 2021
Dawson with Klondike Farmers Forum	Meetings	September 26 and December 10, 2019
Yukon Agricultural Association	Correspondence (letter)	September 19, 2019
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Farm	Correspondence (email)	October 17, 2019
Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee	Meetings	October 24, 2019; January 23, March 5, October 22 and December 10, 2020
Open public workshop on APCA for livestock	Workshop	November 14, 2019
Public Presentation on APCA for livestock	Presentation	November 20, 2019
Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee – Livestock Welfare Subcommittee	Meetings	December 2 and 12, 2019

Phase 2 Engagement (2022-23)

Who	Engagement	Date
Yukon Muslim Society	Correspondence (phone)	October 20, 2022
Jewish Cultural Society	Correspondence (phone)	October 20, 2022
Humane Society Dawson	Meeting with executive and correspondence	October 21, 2022
Humane Society Yukon	Meeting with executive	October 24, 2022

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

Date prepared: August 11, 2023
Last Updated: October 16, 2023
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Regulations for the Animal Protection and Control Act

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Yukon Outfitters Association	Correspondence (phone)	October 25, 2022
Wilderness Tourism Association Yukon	Correspondence (phone)	October 25, 2022
Yukon Dog Mushers	Correspondence (phone)	October 25, 2022
Association of Yukon Communities	Correspondence (phone message)	October 31, 2022
Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY)	Correspondence	October 31, 2022
Community Advisor on behalf of Tagish Local Advisory Council	Email exchange, meeting booked Nov 10	October 31, 2022
Town of Watson Lake, Mayor Chris Irvine (3:20pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Yukon Agricultural Association – Carl Burgess, Executive Director (3:30pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Yukon Outfitters Association – Shawn Wassel, Executive Director (3:50pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Association of Yukon Communities – Ted Laking, President (4pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Dog Mushers Association – Mandy (4:15pm)	Left a message to call back	November 3, 2022
Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY) – Bart Bounds of Elemental Farm (4:20pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Dawson Humane Society	Elisha emailed earlier in day to offer to meet	November 3, 2022
Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY) – Brian Lendrum (4:30pm)	Left a message to call back	November 3, 2022
Yukon Agricultural Association – Cain Vangel (4:31pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Wilderness Tourism Association Yukon	Correspondence (phone)	November 4, 2022
Tagish Local Advisory Council	Attended meeting	November 10, 2022
Watson Lake Town Council	Attended meeting virtually	November 15, 2022
Yukon Dog Mushers Association – chair Mandy Johnson	Phone	November 21, 2022
Yukon Outfitters Association	Attended meeting	Dec 16, 2022
Faro Town Council	Attended meeting virtually	Jan 10, 2023
Haines Junction Town Council/CAFN Council	Attended meeting virtually	Jan 18, 2023
Agriculture Industry Advisory Council	Meeting	Jan 26, 2023
All-Paws Veterinary Clinic	Meeting	Jan 27, 2023

Session Briefing Note

Regulations for the Animal Protection and Control Act

Fall 2023

Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources

Mayo Town Council	Attended meeting virtually	Feb 1, 2023
Alpine Veterinary Clinic	Meeting	Feb 8, 2023
Marsh Lake Local Advisory Council	Attended meeting	Feb 8, 2023
Selkirk First Nation Community Safety Officer	Attended meeting	Feb 21, 2023
Humane Society Dawson	Meeting	Feb 22, 2023
Dawson City Bylaw Officer- Jalen Henry	Meeting	Feb 22, 2023
John Overell –Dawson Veterinarian	Meeting	Feb 22, 2023
Mount Lorne Local Advisory Council	Attended meeting	April 11, 2023
Carcross Local Advisory Council	Attended meeting	April 20, 2023
City of Dawson Bylaw	Correspondence (email)	May 2, 2023
Carmacks RRC	Correspondence (email)	May 8, 2023
Shelley Cuthbert Rescue Organization	Correspondence (phone)	May 10, 2023
Tails and Trails Dog Hotel	Correspondence (Phone)	May 16, 2023
Major's Promise	Correspondence (Phone)	May 18, 2023
Yukon Dog Mushing Association	Meeting	May 17, 2023 and Aug 7, 2023
Dog Powered Sports	Meeting	June 5, 2023
Yukon Agricultural Association	Meeting	June 5, 2023
Humane Society Dawson	Meeting	June 8, 2023
Game Growers of Yukon	Correspondence (email)	June 8, 2023
Gator's Ranch	Correspondence (email)	June 13, 2023
Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon	Meeting	June 14, 2023
Association of Yukon Communities (AYC)	Attended meeting virtually	June 17, 2023 and August 16, 2023
Village of Haines Junction	Attended meeting	June 28, 2023

Session Briefing Note

Regulations for the Animal Protection and Control Act

Fall 2023

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Equine Association of Yukon	Meeting	June 28, 2023
Humane Society Yukon	Attended meeting	July 11, 2023
Stay and Play Dog Boarding Kennel	Meeting	July 14, 2023 and Aug 24, 2023
Yukon Conservation Society (YCS)	Correspondence (letter)	July 18, 2023
Laberge RRC	Attended meeting	July 20, 2023
Kluane First Nation	Meeting with council then public lunch meeting	July 26, 2023
Kluane Point Kennel	Met at Kennel	July 26, 2023
Village of Haines Junction	Attended meeting	June 28, 2023
Yukon Outfitters Association	Attended meeting virtually	July 28, 2023
Growers of Organic Food Yukon	Correspondence (email)	June 29, 2023
Teslin RRC	Correspondence (letter)	Aug 6, 2023
Dawson RRC	Correspondence (letter)	Sept 6, 2023
Yukon Agricultural Association	Meeting	August 18, 2023
Yukon Fish and Game Association	Meeting	August 24, 2023
Growers of Organic Food Yukon	Correspondence (email)	September 14, 2023
Duffy's Pets and Tanzilla Harness Supply	Correspondence (email)	September 28, 2023
Yukon Dog Mushing Association	Correspondence (letter)	September 28, 2023
Yukon Horse Packing Adventures	Correspondence (letter)	September 28, 2023
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation – Rodney D'Abramo Director of Policy Executive Office	Meeting	October 4, 2023
Klondike Farmers Forum	Correspondence (email)	Oct 10, 2023

Session Briefing Note

Agricultural Land Development

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are working to increase access to land that can be used for farming and exploring flexible options to increase the production of local food and raising of livestock.
- Agricultural leases decrease barriers for those new to farming, support the expansion of current farming operations and promote agricultural innovation.
- We are making agricultural land more affordable and available to Yukoners through zoning, leasing, agreements for sale, and developing new areas.

Additional response:

- We prepared and made five land parcels available to lease for seasonal agricultural use. This provides an innovative opportunity for Yukoners to grow and sell food from these leased land parcels.
- The Government of Yukon is also developing options for how agriculture land can be used, including allowing for some secondary uses which support agricultural growth.
- To advance climate change mitigation and adaptation, we are researching agriculture land development techniques and their suitability for the North.

Session Briefing Note

Agricultural Land Development

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Demand is increasing for access to land that can be cultivated for the purpose of growing crops and for flexible options to access farmland to increase local production.

Background:

Available Agricultural Land

- The Government of Yukon is advancing agricultural land development in Haines Junction, Dawson and Whitehorse areas. Lots are also available in Mayo.
- In 2022, we approved four applications creating 74.8 hectares of additional agricultural land located near Haines Junction, Marsh Lake and Whitehorse.
- In 2023, as of [November 2](#), we have approved three land development applications totaling 67.9 hectares and are currently assessing [four](#) applications totaling [95](#) hectares of additional agricultural land.

Seasonal Leases and Agreements for Sale

- We provide agricultural lease opportunities, in line with our 2020 agriculture policy. In spring 2023, we made five lease areas available for seasonal agricultural use in the Gentian Lane area. ([See BN #18](#))
- The agriculture lease program can consider a wide range of agriculture activities to support many types of agriculture operations in the territory. These include, but are not limited to livestock lease areas, browsing and market garden leases.
- We are assessing lease and agreement for sale options for other planned agriculture areas in Haines Junction, Dawson and Whitehorse.

Primary Agriculture Use Criteria

- The 2020 agriculture policy presented a new method to determine if titled agriculture land was being effectively used to produce food, fibre or forage. This received mixed feedback from some agricultural landowners.

Session Briefing Note

Agricultural Land Development

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The government has listened to agricultural landowner feedback and is developing options that will undergo further public comment.

Land Matching Initiative

- In 2022, the Agriculture branch coordinated a pilot project to match farmers with under-utilized agricultural land in the Dawson City area.
- Through the pilot work, it was concluded that a non-government organization is best suited to manage and implement this type of program. The Agriculture branch is considering next steps for the land-matching initiative.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 7, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Conflicts

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- For many Yukoners, it [is important](#) to sustain our elk populations [and](#) provide [agriculture producers](#) with land to produce local foods and crops.
- In 2022, a focus group was formed to identify options for the Takhini Elk Herd. [Their objective was to develop a two-year trial program aimed at effectively regulating the elk population; and reducing harm to agricultural lands and infrastructure.](#)
- In [May](#) 2023, following focus group recommendations, [the Elk-Agricultural Steering Committee](#) was established and tasked with [implementing a two-year action plan minimizing elk impacts on agricultural properties while maintaining elk on the landscape.](#)
- The pilot plan recommendations include hiring a coordinator, applying localized and range-scale herd management, supporting fencing options, implementing a collaring program, and [conducting](#) a social survey. [The Government of Yukon is providing the funding for the coordinator to implement the plan.](#)
- [Progress has been made on:](#)
 - [The Department of Environment increased elk monitoring by deploying 20 collars. The collaring program will allow for better tracking of elk movement and greater accuracy for spot counts in the spring for population estimates.](#)
 - [Last year, we introduced a new adaptive Wildlife Act permitting process and made eight additional permits available for hunting elk in the Takhini Valley, increasing the total to 12 permits; and](#)
 - [Fencing projects are being planned for three agriculture properties with ongoing discussions with interested agriculture property owners for future projects.](#)

Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Conflicts

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

- With representation from the Government of Yukon, hunters, the agriculture sector and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the Steering Committee represent a proactive and collaborative approach to addressing a longstanding concern.

Additional response:

- We continue to review and implement actions to address damage caused to crops and farm infrastructure by the Takhini Elk Herd.
- [Three Permit Hunt Authorization hunters were successful, two with Braeburn Permit Hunt Authorizations and one with a Takhini Permit Hunt Authorization. None of the adaptive Wildlife Act permit hunters have been successful thus far.](#)
- Landowners and farmers can apply for a permit to shoot elk damaging their properties. These permits are only used in specific cases where there are ongoing issues and damage, and where all other reasonable measures have been unsuccessful.

Third response:

- Since 2014, the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment have funded elk exclusion fencing and electric fencing.
- The use of the elk permit hunt, exclusion fencing, and electric fencing is reducing the number of complaints where elk have been persistent on farms. We will continue [collaborating](#) with affected landowners, farmers, interest groups, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and First Nations to find solutions and options to manage elk and support agricultural land use.
- The number of calls to the Conservation Officer Services Branch concerning elk-agriculture conflicts remains [relatively](#) low, [with nine](#) total complaints [received since](#) 2020.

Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Conflicts

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

- From the nine complaints, there have been two controlled kills (euthanized elk) by Conservation Officer Services Branch, and 13 mortalities due to traffic accidents.
- I encourage any Yukoner experiencing a conflict with elk on their property to call the TIPP line at 1-800-661-0525 to report the issue to our Conservation Officers.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Takhini Valley farmers may seek an update on government actions to address the conflict between the wild elk population and agricultural properties in the Takhini Valley.
- There may be questions about how the Government of Yukon works with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Yukon Agricultural Association to address the conflict.

Background:

- The focus group was comprised of representatives from the Yukon Agriculture Association, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, First Nations, Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment.
- The Elk-Agricultural Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from the Yukon Agricultural Association, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, the department of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources, and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council in an observer capacity. The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation are not active participants on the Committee but are kept informed of its implementation work.
- Since 2014, the Government of Yukon has provided funding to compensate farmers for elk damage and funding to install exclusion fencing.
 - A total of \$178,096 in compensation for elk damage to farms was provided from 2014 to 2022.
 - A total of \$200,914 in funding was provided for elk exclusion fencing projects from 2014 to 2020.

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

- In 2021, the Government of Yukon established an additional funding program for farmers to install elk exclusion fencing on agricultural properties in the Takhini Valley eastern buffer zone. To date, \$187,210 of funding has been allocated for seven fencing projects under this program.
- There is \$250,000 in funding available for exclusion fencing in 2023/24.

Approved by:Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

November 14, 2023

Date approved

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 14, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****2023 Flood Recovery**Community Services

Recommended response:

- I want to thank the residents, volunteers, contractors, local governments, and dedicated emergency responders for their efforts to protect people and properties throughout the Klondike Valley flood disaster.
- In June 2023, we implemented a disaster financial assistance program to support impacted Klondike Valley residents, farmers, agricultural producers, and businesses with recovery.
- The response involved multiple partners with different areas of jurisdiction working together in the response, the Emergency Measures Organization is contracting a third party to conduct the after-action report. We expect this work to be complete in Fall 2023.
- Details on the funding streams for the \$8.25 million disaster financial assistance recovery program have been communicated directly to residents and is also online at Yukon.ca.

Additional Responses:

- The Klondike Flood Recovery Program compensates eligible Yukoners for their uninsured losses up to a maximum of \$250,000.
- There are three streams to the program: the housing stream is administered by Yukon Housing Corporation, the agriculture stream is administered by Energy, Mines & Resources, and the business stream administered by Economic Development. Community Services' role is to assist with coordination of the program.
- The program closed on October 3. The lead departments are now processing applications and finalizing the compensation to claimants.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

2023 Flood Recovery

Community Services

- The housing stream had 25 claimants with an average claim amount of \$32,000.
 - The agriculture stream had three completed applications, with one pending. The value of the agriculture stream totaled approximately \$120,000.
 - The small business stream had four completed applications. The final reimbursements are being calculated now.
-

Context:

- The 2023 Klondike Valley flood event was widely reported on, and many Yukoners experienced property damage due to the disaster.
-

Background:

- In May 2023, the Klondike Valley flood caused significant and widespread property damage when overflow from the Klondike and Yukon rivers near Dawson City caused flooding. Flooding was especially bad in Rock Creek and Henderson Corner subdivisions.
- Families, small businesses, and farms were affected by the flood and an estimated 40 or more properties were damaged.
- In response, Yukon government provided a public funding program, administered by three departments: Yukon Housing Corporation, Economic Development, and Energy Mines and Resources.
- The department of Community Services is leading program coordination and the process to seek reimbursement for eligible expenses from the Federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA).
- The Klondike Flood recovery program provides funds to restore:

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****2023 Flood Recovery**

Community Services

- Housing in the form of grants for eligible primary residences and loans for eligible primary and secondary residences, outbuildings, and mitigation work.
- Eligible farmers and agricultural producers' property, destroyed harvested crops, field erosion and debris clean-up, infrastructure and fencing repairs and perished livestock.
- Small business owners' property.
- The territory-wide program is expected to be complete by Spring 2024 and is anticipated to align closely with the federal DFAA to allow for recovery of eligible expenditures.
- Yukon is one of the only jurisdictions in Canada without a Disaster Financial Assistance Program.

Financial Implications:

- Federal recoveries are being requested under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA). Amount of potential recoveries are based on a formula.
- The one-time Klondike Flood Recovery Program has a total budget of \$8,250,000 (including personnel). Recoveries are estimated to be about \$7.1M.

Approved by:September 5th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Food Security and Programs

Health and Social
Services

Government priority:

- The Department of Health and Social Services is committed to closing the gap for low-income Yukoners. This includes promoting nutrition and access to food across the territory.

Key messages:

- As part of our response to *Putting People First* and *Our Clean Future*, we are looking at ways to support food security throughout the territory and close the gap for low-income Yukoners.
- We recognize that some Yukoners face financial and access challenges in meeting core needs like food and shelter.
- Our government collaborates with many organizations who deliver food aid to Yukoners.
- We are working with Women and Gender Equity Directorate on enhancing emergency meal and food provisions for Yukoners in need of food aid.
- We are also working with the Yukon Energy Food Security Network to address gaps in emergency meal and food provisions for all Yukoners in need.
- We recognize that food insecurity in the Yukon extends beyond emergency needs and that this work responds to one part of the Yukon's food security efforts.
- As part of this work, we are committed to incorporating input from organizations, including equality-seeking organizations, about the most effective ways to provide programs and services, address gender-based violence and advance equity in all Yukon communities.

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Food Security and Programs

Health and Social
Services

- I would like to thank all our partners for their crucial work to address emergency meal and food provision needs and broader food security issues.
- The department offers a variety of supports, including delivering Social Assistance and Yukon Seniors Income Supplement programs to assist eligible Yukoners with meeting basic needs including food, and offers several Healthy Eating Programs.

Key facts:

- In response to growing inflationary pressures, in the 2022-23 fiscal year we committed **\$100K** (\$100,000) to the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition. This was to support the Yukon Food Network to help coordinate food security initiatives in communities.
- During the 2022-23 fiscal year, Meals on Wheels provided 23,154 meals in Whitehorse and to the surrounding area and 4,129 meals in Dawson City and to the surrounding area.
 - Whitehorse served an average of 95 clients per month and Dawson City served an average of 18 clients per month.
- During the 2021-22 fiscal year, Meals on Wheels provided 21,094 meals in Whitehorse and to the surrounding area and 4,837 meals in Dawson City and to the surrounding area.
- On July 5, 2023, the Government of Canada issued a one-time Grocery Rebate to provide financial support for low- and modest-income Canadians and families.

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Fall 2023

Food Security and Programs

Health and Social
Services

Nutrition Programing:

- The department has many nutrition programs running across the territory, some of which are connected to food security and food literacy programing.
- The department's Health Promotion Unit has received 5-year funding for the 2021-22 to 2025-26 fiscal years through the Public Health Agency of Canada (Yukon Northern Wellness Project) to work with Yukon communities and other partners to support equitable access to food literacy initiatives in rural communities and support on-going local efforts within the Yukon.
- The Health Promotion Unit also supports school food programs across the territory by providing **\$132K** (\$132,000) in funding to the Yukon Food for Learning Association.
 - Additionally, the department provides **\$8,000** to the Recreation & Parks Association of the Yukon to fund healthy snacks through the Rural Healthy Eating Active Living Leader Program.
- During the 2022-23 fiscal year, 15 projects were supported by food literacy grants. These provided food literacy opportunities for over 300 Yukoners with over 200 individuals from rural Yukon.

Non-Governmental Organizations:

- The Sally and Sisters program is now administered by Yukon Aboriginal Women's council and funded by the Women and Gender Equity Directorate and the federal government. This program is a sober environment which has been a key factor in the work that is being done by the Women and Gender Equity Directorate. A similar

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Food Security and Programs

Health and Social
Services

low barrier meal program is being run at the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre.

- Our government is exploring options for future food aid programs with community partners to address any unintended gaps and changing needs.
- There continues to be other community food aid support available to Yukoners in need.
 - At 405 Alexander three meals a day are offered for homeless and street-involved Yukoners, with dinner for overnight shelter guests only.
 - Lunch is available at Mary House on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm.
 - Lunch for women and children on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at Sally and Sisters, and on Wednesday and Friday at the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre.
 - Boys & Girls Club Yukon provides youth-only dinners Tuesday to Saturday at 306 Alexander Street.
 - The Food Bank Society of the Yukon hamper is available in Whitehorse on Tuesday and Thursday with family-only pick-up each Wednesday morning. Communities across the Yukon receive a shipment of Hampers each month that are then distributed.

Food Bank Society of the Yukon:

- Our government collaborates with many organizations who deliver food aid to Yukoners such as the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, the Food Bank Society of the Yukon, and the Boys and Girls Club Yukon, amongst others.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Food Security and Programs**Health and Social
Services

- The Food Bank Society of the Yukon is an important partner providing emergency food to support Yukoners.
 - The Food Bank society of the Yukon hamper is available in Whitehorse on Tuesday and Thursday with family-only pick-up each Wednesday Morning.
 - Communities across the Yukon receive a shipment of hampers each month that are then distributed.
- The Department of Health and Social Services does not have a funding agreement with the Food Bank Society of Yukon, though did work with the organization to provide support during the COVID-19 response.
- We are currently exploring opportunities to support food security throughout the territory and close the gaps for lower income Yukoners.

Meals on Wheels:

- Meals on Wheels provides food to clients experiencing under nutrition, social isolation, dementia or physical and health limitations that affect their access to nutritious food.
- Frozen meals are available to clients living in Whitehorse, or within a two-hour travel time from Whitehorse, as well as in Dawson City and those living within a two-hour travel time from Dawson City.
- Meals on Wheels provides clients with up to seven lunchtime meals per week.
- Meals can be delivered to clients or picked up at either Whistle bend Place or McDonald Lodge.
- In Whitehorse and the surrounding area, clients pay \$3.00 per meal (actual meal costs over \$5.00 per meal). In Dawson City and the surrounding area, clients pay \$2.50 per meal.

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Services

- To receive Meals on Wheels, referrals may come from health care professionals including Physicians, Home Care staff, Community Nurse Practitioners, Social Workers, or the Assessment and Admission Coordinator.
- Clients may also self-refer to the program by contacting the Assessment and Admissions Coordinator.
 - In Dawson City, self-referrals can be made directly to the Home Care Nurse or McDonald Lodge Manager.
- At this time, a review of the Meals on Wheels program is planned to make new recommendations on the program. This review is scheduled for late 2023 to early 2024.

Transfer Payment Agreements:

- We also have three Transfer Payment Agreements where recipients provide meals to seniors.
 - In Whitehorse, Association Franco-Yukonnaise, in collaboration with Les EssentiElles provides seniors with low-cost meals at community kitchens six to eight times a year with around 10 servings per kitchen being provided to each participant.
 - In Haines Junction, St. Elias Seniors Society is providing weekly and monthly lunches and dinners to seniors in partnership with Champagne-Aishihik First Nations Elder Care.
 - In Watson Lake, Signpost Seniors provides a weekly lunch for seniors, as well as several dinner socials throughout the year. For seniors who are unable to attend lunch can be delivered to them.

Bagged Meals from the Family Hotel:

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Food Security and Programs

Health and Social
Services

- In spring 2020, COVID-19 public health measures forced emergency meal programs through the Sally & Sisters program and 405 Alexander Street to temporarily halt or reduce services.
- In response, the department entered into an agreement with the Food Bank Society of Whitehorse in April of 2020 to October 2020 for the Society to distribute bagged meals to homeless and street-involved Yukoners as a precursor to the Meals-To-Go program from the Family Hotel.
- This arrangement was to promote social distancing at 405 Alexander, as one of the COVID-19 pandemic measures.
- The department entered into an agreement with the Family Hotel in November of 2020, which ended on November 30, 2022, at its scheduled end date and was not renewed, as recommendations for COVID-19 mitigation had evolved since April 2020.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

October 30, 2023

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Food Supply Management Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We regularly engage with farmers to ensure their interests and needs are considered as the industry evolves and grows.
- The Yukon's dairy, poultry and egg producers are not part of the national supply management systems.
- Supply management systems are complex and joining the national supply system would require all industry members to be informed and engaged to find the best solution for the Yukon's producers.

Additional response:

- We will continue to listen to industry members' perspectives on food supply management in the territory and work with egg producers to explore options that support growth in the Yukon's egg sector and local food production.
- We offer a number of funding programs and supports for dairy, poultry and egg farmers under Cultivating Our Future and the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Some of the Yukon's egg producers that sell via retail are interested in joining Canada's supply management system. Questions have arisen around the benefits and responsibilities of entering the supply management system.

Background:

- Supply management is the marketing system that controls the domestic production, pricing and import of milk, poultry and eggs. Producers of these commodities must hold units of quota to market and sell their products.

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Food Supply Management Energy, Mines and Resources

- The Yukon's dairy, poultry and egg producers are not part of the national supply management systems for any supply-managed agricultural commodities. To date, the discussion on supply management in the Yukon has focused on egg production.
- Supply management systems are very complex and require cooperation between producers, producer boards and both territorial and federal governments. Supply management includes fixed sale prices and quotas for production.
- There is no established process for how a new jurisdiction would join supply management in Canada. Initial quotas were allocated to all the provinces in the 1970s.
- In the Yukon, there are three farms producing eggs, operating federally-inspected egg grading stations and selling eggs on the retail market. Several small farms also produce eggs for farm gate sales.
- Some local retail-scale egg producers have requested the Yukon join Canada's supply management system for eggs. Other industry members feel the government's work to date on supply management is sufficient.

Approved by:

A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 1, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Gentian Lane Leasing Areas for Agricultural Use

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response

- One way that the Government of Yukon supports local food production is by ensuring affordable agricultural land lease opportunities are available to Yukoners.
- Affordable lease options attract new entrants to the agriculture sector, support the expansion of current operations and promote agricultural innovation, all without converting public land into private title.
- In spring 2023, we made five land parcels available to lease for seasonal agricultural use in the Gentian Lane area of the Golden Horn subdivision.
- To date, we have signed one lease and are negotiating a second lease with interested parties.

Additional response:

- Agricultural leases support the Cultivating Our Future goals of increasing the Yukon's food security, self-sufficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from food transportation.
- We are assessing potential leasing projects in other planned agriculture areas located in Haines Junction, Dawson and Whitehorse.
- In addition to expanding lease opportunities, the Government of Yukon supports food producers by making land available for food production through our land programs.

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Gentian Lane Leasing Areas for Agricultural Use

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions around the Gentian Lane leases project.

Background:

- Gentian Lane agriculture lease options provide an opportunity for people and businesses to undertake small-scale agriculture operations like market gardens and raising small livestock.
- The Gentian Lane area is designated for agricultural use under the Golden Horn Local Area Plan and is zoned for Agriculture under the *Golden Horn Development Area Regulation*. The area is too small to be released for agricultural title per land legislation.
- Public engagement and First Nations consultation on the Gentian Lane project occurred from March to June 2022 and a What We Heard report is available on yukon.ca.
- The Gentian Lane project was adjusted to reflect feedback received on areas including access, parking, washroom facilities, wildfire risk, wildlife and domestic dog interactions and size of leases.
- Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council are both generally supportive of this agricultural land leasing initiative as it contributes to local food security and avoids the permanent disposition of public land as private title.
- The five land parcels were released in April 2023 as leases for seasonal agricultural use. The seasonal leases are available from mid/late April to early/mid-October and have a minimum production clause. Each lease can be up to 2,000 square meters.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 28, 2023

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 10, 2023
Last Updated:

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Session Briefing Note**Domestic Sheep and
Goats Control Order**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- In 2020, we issued a Control Order requiring sheep or goat owners to meet testing and fencing requirements to prevent disease spread to wild sheep and goats. This order is in effect until December 31, 2024.
- The order was issued because domestic sheep and goats can carry pathogens that can cause devastating respiratory disease if spread to wild animals.
- The Control Order is a precautionary measure to safeguard the health of the Yukon's iconic wild sheep and goats.
- The Government of Yukon is working to assess the impact of the Control Order on the spread of disease and on sheep and goat owners. The results will inform the next steps after December 2024.

Additional response:

- We continue to conduct animal testing for respiratory pathogens and assess fencing to ensure compliance with the order.
- We remain up-to-date with new research and we have confidence in the testing capabilities we use to detect *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*M. ovi*), the primary bacteria of concern, in sheep and goats.
- There is no cost to farmers for testing sheep and goats in the Yukon and they can apply for compensation for eligible costs incurred to comply with the order.
- Over \$225,000 has been paid to owners for fencing costs, and almost \$270,000 has been paid to compensate owners for the loss and the destruction of animals that tested positive.

Session Briefing Note**Domestic Sheep and
Goats Control Order**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

- Funding for fencing is available for farmers through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Third Response:

- Annual testing of sheep and goats in the Yukon shows that importing live animals presents a high risk of bringing *M. ovi* to the Yukon.
- We continue to monitor wildlife populations for pathogens. To date, *M. ovi* has not been detected in the Yukon's wild sheep or goats.
- Surveillance in wild sheep and goats and other wildlife species is ongoing in order to assess the risk of *M. ovi* and related pathogens to the health of these wild populations.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Sheep and goat owners and wildlife stakeholders are asking about next steps as the date of expiry for the Control Order approaches (December 2024).

Background:

- The Yukon has the largest population of wild thinhorn sheep in Canada. This iconic species is of great intrinsic, cultural and commercial value.
- Farmers and owners of sheep and goats implement and maintain approved fencing requirements.
- Sheep or goat owners who test their animals prior to importing them into the Yukon are eligible for compensation. If testing does not occur prior to importing, owners are not eligible for compensation should the animal later test positive.

Session Briefing Note
Domestic Sheep and
Goats Control Order

ENV #41 / EMR #19
Fall 2023


Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:


Briar Young, A/Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

2023-09-08

Date approved


Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 8, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program supports agriculture sector growth and resilience with funding for research and new initiatives, farm business plans, development of infrastructure and purchasing of equipment, and with practices to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Beginning in 2023, the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership provides a total of \$9.25 million over five years for agriculture in the Yukon. This is a 25 per cent increase from the previous agricultural funding program.
- To date, the program has approved over [\\$1 million in funding](#) for over [63](#) local projects. This includes funding for building farm infrastructure, purchasing farm and food processing equipment, support for farmers markets, establishing community gardens and developing food safety plans.

Additional response:

- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is an investment in Yukon's agriculture industry to support our farmers and increase our capacity for local food production.
- The Government of Yukon engaged with First Nations and industry to ensure their feedback is reflected in new funding programs for the agriculture sector.
- New categories for applicants such as 'Commercial' 'New Entrant' and 'Small Business' help funding to be better targeted to different

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Fall 2023

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Energy, Mines and Resources

applicant types and needs. Specific eligibility criteria for the different categories can be found on Yukon.ca.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions regarding applications and eligibility criteria for the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program as the criteria is different from the previous Canadian Agricultural Partnership program that ended March 31, 2023.
-

Background:

- *Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy* commits the Government of Yukon to partner with the Government of Canada to support and administer federal-provincial-territorial agricultural funding programs in the territory.
- Since 2003, five federal-provincial-territorial cost-shared agricultural funding programs have been implemented in the Yukon. The funding is cost-shared on a 60:40 ratio between the governments of Canada and Yukon, respectively.
- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program replaced the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program on April 1, 2023.
- From 2018 to 2023, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program provided \$1.48 million per year in funding, for a total of \$7.4 million over five years, for the development of agriculture in the Yukon.
- Over the five years of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program, funding supported nearly 500 diverse agriculture projects across the Yukon - from community gardens and farmers' markets, to building farm infrastructure, purchasing specialized equipment, developing farm business plans and supporting farm labour.

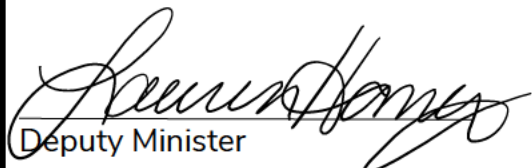
Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-11-06

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Year-Round Abattoir Availability

#21
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is ensuring that farmers have access to the infrastructure they need to sell processed meat products.
- Two privately owned abattoirs are operating and meeting all the Yukon's slaughter needs. Another privately owned abattoir is expected to begin operations in spring 2024.
- Our mobile abattoir is available when the demand exceeds the private abattoirs' capacity and supports wild game species slaughter when it is challenging to transport live wild game species off-farm.

Additional response:

- As our agriculture industry is growing and changing, our ongoing work with the industry is vital to supporting more food production in the Yukon.
- We support private abattoirs through meat inspections, funding, [training](#) and the Livestock Health Program.
- We will continue to monitor abattoir availability in the territory to ensure the agriculture community is well-served with year-round abattoir services.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on year-round abattoir availability in the territory and how Yukoners' slaughter needs are being met.

Session Briefing Note

Year-Round Abattoir Availability

#21
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- In April 2022, Yukon Born and Raised Meats closed the Yukon's only year-round abattoir. Some livestock producers depend on year-round abattoir services.
- The Government of Yukon purchased and put a mobile abattoir into operation in 2006. The service allowed farmers to sell inspected red meat.
- Last winter (2022/23), the Government of Yukon's mobile abattoir was located at Horse Haven Farm inside a heated building and was available to meet winter slaughter needs while private industry developed year-round facilities. The private sector now operates year-round and offers slaughter services to the public that meets demand.
- There are four private abattoirs in the Yukon:
 - The Farm Gate abattoir is the Yukon's only poultry abattoir. It received its red meat slaughter license in October 2022. Both services are available to the public.
 - Takhini Valley Meats began operating for red meat slaughter in September 2023. Its abattoir is available to the public.
 - Can Do Farms purchased a new mobile abattoir that is anticipated to be operational in spring 2024.
 - Takhini River Ranch operates a private abattoir used to slaughter and process animals raised on its own farm. It is not available to the public.
- The Agriculture Branch provided two separate training sessions on abattoir operation in April 2023 and July 2023 for private abattoir businesses. The Farm Gate, Can Do Farms and Takhini Valley Meats attended the courses. The attendees provided positive feedback on delivery and content.
- Future training sessions will be offered based on need.
- The Farm Gate received funding under the Internship Program of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Fund in 2022/23 to support its expansion into red meat slaughter services. The Internship Program provides funding for employee wages to develop skills and gain on the job experience.

Session Briefing Note
Year-Round
Abattoir Availability

#21
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In late spring 2023, the Government of Yukon started transitioning its mobile abattoir as part of a long-term plan for Yukon producers to transition towards privately owned abattoirs for their slaughter needs.
- Transitioning to privately owned abattoirs is one way to promote growth and sustainability of our agriculture sector.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 18, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Faro Mine

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Canada is leading all aspects of the Faro Mine Remediation Project, including urgent remedial works.
- The Government of Yukon participates in the governance of the project and ensures the important objectives of protecting human health, safety and the environment are being met.
- Governance at the site is being streamlined with the passing of federal Bill C-47 and subsequent territorial legislation that allows Canada to directly carry out activities intended to prevent, counteract, mitigate or remedy any adverse effect on persons, property or the environment.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring project benefits are being realized by Yukon First Nations and communities from the Faro Mine Remediation Project.
- Ross River Dena Council's development corporation, Dena Nezziddi, provides goods and services to the site, which includes involvement in revegetation and environmental monitoring programs.
- Work to clean up the Faro Mine continues to provide well-paying jobs to Yukoners.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in ensuring local contractors and communities benefit from the work at the Faro mine site.

Background:

- In 2020, the governments of Canada and Yukon signed a Transition Agreement that amended the roles and responsibilities of the Faro Mine Remediation Project.

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Fall 2023

Faro Mine

Energy, Mines and Resources

- Both governments have also entered into agreements with Selkirk First Nation and Ross River Dena Council in support of the transition.
- The Transition Agreement allowed the Government of Canada to lead the Faro Mine Remediation Project and take full responsibility for protecting the environment and human health and safety.
- The Transition Agreement was finalized after the governments of Canada and Yukon completed consultations.
- The Faro Mine Remediation Project is currently undergoing environmental assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. Canada submitted its Project Proposal in March 2019. The Draft Screening Report is expected to be completed in [November 2023](#).
- In 2018, the Government of Yukon delegated its authority under Section 37 of the Yukon Waters Act to the Government of Canada on an interim basis. The Minister of Environment was responsible for determining if actions taken at the site are reasonable to protect the environment under Section 37.
- On June 22, 2023, Canada passed Bill C-47 which included a provision giving the Government of Canada powers akin to Section 37. This amendment is a major milestone in transitioning administration and control of the Faro Mine site from the Yukon to the Government of Canada, a process that started in 2020. (See BN [#24](#))

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 16, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Faro Transition Agreement Yukon Act Amendments

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- On June 22, 2023, the Government of Canada passed Bill C-47, which contained a measure to amend the Yukon Act, granting Canada the ability to conduct certain activities at abandoned mine sites in the Yukon.
- This amendment fulfills a commitment made by Canada in 2020 as part of the Faro Mine transition and makes it administratively easier for the responsible federal Minister to quickly take measures necessary on site to prevent, counteract, mitigate or remedy adverse effects.
- The powers granted to Canada under the Yukon Act can only be used once the Yukon relinquishes administration and control of land, and we are working towards an Order-in-Council to finalize this process.

Additional response:

- Canada carries out care and maintenance and remediation and closure activities at the Faro mine site.
- The amendment to the Yukon Act provides Canada with direct authority to carry out activities within the same scope as had already been delegated by the Yukon Minister of Environment to Canada.
- The amendment provides Canada with the authority equivalent to the powers of Yukon's Minister of Environment at the Faro mine, once the Yukon relinquishes administration and control of the land through an Order-in-Council.

Session Briefing Note

Faro Transition Agreement Yukon Act Amendments

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in the recent Yukon Act amendment and the overall status of the Faro Mine Transition process.

Background:

- In 2003, the Government of Yukon took on province-like responsibility for managing the territory's public lands, water, forestry and mining, including contaminated sites. Large mine sites with significant potential for unfunded environmental liability at that time were identified in the Devolution Transfer Agreement as Type II sites.
- There are seven Type II mine sites listed in the Devolution Transfer Agreement: Clinton Creek, Mount Nansen, United Keno Hill Mines, Ketza River Mine, Brewery Creek Mine, Minto Mine and the Faro Mine.
- In 2020, under the Faro Mine Transition Agreement, the Government of Yukon agreed to relinquish administration and control of the Faro Mine to Canada and Canada agreed to accept the relinquishment.
- Canada committed in 2020 to introducing into Parliament an amendment to the Yukon Act that would allow the federal Minister to take measures necessary to prevent, counteract, mitigate or remedy any adverse effect on persons, property or the environment. This amendment removes the need for the delegation previously provided by the Yukon Minister of Environment to Canada.
- Canada must follow all assessment and licensing requirements at the Faro Mine site. It is currently in the environmental assessment phase for the long-term remediation of the site. (See BN #23)

Approved by:



August 30, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 11, 2023
Last Updated:

Session Briefing Note

Type II Sites

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon works closely with the Government of Canada in managing Type II abandoned mine sites to protect human health and safety and the environment.
- In managing Type II Sites, the Government of Yukon seeks to balance environmental protection with opportunities to strengthen and diversify our economy.
- Approaches taken to clean up Type II mines are specific to the unique environmental issues at each site and the interests of affected First Nations and communities.

Additional response:

- We are collaborating with affected First Nations and communities to ensure remediation approaches recognize the specific needs and interests of those most impacted.
- We support local solutions to remedial efforts wherever possible.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in the approaches and timelines to address historic liabilities at Type II sites.

Background:

- Under the Devolution Transfer Agreement, Canada holds financial responsibility for pre-devolution liabilities on mine sites commonly referred to as Type II sites.
- Yukon Type II sites include Clinton Creek, Mount Nansen, Ketza River, Keno Hill (See BN #3) and Faro (See BN #23).
- In August 2023, the Governments of Canada and Yukon informed affected First Nations (Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nations, Dease River First Nation, Kwadacha Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in) that they were

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Type II Sites

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

entering into negotiations to adjust roles and responsibilities for the Ketz River and Clinton Creek mine sites by transferring some responsibilities from Yukon to Canada.

- The intention of these negotiations is to reach an agreement similar to the one in place for the Faro mine that sees the planning and execution of work at the sites carried out by the Government of Canada. (See BN #24)
- A successful agreement would be contingent on endorsement by affected First Nations.
- At present, the governments of Canada and Yukon undertake various approaches to remediate Type II sites as outlined in the table below:

Roles and Responsibilities at Type II Sites

Site	Lead Organization	Remediation	Funding
Mount Nansen	Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership	Remediation planning is complete; remediation will be executed by the Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership.	Government of Canada
Clinton Creek	Government of Yukon (with the anticipation of transitioning to Government of Canada April 1, 2024)	Remediation planning	Government of Canada
Ketz River	Government of Yukon with the anticipation of transitioning to Government of Canada April 1, 2024	Remediation planning	Government of Yukon; a large part of the costs will be recovered from Canada.
Keno	Elsa Reclamation and Development Company	Remediation planning is complete; remediation will be by Elsa Reclamation and Development Company.	Government of Canada

Session Briefing Note
Type II Sites

Energy, Mines and Resources

Site	Lead Organization	Remediation	Funding
Faro	Government of Canada	Remediation planning is complete; the remediation project is undergoing environmental assessment with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board.	Government of Canada

Approved by:



August 30, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Recommended response:

- We continue to examine ways to address the historic liabilities at the Vangorda Plateau portion of the Faro Mine site in partnership with the Government of Canada, Ross River Dena Council and Broden Mining.
- The Government of Canada has placed a reconciliation focus on this work and advanced the proposed sale approach of the Vangorda Plateau in recognition of the significant impacts of the Faro Mine on Kaska people.
- This partnership is an opportunity for responsible mining in a brownfield area to offer significant benefits to Ross River and nearby communities.

Additional response:

- Prior to concluding a sale process and the subsequent transfer of the Vangorda area to the Ross River Dena Council's Tse Zul Development Corporation, an agreement with affected First Nations and approval from the courts will be required.
- We continue to participate in discussions on this opportunity with affected First Nations, and these discussions are ongoing.
- We are ensuring that no unsecured historic liabilities are transferred to the Government of Yukon. Any mining activities will be subject to the Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about the status of the Vangorda sale process and what, if any, legislative tools are required to secure expired claims in the area for transfer to new owners.

Session Briefing Note

Vangorda Sale

#26
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- All affected parties agreed to a remediation approach for the Faro Mine site in 2009 with an understanding that long-term care and maintenance would be required for hundreds of years. The liability associated with the site has increased significantly from initial estimates made in 2003.
- Any transfer of the Vangorda area would require agreement from affected First Nations as per the Devolution Transfer Agreement, and approval from the courts. Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Kaska Dena Council and Selkirk First Nation are identified as affected First Nations in the Devolution Transfer Agreement.
- Section 6.64 of the Devolution Transfer Agreement provides for alternative approaches to governing and managing work at Type II mine sites, provided the governments of Yukon, Canada and affected First Nations agree.
- An alternate agreement under section 6.64 is being sought with Selkirk First Nation, the only affected First Nation that is a signatory to the Devolution Transfer Agreement.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 28, 2023

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon assumed responsibility for all aspects of the reclamation and closure of the Wolverine Mine in November 2022, following the discharge of the Receiver.
- Reclamation and closure of the site remains our top priority. We are in the process of developing the long-term remediation and closure plan, which will also allow us to update our current estimates for the cost of closure.
- Following an open and public tender, we awarded a multi-year contract to an experienced local business that ensures we continue to protect the environment and human health and safety at the site.

Additional response:

- A significant portion of the large mineral processing assets were recently purchased by a mining company to support its mining operation in the Northwest Territories.
- The ongoing removal of assets not owned by the Government of Yukon is a significant step toward site reclamation and closure, as the removal of these significant liabilities has been achieved at no additional cost to the government.
- Since 2018, the Government of Yukon has spent approximately \$38 million on activities required at site.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in the activities, expenditures and remediation approach at the Wolverine site.

Session Briefing Note

Wolverine Mine

#27
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- The Wolverine Mine went into temporary closure in January 2015. The owner, Yukon Zinc Corporation, went into bankruptcy proceedings shortly thereafter.
- On September 13, 2019, the Yukon Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the receiver of the Wolverine Mine site.
- Until November 1, 2022, the receiver was responsible for care and maintenance of the site and for complying with regulatory authorizations and applicable statutes. This responsibility shifted to the Government of Yukon on November 1, 2022.
- Natural Resource Officers inspect the site regularly to ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect the environment and human health and safety.
- In July 2023, Welichem, owner of most assets on site, sold the largest share of its mine assets to NorZinc. NorZinc plans to dismantle and remove the mill and associated equipment over the next two years.
- Ross River Dena Council has recently expressed their interest in participating in the closure and remediation process, and EMR is finalizing resources to support this interest.

Approved by:



August 29, 2023

A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Carbon Rebate – Mining Businesses

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The carbon levy and rebate system intends to incentivize individuals and businesses to innovate and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Government of Yukon's carbon rebate ensures that all federal carbon levies are returned to Yukoners.
- The Government of Yukon simplified the rebate process for smaller mining businesses so they will receive the carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit on their tax returns, meaning mining businesses no longer have to make a separate application for the rebate.

Additional response:

- We are developing a new rebate that will return carbon levies collected from larger mines under the Output-Based Pricing System to the mining industry.
- In fall 2022, we engaged the mineral industry in developing a new carbon rebate for larger quartz mining operations subject to the federal Output-Based Pricing System. A What We Heard report is available at Yukon.ca.
- In 2024, the Government of Yukon will determine how levies collected through the Output-Based Pricing System will be returned to the mining industry.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the rollout of the new carbon rebate for mining businesses.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Carbon Rebate – Mining Businesses

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- The federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* (2018) introduced a carbon levy in the Yukon.

Carbon Rebate update for Mining Businesses

- Bill 21, the *Carbon Price Rebate Amendments Act*, received assent on October 24, 2022, and created a new mining rebate that enables mining businesses to receive their carbon rebate as a refundable credit on their tax returns effective January 1, 2023.
- Placer miners have higher emissions per dollar of assets compared to quartz because of inherent differences in scale and operations. Recognizing this difference, the new mining rebate applies an adjustment factor to placer mining assets to increase their rebate amount.
- The new mining rebate provides tax credits based on the value of eligible Yukon mining assets.
- For 2023-24, quartz mines will receive \$21.08 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets, while placer mining operations will receive \$84.32.
- Clean technology assets that reduce fossil fuel consumption (e.g., electric vehicles) eligible for the Super Green Credit will receive a higher tax credit. The credit for clean technology assets is \$109.45 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets for quartz-mining operations and \$437.80 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets for placer-mining operations.
- The pre-2023 mining rebate provided:
 - 100 per cent of carbon levies paid for production on eligible placer-mining claims; and
 - 100 per cent of the carbon levy paid on the first 6 kilotonnes of greenhouse gas emissions for quartz-mining operations and 50 per cent of the carbon levy paid on greenhouse gas emissions between 6 and 10 kilotonnes.
- The federal Output-Based Pricing System creates a carbon pricing signal for large industrial emitters, while mitigating the risks of carbon leakage for trade-exposed industries.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Carbon Rebate – Mining
Businesses**

Energy, Mines and Resources

- In 2024, the Government of Yukon will determine how levies collected through the output-based pricing system will be returned to the mineral industry.

Approved by:



August 29, 2023

A/Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Carbon Rebate**

Finance

Recommended response:

- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral. We are returning 100% of the federal carbon levy to four rebate groups.
- We remain committed to ensuring that the four rebate groups continue to receive more, on average, than they pay in carbon pricing levies. We are distributing 45% to individuals, 36% to general businesses, 12% to mining businesses, 3.5% to First Nations governments and 3.5% to municipal governments.
- Finance officials have reaffirmed that the application of 2022-23 carbon rebates are on target and the surplus in the fund is expected to decline by just over \$12 million due to higher business uptake.
- We expect the trend to continue into 2023-24. By the end of the 2023-24 fiscal year, we expect the surplus remaining in the carbon rebate revolving fund to decrease to \$4.4 million from the \$18.9 million that was carried forward in 2022-23.
- Finance officials are currently assessing the impact of the closure of the Minto mine on the Carbon Price Rebate Revolving Fund. Any changes in revenue and expenses for the fund will be reflected in future forecasts.

Rebate for individuals

- The rebate amount for individuals for the current 2023-24 rebate year is \$372 (\$93 per quarter). This represented a \$52 increase compared to the previous rebate year. Rebate amounts for 2024-25 rebate year are currently under determination and the first quarterly payment for the new benefit year will be provided in July 2024.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Carbon Rebate**

Finance

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- Yukoners living outside of Whitehorse receive an additional supplement of 10%, or \$37.20 over the current rebate year.
 - One person per household will receive the rebate for all individuals; this is based on the same rules as the federal government's payments for the Goods and Services Tax credit.

Rebate for general businesses (other than mining)

- Yukon businesses receive their carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit. As with some other tax credits, businesses can apply retroactively for past tax years.
- The business rebate for 2023-24 is \$21.89 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon assets.
- The rebate is calculated based on the value of business assets and includes incentives to invest in clean technology.
- For 2023-24, the Super Green Credit provides a rebate of about \$109 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets, which include eligible solar energy systems, electric vehicles, and charging systems.
- Uptake for the general business rebate was low in the initial years. This was partly due to tax software providers' delay in rolling out products with the appropriate carbon rebate schedules and forms.
- The lower uptake resulted in a significant surplus balance in the business rebate account, which carried forward resulting in an increase to the 2022-23 business rebate at \$39.62 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon assets. Tax data indicates that the uptake is increasing, so the rebate for 2023-24 no longer includes the large surplus, which is why it is lower at \$21.89 per \$1000 eligible Yukon assets.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Carbon Rebate**

Finance

Rebate for mining businesses

- As of 2023 there is a new mining business rebate structured the same way as the general business rebate. Mining businesses will now receive their carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit on their tax returns.
- The mining business rebate for 2023-24 will be \$21.08 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets. Mining assets eligible for the Super Green Credit will be eligible for a rebate of about \$109 per \$1,000 of asset costs. Recognizing the difference in capital intensity between different mining operations, additional weight is applied to placer mining assets to increase their rebate amounts.

Agriculture

- The federal government determines who is exempt from paying the carbon levy. The federal government made the decision to exempt this group to avoid increasing the cost of food for all Canadians.
- Farmers are exempt from paying the federal carbon levy on gasoline and light fuel oil used in farming operations, using a federal definition of farming activities. (The exemption is determined following the submission of Federal Tax Form K402 – Carbon levy Exemption Certificate for Farmers).
- Farmers who buy non-exempt fuel for ancillary purposes can claim the Yukon business carbon rebate on their tax return.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Carbon Rebate**

Finance

First Nations governments

- Each year, the Yukon government estimates the share of carbon levies paid by each eligible rebate group to assess if they are still expected to receive more in rebates than they are expected to pay in levies. Effective January 1, 2023, we increased the First Nation government share of the carbon rebates from 2.5% to 3.5%.
- This increase was not related to a material change in First Nations government emissions but was instead driven by a decrease in levies paid by mining companies after a Yukon facility recently entered the federal Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS). Accordingly, we reduced the mining share and increased the First Nation government share.
- The governing carbon rebate regulation allowed First Nations governments to receive their rebate on March 31 each year until 2021-22. The regulation was amended in March 2023 to remove the time limitation to allow continued distribution of carbon rebate to First Nations governments for 2022-23 and subsequent years.
- The allocation that each First Nations government received was guided by the allocation formula in Chapter 19 of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

Municipal governments

- Municipal governments receive carbon rebates on April 1 each year.
- Effective January 1, 2023, we increased the municipal government's share of the carbon rebates from 3.0% to 3.5%. This increase was not related to a material change in municipal government emissions estimates but was instead driven by a decrease in levies paid by

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Carbon Rebate**Finance

mining companies as a Yukon facility has recently entered into the federal Output Based Pricing System (OBPS). Accordingly, we reduced the mining share and increased the municipal government share.

- The amount that each municipal government receives is based on fixed percentages prescribed in regulation. The Government of Yukon remains open to exploring new formulas for distributing revenues to municipal governments.

Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS)

- We continue to work with the federal government during the implementation of the OBPS.
- From August 17 through October 3, 2022 we engaged the mining industry on the development of a new carbon rebate for facilities that may be subject to the OBPS. The goal was to understand the mining industry's priorities in returning carbon pricing revenues to help lower greenhouse gas emissions. The engagement occurred alongside Energy Mines and Resources' consultation on the development of intensity-based emissions targets for the mining sector.
- A 'What We Heard' Report was published in June 2023 outlining feedback from nine stakeholders who participated in the engagement. Yukon government is considering this feedback and exploring the development of an OBPS rebate program specifically tailored to the territory.
- In the Yukon, the only facilities that may meet the OBPS thresholds for voluntary participation (10 kilotonnes) or mandatory participation

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Carbon Rebate**Finance

(50 kilotonnes) are quartz mines. There is currently only one facility registered in the OBPS in the Yukon.

- On October 28, 2022, the Government of Canada announced proposed new regulations clarifying that the OBPS would not apply to Yukon Energy.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Carbon pricing is a common issue in the media and in past legislative sessions.
- The Opposition will be interested in monitoring the rollout of the new carbon rebate for mining businesses.
- On May 13, 2023 Minto Mine stopped operations and handed care and maintenance of the site to Yukon Government.
- On March 2, 2023 in question period the following was raised: “As of March 31, 2022, the Yukon government has accumulated almost \$19 million in surplus from the carbon tax. Why isn’t the Yukon government ensuring that all of the money it collects from the federal government for the carbon tax is coming back to Yukoners?”
- From August 17 through October 3, 2022, the Yukon Department of Finance engaged with the mining industry on the development of a carbon rebate for mine operators that may be subject to the OBPS.

Background:

- The federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* received royal assent on June 21, 2018. The federal carbon pollution pricing system has two parts:
 - a regulatory charge on fossil fuels (i.e., the carbon levy or fuel charge), and
 - a regulatory trading system for large facilities (i.e., the federal OBPS).

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Fall 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

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- Pricing carbon pollution is a central pillar of Canada's efforts to address climate change through the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* (PCF). All jurisdictions except Manitoba and Saskatchewan signed the PCF in December 2016.
 - The first phase of the federal government's climate plan set the Canada-wide carbon price at \$20 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions beginning in 2019, rising by \$10 per tonne per year on April 1, up to \$50 per tonne in 2022.
 - On December 11, 2020, Canada announced proposed enhancements to their climate plan, which included increases to the federal carbon levy of \$15 a year starting in 2023, rising to \$170 per tonne in 2030.
 - In designing rebate programs, the Government of Yukon considered how to address the principles established in the *Pan-Canadian Framework*, namely:
 - "Carbon pricing policies should include revenue recycling to avoid a disproportionate burden on vulnerable groups and Indigenous peoples", and
 - "Carbon pricing policies should minimize competitiveness impacts and carbon leakage, particularly for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed sectors."
 - Yukon officials held targeted discussions with The Low Carbon Yukon Stakeholder Committee on the design of the business rebate.
 - The Low Carbon Yukon Stakeholder Committee included representation from the following organizations: Association of Yukon Communities, Cold Climate Innovation Research Centre, Klondike Placer Miners' Association, Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon, Yukon Agricultural Association, Yukon Chamber of Commerce, Yukon Conservation Society, Yukon Contractors Association, Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, and the Yukon Wood Products Association.
 - Officials met with the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) to discuss the Municipal rebate. AYC presented an option for distributing their rebates across municipalities.

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Fall 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

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- First Nations were engaged in discussions at the Yukon Forum fiscal working group meetings. First Nations did not advance any proposal for distributing their carbon rebates across First Nations governments. The Government of Yukon set the percentages based on the allocations under Chapter 19 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement in Regulations* with the option to revise this when Yukon First Nations come to a consensus and propose different allocation percentages.
 - The tables in the next pages provide up-to-date summary information on the carbon levies received and rebates paid.

Northwest Territories Discontinues Heating Fuel Rebate and Large Emitter Program

- On October 31, 2022, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) announced that it would discontinue its carbon tax exemption for heating fuel and its current rebate for large industrial emitters effective April 1, 2023.
- The GNWT also tabled Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products and Carbon Tax Act*, which would increase the NWT's territorial carbon tax rate each year until 2030, in-line with increases to the federal carbon levy.
- To offset the loss of the heating fuel exemption, the GNWT announced that it would increase its annual Cost of Living Offset (COLO) payment by \$135 per resident. Beginning in 2023-24, annual COLO amounts would increase to \$473 for each adult and to \$525 for each person under 18 years of age. The GNWT will also replace its current carbon tax rebate for large emitters with a rebate tied to a facility-specific baseline (details are still unknown).

November 2022, Proposed OBPS Regulatory Changes

- On November 1, 2022, the federal government announced proposed changes to clarify that the OBPS Regulation does not apply to remote power plants, such as Yukon Energy, that are exempted from paying the fuel charge under the Fuel Charge Regulations.
- Prior to this change, a remote power plant that was exempted from the federal fuel charge would essentially lose part of this exception if its emissions exceeded 50 kilotonnes in any year. The Yukon Department of Finance engaged the federal government on this policy inconsistency throughout the spring and summer of

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

2022. The proposed changes announced on November 1, 2022 directly reflect the recommendations and requests of Yukon and other territorial officials.

- The federal government also announced that it will introduce an annual OBPS tightening rate, which would lower a facility's allowable charge-free emissions limit each year beginning in 2023.

ANNEX

Carbon Price Rebate Revolving Funds – presented in Main Estimates 2023-24 (\$'000)

	2023-24 ESTIMATE	2022-23 FORECAST	2022-23 ESTIMATE	2021-22 ACTUAL
Amounts Received				
General Business	10,700	11,800	12,773	11,470
Mining Business	3,600	780	-	-
Personal	13,300	11,500	11,612	10,121
Municipal	1,000	800	774	675
Yukon First Nations	1,000	710	645	224
Total	29,600	25,590	25,804	22,490
Amounts Disbursed				
General Business	11,600	24,200	24,588	3,003
Mining Business	4,200	140	-	-
Personal	14,400	12,000	14,211	6,932
Municipal	800	675	695	365
Yukon First Nations	1,000	710	645	225
Undistributed Balance	-2,400	-12,135	-14,335	11,965
Total	29,600	25,590	25,804	22,490
Net Change in Revolving Fund				
General Business	-900	-12,400	-11,815	8,467
Mining Business	-600	640	-	-
Personal	-1,100	-500	-2,599	3,188
Municipal	200	125	79	310
Yukon First Nations	0	0	0	0
Total	-2,400	-12,135	-14,335	11,965
Balance at Beginning of Year	6,750	18,885	14,448	6,920
Balance at End of Year	4,350	6,750	113	18,885
Increase/(Decrease) in Restricted Funds	-2,400	-12,135	-14,335	11,965

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Federal Fuel Charge Rates Applicable in Yukon (cents per litre unless specified)

Date of increase*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
\$ per tonne	20	30	40	50	65	80	95	110	125	140	155	170
Gasoline	4.4	6.6	8.8	11.1	14.4	17.7	21.0	24.3	27.6	30.9	34.3	37.6
Light fuel oil	5.4	8.1	10.7	13.4	17.4	21.5	25.5	29.5	33.5	37.5	41.6	45.6
Propane	3.1	4.6	6.2	7.7	10.1	12.4	14.7	17.0	19.4	21.7	24.0	26.3
Natural gas**	3.9	5.9	7.8	9.8	12.7	15.7	18.6	21.5	24.5	27.4	30.3	33.3
Aviation turbo fuel and gasoline	Exempt				There is currently no intention to eliminate the exemption for aviation fuels used in the territories.							

*July 1 for 2019, April 1 for 2020, 2021, and 2022, TBD for future years ** Per cubic meter

Estimated Fuel use in Yukon versus rebate

	Rebate (% of total)	Estimated shares of carbon levies paid by rebate group				
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
General businesses	36.0%	48.82%	48.38%	48.26%	49.29%	34.50%
Mining businesses	12.0%	-	-	-	-	11.50%
Yukon individuals	45.00%	28.21%	28.13%	27.67%	26.56%	26.80%
Municipal governments	3.50%	2.43%	2.41%	2.47%	2.27%	2.60%
First Nations governments	3.50%	0.49%	0.36%	0.36%	2.09%	2.80%
Visitors (tourists)	0.00%	9.99%	8.42%	8.90%	7.66%	8.50%
Government of Yukon	0.00%	9.09%	11.24%	11.21%	11.03%	12.10%
Government of Canada	0.00%	0.46%	0.54%	0.56%	0.57%	0.70%
Other	0.00%	0.51%	0.53%	0.57%	0.54%	0.50%

These estimates rely on data from Statistics Canada that is subject to a significant lag. Changes should generally be interpreted as adjustments based on more recent data, rather than changes in actual consumption.

Estimated levies and rebates to individuals

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Levy paid by individual	\$33.05	\$87.48	\$131.43	\$157.59	\$179.11
Rebate to individuals	\$86.00	\$192.00	\$176.00	\$320.00	\$372.00
Remote supplement	n/a	\$19.20	\$17.60	\$32.00	\$37.20

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Yukon general business rebate amounts by on asset class

(per \$1,000 in assets)	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Building rebate	\$1.72	\$3.45	\$4.41	\$19.81	\$10.95
Equipment rebate	\$8.62	\$17.24	\$22.03	\$99.05	\$54.73
Green rebate	\$17.24	\$34.48	\$44.05	\$198.10	\$109.45

Yukon mining business rebate amounts by on asset class

	(per \$1,000 in assets)	Transitional amount Jan 1 to Mar 31, 2023	2023-24
<i>Placer mining businesses</i>	Buildings and equipment rebate	\$21.08	\$84.32
	Green rebate	\$792.40	\$437.80
<i>Quartz mining businesses</i>	Buildings and equipment rebate	\$5.27	\$21.08
	Green rebate	\$198.10	\$109.45

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Finance

September 12, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Clean Energy Act
Implementation**Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

Recommended response:

- The *Clean Energy Act* requires the Government of Yukon to achieve ambitious climate change targets, including a 45 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.
- As the Yukon's first climate change legislation, the *Clean Energy Act* is an important tool in our efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change, reduce our carbon footprint and build our green economy.
- We [are working towards](#) an amendment to the *Clean Energy Act* to include [a mining intensity target and taking the time to ensure we set and scope the target in the most effective way for its goals](#).
- [Setting this target well](#) is critical to achieving our 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction targets and will satisfy a commitment under Our Clean Future.

Additional response:

- Following engagement with the mining industry in fall 2022, we announced that we will establish an intensity-based target to reduce the industry's greenhouse gas emissions per unit of production by 45 per cent by 2035, compared to 2023.
- We continue to work with industry to set baselines for mine operations, and support operators who are seeking innovative solutions to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

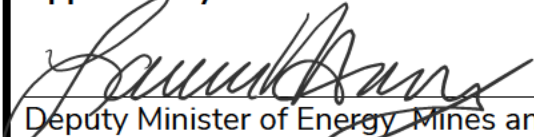

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Clean Energy Act
Implementation**Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the continued implementation of the *Clean Energy Act* and its legislated targets.

Background:

- The *Clean Energy Act* came into force in November 2022 with the following targets:
 - greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 45 per cent by 2030 compared to 2010 levels (not including mining emissions);
 - greenhouse gas emissions reduction of net zero for all sectors by 2050;
 - 50 per cent renewable heating by 2030 for all homes and buildings;
 - zero-emission vehicle sales of 10 percent by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030.
- The *Clean Energy Act* also establishes the authority to set sector-specific targets and reporting requirements on the government's climate actions.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Date approved
Deputy Minister of Environment2023-10-17
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Electric Vehicle Charging
Stations**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- To help reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we are electrifying the Yukon's roadways by building infrastructure to enable and support the Yukon's transition to electric vehicles.
- All road-accessible communities in the Yukon are now within reach of a public electric vehicle fast charger, thanks to our network of 19 fast charging stations.
- We are working on a regulation to enable the development of an electric vehicle charging market through privately owned charging stations. This will enable greater access to charging facilities throughout the territory.

Additional response:

- To ensure safe travel between communities, we are working to identify and fill gaps in our current fast charging network with additional, publicly accessible fast charging stations.
- Thanks to funding support from the Government of Canada, we are also offering incentives to individuals, businesses, First Nations governments and municipalities for the installation of electric vehicle chargers designed for homes and businesses.
- We are targeting the installation of 200 Level 2 chargers owned by businesses, organizations and local governments.
- [To date, we have supported the installation of 32 Level 2 chargers.](#)

Session Briefing Note

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Electric vehicle use is increasing and the public is interested in the growth of an electric vehicle charging network in the Yukon and neighbouring jurisdictions.
- Under Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon committed to making the necessary regulatory changes to allow third parties to sell electricity at charging stations by 2024.

Background:

- *Our Clean Future* (action T7) commits the government to draft legislation by 2024 that will enable private businesses and Yukon's public utilities to sell electricity for the purpose of electric vehicle charging.
- *Our Clean Future* commits the government to a target of 4,800 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030. (See BN #35)
- The *Clean Energy Act* commits the government to 10 per cent light-duty electric vehicle sales by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030.
- Proposed federal regulations would require that by 2030 at least 60 per cent of vehicle sales nationwide be zero-emission vehicles.
- As of June 30, 2023, 258 light-duty zero-emissions vehicles are registered in the Yukon. Zero-emissions vehicles were 4.3 per cent of light-duty vehicle sales in 2022.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 5, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Our energy incentive programs help Yukoners collectively lessen our energy consumption, increase our use of renewable energy, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and protect our environment.
- We are successfully helping Yukon residents, businesses, organizations and municipal and First Nations governments choose low carbon options that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.
- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits more accessible and affordable for Yukoners.
- We are electrifying the Yukon's homes, buildings and vehicles and increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable energy sources.

Additional Response:

- As of [October 1, 2023](#), [292](#) light-duty zero-emission vehicles and [12](#) medium and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles are registered in the territory.
- Since 2020, we have issued rebates for [1065](#) electric bicycles and [147](#) residential and commercial smart electric heating systems.
- Between January 1, 2018, and June 30, 2023, [201](#) high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory.

Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Energy, Mines and Resources

- Since 2018, we have issued [712](#) rebates for highly energy-efficient new homes.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about what the government is doing to reach its targets in Our Clean Future. (See BN #35)

Background:

Clean transportation

- Our Clean Future targets 4,800 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030. With [292](#) light-duty zero-emission vehicles registered in the Yukon to date, the government is making progress towards achieving this target.
- All road-accessible communities in the Yukon are within reach of a public electric vehicle fast charger. To support safe travel between communities, we are working to fill gaps between charging stations ahead of the 2027 target in Our Clean Future.
- Rebates for level 2 chargers (designed for home and business use) of 75 per cent of costs are available to businesses and 90 per cent for First Nations and municipalities.

Renewable heating

- Our Clean Future targets the installation of 1,300 smart electric heating devices. To date, we have supported [147](#) commercial and residential smart electric heating systems and uptake is increasing.
- Yukoners can access the Better Buildings Program and our Good Energy rebates to help with the costs of installing an electric heat pump.
- Our Clean Future targets the installation of 20 large commercial and institutional biomass systems by 2030 in non-Yukon government buildings. To date, we have supported three commercial and institutional biomass projects through our energy

Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Energy, Mines and Resources

incentive programs. We are also aware of four commercial and institutional biomass projects that were commissioned prior to our incentive programs, for a total of seven systems.


High-performance buildings (new and existing)

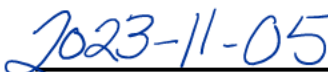
- Our Clean Future targets 2,000 high-performance retrofits to non-government buildings. Since 2018, 201 high-performance retrofits in existing buildings have been completed.
- Yukoners can access the new Better Buildings Program and our Good Energy rebates to assist with the cost of comprehensive energy retrofits.
- To date, we have issued 712 rebates for high-performing new homes. Our Clean Future targets 500 rebates for net-zero energy ready new homes by 2030.

Better Buildings Program (See BN #40)

- 47 residential and 8 commercial eligibility applications for the Better Buildings Program have been submitted. Applications have come from home and building owners in Whitehorse, Dawson, Faro and Haines Junction.
- As of September 30, 2023, there are 6 clients actively participating in the Better Buildings program with funding agreements signed with the Department of Community Services for a total of \$253,661. Five of the active clients are in Whitehorse and one is in Haines Junction.
- While program participation doubled from the first to second quarter of 2023-24, uptake is likely being dampened by current interest rates.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Independent Power Production Policy

EMR #34 / YDC #27
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the development of locally sourced renewable energy through the Independent Power Production policy.
- The Independent Power Production policy allows Yukon First Nations governments, communities, and entrepreneurs to generate renewable energy and feed clean electricity into the main electrical grid or into micro-grids in diesel-dependent communities.
- Due to high interest, the Standing Offer Program is currently fully subscribed. We will continue to accept new applications for later consideration should the number of projects under review decrease.

Additional response:

- The Vuntut Gwitchin Government in Old Crow, Solvest on the North Klondike Highway, Nomad Construction in the Mount Sima area, and the Klondike Development Organization in Dawson City are delivering solar-generated electricity to the utilities through independent power production projects.
- The Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership is anticipated to start providing electricity this fall through their Thäy Täw (Haeckel Hill) four-megawatt wind project.
- By 2026 all Yukon communities not on the integrated grid will have renewable Independent Power Production projects. These projects will contribute to reducing the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation in off-grid communities by 30 per cent by 2030.

Session Briefing Note

Independent Power Production Policy

EMR #34 / YDC #27
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is strong First Nations, municipal, and private sector interest in renewable energy and in government support for such initiatives. The Standing Offer Program is fully subscribed, as the number of proposed projects under review exceeds the program limits.

Background:

- The Independent Power Production Policy includes three programs: the Standing Offer Program; Unsolicited Proposals; and Calls for Power.
- The Standing Offer Program has an annual limit of 40-gigawatt hours of electricity purchased by the utilities.
- Ten independent power production projects have signed Energy Purchase Agreements with their respective utilities. Of these, four are actively producing electricity.
 1. Solvest's solar project - Whitehorse (active)
 2. Nomad Construction and Electrical Services' solar project - Whitehorse (active)
 3. Vuntut Gwitchin Government's solar project - Old Crow (active)
 4. Klondike Development Organization's solar project - Dawson City (active)
 5. Chu Níikwän Eagle Hill (Haeckel Hill) I (antic. to be commissioned fall 2023)
 6. Chu Níikwän Eagle Hill (Haeckel Hill) II (antic. to be commissioned fall 2023)
 7. White River First Nation's solar project - Beaver Creek (timing TBD);
 8. Kluane First Nation's Nt'si wind project - Kluane Lake (timing TBD);
 9. [Takhini Power Corp's](#) solar project - Whitehorse ([anticipated to be commissioned by end of 2023](#)); and
 10. Sunergy's solar project - Haines Junction ([anticipated to be commissioned by end of 2023](#)).

Session Briefing Note

Independent Power Production Policy

EMR #34 / YDC #27
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

- Daylu Dena Council is developing a significant solar renewable energy project in Lower Post to provide power to the Watson Lake micro-grid that is anticipated to be commissioned in 2026.
- Energy, Mines and Resources and the Yukon Development Corporation are working closely with prospective independent power producers and funding agencies to support innovative projects as program capacity allows.
- Funding is available for prospective renewable energy projects through the Arctic Energy Fund and the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative coordinated by the Yukon Development Corporation.

Approved by:



October 12, 2023

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved



October 13, 2023

Dennis Berry
President and CEO, Yukon Development Corporation

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR Commitments

Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Energy, Mines and Resources is implementing a third of the *Our Clean Future* strategy's key actions by leading 44 commitments aimed at increasing renewable energy production, improving energy efficiency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Notable achievements to date include:
 - Bringing into force the *Clean Energy Act* in the fall of 2022. This is the territory's first climate change legislation.
 - In the fall of 2022, launching the Better Buildings program to offer low-interest loans to Yukoners for energy retrofits on their homes and buildings.
 - Advancing *Our Clean Future* targets for electric vehicle charging stations, micro-generation, heat pumps, electric heating devices, zero-emission vehicles, and electric bicycles.

Additional response:

- Energy, Mines and Resources has successfully completed a third of its key actions and integrated another third into its operations and service delivery to the public. The remaining third is underway and details of that progress are found in the *Our Clean Future 2022* annual report.
- Under *Our Clean Future*, we have supported many Yukoners who are taking steps to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions by providing rebates for electric bicycles and zero-emissions vehicles, while expanding the Yukon's network of electric vehicle charging stations.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR

Commitments

Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about Energy, Mines and Resources' progress in implementing its key actions under *Our Clean Future*.

Background:

- Under *Our Clean Future Phase I*, the department of Energy, Mines and Resources is responsible for 44 actions. Most of these actions (35 in total) are energy-related or have energy implications in the Yukon.
- The department is currently working to establish a mining intensity target for quartz and placer mining operations. (See BN #5)
- Of the 44 actions: seven are energy programs and rebates (See BN #33); some are public outreach programs; and about half (26 actions) can be achieved through legislation and existing resources.
- *Our Clean Future* included two commitments to increase the amount of renewable fuel in both diesel and gasoline fuel pools by 2025 (Actions T9 and T10).
 - These actions strive to have approximately 20 per cent of diesel consisting of biodiesel or renewable diesel by volume, and approximately 10 per cent of gasoline consisting of ethanol by volume, by 2025.
 - The Government of Canada enacted the Clean Fuel Regulations on July 1, 2023. The regulations require primary suppliers of gasoline and diesel fuels to meet minimum renewable blend requirements and stay under maximum carbon intensity limits, using a phased approach. The Yukon is exempt from the Clean Fuel Regulations as a remote region, except for fuel used for industrial purposes (i.e., mining).
- *Our Clean Future* notable achievements on targets to June 30, 2023 include:
 - Expanding the government's electric vehicle charger network to 19 publicly available units in all road-accessible communities.
 - Surpassing the initial target of seven megawatts of renewable electricity from micro-generators by 8.9 megawatts.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR

Commitments

Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Supporting the construction of over 705 high-performance homes that are at least 50 per cent more energy efficient than building code standards.
- Installing the targeted 25 electric heat pumps in Yukon homes during a pilot project to assess heat pumps in a cold climate.
- Supporting the installation of 138 smart electric heating devices.
- Reaching 258 light duty zero-emission vehicles registered in the territory thanks to vehicle rebates and investment in charging stations.
- Providing 979 rebates for electric bicycles.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 18, 2023

Date approved

ENV #21 / EMR #36

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Our Clean Future is the Government of Yukon's path to address the climate emergency.
- The strategy is continually being strengthened year after year as we assess our progress, review new research, consider the input of others and identify new and innovative solutions.
- We have committed to an ambitious target of reducing our emissions by 45 per cent below 2010 levels by 2030.
- We have also committed to ensuring the Yukon is highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030, because we know the North will face climate impacts.

Additional response:

- It is important to look back on our progress to date and remain diligent in implementation when it comes to addressing climate change.
- We have legislated greenhouse gas emissions targets and associated reporting through the Clean Energy Act. (See EMR BN #31 / ENV #23)
- We launched the five-year Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership this year which will enhance the agriculture sector's resiliency and adaptation to climate change. (See EMR BN # 20)
- In collaboration with Yukon's public utilities, we exceeded our target to install seven megawatts of renewable electricity capacity through the Micro-Generation program by 2030. (See EMR BN #37)
- We launched the Better Buildings program to offer affordable financing for energy retrofits on Yukoners' homes and buildings.

ENV #21 / EMR #36

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- We established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors.
- We advanced emergency preparedness by progressing on Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Dawson City, Mayo, Watson Lake, Beaver Creek, the Town of Faro and the Kluane Lake Region.
- We have begun work on developing flood maps for all flood-prone Yukon communities. Flood maps for the Southern Lakes, Carmacks, and Teslin [are anticipated to be released in 2024](#). The next communities for flood hazard mapping will be Old Crow, Ross River and Dawson/Klondike, with work occurring in 2024-25.
- We completed the installation of a biomass heating system at Elijah Smith Elementary School in May 2023.

Third response:

- Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our 45 per cent greenhouse gas emissions target reduction by 2030.
- We are working with industry to establish a mining emissions intensity target for quartz and placer mining operations.
- We will continue to build on Our Clean Future as we learn more and implement new actions. This will be reflected in future annual reports.
- [Our 2022 Annual Report will be released in late 2023. We look forward to highlighting the good work that has been done in 2022.](#)
- [As this is an adaptative management strategy which involves 14 departments and agencies, it has taken some time to ensure that the report is strategically focused on helping us reach our targets.](#)

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Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- As a government, we continue to collaborate on implementation of actions.
- We will continue to work with experts, stakeholders and partner governments across the territory and beyond, to identify opportunities to accelerate and intensify our efforts to reach our ambitious targets.
- We established the Yukon Climate Leadership Council to provide advice and perspectives to support us in meeting our greenhouse gas emissions targets. We are working to integrate the work of the Council directly into Our Clean Future and continue to implement existing actions that align with their recommendations.
- With the end of the second Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change in 2022, we are exploring how to continue mentorship opportunities on climate change for the important voice of youth.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Climate change is of high interest to Yukoners; they will want to know the government's progress in delivering on Our Clean Future commitments.

Background:

- Our Clean Future was released on September 14, 2020.
- Our Clean Future contains 136 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030.
- The Our Clean Future 2020 Annual Report was publicly released on August 12, 2021. The 2021 Annual Report was publicly released on September 12, 2022.

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Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

2023-11-14

Date approved



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 14, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note
Renewable Energy
Initiatives**

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Recommended response:

- We are investing in local renewable energy projects, encouraging the purchase of green technologies and creating business opportunities in the growing clean energy sector.
- Micro-generation from small-scale solar systems has surpassed our initial seven-megawatt target and currently there are almost nine-megawatts of total renewable energy generating capacity installed.
- Energy Purchase Agreements have been signed by 10 independent power production projects. Of these, four are actively producing electricity with an additional [three](#) projects anticipated to be completed this fall.

Additional response:

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from heating buildings, we are providing funding for building owners to install efficient electric heat pumps and biomass heating systems.
- Yukoners are installing renewable energy generating systems at such a high rate that we achieved our micro-generation target of seven megawatts seven years ahead of schedule.

Context — this may be an issue because

- There is strong First Nations, municipal, public and industry interest in installing renewable energy systems and in government support for such initiatives.

Session Briefing Note

Renewable Energy Initiatives

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Background:

Our Clean Future

- Our Clean Future commitments include increasing renewable electricity on the Yukon's main grid to 97 per cent (action E1) and setting a target of increasing renewable heating in the Yukon's buildings to 50 per cent by 2030. (See BN #35)

Renewable energy generation: Independent Power Production Policy

- Yukon Development Corporation's Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative provides financial and technical support to Yukon First Nations, municipalities, and community organizations for community-led renewable energy projects. (See BN #34)

Renewable energy generation: Micro-generation Program

- Our Clean Future (action E10) targets seven megawatts of installed renewable electricity capacity by 2030 through micro-generation. As of [October 2023](#), [784](#) micro-generators connected to the Yukon utility grid are generating [6.6 megawatts of AC renewable electricity capacity](#) or [9.5 megawatts DC capacity](#), enough energy to supply about 1.7 per cent of the Yukon's five-year average annual electricity generation.
- Under the Micro-generation program, eight First Nations governments and four First Nations Development Corporations have installed 110 renewable energy-generating systems on institutional, commercial and residential buildings throughout the Yukon.

Biomass

- We have supported three large-scale commercial and institutional biomass heating projects in the territory. We are also aware of four large-scale biomass heating projects built independently from the Energy Branch's programs.
- Highways and Public Works is installing biomass heating systems in Government of Yukon buildings and is exploring the potential for biomass and other renewable energy systems in additional buildings. (See BN #55)

EMR #37/YDC #24
Fall 2023

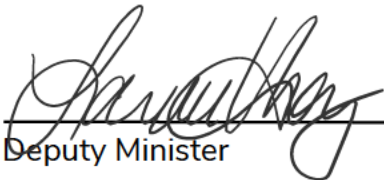
Session Briefing Note
Renewable Energy
Initiatives

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Geothermal resources

- The Government of Yukon is developing legislation to regulate geothermal energy development per Our Clean Future (action E11). Engagement was completed in September 2022 and work is advancing to develop the legislation.
- Geological research is underway on the potential for geothermal as a renewable energy source for heating and electricity. (See BN #62)

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-11-03

Date approved



2023.11.06

Dennis Berry
President and CEO, Yukon Development Corporation

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**YCLC and Reducing****Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Environment

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Government cannot tackle climate change alone. It has to be a collaborative effort.
- We are thankful to the Yukon Climate Leadership Council for providing valuable advice and insight that is guiding our efforts to embolden our climate action.
- The Government of Yukon has undertaken a review and analysis of the advice put forward by the Yukon Climate Leadership Council in their Climate Shot 2030 report.
- The analysis found that the recommendations align with the vision and core values of the Our Clean Future strategy and support our efforts to strengthen our climate action and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.
- We plan to share more information about how the Council's findings have factored into climate change decision-making so that we can address them moving forward.

Additional response:

- Many recommendations of the Yukon Climate Leadership Council align with actions the government has committed to through Our Clean Future. We are working on the following actions that closely align with a number of the Council's recommendations, for example:
 - E9. Develop a framework by 2022 for First Nations to economically participate in renewable electricity projects developed by Yukon's public utilities.

ENV #25 / EMR #38**Fall 2023****Session Briefing Note****YCLC and Reducing****Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Environment

Energy, Mines and Resources

- H21. Continue to provide rebates for residential, commercial and institutional biomass heating systems and smart electric heating devices and increase the current rebate for smart electric heating devices beginning in 2020.
- C15: Continue to provide funding for community gardens and greenhouses, especially in rural communities.

Third response:

- We will continue to advance our efforts to reduce emissions as we assess our progress year-over-year, consider new research and the input of others, and we will continue to increase our resilience to the impacts of climate change over the coming years.
- I would like to acknowledge the important work of the Council and thank them for their efforts in supporting the Government of Yukon's progress in reducing the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions once again.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners may want to know more about the Council's recommendations and what the Government of Yukon is doing to respond to them.

Background:

- On September 2, 2022, the Yukon Climate Leadership Council shared 61 recommendations with the Government of Yukon in its final report, Climate Shot 2030: Recommendations on how to reduce Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent by 2030.
- This report was released publicly on September 28, 2022.

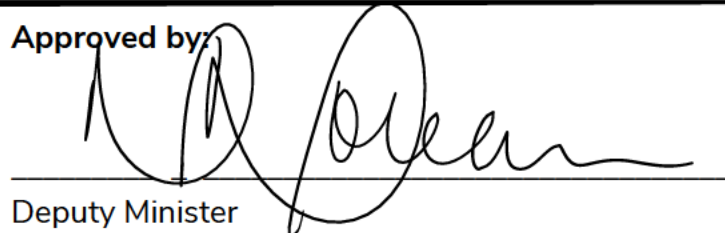
ENV #25 / EMR #38**Fall 2023****Session Briefing Note****YCLC and Reducing****Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Environment

Energy, Mines and Resources

- As requested by the Yukon Climate Leadership Council, the Government of Yukon undertook third-party verification of the emissions reduction potential of the recommendations through Navius Research Inc. in the fall of 2022 after the Climate Shot 2030 report was released.
- Minister Clarke and Minister Streicker sent a joint response letter to the Council on March 10, 2023. The letter thanks the Council for their work and outlines the government's next steps to address their recommendations.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

2023-10-03

Date approved

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-10-04

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Landslide Monitoring

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- High snowpack and elevated groundwater levels in the Yukon have increased the frequency of landslides in recent years.
- The Government of Yukon is actively working with communities to mitigate landslide risks by investing in geohazard mapping and monitoring in and around communities and along highway corridors.
- The Yukon Geological Survey is on track to complete initial geohazard maps for all communities by the Our Clean Future 2025 deadline. A Yukon Permafrost Database is now publicly available online.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon (Community Services, Highways and Public Works, and Energy, Mines and Resources) has established a working group with the City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation to monitor the Moosehide and Sunnydale slides and develop response plans in case of a slide.
- We are monitoring landslides and thaw slumps along highways and our Geological Survey team is providing support to Highways and Public Works for mitigation planning.
- We will also be assessing landslide risk along highways where recent wildfires may have caused slope instability, particularly in areas with permafrost.

Context — this may be an issue because:

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Landslide Monitoring

Energy, Mines and Resources

- Yukoners, particularly those in Whitehorse and Dawson City, may have concerns about the risk posed by landslides.

Background:

- In Dawson, the Moosehide Slide and the Sunnydale Slide represent potential hazards; in both cases, ground movement rates are cause for concern.
- The multiple landslides on the North Klondike Highway were triggered last fall by heavy rainfall on permafrost slopes. Elevated groundwater levels due to heavy snowpack caused several slides last spring in downtown Whitehorse.
- Several landslides along Whitehorse's clay cliffs impacted traffic and required local evacuations [last spring](#).
- The Takhini permafrost thaw slump along the Alaska Highway has increased in size since it first formed in 2014. The head scarp of the slump is currently less than 10 metres from the highway. [The Department of Highways and Public Works has initiated work to re-route the highway away from the slump.](#)
- Collectively, these events highlight the increasing need for geohazard mapping and monitoring per commitments in *Our Clean Future*.
- The Yukon Geological Survey is on track to complete initial geohazard maps for all communities by the *Our Clean Future* 2025 deadline. A Yukon Permafrost Database is now publicly available online.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is investing in LiDAR surveys and instrumented boreholes to monitor permafrost. The department has [installed](#) instruments for near-real-time monitoring of the Moosehide Slide (installed in fall 2022) and Sunnydale Slide (installed in spring 2023) near Dawson.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 18, 2023Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: September 18, 2023
Last Updated: October 17, 2023

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Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Better Buildings Program**Community Services

Recommended response:

- The amendments to the *Assessment and Taxation Act* and Regulations for the Better Buildings Program were proclaimed on October 20, 2022.
- The Better Buildings Program offers low-cost funding to eligible property owners to complete energy-efficiency retrofits. This means more property owners will have the means to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint. The funding is repayable by a local improvement charge attached to the property.
- We have worked closely with municipal governments as partners in this program, and have developed administrative processes to ensure its successful delivery. All municipalities have signed agreements indicating their participation in this program.

Additional response:

- Since the program launch on October 25, 2022, the Energy Branch has received 55 applications from clients wishing to participate.
- Uptake is not as high as had been hoped for the Better Buildings program. The historically high interest rate has meant a decrease in Property Assessment and Taxation's programs generally. For example, applications for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program applications are the lowest since the 2019/2020 fiscal year. This is consistent with the interest rate increases from 0.75% in March 2022 to 5.25% in July 2023.
- In addition, inflation has increased the cost of materials and services. The Property Assessment and Taxation branch completes a cost study every two years to determine the replacement cost on

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Better Buildings Program**Community Services

improvements. It is based on the consumer price index, recent sale price of homes, cost of materials and other factors. Between 2021 and 2023 there was a marked increase in the results of the cost study, meaning it is more expensive to build a new home or improve an existing home.

- Finally, there are only a few contractors who can do certain energy retrofits and they are at capacity.
- The reduction in funding for the Better Buildings Program is based on an updated forecast of applications and projects anticipated for the current fiscal year. The responsibility for budgetary determinations concerning other departments does not fall within the purview of Community Services.

Context:

- This may become an issue because an update about the eligibility parameters, progress with our municipal partners and uptake of the program may be of interest to the opposition.

Background:

- Eligible properties include property that is subject to a land and improvement tax, is located within a participating municipality or outside of a municipal boundary, has an existing home five years or older, has a mobile home situated on titled land permanently or for a minimum of one year.
- Participating in the Better Buildings Programs also allows for property owners to apply for available energy efficiency grant and rebate programs offered through Yukon government and the federal government after making energy-efficiency retrofits to their properties.
- This loan program makes funding available to eligible residential and commercial property owners at low-interest rates.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Better Buildings Program**Community Services

- This program is currently administered by the Energy Branch and the Property Assessment and Taxation Branch.
- The funding is recouped through local improvement taxes paid by the participant on an annual basis.
- The program was announced in the Speech from the Throne in October 2019 and the Minister made a Ministerial Statement on the home retrofit loan program on October 23, 2019.
- This loan program is in addition to current programs at the Yukon Housing Corporation that include the Home Repair Program, and the First Nations Energy Efficiency Program, which is funded through the federal Low Carbon Economy Fund. The Yukon Housing Corporation is also working on energy retrofits to government-owned housing throughout the territory, also funded by the Low Carbon Economy Fund.
- As of January 26th, 2023, Municipal Agreements were completed with all municipalities.
- As of October 29, 2023, there are two completed applications, five in progress and 49 approved but not yet started work.
- All applications received have been reviewed and approved by PAT. Most of our approved applications are sitting pending, waiting on the client to decide whether they are going to commit to the project or not. The following are our pending numbers by community:
 - 35 Whitehorse
 - 3 Dawson
 - 2 Faro
 - 3 Haines Junction
 - 6 rural Yukon not in a municipality
- Three new clients joined the program between July 1 and September 30, 2023.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Better Buildings Program

Community Services

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Parking Lot at the Jim Smith Building (MAB)**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- Grading, drainage, and resurfacing improvements to the south parking lot at the Jim Smith Building have addressed flooding and pooling previously experienced during heavy rainfall and spring snow melt.
- Often after heavy rain, flooding and pooling would occur, limiting full use of the lot and making it challenging for people with mobility issues to access the building.
- This is the first major regrading and repaving of the parking lot since its initial construction in 1976, 46 years ago.
- These improvements have made the Jim Smith building a more inclusive and welcoming environment for both the staff who work here, and the public.
- Resurfacing of the parking lot was completed in October 2022. Electrical work, bike shelter construction, and landscaping were completed in summer 2023.

Additional response: Assessment

- The main defect with the old parking lot was the consistent flooding after large rain events and fast snow melts.
- To address this issue, the department removed the old asphalt, added gravel, and re-graded the parking area.
- It should also be noted that the concrete curbs were deteriorating and needed to be remade.
- While doing this work the department also included needed safety upgrades such as removing trees so that sightlines were clear, both

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Parking Lot at the Jim Smith Building (MAB)**Highways and
Public Works

for vehicles and security. Also, the leaves from the trees blocked the storm drain and caused ponding to occur.

- In addition, we upgraded the lighting for the parking lot to eliminate low lighting or dark sections and improve energy efficiency and security.
- This project also incorporated sustainability features including a new bicycle shelter to support active transportation and ensure that certain areas of the new lot could support the future installation of electric vehicle chargers, including two that are now operational and 8 that will be installed soon.
- Some trees needed to be removed during construction. The trees closest to Rotary Park have been replaced, while the trees that were in the middle of the parking lot have been replaced with planter boxes. This allows a higher level of maintenance to be provided at a lower cost.

Third response: Block Heater Outlets

- As the weather begins to get colder, we understand the need for functional block heater outlets at the Jim Smith parking lot.
- The majority of block heater outlets are working and will be available for use as the temperature drops.
- 11 block heater outlets in the south parking lot will not have power this winter due to the delay in receiving a transformer.
- The delay in receiving the transformer is due to supply chain issues.
- The supply chain issues are easing and parts are now coming in.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Parking Lot at the Jim Smith Building (MAB)**Highways and
Public Works

- Therefore, we expect to have all block heater outlets available well before April 2024.
- In the south parking lot, block heater outlets with power will show a flashing green LED light. The outlets in the south parking lot that do not have power will not have working lights.
- In the coming months, the outlets that do not have power will have covers to indicate that they are not in service.

Fourth response: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

- In November and December 2023, Highways and Public Works will be installing eight electric vehicle charging stations at the Jim Smith Building parking lot to be available for public use.
- The Jim Smith south parking lot will have a total of 10 electric vehicle charging stations for Yukoners to access as we continue to see ownership of electric vehicles increase in the Yukon.
- The electric vehicle charging stations will include an accessible parking space and a variety of stalls, including ones long enough to accommodate commercial and fleet vehicles.
- The existing government-owned chargers in the City of Whitehorse are consistently used and we anticipate that the new charging stations at Jim Smith Building will see consistent use as well.
- As of November 2023, there are 265 zero emission vehicles registered in the Yukon, approximately half of these are plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and the other half are total battery electric vehicles.
- The location of all public electric vehicle charging stations throughout the territory can be found on the Flo app.

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2023

Parking Lot at the Jim Smith Building (MAB)

Highways and
Public Works

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The parking lot construction at the Jim Smith building has high public visibility, and questions have been raised as to whether these improvements should be prioritized.

Background:

- Norcope Enterprises Ltd. was awarded the construction contract for \$2.7 million.
- A small contract was awarded to Southpaw Construction, a local contractor, to construct a concrete ramp for the bike shelter, and replace a section of the sidewalk at the exit of the parking lot adjacent to 2nd Avenue.
- This work is weather dependent and anticipated to be completed by the end of November.
- The ramp will improve access and accessibility.
- There will be no disruption to staff or the public during the construction.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

November 14, 2023

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Discovery Claims Spill

#42
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch is addressing contaminated soil and site reclamation concerns associated with an abandoned placer claim block near Discovery Creek.
- The site is on Little Salmon / Carmacks First Nation's Category A Settlement Land, and we are working closely with the First Nation on the matter.
- In collaboration with the Department of Environment's Site Assessment and Remediation Unit, we have contracted a qualified local professional service provider to remove the surface accumulation of fuel and byproducts, and to complete a Phase Two Environmental Site Assessment.
- To date, the contractor has removed all stored fuels, obtained the necessary soil samples for lab analysis; and prepared site photos and surface mapping information for assessment.

Additional response:

- The Phase Two Environmental Site Assessment follows established contaminated site guidelines and gathers essential information before disturbing any contaminated soil and potentially causing further environmental harm.
- The owner of the claim is deceased, and no other persons are legally responsible for the violations.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections remains committed to working with Little Salmon / Carmacks First Nation representatives to ensure reclamation and remediation of this site is completed.

Session Briefing Note

Discovery Claims Spill

#42
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Little Salmon / Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) has been vocal about the length of time it has taken Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections to complete the recovery of hydrocarbons and reclamation of the site. Reclamation activities at the site may take significant time to complete.

Background:

- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections received an initial spills report on June 14, 2022. An inspector attended the site on June 24, 2022, took action to contain the observed spill, documented observations, collected soil and water samples, and initiated an investigation.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections continued regular visits to the site to conduct additional soil sampling and to replace absorbent materials on June 28, August 4, August 24, and October 21 until weather prevented further access to the site.
- Throughout the process, Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections staff met regularly with Little Salmon / Carmacks First Nation representatives to provide updates regarding the site.
- Following unsuccessful attempts by Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections to have the responsible party correct the reclamation and remediation, an Environmental Protection Order and an Inspector's Direction were issued on October 17, 2022.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections subsequently learned that the responsible party was deceased, and, as a result, no one could be formally charged for the related infractions.
- The deceased's estate representative has been advised that the Government of Yukon will be undertaking the necessary reclamation requirements outlined in the Inspector's Direction and that the estate would be financially liable for all associated costs.

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Discovery Claims Spill

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Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:



August 28, 2023

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Compliance Summary

2023

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Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended Response:

- Natural Resource Officers conduct inspections, monitor compliance, and are responsible for the enforcement of legislation regulating natural resources including mining, forestry, land use, water, and environmental protection.
- Officers encourage compliance through a progressive range of enforcement responses that vary from education to warnings, fines, suspensions, and formal charges, depending on the circumstances.
- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch assists with emergency response for major events like the recent floods and wildfires throughout the territory.
- Since January and as of September 22, 2023, Natural Resource Officers have completed approximately 586 inspections related to public lands, forests, waters and mineral resources.

Additional response:

- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch includes the Major Mines Unit, which is dedicated to compliance monitoring at active quartz mines across the territory.
- Major mine sites are inspected regularly with officers on site approximately every 4 to 6 weeks.
- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch is responsible for water quality monitoring of placer watersheds and water sample analysis for compliance monitoring.

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Compliance Summary

2023

#43
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukon First Nations and Yukoners have increasingly expressed interest in compliance and enforcement activities related to resource development in the Yukon.
 - [There is interest in how the Government of Yukon monitors water quality at mine sites.](#)
-

Background:

- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch is staffed by 26 Natural Resource Officers, with 21 officers stationed across district offices of Dawson City, Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Mayo, Carmacks, Ross River, Teslin, and Whitehorse.
- The Major Mines Unit consists of three officers responsible for compliance monitoring and enforcement at major quartz mining and associated exploration sites across the territory.
- The water quality monitoring team is based in Whitehorse and travels around the territory for monitoring.

Compliance and Enforcement:

- [The Yukon Water Board is the regulator for water licensing. It is the Water Board that sets the water requirements for mines.](#)
 - [Mines self-report water related requirements to the Yukon Water Board in accordance with the conditions of their water licence \(posted on Waterline\). They also must report exceedances. It is through this self-reporting and regular inspections that Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections identifies compliance issues to be addressed.](#)
 - Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections is responsible for inspecting operations to ensure the terms and conditions of an authorization or licence are being met according to applicable legislative or regulatory requirements.
 - In cases of compliance issues, Natural Resource Officers investigate and may undertake enforcement actions.
 - Enforcement actions may consist of a warning, summary convictions ticket, a direction or order, and/or court proceedings.
-

Session Briefing Note Compliance Summary 2023

#43
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Compliance in a time of climate change:

- Our Clean Future Action I6 is to 'include new provisions in quartz mine licenses by 2022 to ensure critical mine infrastructure is planned, designed and built to withstand current and projected impacts of climate change'.
- In February 2023, the Government of Yukon issued the Guidelines for Mine Waste Management Facilities and is now implementing this guidance with existing projects and in the licensing of proposed projects.
- This new guidance supports Our Clean Future Action I6 by providing clear expectations to mine operators on the design, operations, maintenance and closure of critical mine infrastructure including involvement in the planning processes by government, First Nations, and stakeholders. This includes infrastructure that plans for higher freshet and flood events.
- Types of waste materials covered by the guidelines include excavated overburden and waste rock, tailings, spent heap leach ore, contaminated process water and water treatment sludge or brine.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 16, 2023

Date approved

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

- There are challenges the Yukon's housing continuum, including:
 - a lack of affordable rental supply;
 - high house prices and mortgage rates; and
 - homelessness and a lack of access to housing with services.
- Exceptionally high building costs and rising interest rates are creating significant challenges for new housing projects, for both Yukon Housing Corporation and its partners.
- We continue working hard to move projects forward - through collaboration and strong partnerships - to provide relevant solutions to Yukoners' housing needs.

Additional response:

- Our government is seeking to increase housing options across the continuum and to make housing more affordable for Yukoners. (See Tab #0)
 - We continue to work to increase housing and land supply and to provide rental subsidies and support programs for homeowners to offer more affordable options for Yukoners.
 - Following the 2022 Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) report, the Corporation and Department of Health and Social Services continue to progress implementing the OAG's recommendations. (Tab #09)
-

Context:

- On a square footage basis, contractors' bids for YHC projects have more than doubled in the last two years alone.
- The rental vacancy rate in the Yukon for all building types is currently 2.2 per cent (YBS Spring Rental Survey).
- The Banks 5-year average mortgage interest rate increased from 4.75 per cent in February 2022 to 6.24 per cent in May 2023 (Weekly Updates).

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Background:

- In 2022-23, the Yukon Housing Corporation lapsed 34 per cent of its revised capital budget.
 - This was largely due to cancellation and scaling back of projects being supported through the corporation's loans and grants programs.
- New housing projects led by YHC's partners – including the Safe at Home Society and the Vimy Heritage Housing Society – continue to face delays.
- The 5th and Rogers RFP received only a single application. It is currently under review.

Approved by:



Colin McDowell
A/ President, Yukon Housing Corporation

September 8, 2023

Date approved

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2023

Finance

Recommended:

- All Yukon households continue to see their budgets stretched by higher prices, with lower-income households often feeling the worst effects.
- At the same time, our government continues to track inflation and its impact on Yukoners, so that we can take steps to ease the burden, as we have been doing for the last year.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work hard to make life more affordable for Yukoners and has announced an extension of the temporary \$150 Inflation Relief Rebate to reduce the impacts that inflation continues to have on Yukoners.
- All non-government residential and commercial electricity customers will see a \$50 credit on their bills starting in November 2023 and running through December 2023 and January 2024.
- Several other measures included in the 2023-24 Budget are helping to make life more affordable for Yukoners.
 - funding for food in Yukon schools;
 - the timber harvesting incentive and a support program for commercial fuelwood harvesters and retailers to boost the fuelwood supply;
 - a quarterly top-up of \$150 to eligible recipients of the Yukon Senior Income Supplement;

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Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)****Fall 2023**Finance

- o a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients;
 - o increasing the Yukon Child Benefit to \$867 per child and tying the benefit amount in future years to the rate of inflation; and
 - o a 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers with children in out of home care.
- The Government of Yukon has also made significant and ongoing financial investments in Early Learning and Child Care. The new Universal Child Care Program has reduced fees to less than \$10 per day on average.

Additional response:

- This government first established a strong record of making life more affordable for Yukoners with almost \$10 million-worth of inflation relief made available in last year's budget.
- This included more funding for Food Network Yukon, a 10 per cent top up to the Pioneer Utility Grant and rebates on the purchase of firewood.
- Yukoners are also receiving inflation relief from the federal government. This includes the accelerated Canada Workers' Benefit, the elimination of interest on student loans, a doubling of the GST tax credit, dental care and the Canada Housing Benefit for renters.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2023

Finance

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Inflation has fallen from many decade highs but remains elevated in Canada and in the Yukon.
- Energy prices remain elevated, and higher costs for food and shelter have become prominent drivers of overall inflation in recent months. These are all areas where higher prices are more obvious to consumers.
- Housing affordability has been a concern in the Yukon for several years.
- While remaining above historic norms, inflation of 3.8 per cent in September matched the national figure and was the lowest year-over-year increase in the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index (CPI) since January 2022 (3.7 per cent).

Background:

Key government initiatives addressing inflation in the Yukon

- Our energy programs are successfully encouraging Yukon residents and local businesses to reduce their energy use, save money and choose low carbon options to live and move.
- A significant portion of the Government of Yukon's Five-Year Capital Plan is allocated to housing and land development in order to continue to help address the supply side of the housing equation.
- Yukon Housing Corporation is investing across all parts of the housing continuum, including increase to supportive housing, subsidized Community Housing, and rental subsidy programs.
- This builds on previous programs to improve affordability for Yukoners under previous budgets.
- Last year, the Government of Yukon announced almost \$10 million in new inflation relief measures targeted at vulnerable groups.

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- The inflation relief rebate covered seven months at a total cost to Government of \$7.6 million. The inflation relief rebate automatically applied a \$50 credit to all residential and commercial ATCO Electric Yukon and Yukon Energy electricity bills.
- Yukoners on social assistance received a one-time payment of \$150.
- Seniors were supported by a 10 per cent top up in the Pioneer Utility grant and a one-time payment of \$150 to recipients of the Yukon Seniors Income Supplement.
- Yukoners who heat their homes with wood are eligible for a \$50 rebate per cord of fuel wood purchased from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Yukon also introduced the Timber Harvesting Incentive that gives commercial timber harvesters \$10 per cubic metre.
- The pilot program that gave an extra \$500 per month to Extended Family Caregiver agreement caregivers and foster caregivers was extended by 6 months to March 31, 2023.
- In June 2022, the Yukon government extended the Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement and Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement programs, administered through Economic Development.

Yukoners are also supported by Federal Government affordability programs:

- Accelerated Canada Workers Benefit payments and new minimum entitlement started in July 2023 (\$4 billion over six years, starting in 2022-23).
- All Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans became permanently interest-free starting in April 2023 (\$2.7 billion over five years and \$556.3 million ongoing).
- GST Tax Credit: The GST tax credit has doubled for six months in the current benefit year. Additional payment will be provided in one lump sum, before the end of the benefit year. Targeted to individuals and families with low incomes

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(below \$39,826, and gradually phased out above that level). Single Canadians without children will receive up to an extra \$234, and couples with two children will receive up to an extra \$467 this year. Seniors will receive an extra \$225 on average.

Government initiatives which are indexed to inflation:

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

Inflation outlook

- Following record annual inflation for Whitehorse of 6.8 per cent in 2022, the same increase seen nationally, monthly inflation has remained elevated in 2023. September's inflation of 3.8 per cent was the lowest since January 2022 and matched the national increase. Prior to September, Whitehorse inflation had exceeded the Canadian figure for fourteen consecutive months.

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- Early in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, some price pressures were slower to materialize in the Yukon than in other parts of the country, as inflation for Whitehorse was amongst the lowest in Canada in the first half of 2022.
- Robust price growth in the CPI components of food, shelter and recreation, education and reading material have been key drivers of overall inflation in 2023. Stronger growth in these three components in the Whitehorse CPI, account for much of the difference between the overall levels of inflation for Whitehorse and Canada in recent months.
- The Bank of Canada continues to be aggressive in trying to get inflation under control. With a 0.25 percentage point increase in July, the Bank has raised the target for its overnight rate 4.75 percentage points since January 2022. At 5.0 per cent, the overnight rate is at its highest level since early 2001.
- Most forecasters still expect inflation in Canada will move towards historic norms over the next couple of years as the effect of higher interest rates move through the economy. Canadian inflation is expected to decline from near 7 per cent in 2022, to 3.5-4.0 per cent in 2023. Inflation in 2024 is expected to return to [within](#) the Bank of Canada's target range of 1-3 per cent.
- While inflation in Whitehorse has been stronger in recent months, it generally follows the national trend. Current expectations are for inflation to come in at 5.5 per cent in 2023, before falling to 2.5 per cent in 2024.

Carbon Taxes and Grocery Prices

- The effect of the carbon tax on CPI has contributed to inflation, but only modestly and mostly through the direct effect on fuel prices.
- According to the Bank of Canada, the direct effect of carbon tax is adding 0.15 percentage points to inflation this year.

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- An economist at the University of Calgary¹, estimates that accounting for indirect effects brings this impact to 0.2 percentage points.
- For food in particular, the entire \$65 per tonne carbon tax increases monthly spending on groceries by at most \$20 per month, and likely closer to \$5 per month after accounting for emissions allowances provided by the federal Output Based Allocation system.²
- Overall, food price increases appear to be predominantly driven by other factors as prices have increased across North America independent of the implementation of a carbon tax.
- In the US, with no carbon tax system in place, food prices have increased by 26 per cent since the carbon tax came into effect in Canada in January 2018. In Canada the increase has been a similar 28 per cent.
- Whitehorse recorded an 18 per cent increase in food prices since January 2018 while Urban Alaska reported a 28 per cent increase.

INFLATION RELIEF ACROSS GOVERNMENT

Programs currently in place:

Tourism and Culture:

Community Tourism Destination Development Fund

- In October 2022, the Department of Tourism and Culture announced the creation of the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund, which is slated to run for an initial 3-year term.
- The new annual funding program is available to local businesses, First Nations governments, First Nation Development entities, municipalities and not-for-profit

¹Trevor Tombe

²Energy and Environmental Policy Trends: Indirect Carbon Tax Costs Reduced By Policy Design, Kent Fellows and Trevor Tombe, University of Calgary

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organizations for projects that will improve tourism-related services and infrastructure.

- Projects can focus on infrastructure like accommodations, attractions, activities and amenities, and special consideration will be given to umbrella projects, where multiple organizations are working together.

Creative and Cultural Industries

- In November 2021, the Department of Tourism and Culture released Creative Potential; Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries, a 10-year strategy to support the growth and development of the creative and cultural industries in the Yukon.
- The CCIS identified 4 strategic objectives and 22 key actions, which reflect input gathered through extensive public and sector engagement.
- We also identified 10 actions in support of pandemic recovery to be completed over 3 years as Phase 1 implementation, which includes:
 - Modernizing existing funding;
 - Offering new funding streams;
 - Industry branding and promotion;
 - Marketing and export strategies;
 - Workshops; and
 - Labour market supports.
- In 2023-24, 3 new funding programs will provide \$450,000 annually to the creative and cultural sectors, including:
 - Express Micro-grant;
 - Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant; and
 - Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund.

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Additional Funding Programs

- Tourism and Culture also provides annual supports to the tourism and culture sectors through Transfer Payment Agreements (TPAs) with many NGOs across the Yukon and through a number of regular funding programs, including:
 - Advanced Artist Award;
 - Arts Fund;
 - Arts Operating Funds;
 - Cultural Industries Training Funds;
 - Culture Quest;
 - New Canadian Events Fund;
 - Touring Artist Fund;
 - Historic Properties Assistance Program;
 - Historic Resources Fund;
 - Museums Contribution Program;
 - Special Projects Capital Assistance Program (SPCAP); and
 - Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund;

Yukon Development Corporation:

Inflation Relief Rebate

- The Inflation Relief Rebate (IRR) provides \$50 per month to all non-government residential and commercial electricity customers to help ease the impacts of rising inflation.
- The IRR was subsequently extended for March, April, and May 2023. The budget in 2023-24 is comprised of:

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- \$2,056,000 for program costs in April and May 2023 (costs for March 2023 are included in the 2022-23 Supplementary Estimates #2).
- \$3,246,000 for a further 3 additional months. We will continue to monitor inflation and costs of living, and we anticipate this will show on electricity bills next winter when electricity bills are typically higher.

Economic Development:

Paid sick leave program

- On April 1, 2023, Economic Development launched the Paid Sick Leave Rebate. The program will run for two 12-month blocks:
 - April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024; and
 - April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate is a temporary program that offers up to 40 hours of paid sick leave to employees and self-employed Yukoners that earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94/hour. The program is available to employees regardless of whether their employer offers paid sick leave.

Energy, Mines and Resources:

Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency and offset costs

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

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- For commercial and institutional buildings, the Energy Branch offers rebates for greenhouse gas-reducing retrofits and renewable heating.
- Between January 1, 2018, and June 30, 2023, 176 high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory.
- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits more accessible and affordable for Yukoners.
- For First Nation and municipal buildings, the Energy Branch offers retrofit and funding support through its Community Institutional Energy Efficiency Program.
- To help increase the supply of firewood, we distributed \$315,000 to 33 Yukon businesses under the Timber Harvest Incentive program in 2022-23. We are offering this program for another year as it increased timber harvest volumes and prompted new harvesting businesses to emerge. No new applications have been received yet for this year, but we did not anticipate to see them until the fall when the businesses start operating again.
- The Government of Yukon and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency combined financial contributions to launch a new \$200,000 support program offering funding for commercial harvesters and retailers.
- The program will help forest sector businesses with the cost of purchases and repairs from local suppliers for harvest equipment, vehicles and trailers, personal protective equipment, and other equipment. For larger harvesting businesses, the funds can also be used for things like planning and administrative costs.
- Applicants have until March 31, 2024, to apply or until available funds are exhausted.

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Yukon Housing Corporation:**Projects under the Five-Year Capital Plan which support housing affordability and those in need include:**

- The 47-unit housing complex at 401 Jeckell Street in Whitehorse opened in January 2023. The building provides new homes to Yukoners, including 5 three-bedroom, 12 two-bedroom, 16 one-bedroom and 14 bachelor units.
- A Yukon Housing Corporation Housing Initiatives Fund recipient, Right On Property Group, has completed Boreal Commons, a new 87-unit rental development in Whitehorse's Whistle Bend neighbourhood. This large-scale housing project will help address the need for more rental housing in the Yukon, including for more affordable and accessible units.
- Normandy Living, the Yukon's first private seniors' supportive living community, has officially opened its doors in Whitehorse with 84 modern suites, including housing units for First Nations Elders and affordable units for low-income seniors.
- Triplex housing units in Watson Lake, Mayo and Whitehorse were completed in spring 2022 and are providing affordable homes to families in each of these communities.
- A 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing complex in Old Crow is under construction.
- Construction of a 10-Plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake started in the summer 2023 and is expected to be completed by fall 2024;
- Two accessible duplexes in Mayo and Carmacks were completed this summer and are now available for YHC clients.

Other highlights from the plan

- More homes will be created for Yukon families in rural communities through the construction of three duplexes in Dawson City and Faro. These homes are on track for completion in summer 2024.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2023

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Health and Social Services:

- A 37.5 per cent top-up to eligible Yukon Senior Income Supplement recipients' monthly payment;
- a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients; and
- a 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers of children in out of home care.

Covid-19 and other temporary inflation relief measures no longer in place:**Tourism and Culture:****COVID-19 Business Relief Programs**

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Yukon acted quickly and decisively by implementing one of the most robust business relief programs in the country. This began with the Yukon Business Relief Program (YBRP) in 2020, which was open to any business from any sector that experienced at least a 30 per cent revenue loss due to the pandemic.
- In that same year, Tourism and Culture (T&C) also launched the Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan (TRRP), which was reviewed and endorsed by the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) and industry.
- The Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan committed \$15 million over 3 years to support the tourism sector and was focused on 4 key themes:
 - Providing tourism sector leadership;
 - Rebuilding confidence and capabilities for tourism;
 - Supporting the recovery of tourism industry operators; and
 - Refining the brand and inspiring travelers to visit.
- Through the TRRP, various financial support programs were rolled out during the course of the pandemic to sustain the tourism industry and prepare it for the eventual reopening of borders, including:

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- Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS);
- Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS);
- Culture and Tourism Non-profit Sector Supplement;
- Great Yukon Summer (GYS) program;
- Great Yukon Summer Freeze program;
- ELEVATE program; and
- A top-up to the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF).

Health and Social Services:

- a one-time \$150 payment to social assistance recipients;
- a one-time payment of \$150 to Yukon Seniors Income Supplement recipients;
- a one-time 10 per cent additional payment to Pioneer Utility Grant recipients;
- a 6-month extension of \$500 per month to caregivers of children in out of home care; and
- a commitment of \$100,000 to Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition to continue to support food security across the territory.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Finance

October 26, 2023

Date Approved

ENV #21 / EMR #36

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Our Clean Future is the Government of Yukon's path to address the climate emergency.
- The strategy is continually being strengthened year after year as we assess our progress, review new research, consider the input of others and identify new and innovative solutions.
- We have committed to an ambitious target of reducing our emissions by 45 per cent below 2010 levels by 2030.
- We have also committed to ensuring the Yukon is highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030, because we know the North will face climate impacts.

Additional response:

- It is important to look back on our progress to date and remain diligent in implementation when it comes to addressing climate change.
- We have legislated greenhouse gas emissions targets and associated reporting through the Clean Energy Act. (See EMR BN #31 / ENV #23)
- We launched the five-year Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership this year which will enhance the agriculture sector's resiliency and adaptation to climate change. (See EMR BN # 20)
- In collaboration with Yukon's public utilities, we exceeded our target to install seven megawatts of renewable electricity capacity through the Micro-Generation program by 2030. (See EMR BN #37)
- We launched the Better Buildings program to offer affordable financing for energy retrofits on Yukoners' homes and buildings.

ENV #21 / EMR #36

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- We established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors.
- We advanced emergency preparedness by progressing on Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Dawson City, Mayo, Watson Lake, Beaver Creek, the Town of Faro and the Kluane Lake Region.
- We have begun work on developing flood maps for all flood-prone Yukon communities. Flood maps for the Southern Lakes, Carmacks, and Teslin [are anticipated to be released in 2024](#). The next communities for flood hazard mapping will be Old Crow, Ross River and Dawson/Klondike, with work occurring in 2024-25.
- We completed the installation of a biomass heating system at Elijah Smith Elementary School in May 2023.

Third response:

- Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our 45 per cent greenhouse gas emissions target reduction by 2030.
- We are working with industry to establish a mining emissions intensity target for quartz and placer mining operations.
- We will continue to build on Our Clean Future as we learn more and implement new actions. This will be reflected in future annual reports.
- [Our 2022 Annual Report will be released in late 2023. We look forward to highlighting the good work that has been done in 2022.](#)
- [As this is an adaptative management strategy which involves 14 departments and agencies, it has taken some time to ensure that the report is strategically focused on helping us reach our targets.](#)

ENV #21 / EMR #36

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- As a government, we continue to collaborate on implementation of actions.
- We will continue to work with experts, stakeholders and partner governments across the territory and beyond, to identify opportunities to accelerate and intensify our efforts to reach our ambitious targets.
- We established the Yukon Climate Leadership Council to provide advice and perspectives to support us in meeting our greenhouse gas emissions targets. We are working to integrate the work of the Council directly into Our Clean Future and continue to implement existing actions that align with their recommendations.
- With the end of the second Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change in 2022, we are exploring how to continue mentorship opportunities on climate change for the important voice of youth.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Climate change is of high interest to Yukoners; they will want to know the government's progress in delivering on Our Clean Future commitments.

Background:

- Our Clean Future was released on September 14, 2020.
- Our Clean Future contains 136 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030.
- The Our Clean Future 2020 Annual Report was publicly released on August 12, 2021. The 2021 Annual Report was publicly released on September 12, 2022.

ENV #21 / EMR #36

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

2023-11-14

Date approved



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 14, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note (Corporate)**Fall 2023****2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #1**

Finance

Key Information

Recommended response:

- The 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates No. 1 forecasts an overall gross increase of \$132.7 million in O&M spending, with an offsetting increase of \$26.8 million in recoveries. The net increase in new O&M spending is forecast at \$105.9 million.
- Revenues are expected to increase by \$18.7 million, mainly to reflect an increase of \$2 million to the Canada Health Transfer and \$15 million for federal funding for Affordable Housing in the North.
- A large portion of the increase in O&M is for the new collective agreement between the Government of Yukon and Yukon Employee's Union. This new collective agreement was ratified in June and accounts for a \$36.9 million increase in O&M.
- The Supplementary Estimates also respond to several new or unanticipated challenges requiring funding. Some of these items include:
 - \$25.0 million for environmental care and maintenance work at the Minto Mine following the cessation of operations at the site in May, which will ensure that our environment remains protected;
 - \$19.6 million for wildland firefighting costs in response to the significant fire season experienced in the territory and which helped ensure the safety of Yukoners;
 - \$14.9 million in response to operational funding pressures at the Yukon Hospital Corporation to ensure that Yukoners have access to the health care services and supports they need;

Session Briefing Note (Corporate)**Fall 2023****2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #1**

Finance

Key Information

- \$9.8 million in response to cost pressures for Insured Health to support the wellbeing of Yukoners; and
- \$1.9 million to support the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy, and \$1.4 million for initiatives to support reconciliation with Yukon First Nations governments.
- The Supplementary Estimates also include a \$21.4 million capital allocation to support the development of a marine services platform in Skagway, which will create positive opportunities for Yukon's mining industry and its broader economy. We have identified offsetting adjustments based on timelines, loan program uptake, and the progress of various capital projects to accommodate this new project without any gross changes to capital spending.
- The Yukon government has maintained its surplus by making use of its contingency fund, included as part of Budget 2023-24. This \$50 million contingency fund helped shelter the government's fiscal position and allowed us to respond to emerging challenges throughout the year. The use of the contingency fund has allowed the government to present a revised surplus of \$3.6 million as part of these Supplementary Estimates.

Additional response:

- Changes in the Supplementary Estimates result in a revised year-end net debt of \$423.8 million.

Session Briefing Note (Corporate)

Fall 2023

2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #1

Finance

Key Information

- The use of the contingency fund will cover the following emergency cost pressures:
 - \$25 million for unplanned maintenance costs at the Minto mine;
 - \$19.6 million for increased wildland firefighting activity.
 - \$2.3 million for other emergency response measures, like the Village of Mayo evacuation in response to the Talbot Creek fire;
 - and \$1.9 million for Substance Use Emergency response.
-

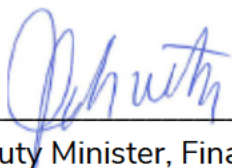
Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023-24 Second Appropriation Act is tabled in the fall session and will be the subject of debate.
-

Background:

- Supplementary Estimates are used annually by a government to account for spending that is unforeseen at the time of tabling the annual Budget. It is common to have one or two spending updates throughout the fiscal year.
- They are tabled during the fall and spring sessions, debated and voted on in the legislature and provide departments with increased spending authority for O&M and Capital for the current fiscal year.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Finance

September 29, 2023

[Date approved]

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission
– Update on Calls to Action**

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in our society.
- Our government is deeply committed to advancing reconciliation through collaboration and partnership with Indigenous governments.
- While there is still more work to do, our efforts are resulting in meaningful change and creating better programs and services for all Yukoners.
- In honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation this year, we shared our progress toward addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action through the release of the Pathways magazine and an accompanying report.
- The magazine and report provide an update on our actions being taken across the Yukon government and in close collaboration with First Nations governments and organizations in areas including child welfare, health, education and justice.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations governments are leaders in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- We will continue our collaborative work to implement and report on the Calls to Action, including through work on Yukon Forum joint priorities and by implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023 mandate letters include a commitment to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action.
- CASA 2023 contains a commitment to work with First Nations to continue to implement the TRC recommendations through targeted investment.

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission
– Update on Calls to Action**Executive Council
Office

- It is expected that the media and opposition will be interested in the fall 2023 public update, which will be the first comprehensive public update since 2016.

Background:

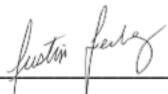
- The TRC report, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*, was released in June 2015. It contains 94 Calls to Action focused on redressing the harms resulting from Residential Schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. Thirty-two of the Calls to Action relate directly to YG.
- YG and Yukon First Nations (YFNs) have collaborated on addressing the Calls to Action under the 2017 Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan and through other reconciliation initiatives, such as supporting the important work of the YFN-led Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project.
- YG has taken additional 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 (speaks to Calls 7 and 10 directed to the federal government);
 - supporting Indigenous athletes and the North American Indigenous Games (Call 88);
 - implementing the YFN Procurement Policy (relates to Call 92) and the Representative Public Service Plan: *Breaking Trail Together* (relates to Call 7);
 - working with YFNs and Yukon Indigenous women's groups to implement the Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy* (MMIWG2S+ Strategy) (relates to Call 41);
 - participating at the Trilateral Table on the Wellbeing of YFN Children and Families to address gaps for culturally appropriate parenting programs (Call 5); and

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission
– Update on Calls to Action**

Executive Council
Office

- receiving input from YFNs on Health and Social Services programming through the Mental Health Advisory Committee (relates to Call 19).

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

October 10, 2023

Date

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Energy and Climate Change:

- Under **Our Clean Future**, we are implementing 44 actions – **about a third of the strategy** - with the majority of actions (35) being energy-related.
- As of July 2023: have **achieved, completed or surpassed over a third of the climate actions**.
- In 2022: **electric vehicles** were 4.3 per cent of light-duty vehicle sales. We are moving towards Our Clean Future (OCF) and *Clean Energy Act* targets of 10 per cent of light-duty EV sales by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030.
- October 2022: **increased Good Energy rebate** amount to a maximum of \$26,500 for upgrading the insulation in Yukoners' homes.
- October 2022: launched **Better Buildings Program** offering financing for energy efficient retrofits (Joint with Community Services). As of February 16, 2023: all eight registered municipalities have signed on to deliver the Better Buildings program within their boundaries.
- In 2022: adopted the new *Clean Energy Act* that legislates greenhouse gas reduction targets per OCF climate action L1. This is the territory's first energy and climate change legislation.
- April 2023: launched French version of the **Good Energy E-Rebates platform** where clients can submit online applications for their rebates.
- May 2023: supported **electrification and clean transportation** with a total of 19 **fast chargers** installed so far in the Yukon's 14 road-accessible communities and two subdivisions (Mendenhall and Marsh Lake). All fast chargers are available for public use and allow for travel between communities.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

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- As of July 2023: our **electric and renewable heating systems** transition programs saw 139 **smart electric heating systems** installed in homes and commercial buildings. This includes **heat pumps** and **electric thermal storage units** installed in homes and commercial buildings since 2020.
 - As of July 2023: issued 705 rebates worth \$5.5 million for the construction of **high-performance new homes** since 2018. These energy-efficient new homes perform a minimum of 50 per cent better than the 2015 National Building Code.
 - As of July 2023: achieved and surpassed the OCF goal of having seven megawatts of installed **renewable electricity** capacity through the **Micro-generation** program. This was achieved seven years ahead of schedule per OCF climate action E10. Implementation is ongoing.
 - As of July 2023: saw a total of 10 renewable energy projects sign Energy Purchase Agreements per the **Independent Power Production policy**. Four solar projects are active and comprise a total of 2.8 megawatts of installed generation capacity.
 - As of July 2023: issued a total of \$159,150 under **the Firewood Rebate** for a total of 3,183 cords of wood. This rebate was launched on September 28, 2022 to assist with increased costs of firewood to heat homes. This one-time, temporary rebate ended on March 31, 2023.

Mineral Resources and Geoscience Services:

- September 2022: Yukon Geological Survey staff installed near real-time monitoring equipment on **Moosehide Slide** to help monitor future movements and better understand the likelihood of a landslide.

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Fall 2023

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

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- October 2022: jointly (with ENV) announced the territory's first **wetlands policy**. This policy supports environmentally responsible development and manages the impacts of activities, including mining, in wetlands.
 - January 2023: announced plans to study the **feasibility of connecting the Yukon to British Columbia's energy grid**. This would help the territory meet its growing demands for clean electricity and assist mining companies in meeting their emissions-reduction goals.
 - March 2023: announced our **mining intensity target** for the mining sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent per unit of production by 2035. This ambitious target aligns with a territory-wide greenhouse gas target of 45 per cent reduction outside the mining sector by 2030. We are working to legislate the target now.
 - September 2023: Since January 2023, we have received 354 Class One, and 39 Class Three and Four quartz and placer exploration applications.
 - April 2023: Yukon Geological Survey staff installed equipment at a landslide hazard across the Yukon River near **Sunnydale** (Dawson area) to monitor future movements and better understand the likelihood of a landslide.
 - May 2023: within 24 hours of **Minto mine's** operator informing us it would be abandoning the site, we successfully **mobilized the resources necessary to ensure the environment remained protected at all times**.
 - August 2023: worked with Victoria Gold Corporation when **wildfire threatened the Eagle Gold mine** site to ensure that the environment and workers were protected during this challenging time.
 - We continue to stimulate new discoveries through the **Yukon Mineral Exploration Program**. In 2023, we're spending \$1.4 million to support 44

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

mineral exploration projects that are expected to spend more than \$4.6 million on exploration this season in the territory.

- June 2023: we successfully enabled a negotiated agreement for the sale and future removal of all abandoned mine processing equipment (mill, conveyor, crushers etc.) at the Wolverine mine site. This allows significant advancement of overall site remediation at no cost to government.
- July 2023: a new report on geothermal potential in the Teslin area was released.

Geothermal and Petroleum

- 2022: The **North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum** signed a work plan to address priority issues in the north. The work plan includes a collaborative review of current decision-making processes and tools under the Oil and Gas Act (Yukon) that apply within the traditional territories of the northern Yukon First Nations.
- April 2023: Initial outreach to First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups regarding geothermal resource development was made via the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- February 2023: released the What We Heard report on proposed elements for **geothermal resource legislation**. As of August 2023, we are in the policy development phase of developing this legislation.
- August 2023: ratified the **Western Arctic Tarruq (Offshore) Oil and Gas Accord**. Under the Accord, the Government of Yukon has a strong role in managing resource development and environmental protection matters in waters off our northern coast.

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EMR Accomplishments

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Forest Management

- We have worked hard with our local timber harvesters to ensure that we have permitted enough volume to meet current demand for firewood.
- Summer 2021 to 2023: continued to invest in **forestry research** through the Pan-Canadian National Forest Inventory. Federal, provincial and territorial governments participate in this program to monitor and report on the extent, state, and sustainable development of Canada's forests. The information collected is used to establish baseline data to inform decision making and monitor changes.
- Spring 2022 to 2023: As part of the Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan, we built a fuel break which expands the amount of time operators can harvest in this area. There are harvest opportunities for all types of timber harvesters. To date, we have permitted 27,000 cubic metres of timber to 20 operators in Quill Creek.
- May 2023: extended the **Timber Harvesting Incentive program** for another year. In fiscal year 2022-23 we invested \$315,000 through this program to support 33 timber harvest businesses in their work to provide fuelwood and biomass material to Yukoners.
- June 2023: the **Dognose project** saw 45,000 white spruce seedlings planted in the Dognose harvest area. This work is part of a silviculture treatment plan aiming to regenerate the forest cover with financial support from the 2 Billion Trees program. Summer students from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Farm took part in tree planting training which was a great success.

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Energy, Mines and
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- July 2023: signed an **Interim Wood Supply Agreement with Liard First Nation** to jointly develop new timber harvest plans in the Scoby Creek and Poison Lake burn areas.
 - July 2023: released the What We Heard report on the recommended changes to the **Forest Resources Act and Regulation**. We are reviewing feedback with the Yukon First Nations working group and finalizing the recommended changes with the aim of tabling Act amendments in fall 2024.
 - August 2023: launched a new one-year **Forestry Support Program** with three tiers of funding, with \$750, \$7,500 and \$15,000 available for commercial timber harvesters and retailers.

Land Planning

- December 2022: completed **Phase 1 of Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan**. This includes a background report as well as vision and values for the planning area.
- March 2023: completed the **Teslin Periphery Alaska Highway Corridor Land Development Suitability Study**.
- September 2023: In collaboration with the Teslin Tlingit Council, created a new area development regulation for the Lone Tree subdivision that will provide 23 new residential lots in the Teslin area (an additional 17 lots will be available for lease by the Teslin Tlingit Council).
- June 2023: released the What We Heard Report for the Recommended **Dawson Regional Land Use Plan** engagement. We continue to advance this regional land use planning process this fall and into 2024.

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

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- We continue to be ready to engage in Chapter 11 regional land use planning with Yukon First Nation partners when they are ready to begin the process.

Land Management

- March 2022: released **74 residential lots** by public lottery in the Whistle Bend and Logan subdivisions in Whitehorse, and **three lots** by public lottery in Mayo.
- August 2022: transferred 10 Eldorado Drive in Whistle Bend to the Council of Yukon First Nation to develop an **Indigenous Women's Shelter**.
- February 2023: released the What We Heard report summarizing the public feedback on directions for the **Yukon Public Lands Act**. We continue to work collaboratively with First Nation partners through the successor resource legislation Steering Committee.
- March 2023: announced a request for Proposals (RFP) for the **5th and Rogers development** in downtown Whitehorse.
- April 2023: released **83 single family lots** by public lottery and released **four multi-family and 33 townhouse lots** by tender in Whistle Bend.
- May 2023: released **25 residential** by public land lottery in Carmacks, Dawson City, Destruction Bay, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo and Watson Lake. We also released one **industrial lot** in Dawson City and two industrial lots in Ross River available by tender.

Session Briefing Note

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
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- June 2023: finalized a land sale agreement with **Da Daghay Development Corporation (DDDC)** for affordable housing in Whistle Bend.
 - June 2023: completed public engagement and consultation with Indigenous groups on the proposed **resource road regulation**.

Agriculture

- We have made new **land available for agricultural use**:
 - In 2022: approved 4 **agriculture land applications** creating 74.8 hectares in the Haines Junction, Marsh Lake and Golden Horn areas.
 - In 2023: released 5 **land lease opportunities** available for agriculture use in the Gentic Lane area of Golden Horn and approved 3 **agriculture land applications** creating 67.9 hectares in Hot Springs Road and Golden Horn (Gentic Lane) areas;
- In 2022: established new **Livestock Extension Services unit** within the Agriculture Branch with two Livestock Health Technicians to conduct meat inspections, support and assist livestock producers and work closely with Dept. of ENV's Veterinary Services Program.
- Until end of March 2023: over five years, through the **Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)** program, provided a total of \$7.4 million in funding to nearly 500 agriculture projects in the territory. Projects allowed applicants to establish community gardens and markets, invest in farm infrastructure, buy specialized equipment, complete farm business plans and hire labour.

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Spring 2023: struck an Elk-Agriculture Steering Committee (joint with Dept. of ENV) to implement recommendations from a report on **interactions between elk and agriculture in Takhini Valley area**.
- Spring 2023: supported the launch of 3 new private-sector **abattoirs** through funding and training sessions.
- June 30, 2023: announced the one-time **Agriculture Flood Recovery Fund** offering up to \$500,000 for farmers and agricultural producers to offset relief and recovery costs from the damage and loss caused by 2023 flooding in the region around the Klondike Valley.
- To July 2023: provided over \$850,000 in **funding** for over 46 projects through the **Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership** that we launched on April 6, 2023. This funding program provides a total of \$9.25 million over five years. This is a 25 per cent increase from the previous federal-territorial cost-shared agricultural funding program.
- We continue to coordinate the development of **regulations** under the **Animal Protection and Control Act** (joint with Dept. of ENV). We targeted the agriculture sector for engagement on the regulations between June and August this summer.

Strategic Alliances

- February 2023: Released the What We Heard: **Yukon Public Lands Act** report summarizing the public feedback gathered during the 2022 public engagement. The legislation is being developed by the Yukon government, working closely with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous governments, and the Council of Yukon First Nations through a government-to-government steering committee. Further

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Fall 2023

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

public engagement will occur once the steering committee develops the framework for new lands legislation.

- May 2023: completed a public engagement that saw public meetings held throughout the Yukon on approaches for **new minerals legislation**. Feedback collected will be used by the Yukon government, Yukon First Nations and transboundary First Nations as we continue to develop the legislation. A What We Heard document will be produced and released later this year.

Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections

- 2023: Under the **Collaborative Stewardship Initiative**, we introduced joint water monitoring, enhanced collaboration and reporting tools, and continue to see the initiative increase capacity and cultural understanding between our governments.
 - 2023 to date: conducted 10 site visits jointly with First Nations in mineral development, forestry, and land use activities.
 - July 2023: Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections staff were invited and attended both the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations' General Assemblies.
 - July 2023: completed a final joint inspection with Kwanlin Dün First Nation on an outstanding Licence of Occupation file. The inspection was a necessary step in transferring this land back to the Yukon government.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 4, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Staffing Information

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources provides a wide variety of services to the public, from agricultural leases to energy rebates to natural resource compliance checks.
- Our nine offices across the territory support the Yukon's communities directly by offering department services on location. Throughout, we emphasize service, respect, leadership and safety.
- For the 2023-24 fiscal year, we are budgeted for 293.7 full-time equivalent positions. Staffing levels remain relatively consistent throughout the year, although they increase in summer due to student programs, allowing us to help students gain new experiences as they train for future careers within the public service.

Additional response:

- I would like to take this opportunity to thank department staff who continue to do great work every day across the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been asked about the number and make-up of the department's employee base.

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources is budgeted for 293.7 full-time equivalent positions in the 2023-24 fiscal year. This full-time equivalent number does not directly correspond to each position. For example, in the case of student or seasonal positions, one full-time equivalent position could support the hiring of multiple students in a summer program.
- In the late fall of 2022, the department reorganized its programs, creating a new division - Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships. This division is meant to create more balance and support while enhancing service delivery and capacity for

Session Briefing Note

Staffing Information

Energy, Mines and Resources

engaging in key areas. It consists of three branches: Energy, Strategic Alliances, and Geothermal and Petroleum Resources.

- There has also been a slight increase in overall FTEs – two term positions in Strategic Alliances to support engagement, two permanent positions in Land Management to support the development of land, one permanent position Mineral Resources and one permanent position in Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections to support the new Wetlands Policy.
- The department has 34 positions located in the communities outside of Whitehorse in the district offices of the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch and the Mineral Resources branch.
- As of [November 9, 2023](#), the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has [277](#) active employees, including [218](#) permanent employees, [28](#) employees in term or temporary assignment positions, [7](#) casuals, [2](#) interns, [2](#) students and [19](#) auxiliary on-calls. [Shifts in the department's staffing levels occur seasonally.](#)
- The department currently has 24 employees with approved remote work agreements in place.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 14, 2023

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is taking action to reduce the Yukon's dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- We are supporting initiatives to maximize the use of locally harvested wood to meet our heating needs and grow our biomass industry.
- We are collaborating across governments to identify biomass opportunities and projects that align with our climate goals.

Additional response:

- Commercial timber harvesting activities, fuel abatement projects, and other land clearings create opportunities for harvested materials to supply the Yukon's biomass industry.
- We are working with First Nations and industry to identify a sustainable, long-term timber supply to fulfil a variety of needs, including biomass business development.
- Examples of biomass facilities in Whitehorse include Whitehorse Correctional Facility, Yukon Gardens, Raven Recycling, Nuway Crushing and the Hobah Apartments. There is a biomass system in construction at Elijah Smith School.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in how the Government of Yukon is supporting the growth of the Yukon's biomass energy industry including the use of waste products.
- There is industry interest in developing biomass at a scale that provides sufficient investment opportunities.

Session Briefing Note

Biomass

#55
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- Biomass involves burning wood chips, pellets and/or fuel wood in a boiler system to generate heat. Biomass systems are able to use wood by-products from timber harvesting and land clearing activities that would otherwise be waste.
- Land clearing required for lot development, highway right of way maintenance, wildfire fuel abatement as well as planned timber harvesting, all contribute to the availability of biomass.
- Economic Development completed a biomass lifecycle analysis to support industry growth that focuses on the environmental and economic benefits of a biomass fuel supply chain in the territory.
- The Forest Management Branch developed a report identifying the requirements for biomass storage and sort yards to inform capacity-building in the Yukon's biomass industry.
- In 2022, the Yukon Biomass Energy Life Cycle Assessment Project Report was completed for the Department of Environment. The report studied the life cycle carbon intensity of locally-sourced wood-based biomass products used for commercial and residential heating and compared them to fossil fuels.
- Dawson City and the Village of Teslin currently use biomass boiler systems to provide heat to several buildings in those communities.
- There are several facilities in Whitehorse utilizing forms of biomass for heat including: Yukon Gardens, Raven Recycling, Nuway Crushing and the Hobah Apartments.
- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre uses pellets, and its system is being expanded to include the Young Offenders Facility and Takhini Haven.
- The biomass system at Elijah Smith School is nearing completion and will be operational this season. The system can use both wood pellets and chips.

Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 29, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Firewood

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We recognize how important wood heat is to Yukoners and we are focused on ensuring fuelwood is available for consumers.
- Yukoners who are looking for firewood are encouraged to check the Yukon Wood Products Association website for retailers who are selling wood.
- There was strong uptake on the 2022 timber harvesting incentive program, and we continue to offer it to commercial operators. Our reported harvest last year was at the highest level since 2015.
- We have permitted approximately 30,000 cubic metres of wood at Quill Creek, and 25 businesses are working hard to harvest and move this timber to market as quickly as possible.

Additional response:

- In collaboration with Liard First Nation, we are working on a new timber harvest plan for the Scoby Creek area which will help ensure there is enough wood available in southeast Yukon. [We are working with Liard First Nation to review the input received during the public and First Nation review.](#)
- We are working with industry and the Yukon Wood Products Association to plan new areas to harvest, build and upgrade roads, and connect harvesters with suppliers.
- Personal use permits remain free for Yukoners who wish to harvest their own firewood.

Session Briefing Note

Firewood

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There has been concern around firewood availability and affordability since 2020, particularly for the Whitehorse market.

Background:

- Previous fuel wood supply shortages in the territory were driven by higher operating costs for industry; permitting challenges in an area of northern BC, which supplied fuel wood to the Yukon; and delays in the Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan being approved due to lengthy Executive Committee Screening by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.

Actions we are taking to address this issue

- We expanded opportunities in existing harvest areas and are developing new commercial and personal harvesting areas throughout the territory.
- We are listening to industry and working with harvesters in each community to understand concerns and find suitable wood for their operations.
- We continue to issue permits to commercial harvesters so they can harvest wood and sell it to Yukoners. Those interested in harvesting their own firewood can cut up to 11 cords (25 cubic metres) for personal use.
- **Commercial Access to Timber Supply, Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan** (See BN #57)
- **Forest Industry Status and Government Supports** (See BN #59)

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 6, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Forest Resources Management Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Forest management planning is an important part of securing short and long-term supply of firewood and other wood products.
- The Government of Yukon has developed landscape-level forest resources management plans with First Nations in four areas of the Yukon. These plans provide long-term certainty for sustainable forest management in the Yukon.
- Timber harvest plans cover smaller geographic areas. These plans tell us where forest harvesting can occur and under what circumstances, and they incorporate important landscape values like wildlife habitat and heritage.

Additional response:

- All Yukon communities accessible from highways have access to timber harvesting areas and we are planning for new areas. In Quill Creek, the fuel break is complete and harvesting activities are permitted from August 15 to spring break-up.
- This year we have focused significant efforts on working with Liard First Nation on new timber harvest plans in the Watson Lake district.
- We are developing a new timber harvest plan with Liard First Nation for the Scoby Creek area. This plan will increase the supply of fuelwood and timber in the territory. [We are working with Liard First Nation to review the comments received on the draft plan.](#)
- We have built forest resources roads and expanded existing personal harvesting areas to ensure an accessible timber supply.

Session Briefing Note

Forest Resources Management Planning

#57
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about how the Government of Yukon manages its forest resources in order to address firewood supply and cost challenges.

Background:

- We collaborate with First Nations on planning and management of forests. The *Forest Resources Act* and the *Umbrella Final Agreement* guide the development of forest resources management plans, including joint planning and consultation.
- Forest resources management plans identify where harvesting may occur and establish a framework for the maximum amount of timber that can be harvested.
- All commercial timber harvesting occurs within planned areas and requires a harvesting license and cutting permit. Before authorizations are issued, a timber harvest plan, license notification, and environmental assessments are needed.

Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan

- There are more than 30,000 cubic metres of timber permitted to 25 operators in Quill Creek. Of these 25 operators, 12 are new commercial applicants.
- In addition to the fuel break, which has expanded the harvesting window, other activities such as timber processing at landings, timber hauling and use of a central processing area may occur year-round when the fire danger rating is low.

Southeast Yukon (Watson Lake)

- We are collaborating with Liard First Nation to develop new timber harvest plans near Scoby Creek and Poison Lake. Both areas are within 100 kilometres of Watson Lake.
- The Draft Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan proposes harvesting of approximately 643 hectares of fire-killed timber over a planning area of approximately 7,900 hectares. The total volume estimated in the plan is 49,000 cubic metres.
- Some Liard First Nation citizens have raised concerns about the Draft Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan. The timeline for review of the draft plan was extended by two weeks to allow for additional opportunities for discussion on the project and planning process with the community. [The review period closed on November 3.](#)

Session Briefing Note

Forest Resources Management Planning

#57
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

- We are in discussions with Liard First Nation regarding the limited supply of larger diameter saw logs in the Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan to support Kaska First's log home manufacturing facility, Heartland Homes.
- The balance of the available timber will go toward increasing the availability of fuel wood for Watson Lake and other Yukon communities.

Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan

- The Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan was approved in 2020. The plan was approved by Yukon government, Ta'an Kwach'an Council, Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nation.
- There is a terms of reference in place for the implementation team, which is made up of the four governments. The implementation team has not met since 2022.
- The Forest Management Branch met with Carcross/Tagish First Nation in October 2023 to discuss next steps for tasks in the Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties related to the implementation of the plan.
- We have reached out to our First Nation partners to express our interest in reconvening the implementation team.
- Part of the implementation work will include identifying new areas for timber harvest plans.

Approved by:



November 6, 2023

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Forest Resources Act Review

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Consultation and public engagement on the *Forest Resources Act* review concluded April 13, 2023. The *What We Heard* report is now available on Yukon.ca and includes a summary of Yukoners' feedback on proposed changes to the legislation.
- We received feedback from First Nations governments, renewable resources councils, the Yukon Wood Products Association, industry members and the public. I want to thank everyone that took the time to provide comments.
- The multi-party *Forest Resources Act* working group has reviewed the feedback and is developing its final recommendations on the amendments.

Additional response:

- The engagement was focused on draft recommendations developed by a working group consisting of representatives from the Government of Yukon, Teslin Tlingit Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Acho Dene Koe First Nation.
- Proposed changes include clarifying terms, streamlining licensing and permitting processes, regulating morel mushroom harvesting and better aligning the legislation with the Umbrella Final Agreement.
- Specific amendments include proposed changes to the forest tenure regime that would help address wood supply challenges by improving the ways in which we plan and manage our forest resources.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Forest Resources Act Review

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Forest Resources Act review was initiated in 2017. Questions have arisen regarding the timing for First Nations consultation and public engagement.

Background:

- This review is legally required under the *Forest Resources Act*.
- The Forest Resources Act Review Working Group provided early engagement opportunities in 2020 to Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups, renewable resources councils and stakeholders, including the Yukon Wood Products Association.
- The Government of Yukon identified and discussed policy issues with the working group around the three pillars of the Act: planning, tenure and enforcement.
- Working group members were invited to bring forward additional items for discussion. All decisions were collaborative and made by consensus.
- Some First Nation governments and renewable resource councils requested additional time to submit feedback. The Government of Yukon responded to these requests by extending the deadline to April 30.
- The next step for the working group is to make final recommendations to the Government of Yukon on changes to the *Forest Resources Act* and Regulation.

Approved by:

August 29, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Forest Industry Status and Supports

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to offer industry support to increase efficiency and stability of existing commercial operators while incentivizing the startup of new businesses.
- To help increase the supply of firewood, we distributed \$315,000 to 33 Yukon businesses under the Timber Harvest Incentive program in 2022/23. We are offering this program for another year as it increased timber harvest volumes and prompted new harvesting businesses to emerge.
- We launched the Yukon Forestry Support Program this fall to help timber harvesters and fuelwood retailers overcome barriers and promote efficient and safe operations. There is \$200,000 in funding available and we have already paid out \$83,250 to 24 businesses through this program. We are grateful to the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency for their collaboration to make this program possible.

Additional response:

- We are exploring developing two potential log yard sites near Whitehorse, one in Kookatsoon area and one in Ibex Valley. An operator was recently permitted to store logs in the McLean Lake area.
- Public feedback is part of our process and is carefully considered before we make any decisions.
- We are working with the Department of Economic Development and the federal government to explore additional funding options for industry and increase awareness of existing funding programs.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Forest Industry Status and Supports

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Fuel wood harvesting and processing are essential services for Yukoners, and there has been concern about access and affordability of firewood in the Yukon.

Background:

- The timber harvesting incentive provided registered Yukon businesses with \$10 per cubic metre of timber harvested or sold, between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.
- Separately, for September 2022 through March 2023, a rebate program of \$50 per cord was available to offset the increased costs of firewood for home heating under the suite of Good Energy Rebate programs.
- The Government of Yukon collaborated with CanNor to make \$200,000 in funding available for 2023/24 to help harvesters and fuelwood retailers' businesses increase their efficiency, operational safety, and resiliency.
- Log yards help businesses stockpile and maintain sufficient inventory of wood, reduce delivery time and fuelwood costs, and provide a place to dry green timber. This supports a reliable supply of timber to the market throughout the year.
- In July 2023, the Kookatsoon–area project for firewood processing and storage received approval from Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB). A zoning amendment is now underway.
- A private operator applied for a land use permit in May of 2023 for a wood storage and sorting yard in the Mclean Lake area. The project successfully proceeded through the YESAB assessment process and a permit was issued.
- A similar project in the Ibex Valley area is currently going through the YESAB assessment process.
- On October 30, the YESAB Designated Office issued a recommendation that the project be allowed to proceed. The terms and conditions of the recommendation include reclamation of the site at the end of the 10-year project span, end of the lease, or when a more suitable equivalent location is operational.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Forest Industry Status and Supports

Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:



November 10, 2023

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Chance Oil and Gas

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is working with Chance Oil and Gas Limited to ensure safe closure of its eight licensed wells in the Eagle Plains area as required by the Oil and Gas Act. The industry term to safely close an oil and gas well is abandonment.
- On August 14, 2023, the Government of Yukon granted a six-month extension of eight oil and gas permits held by Chance Oil and Gas Limited. The extension is an interim measure to allow more time to consult with affected First Nations.
- We continue to meet with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun on oil and gas matters, including Chance's obligations, through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum.

Additional response:

- Chance Oil and Gas is not authorized to carry out any oil and gas exploration or development activities. The permit extension does not authorize any new activity.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions pertaining to Chance Oil and Gas permits.

Background:

- Chance Oil and Gas Limited currently holds 10 oil and gas permits in the Eagle Plains basin.
 - Two permits are set to expire in 2027.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Chance Oil and Gas**Energy, Mines and Resources

- The remaining eight permits have been granted a six-month extension set to expire in February 2024.
- All of Chance Oil and Gas Limited's eight wells are currently suspended.
- In 2017, Chance Oil and Gas Limited sought legal action against the Government of Yukon regarding its moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. This matter is currently before the Supreme Court of Yukon.
- In 2021, the Government of Yukon issued an order under the *Oil and Gas Act* for Chance to abandon its eight wells.
- In July 2022, the Government of Yukon issued a decision to support Chance Oil and Gas Limited's well abandonment and flow test work program. This decision was made based on a review under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- Negotiation on a benefits agreement between impacted First Nations, the Government of Yukon, and Chance Oil and Gas is underway. A benefits agreement is required prior to the issuance of a licence for oil and gas activities, including abandonment.
- The Geothermal and Petroleum Resources Branch is currently reviewing Chance Oil and Gas Limited's well deposits due to fluctuations in well abandonment costs related to the recent rise in oil and gas prices. Well deposits are a form of financial security held by the Government of Yukon under the *Oil and Gas Act*.

Approved by:

August 31, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note Geothermal Energy and Legislation

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended Response:

- Geothermal resources have the potential to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels as a source of renewable energy.
- The Government of Yukon is in the early stages of developing geothermal legislation to establish a regulatory regime for this resource.
- Between June and September 2022, we held a public engagement on geothermal resource legislation; the resulting What We Heard Report was released in February 2023.

Additional response:

- We have invested \$3.4 million to assess geothermal potential in the Yukon over the last three years, with financial support from the Government of Canada.
- We have recently completed geothermal studies in collaboration with Liard First Nation, Kluane First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council, and we have ongoing research underway with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.
- While geothermal research and policy development is underway, geothermal resource production is several years away for the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be a request for an update on geothermal research and progress on the new geothermal legislation.

Session Briefing Note

Geothermal Energy and Legislation

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- Under *Our Clean Future*, the Government of Yukon has committed to developing geothermal legislation by 2023 and to researching the potential to develop geothermal energy for heating and electricity by 2025. (See BN #35 and #36)
- Aside from power generation, potential uses of geothermal energy include heating for greenhouses (food security), aquaculture, heating municipal drinking water, de-icing runways, and food processing.
- Several First Nations governments have expressed interest in developing geothermal resources to support their communities' energy needs.
- Research on geothermal potential indicates the southwestern and south-central regions have higher geothermal resources than other regions of the territory.
- Studies have been recently published on the geothermal potential near the communities of Burwash Landing, Watson Lake and Teslin, and research is underway to assess the potential near Haines Junction.
- Regional data collection is also being conducted to characterize geothermal heat flow on a territory-wide scale.
- Feedback received through the 2022 public engagement reinforced the Government of Yukon's commitment to develop geothermal resource legislation.
- There are many tools and techniques used to produce geothermal resources. We are still assessing what tools and techniques may be applicable in the Yukon.
- As of October 2023, the work to develop geothermal legislation is in the policy development stage.

Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 30, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Hydraulic Fracturing

Moratorium

#63
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has consistently and publicly stated that it will not approve hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas development in the Yukon.
- There are no active oil and gas operations or applications for hydraulic fracturing in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- We acknowledge that all self-governing Yukon First Nations have passed resolutions banning hydraulic fracturing in their traditional territories.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Government of Yukon receives periodic questions about hydraulic fracturing.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon will not approve an application for a well operation under the *Drilling and Production Regulations* that includes hydraulic fracturing.

Approved by:



August 30, 2023

A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Kotaneelee Gas Field

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We are working with site owners to plan the reclamation and abandonment of the Kotaneelee gas field and its facilities.
- Paramount Resources Ltd. completed the surface abandonment of the three wells it was responsible for in 2021.
- Enbridge has received the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation to proceed with a project to abandon a pipeline in the Kotaneelee gas field that hasn't been used since 2015. Work is planned to start in late 2023.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is responsible for the Kotaneelee Well L-38 well abandonment process and is following procedures to ensure the well poses no risks to the public or the environment.
- We inspected Well L-38, performed routine maintenance work on the wellhead and completed site improvements in August 2023. We will continue to inspect the well annually.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Government of Yukon receives periodic questions about Kotaneelee gas field.

Background:

- The Kotaneelee gas field is located in the Liard basin in southeast Yukon. Infrastructure includes a gas plant, pipelines and natural gas wells. The Kotaneelee field no longer produces gas and all facilities have been shut-in, suspended or abandoned.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Kotaneelee Gas Field**Energy, Mines and Resources

- With the exception of Well L-38, multiple oil companies own the Kotaneelee facility. Owners include Paramount, Imperial Oil, ExxonMobil and Repsol, with Paramount as the majority owner and primary contact for regulatory matters.
- Enbridge, the owner of the Pointed Mountain Pipeline, has received the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation to proceed with its abandonment project in the Kotaneelee gas field. Work is planned to start in late 2023. The pipeline has not been in use since 2015.
- The wells at Kotaneelee are sour gas, high temperature and pressure wells.

Approved by:

August 30, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note**Western Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore)
Oil and Gas Accord**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon supports a strong, sustainable, and viable Arctic economy and the protection of the Arctic's ecosystem.
- On August 10, 2023, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation alongside the governments of the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Canada ratified the Western Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore) Accord.
- Under the Accord, the Government of Yukon is a partner with a strong role in the management of resource development and environmental protection in our northern coastal waters.

Additional response:

- The moratorium on offshore oil and gas development in Canada's Arctic is still in place.
- The new governance structure in place under the Accord strengthens our collective role in consultation and decision-making related to the moratorium.
- The Accord, once formalized in legislation, gives the Government of Yukon a voice in offshore oil and gas management, regulation, and development should any occur, ensuring that the Yukon's socio-economic and environmental interests are respected.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in why the Government of Yukon has signed an offshore oil and gas Accord.

Session Briefing Note**Western Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore)
Oil and Gas Accord**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The Accord is a co-management and revenue-sharing agreement between the Parties. Shared management and regulation will be implemented in three stages:
- Stage 1. The pre-implementation stage will remain in effect until the Accord is implemented in legislation.
 - During this stage, the Minister of Northern Affairs will exercise authority for oil and gas management in the Accord area in close consultation with the Accord's signatories.
- Stage 2. The Transitional stage will come into effect when then the Western Arctic Tariuq (Offshore) Accord is enacted into law.
 - This stage will establish an executive co-management committee made up of Ministerial representation from Canada, Yukon and Northwest Territories governments and a representative from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.
- Stage 3. Should the moratorium be lifted and development occur, an independent joint management board would be created and constituted in legislation. This requirement must be met no later than two years after the beginning of petroleum resources production under a development plan.
- The Accord will be formalized in new federal legislation, a process that is expected to begin within a year and will involve all the parties to the Accord.

The Arctic Offshore Moratorium

- In 2016, the Government of Canada enacted a moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration in the Arctic. The Government of Yukon was not consulted on the enactment of the accord.
- The moratorium is indefinite, with the option to lift it at any time. For its duration, the moratorium will be reviewed every five years, with the next review due in 2028.
- The Accord binds the federal government to consult the other parties on the five-year reviews of the moratorium.

Session Briefing Note**Western Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore)
Oil and Gas Accord**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In 2019, the Parties established a five-year Review Committee to undertake a science-based five-year review of the federal moratorium.
- In February 2022, the Committee completed a draft Report of the Western Arctic Review Committee. Canada will release the report soon.

Approved by:

August 30, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The 5th and Rogers lot could provide Whitehorse with a significant amount of new market and affordable housing.
- However, the site must be developed consistent with the requirements of an existing environment permit due to the presence of underground contamination from previous land uses and the construction of a berm is necessary to protect the site from future escarpment failures prior to any housing development.
- Recent landslides in the downtown core resulted in a partnership with the City of Whitehorse on a geotechnical study of the escarpment to ensure lot safety for any future development.

Additional response:

- The assessment of the escarpment behind 5th and Rogers is complete and indicates what mitigation measures are necessary to address future landslide risks.
 - This allowed us to issue a request for proposals in Spring 2023 to develop the site and ultimately would lead to the release of the raw land for private sector development.
 - One application was submitted and is under review.
-

Context:

- 2021 Government mandate includes a commitment to develop the parcel at 5th Avenue and Rogers Street in Whitehorse. The initiative received criticism from Opposition for development delays in mid-November.
-

Background:

- 5th and Rogers is an undeveloped downtown Whitehorse lot that is identified in the City's Official Community Plan and the Government of Yukon mandate as a site for infill development.
- The City's current Official Community Plan identifies the site for mixed-use residential and commercial development, while the downtown south plan highlights it as an undeveloped site that has the potential for higher-density mixed-use development.
- City zoning requires housing density greater than single-family or duplex homes.
- Downtown residents have expressed concerns about the concentration of social services and housing in certain parts of the downtown core.
- YHC worked with EMR and CS to develop a request for proposals to sell the lot with conditions that will reflect geotechnical and environmental conditions on site and encourage affordable housing developments on the property.
- The RFP was launched March 9, and one application was submitted.

Site development and geotechnical work

- In July 2022, the City of Whitehorse wrote to the Government of Yukon to recommend that the current slope instability issues be reassessed, including any required mitigations for development.
- The City contracted Tetra Tech to model and provide escarpment terrain analysis.
- Future developers will require this information prior to purchase to understand the assessment of high and moderate geotechnical hazards.
- The following issues will need to be addressed by the future developer:
 - Building a berm;
 - past contamination and a risk-based restoration permit that will go forward with a future project;
 - removal of former group homes; and

Session Briefing Note

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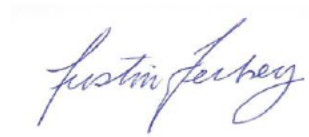
Fall 2023

5th and Rogers

Yukon Housing Corporation

- assessment and potential relocation of powerlines.
- These issues will involve considerable cost to the developer.

Approved by:



September 1, 2023

Justin Ferbey
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Whitehorse Gravel Availability

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We are assessing and managing gravel and other granular materials in the territory to meet the long-term needs of Yukoners.
- The Whitehorse area continues to experience intense development, including building and road construction.
- This development comes with a corresponding increase in the demand for granular material.

Additional response:

- We are working with the City of Whitehorse to seek and support new areas for quarry development and to optimize existing quarry lease sites.
- Quarry leases provide economic opportunities for First Nations and local businesses to provide granular material for a wide range of needs.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Ever-increasing development in Whitehorse means granular material is in high demand.

Background:**Current granular resources**

- Energy, Mines and Resources manages 15 privately held quarry leases in Whitehorse, one of which was recently enlarged. One additional quarry site is in the application phase.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Whitehorse Gravel Availability

Energy, Mines and Resources

- The department also manages four public gravel pits in the Whitehorse area that provide Yukoners up to 35 cubic metres of free granular material for personal, non-commercial use.
- The City of Whitehorse leased two quarries near Ear Lake to private industry; both are now depleted.
- A review of granular resources in Whitehorse and updated surficial mapping has been completed. It is informing future planning for gravel.

Stevens Quarry

- The City of Whitehorse approved the new Official Community Plan on March 27, 2023, changing the designation of the Stevens Quarry area from Natural Resource Extraction to Future Planning.
- There is no expectation of development at Stevens Quarry in the near term.
- Two projects have been submitted to YESAB for the development of Stevens Quarry; the first in 2012 by the Yukon government and a second project in 2020 by a private proponent, Norcope Enterprises. Neither project received regulatory approval to proceed.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 5, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Green Streets**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Green streets are an innovative concept in Whistle Bend, where neighbours can gather, play, and connect to a multi-use trail system free from vehicle traffic.
 - Last year construction on the green streets was paused to hear from residents who were concerned about some design features, including the widening of the pavement from three metres to six metres to allow for emergency vehicle access. We worked with our partners at the City of Whitehorse to engage residents and understand their ideas about the final design of the streets.
 - The City has approved a design that incorporates resident feedback, allows for emergency vehicle winter access, and adheres to the original intention of the green street concept. The Land Development Branch has added the additional fire hydrants, paving and other requirements of the updated plan. Final landscaping is underway, and the landscaping will wrap-up in 2024.
-

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Multiple property owners along the proposed green streets expressed concerns about a six-metre path not meeting the three-metre path concept that was included in earlier lottery packages and referenced in some Phase 4 agreements for sale.
-

Background:

- Green Streets information included in the land lottery documents for Phases 4 and 5 referenced a three metre-wide hard surface. The Green Street information provided with the lottery information for lots sold in March 2022 (Phase 6A) referenced a six metre-wide paved path.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Green Streets

Community Services

- Green Streets were marketed as three-metre wide green spaces that would support and add a unique character to the neighbourhood, encourage active transportation and support strong social interaction to nurture a sense of community.
- Green Streets lots in Phases 4 and 5 were already sold when the City expanded the green street width to six metres from three metres in its detailed design process to allow for emergency vehicle access. Land Development Branch tendered the construction of the green streets in Phase 4 and 5 based on this new direction.
- Surface work and subsequent modifications, including street grading, trail paving, gates, hydrants are now complete. Landscaping of streets and pocket parks was tendered and awarded in summer 2023 and will be completed in summer 2024.
- Guidelines or regulations controlling activities or development such as path access from residences to the green street, laneway parking controls, winter snow clearing are to be determined by the City.

Financial Implications:

- Total cost to construct Green Streets including surface construction, modification (incremental cost of moving hydrants to ally to accommodate redesign), and landscaping work is approximately \$1.95 million, which is on budget.
- Subsurface civil work costs were part of the Phase 4 and 5 construction costs.

Approved by:September 5th, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Land Title Transfer Process

#70
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are dedicated to increasing the development of housing for Yukoners and we recently revised our land title transfer process to change the stage at which title can be transferred.
- Land Management Branch now accepts building safety approvals from a stage earlier than ‘occupancy approval’ to meet building commitment conditions in agreement for sale contracts.
- In making this revision, we considered feedback from land developers and realtors, as well as recommendations from the City of Whitehorse and the Land Development Advisory Committee.

Additional response:

- We accepted the City’s recommendation to apply the electrical rough-in and the third plumbing inspection as the appropriate stage for approval.
- Approval at this earlier stage ensures that safety and building standard measures are met for new buildings, while also allowing for efficient land title transfers to new home purchasers.
- We continue to work with the City of Whitehorse to ensure building safety standards are met for homeowners in an efficient way.
- Other work we are doing to make building more efficient is looking to reform the land lottery system. I trust this will be a topic of interest as we and our First Nation partners advance to the public engagement

Session Briefing Note

Land Title Transfer Process

#70
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

stage on options for a new lands management regime for the Public Lands Act.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Builders and realtors may have questions about how the current approval process for land title transfers will affect construction and sales timelines.
- The Confidence and Supply Agreement commits the Government of Yukon to reforming the land lottery system.

Background:

- An 'agreement for sale' is the legal contract that outlines the terms and conditions of buying a lot from the Government of Yukon. The agreement is between the Government of Yukon and the lot purchaser.
- An 'agreement for sale' contract includes a clause that requires the purchaser to meet a building commitment condition before title can be transferred to the purchaser.
- Before 2022, the building commitment requirement was 'clad to weather,' which is an early stage in the building process. It is a non-standardized, non-permitted stage.
- In 2022, the Government of Yukon modified the building commitment requirement for home construction to the later 'occupancy approval' stage in the building process. The 'occupancy approval' stage is standardized and permitted.
- This modification was established in consultation with the City of Whitehorse to ensure that homes were properly permitted and built to safety standards.
- Land developers and realtors gave feedback that the 'occupancy approval' stage was too late in the building process and interfered with ensuring a timely transfer to house purchasers.

Session Briefing Note Land Title Transfer Process

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Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The City of Whitehorse recommended that we change the building commitment requirement from 'occupancy approval' to the electrical rough-in and the third plumbing inspection, which is an earlier phase of the inspection process.
- We accepted the recommendation as it addressed safety concerns and consistency in building requirements, while also addressing the concerns of developers and realtors.

Approved by:



September 21, 2023

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

EMR #71 /CS LD-03

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Lot Completion Targets and Lot Releases

Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We are aware of the current housing pressures faced by Yukoners and are committed to making land available for housing as one strategy to reduce this pressure.
- We continue to work in partnership with municipalities and First Nations on land development projects to meet lot supply needs.
- In Spring 2023, we released 117 new Whistle Bend lots and 17 new rural/community lots.
- In the 2023/2024 season, we are preparing up to 140 new Whitehorse area lots and up to 75 rural lots for completion and release in 2024.

Additional response:

- In addition, hundreds of future lots in rural and Whitehorse subdivisions are in the planning, design or construction stage to provide for short term supply.
- The 2023/24 Whitehorse and rural/community lotteries will be planned once the construction season wraps up in October.
- Once lot development has concluded, the lots are prepared for sale through completion of legal requirements and the development of lottery and tender information.
- Lots that are returned or that are not sold during a lottery are available over the counter. For those interested in available lots, please check

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Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Lot Completion Targets and Lot Releases

Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

online through our website at yukon.ca

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The demand for lots varies by community; most municipalities are asking for lots and may have concerns about the timing of lot deliveries.
-

Background:

Land Development Branch – Community Services

- Community Services' Land Development Branch (LDB) program aims to:
 - create and maintain lot inventories in Whitehorse and the communities;
 - support opportunities for private sector land development projects in addition to its ongoing role as primary land developer; and
 - support First Nations governments in developing their land for citizen housing and economic development opportunities.
- The land development process requires multiple steps. Depending on the development, [it can take several years to complete lots](#). Different phases of development, from feasibility, planning, and preliminary design and construction work, are underway in and around all municipalities.
- A summary of LDB's current projects is available in the Session Notes: Whitehorse Land Development Projects ([TAB EMR #73 / CS LD-01](#)) and Rural Land Development Projects. ([TAB EMR #72 / LD-02](#)).

Land Management Branch – Energy, Mines and Resources

- The sale of developed lots occurs once the development is complete. Before lots can be sold, legal requirements such as registering the legal survey and titling the lot must be met. The legal survey fabric must be in the Yukon government's corporate spatial warehouse to ensure accurate mapping and database updates.

EMR #71 /CS LD-03**Session Briefing Note
Lot Completion Targets
and Lot Releases****Fall 2023**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

- The departments of Community Services and Energy, Mines and Resources work together to identify vacant lots in Yukon communities and re-develop and release them when possible.

New Lot Release Summary*

Location	2018 to 2021	1000 Lot Delivery Mandate Tracking						Approx. Housing Units (1000 lot mandate)
		2021-22 Actuals	2022-23 Actuals	2023-24 Forecast	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Forecast	Total Lots	
Whistle Bend	467	97	117	133	109	150	606	1100
Other Whitehorse	5	4	0	5	75	100	184	375
Rural	48	5	17	75	125	75	297	325
Totals	520	106	134	213	309	325	1087	1800

*First Nation leased lots and private sector parcel releases and lot contributions are not included.

Rural / Community Lots - Past and future lot development

	Location/Development	Lots Released	NEW Lots Completed / Fiscal
2016-17	Dutch Harbour Recreation	11	13
	Faro	1	
	Carmacks	1	
2017-18	Dawson misc.	10	10
2018-19	Grizzly Valley	20	43
	Mayo Country Residential	19	
	Dawson	4	
2021-22	Dawson	2	5
	Mayo	3	

EMR #71 /CS LD-03**Session Briefing Note
Lot Completion Targets
and Lot Releases****Fall 2023**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

2022-23	Carmacks – 3 Dawson – 4 (two re-sale) Haines Junction – 7 Mayo – 4 (two re-sale) Watson Lake – 5 (re-sale) Faro – 1 (re-sale) Destruction Bay – 1 (re-sale) Industrial: Dawson – 1 Ross River – 2	28	17
2023-24 Targets	Carmacks – 7 Dawson City – 0 to 4 Grizzly Valley – 12 to 15 Haines Junction – 5 to 7 Mayo – 5 Faro – 7 Teslin area – 21 to 23 Watson Lake – 2 to 4 Unincorporated – 1 to 4 Whitehorse Periphery – 1 to 3	61 to 78	TBD
2024-25 Targets	Carmacks – 0 to 2 Dawson City – 17 to 25 Haines Junction – 12 to 35 Mayo – 2 to 16 Faro – 2 to 10 Teslin area – 0 to 5 Watson Lake – 23 Unincorporated – 2 to 4 Whitehorse Periphery – 3 to 5	61 to 125	TBD

Whitehorse and Whistle Bend – Past and future lot releases

Year	Location/Development	Lots Released	Total Lots /Fiscal
2017-18	Whistle Bend Ph 3A	29	29
2018-19	Whistle Bend Ph 3C	76	76
2019-20	Whistle Bend Ph 3D1, 4A, 4B	129	129

Prepared for Ministers Mostyn and Streicker
Departments of Community Services and Energy,
Mines and ResourcesDate prepared: September 8, 2023
Last Updated: November 6, 2023

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EMR #71 /CS LD-03**Session Briefing Note
Lot Completion Targets
and Lot Releases****Fall 2023**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

2020-21	Whistle Bend Ph 3D2, 3E1, 4C, 5	262	267
	Whitehorse Country Residential	5	
2021-22	Whistle Bend Ph 6A	70	101
	Whistle Bend 3E2	27	
	Whitehorse Logan subdivision lots	4	
2022-23	Whistle Bend 6B	102	117 1 parcel
	Whistle Bend 8	15	
	5 th & Rogers Parcel Release	1 parcel	
		Total Lots Released	720

Whitehorse and Whistle Bend Lot Completion Targets

Year	Location/Development	Lot Targets	Lottery Dates	Total Lots
2023-24	Whistle Bend Ph 7 Miscellaneous Infill	131-133 3-5	TBD	134-138
2024-25	Whistle Bend Ph 9A & 9B Whistle Bend Ph 12-13 Hemlock Road Hwy Industrial Subdivision (Other infill Copper Ridge (EMR)	99 10 large Potential up to 25-40 Potentially up to 30 1-5 1 parcel	TBD	110 - 184 1 parcel

EMR #71 /CS LD-03

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Lot Completion Targets and Lot Releases

Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:



November 10, 2023

Deputy Minister
Department of Community Services

Date approved



November 14, 2023

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Rural Land Development
Projects**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Communities across the Yukon have identified a need for new lots to support increased housing demand. We are committed to collaborating with municipalities and Yukon First Nations to help meet this need.
- Community Services is advancing land development projects in every municipality in the Yukon, leading the process from feasibility to planning to construction.
- Construction projects we advanced or completed this year are Carmacks Prospector extension, Faro infill lots, Watson Lake Francis Avenue extension, and the Teslin area Lone Tree subdivision.
- Some planning and design projects underway include Willow Acres serviced expansion and Area 3 country residential subdivisions in Haines Junction, Lower Dome Road and Dredge Pond II in Dawson, Mayo's 7th Avenue North and the joint Yukon government-Teslin Tlingit Council-Village of Teslin Green subdivision in Teslin.

Additional response:

- In 2023-24 we have feasibility and/or planning work underway on about 25 parcels in rural communities and have or will advance about 12 of these projects to design or construction.

Session Briefing Note**Rural Land Development
Projects**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

- We are preparing more than 60 lots, some in every municipality, [to be ready for release in 2024](#). In 2022, we released 5 rural lots and in 2023 we released 17 lots.
- We strive to partner with Yukon First Nations wherever possible. We are currently working with five First Nations on joint land development planning processes and are in preliminary discussions with two other First Nations.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Many municipalities, communities, and First Nations have identified the need for affordable lots in the short term. The public wants increased lot availability.

Community Summaries**Carmacks:**

- Three (3) country residential lots were released in Spring 2023 and 6 urban lots ready for release in Spring 2024.
- Feasibility and pre-planning for multiple sites are completed and we are now working with Village of Carmacks and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation to start master planning for one or two sites.
- Construction of Prospector subdivision extension was completed in September 2023.

Dawson

- Four (4) infill lots were released in Spring 2023 and pending heritage and servicing work, we are targeting completion of three or four more infill lots in 2024.

Session Briefing Note**Rural Land Development
Projects**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

-
- Master plans of Lower Dome and Dredge Pond Road subdivisions are complete and near-completion, respectively. We are advancing through Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Act (YESAA) and design to target project tenders in 2024.
 - We are in the early stages of joint Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in – Yukon government urban commercial-residential master planning and we are working through next steps on Bear Creek and industrial planning sites.

Faro

- We are working with Town of Faro to service 7 infill lots for targeted completion in Spring 2024 and to prioritize phases of infill lot development for the short/medium term.
- We have completed feasibility and will work with Town of Faro and Ross River Dena Council to plan industrial, country residential areas in the short to medium term.

Haines Junction

- Seven (7) urban lots were released in Spring 2023 and we're working on more vacant lots.
- Design and tender of the first phase of the serviced Willow Acres Expansion area (71 lots) is advancing for construction [starting](#) in 2024.
- The master plans for the long-term supply of both serviced and country residential lots will wrap up this fall and winter. Industrial planning will start next year if supported by the Village of Haines Junction.
- Champagne Aishihik, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)- Marshall Creek serviced subdivision expansion wrapped up this year providing 43 serviced lots for citizens.

Session Briefing Note**Rural Land Development
Projects**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

Mayo

- Two (2) infill lots were released in spring 2023 and five low-cost infill lots are targeted for completion in Spring 2024.
- We are completing the 7th Ave North urban expansion master plan this year, followed by design, which could provide up to 50 lots. The first phase tender is targeted for 2024.
- We're exploring ways to work with First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Village of Mayo partners to advance planning on the Upper Bench near Mayo.

Teslin

- We are advancing subdivision approval of 23 Lone Tree and 2 large Airport industrial lots in preparation for release in Spring 2024. We will complete fire smarting and a walking trail in the Lone Tree area this winter.
- We are working with Teslin Tlingit Council and the Village of Teslin towards completion of a joint Green Subdivision Master Plan in Teslin and surrounding area by Spring 2024 for medium to long term supply of residential lots.

Watson Lake

- Five vacant infill lots were released in spring 2023 and a few more infill lots are being prepared for release in spring 2024.
- We started construction of the Francis Avenue 43 lot extension and lift station late this summer, which is targeted for completion in Fall 2024. This was the first project as part of a Yukon government-Liard First Nation non-UFA based Agreement.
- Feasibility and planning have been advanced for numerous country residential, urban residential and industrial sites in the Watson Lake area. Projects may advance under future Yukon government - Liard First Nation Agreements.

Session Briefing Note**Rural Land Development
Projects**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

Background – Land Development Process

- Community Services' Land Development Branch program aims to:
 - create and maintain lot inventories in Whitehorse and the communities;
 - support opportunities for private sector land development projects; and,
 - support First Nations in developing their land.
- Municipal and First Nation roles can vary by community. In general, Land Development Branch supports municipalities and First Nations governments during Official Community Planning or integrated planning processes to confirm areas of interest for development through feasibility studies.
- Where possible, joint processes with Yukon First Nations and municipal governments are undertaken to advance master plans and preliminary designs for approval by the municipal council.
- A key principle under the First Nation Land Development program, which also helps to promote the highest and best use of land, requires landowners to pay for development of their land and target all or partial cost recovery through lot sales/leases. Land Development Branch provides a range of supports and the Yukon Housing Corporation manages a loan program for viable First Nation (and private sector) land development projects.
- With increasing development costs, cost recovery in low-market rural communities is becoming even more challenging.
- Community Service's Land Development Branch (LDB) prepares lots and then Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch (LMB) takes them to market for sale.
- The land development process takes time. For example, additional engagement to work through conflicting land-use interests/visions and complex feasibility work

Session Briefing Note
Rural Land Development
Projects

Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

often adds process time. The legal survey and lottery preparation require three months or more for Land Management Branch to complete.

- It can take three or more years to take raw land through feasibility, planning and design, construction and lot preparation for final lot sales.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Community Services

November 22, 2023

Date approved



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 23, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Whitehorse Land
Development**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Whitehorse is a vibrant and growing community and we expect long-term demand for housing. We work on behalf of our partners at the City of Whitehorse to meet this demand and help Whitehorse grow to its potential.
 - We also collaborate with Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to support their land development objectives in the City. We are expanding our partnerships with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dun First Nation to support their efforts to develop their own lands and advance joint projects like Range Point Road and site suitability work in the City's future growth areas.
 - When land development is complete in four to six years, Whistle Bend will provide for a full-service, sustainable neighborhood of over 2,000 lots (about 10,000 people) to accommodate our growing population.
-

Context:

- Increasing lot availability and addressing housing pressures in Whitehorse is of high interest to the public.
-

Background:

- Community Service's Land Development Branch (LDB) prepares lots and then Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch (LMB) takes them to market for sale.
 - LDB has a range of land development work underway in Whitehorse, including continued Whistle Bend development and we have started the feasibility,
-

Prepared for Ministers Mostyn
Department of Community Services

Date prepared: July 30, 2023
Last Updated: November 21, 2023
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Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Whitehorse Land Development

Community Services

planning, and design work for development on numerous Whitehorse sites identified in the City's new Official Community Plan. For more info see (TAB EMR #71 / CS LD 03) and a summary below:

- Whistle Bend:
 - Phases 6 and 8 (lots were sold in Spring 2023) work was completed this year.
 - Phases 7 and 9A are targeted for completion this fall and mid-summer 2024, respectively.
 - Phases 9B and lift stations are currently out for tender or were awarded this summer, with all work targeted for completion next year. Phase 12 and 13 along with a small lift station will be tendered in 2024 for targeted completion in mid-summer 2025.
 - Detailed design for Phases 10 and 11 will advance this winter with a tender target for later in 2024.
- Range Point Road: Council approved joint YG-KDFN master plan in September 2023. YESAA underway. Next steps: zoning/subdivision, detailed design, tender in 2024.
- South Access Highway Industrial Subdivision: City-led planning for joint KDFN-YG unserviced subdivision (by weigh station) early 2024. Tender target late 2024.
- Copper Ridge parcel for private sector developers: City-led master plan for late 2023. EMR release of lot parcel in 2024.
- Valleyview South Master Plan (including Tank Farm): City-led multi-owner master plan completion Fall 2023. City to complete infrastructure cost-sharing, zoning and granular use guidelines to provide critical foundation for private sector land development.
- Whistle Bend South Bench: advancing feasibility, then planning to allow for granular use for 2025+ area projects and future subdivision phases.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Whitehorse Land
Development**

Community Services

- North/South Future Growth Areas – YG coordination lead. Joint-KDFN-TKC-City-YG MOU and work plan and next stage of feasibility underway to enable a planning start in 2025.
- Other Industrial Areas – preparing vacant industrial infill lots and advancing feasibility for two other parcels to enable City planning to start in 2024.
- Hemlock Street extension: additional feasibility, then planning underway, YESAA, detailed design work, tender in 2024.
- Despite high prices and re-tenders of projects, the 2023 land development season has been productive. Sector issues such as, supply chain challenges, high demand for materials, labour shortages and limited pool of contractors, continue but are shifting. See CS SN ID-3 on supply chain issues and project delays for more details.

Approved by:

September 6th, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Macaulay Lodge

Yukon Housing Corporation/
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Macaulay Lodge in Whitehorse was demolished in September 2022 to repurpose the site for a new housing development.
- The demolition of Macaulay Lodge provides for a variety of opportunities for future land use, which we initially explored through the expression of interest issued in spring 2022.
- We are committed to making housing available to seniors, as reflected in our support for Normandy Living, which opened in December 2022.

Additional response:

- We expect to release the Macaulay Lodge lot for tender in the months ahead with a requirement for an affordable housing component.
- We are advancing towards tender quickly: the lot was rezoned in May 2023; lot consolidation was approved in June 2023; and legal survey work is underway.
- The site is currently zoned Comprehensive Neighbourhood Commercial in alignment with the new City Official Community Plan; this zoning includes supportive housing as a secondary use.

Context:

- The January 2023 City of Whitehorse Council public rezoning hearing heard a request for additional seniors' housing, as also shared with other political officials.

Background:

- Macaulay Lodge opened in Riverdale in 1969 and was the only long-term care home in Whitehorse for many years.

Macaulay Lodge

Yukon Housing Corporation/
Energy, Mines and Resources

- All residents were moved to Whistle Bend Place or another long-term care residence of their choice in January 2019.
- An Expression of Interest (EOI) was conducted between March and May 2022 to determine private sector interest and capacity in redeveloping the site. It yielded two responses which are helping to inform the new tender for the site.
- It will be sold by tender for development by the private sector as a mixed-use site with a requirement for an affordable housing component.
- The rezoning application of the former Macaulay Lodge site was approved in May 2023. The zoning was amended from Public Service and a small portion of Greenbelt to Comprehensive Neighbourhood Commercial which permits mixed-use residential and commercial development with supportive housing included as a secondary use.
- The legal survey of the lot will be completed this fall when the five existing lots and a portion of greenbelt will be consolidated to create one lot.

Approved by:



Justin Ferbey
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

September 6, 2023

Date approved



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 6, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

McIntyre Creek Park Planning

Environment

Recommended response:

- The establishment of Chasàn Chuà/ McIntyre Creek Park continues to be a priority for the Government of Yukon.
- To support the creation of the proposed Park, we have taken measures that provide interim protection to the area by expanding the boundary of an existing Order in Council under the Quartz Act to prevent new mineral staking in the proposed Park area.
- We have also established an internal administrative reserve to ensure public land use applications align with the purpose of a park and the City's Official Community Plan.
- In addition, we have initiated discussions with the City of Whitehorse, Parks Canada, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to support Chasàn Chuà/ McIntyre Creek Park management planning.
- Parks Canada has expressed a willingness to provide support and federal tools in management planning.
- We have planned meetings with the First Nations, Parks Canada and the City of Whitehorse this fall, where we will discuss the opportunities for collaboration and roles and responsibilities in management planning.

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note

McIntyre Creek Park Planning

Environment

Third response:

- A collaborative planning approach is key, due to the number of parties involved. I wrote to Mayor Cabott in July to discuss the next steps of the planning process for this project and a meeting was scheduled as a result of it.
- I met with Mayor Cabott on September 6th, and Parks Canada will be reaching out to their office, to discuss further steps.
- We will continue to work with all affected parties to discuss ways to ensure the environmental protection of McIntyre Creek is moving forward.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the Yukon government's progress toward the commitment to begin the process of creating Chasàn Chuà/ McIntyre Creek Park.
- There has been a longstanding interest from several groups and stakeholders to establish a park in this area, including Friends of McIntyre Creek, Yukon Conservation Society, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the Porter Creek Community Association.
- A mining company with active quartz claims that overlap the proposed park boundary has applied for approval to conduct Class 1 activities. The City of Whitehorse is aware of the proposal and is looking into whether it would meet the City's zoning requirements. The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources' decision as to whether or not to approve this Class 1 is pending.

Background:

- The area is located within the City of Whitehorse boundary. The Government of Yukon, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation have land within the proposed area.
- The City of Whitehorse has formally adopted Whitehorse 2040 as the City's new Official Community Plan. Whitehorse 2040 details the proposed boundaries for Chasàn Chuà/McIntyre Creek Park.
- Additional interests in this area include mining claim holders, gravel extraction and other commercial and institutional land tenures, including Icy Waters and Yukon University.

Session Briefing Note

McIntyre Creek Park Planning

Environment

Existing authorizations are not directly impacted by the mineral staking withdrawal or the internal administrative reserve.

- The next step will be for Parks Canada, City of Whitehorse, and Yukon government staff to arrange a meeting with Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Ta'an Kwach'an Council to provide an overview of opportunities to collaborate.
- If the City of Whitehorse, partner governments and organizations determine that YG and/or Parks Canada support is desirable, Department of Environment officials can lead the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with City staff to describe roles, responsibilities, and the path forward to plan for the future of McIntyre Creek Park.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

2023-10-17

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

#76
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon continues [to develop](#) a new regulation for the construction, operation and decommissioning of resource roads in the Yukon.
- The resource roads regulation will give clarity about how we access resource roads in the backcountry and will provide consistent rules for permit-holders under the new regime.
- We continue to work with First Nations and industry as we [complete](#) the regulation and progress towards implementation.

Additional response:

- Feedback from the public, stakeholders and First Nations has informed the content and implementation of the regulation.
- The regulation will include planning and controlling how resource roads are accessed. It will also incorporate objectives for building, operating and decommissioning roads.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Access management for resource industries has been a challenge for many years in the Yukon because of a lack of regulatory tools for resource roads.

Background:

- A land use permit issued under the *Land Use Regulation* is the only current regulatory tool for roads developed to access resources. A land use permit regulates road construction, but does not regulate the use, maintenance or decommissioning of roads.

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

#76
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

- Longstanding challenges associated with resource roads in the Yukon include:
 - ensuring resource roads are decommissioned at the end of service life to prevent permanent public access to the hinterland; and
 - managing access for multiple and varied users on permitted roads.
- The proposed resource roads regulation will provide the Government of Yukon with new regulatory tools and clarify permit holder responsibilities related to road construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
- The Government of Yukon completed an initial 60-day public engagement and First Nations consultation in July 2018, which included a two-day workshop with First Nations and industry. A second round of public engagement and First Nation consultation occurred from March to May 2023.
- Active discussions continue to take place with interested Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous governments, Renewable Resources Councils and industry groups.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is consulting with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments on the draft regulation and engaging with the public and industry.
- [Recent letters from First Nations noting concerns with the draft regulation are leading to further conversations.](#)
- In 2021, amendments were made to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* that focused on providing authority for the resource roads regulation to be enacted and administered.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 16, 2023

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 4, 2023
Last Updated: October 4, 2023
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TOC

Session Briefing Note

Managing Unauthorized Occupancies

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is aware of cabins, docks and other structures built without authorization in the Yukon's wilderness areas.
- Regulation of unauthorized occupancy is important for Yukoners' safety, environmental health, and to preserve the respectful use of the land.
- We are modernizing our land legislation and creating a strong framework to give us the tools needed to manage land use in Yukon wilderness areas.

Additional response:

- We continue to address unauthorized structures on public land.
 - Illegal occupancies create negative impacts on First Nations rights and title, alienate other users from using public land, strain emergency services during fires or floods, and often lead to other illegal activities such as cutting trees or creating unauthorized roads and trails.
 - Unauthorized occupancies impact the Yukon's wilderness and create liabilities for Yukon citizens and governments.
-

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest due to media attention of unauthorized cabins at Ensley Creek and in Carcross/Tagish Traditional Territory.

Session Briefing Note

Managing Unauthorized Occupancies

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch is aware of nearly 500 documented unauthorized occupancies across the Yukon that have infrastructure including cabins, fuel storage and other structures. There are likely additional, undocumented sites.
- Addressing unauthorized occupancies is prioritized based on risk and available resources. High-profile occupancies, such as those at Ensley Creek, may encourage additional occupancies if not actioned in a timely fashion.
- Education and seeking voluntary compliance are the first approaches when dealing with unauthorized occupancies.
- Enforcement is a necessary response when there is no voluntary compliance. Enforcement measures protect public land, maintain the public's ability to access land, and address risks to human safety and environmental damage.
- The Government of Yukon works proactively with First Nations and municipalities regarding structures built on public land.

Approved by:



August 29, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Our government supports this affordable housing project through a letter of intent in December of 2022, committing to provide the Northern Community Land Trust Society (NCLTS) with a parcel of land in the Whistle Bend subdivision in Whitehorse.
- The Society is proposing to develop a 32-unit affordable homeownership option in the coming years.
- Yukon Housing Corporation is currently working with the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Community Services and the Department of Justice to ensure the model being proposed for ongoing affordability will be effective.

Additional response:

- Our government heard from the Northern Community Land Trust Society during the October 2021 Housing Summit. Our support for this project demonstrates our commitment to supporting innovative, made-in-Yukon solutions to meet our housing needs.
- We know from the recent Office of the Auditor General's report that addressing Yukon's housing needs will require us to adopt innovative approaches that leverage the strength of partnerships.

Context:

- Mandate Commitment: Supporting the community land trust to advance its project in Whitehorse.

Background:

- The Northern Community Land Trust Society is a Whitehorse based non-profit organization that aims to build affordable housing through a land-trust model in the territory.
- A Community Land Trust (CLT) is a model where the land is held in trust, protecting the affordability of the home by allowing the owner to resell at prices that can increase over time but only at the rate of inflation.
 - Model success relies on an original grant of land and a non-profit approach to construction.
- The Society is committed to providing an opportunity for households earning less than 80 per cent of the Yukon median income to enter home ownership and over time to build equity.
- NCLT intends to use restrictive covenants on title, limiting the increase in resale value of the homes to the rate of inflation, to maintain long term affordability.
- A March 2022 legal review of the proposed Community Land Trust Model found it would not be legally viable under the *Yukon Condominium Act*, which states that a leasehold condominium can only be created on parcels of land owned by a public authority. NCLT's plan has since been amended to reflect this concern by proposing the use of Restrictive Covenants to control the resale value of the home. Work continues with respect to the enforceability of restrictive covenants under existing legislature.
- A parcel of land is being held in Whistle Bend until 2025 and will be transferred for a nominal fee of \$1 once NCLTS has met the conditions in the letter of intent issued in December 2022.
 - The appraised market value of the land is \$1.2M.

Approved by:



Justin Ferbey
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

September 1, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Beaver River Land Use Plan Update** Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun to advance land use planning in their Traditional Territory, including the Beaver River watershed.
- Work is continuing to advance on the Beaver River Land Use Plan, which will support regional planning in the area.
- The Government of Yukon recognizes the unique challenges that have faced the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun these past few months, including the wildfire evacuation, which have affected timelines.

Additional response:

- The Beaver River Land Use Plan would support the 2018 agreement between the Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun to enable the construction of a tote road once planning is complete.
- The information we gathered during three stages of public and stakeholder consultation is informing the development of the draft Beaver River Land Use Plan, which we aim to complete in [late 2024](#), [early 2025](#).

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Beaver River Land Use Plan work is advancing slowly and there may be questions regarding its status and when it will be complete.

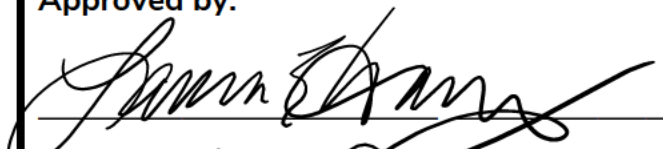
Background:

- The Beaver River land use planning process is not an Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 11 sub-regional planning process. Rather, it comes out of the 2018

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Beaver River Land Use Plan Update** Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment

Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Government of Yukon, which supports the proposed ATAC tote Road.

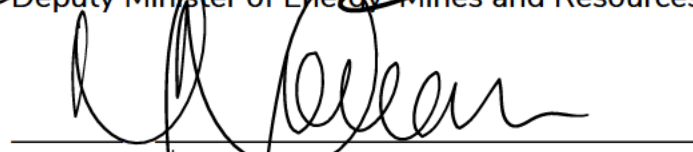
- The Agreement states that a land use plan must be finalized before any road construction occurs.
- The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun has indicated they would consider including the Beaver River Land Use Plan in a broader Chapter 11 regional land use plan process.
- The Government of Yukon is working with First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun to update the joint work plan to reflect current timelines. The public website will be updated once revisions to the work plan are finalized.
- ATAC Resources Ltd. has recently sold many of its mineral holdings in the Yukon to Hecla Mining, including its Rackla Gold and Connaught projects.
- On March 15, 2021, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun petitioned the Yukon Supreme Court to set aside the Government of Yukon's issuance of a Decision Document for a proposed exploration project in the Beaver River Watershed in part due to the ongoing Beaver River Land Use Planning process.
- On January 31, 2023, the court referred the matter back to the Government of Yukon for consideration. The Government of Yukon has appealed the Supreme Court decision in the Metallic Minerals case (EMR BN #90).
- The March 2023 declaration of a State of Emergency by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the evacuation of Mayo due to wildfire may affect the timing of the Beaver River planning process.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-10-04

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Environment

2023-10-04

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Local Area Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We are working with First Nations governments and Yukon communities to create local area plans and zoning regulations that reflect local contexts, guide development and help to resolve competing land uses.
- We are currently working with First Nations governments on local area plans for the Alaska Highway West and Łu Zil Män (Sloo-Zill-Mun, or Fish Lake) areas.
- We are also creating and updating zoning regulations, such as engaging with Golden Horn residents on potential zoning changes for more housing development.

Additional response:

- We worked in partnership with Teslin Tlingit Council to create zoning for the Lone Tree residential development near Teslin to provide a total of 40 new residential lots.
- It is important to understand and reflect local contexts in the development of local areas plans. We value the voices and ideas of each community.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Community members regularly seek updates on the status of community planning processes.

Background:

- Local area plans are policy documents developed with First Nations and communities. Steering committees typically lead local area plan development.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023**Local Area Planning****Energy, Mines and Resources**

- The policies and land use designations in a local area plan are implemented through area development (or zoning) regulations.
- A steering committee is guiding the preparation of the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan. The Committee will be overseeing the development and release of a draft plan by the Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation in 2023. Public engagement on the draft plan is expected to take place this winter.
- The Government of Yukon and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations are planning on co-hosting public engagement events this [winter](#) to gather input on the Alaska Highway West Background Report. Following engagement, the report will be made available to the public.
- The departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment are working together to advance planning for the proposed McIntyre Creek Park. (See BN #75)
- For the Lone Tree development project near Teslin, the Government of Yukon established zoning for 23 lots to be released for private tenure. An additional 17 lots will be leased by Teslin Tlingit Council.

Approved by:

November 10, 2023

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We are developing a framework of tools for exploration and mining in planned and zoned communities and to clarify land uses and help avoid potential conflicts.
- We worked with communities to develop a draft framework and we are finalizing the framework based on feedback received.
- Concurrently, we are working with municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and affected communities to help resolve land use conflicts when they occur.

Additional response:

- Mineral staking is prohibited in the City of Dawson and most of the City of Whitehorse. There are, however, existing mineral claims in these municipalities.
- Exploration and mining activities within community boundaries are subject to mineral development and environmental laws, official community plans, local area plans and zoning regulations.
- Areas without planning or zoning may require solutions to address land use conflicts.
- Part of the work to develop successor resource legislation is to address some of these issues through legislative change. (See BN #8)

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and Resources

-
- Public engagement and Yukon First Nations consultation on the draft framework concluded in November 2022.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Communities have expressed concern over the conflicts inherent in mineral development within community boundaries.
- There may be questions about the Gladiator Metals Ltd. activity areas near Cowley Creek, just outside of Whitehorse. (See BN #2)
- There is currently a lawsuit that has been brought against the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon by a placer claim holder, alleging a regulatory taking of their placer claims within the City of Dawson.

Background:

- Although there are pre-existing placer claims within some municipalities, the *Placer Mining Act* does not allow new placer claims within any of the Yukon's eight incorporated municipalities, including Dawson and Whitehorse.
- In summer 2022, the Government of Yukon extended a prohibition order for the City of Whitehorse until July 2027, restricting quartz mineral staking within most areas.
- A quartz claim staking prohibition order is in place for the City of Dawson until December 2023. We are working closely with the City to provide a renewed quartz staking prohibition within its municipal boundary.
- Several unincorporated communities have requested prohibitions in areas zoned for non-industrial use under their local area plans.
- The City of Dawson has a number of active mining operations that may conflict with community development interests. The municipality is making its best efforts to enable these operations and the Government of Yukon is providing support as required.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and Resources

- Gladiator Metals has a Class 1 exploration project near Cowley Creek just outside of Whitehorse. A complaint was submitted to the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch about the Gladiator Metals drill site and a Natural Resource Officer subsequently inspected the site. Charges were laid under the Quartz Mining Act to which the proponent plead guilty. (See BN #2)

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 16, 2023Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Peel Implementation and Compensation

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan is well underway, including managing permanent and temporary staking prohibitions within conservation areas identified in the plan.
- Mineral projects that are proposed on existing claims only proceed if they meet the requirements of the Plan as well as Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes.
- We continue to meet regularly with our First Nations partners from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Gwich'in Tribal Council to implement the plan.

Additional response:

- We are working with our First Nations partners on protecting conservation areas in the plan. Towards this goal, more than 6500 out of almost 9000 mineral claims in the Peel have either lapsed or been relinquished in exchange for non-monetary compensation.
- We worked with our partners to include the Peel region's special management areas as interim protected areas under a federal conservation areas accounting initiative.
- We are working collaboratively with our First Nations partners through the Peel Plan Implementation Committee to clarify the Peel Plan recommendations of adequate baseline data required for evaluating proposed projects.

Session Briefing Note

Peel Implementation and Compensation

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There has been some recent media coverage about implementation challenges of approved regional plans.

Background:

- Three types of conservation areas in the Peel Watershed Region have been withdrawn from staking under the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act*. Special Management Areas have been withdrawn indefinitely and represent 55 per cent of the region. Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Areas-Boreal Caribou are withdrawn until January 1, 2030, representing 28 per cent of the region.
- We provide opportunities for relinquishment of mineral claims for eligible claims holders in the designated Peel conservation areas in exchange of non-financial incentives, such as a period of relief from assessment on mineral claims in other regions of the territory. (See BN #87).
- In 2021, Silver 47 Exploration Corp submitted a proposal for a Class 3 quartz exploration program on their Michelle Creek property, overlapping several Landscape Management Units within the Peel Watershed region. (See BN #91).
- Other implementation work includes working with the Government of Canada on a potential national Park in the area. (See ENV BN# 92, Peel Land Use Plan Implementation)

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 5, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Peel Land Use Planning Implementation** Environment

Recommended response:

- We are working with our First Nation partners, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- Our governments have been working together to designate the Plan's Special Management Areas as protected areas under legislation. We anticipate that the designations will be announced this year.
- After designation is complete, management planning processes will get underway. We will co-develop the management direction for achieving the vision for the park with our First Nation partners – this will also include public consultation.

Additional response:

- Other implementation activities include the establishment of two hydrometric stations on the Snake and Wind Rivers. These stations monitor water levels and flow and can be accessed by the public in real time. Accessible water data increases safety of river users and is valuable for research.
- We have also produced mapping products that are publicly available, which used satellite imagery to map wetlands and areas of existing disturbance. These products can be used to inform future land management.

Third response:

- Two areas within the Peel Watershed have been nominated by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute to be National Historic Sites.

Session Briefing Note**Peel Land Use Planning Implementation** Environment

These are areas of great cultural importance to the Tetl'it Gwich'in.
These nominations are supported by all five parties to the Peel Plan.

- The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada will determine whether to recommend these sites as designated sites to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- We look forward to continued collaborative work with our First Nations partners to implement the Peel Plan.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The public continues to show interest in the implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

Background:

- The Peel Plan Implementation Committee consists of representatives from all five governments who are signatories to the Peel Plan and are responsible for overseeing the Plan's implementation.
- The two areas nominated to be National Historic Sites are Tshuu tr'adaojlich'uu and Teetl'it njik. They are culturally significant locations along the Peel River.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

2023.09.01

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Shallow Bay Zoning Amendments

#83
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The process to create new Shallow Bay zoning has been put on hold due to flooding impacts on properties in the Shallow Bay area and concerns brought forward by Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
- Flood risk mapping is expected in early 2024 and will be used to update the recommended zoning. It is important that regulations address development concerns in high flood risk areas.
- The Government of Yukon will not be approving applications by property owners to subdivide their lots until the flood risk mapping is complete.

Additional response:

- The What We Heard report summarizing the feedback from the Shallow Bay public engagement is available online.
- Once flood risk mapping is available, we will work with the zoning committee and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council officials to resolve some of the challenging land use issues raised by community members in response to the proposed zoning.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Community members may have questions about the Shallow Bay zoning process.

Background:

- In May 2018, the Government of Yukon and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) established the Shallow Bay Zoning Committee to assist with the development of draft zoning regulations for the area. The committee includes representation from property owners and the First Nation.

Session Briefing Note

Shallow Bay Zoning Amendments

#83
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

- The committee reached consensus on proposed new zoning in December 2020. Input on the zoning was received from the public and TKC citizens. A What We Heard was made available.

Approved by:



August 29, 2023

A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Yukon Forum –
Regional Planning**Energy, Mines, and Resources
and Environment

Recommended response:

- We remain committed to the goals and priorities set out by the Yukon Forum Regional Land Use Planning Working Group to advance land use planning in a way that honors the Final Agreements.
- The working group ensures the success of planning commissions and encourages new plans to begin.
- We continue to work with the working group, First Nations and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council to improve regional land use planning and to advocate for federal funding for implementation.

Additional response:

- We support the Yukon Forum's priorities and the efforts to build strong government-to-government relations and collaboration between parties.
- The Government of Canada, Council of Yukon First Nations and Government of Yukon are undertaking the 2024 Umbrella Final Agreement funding review.

Context — this may be an issue because:

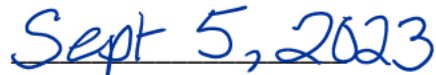
- Regional planning continues to be raised as a priority for First Nations, industry and the public.
- Stable funding for Chapter 11 processes continues to be a concern for First Nations.

Background:

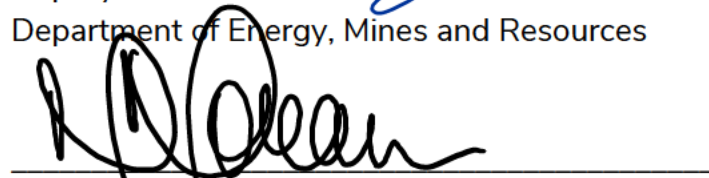
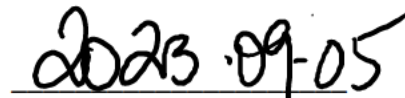
- The Yukon Forum is a quarterly meeting that takes place between leaders of Yukon First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Government of Yukon, with the goal of building strong government-to-government relations.

Session Briefing Note**Yukon Forum –
Regional Planning****Energy, Mines, and Resources
and Environment**

- In accordance with the Yukon Forum's Joint Priority Action Plan, which identifies Chapter 11 land use planning as a priority, Yukon Forum leaders developed a strategic approach to restart and improve regional land use planning in the Yukon.
- The approach entails working together to implement four priority objectives:
 1. Set up commissions for success by examining the roles of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, Planning Commissions and the Parties; review and agree on a broadly applicable process for regional land use planning; and review the information requirements of regional land use planning.
 2. Support several land use planning processes concurrently inside and outside of Chapter 11.
 3. Conduct a legislative review of First Nations' and Government of Yukon laws.
 4. Lead the 2019-2020 review of funding adequacy for regional land use planning under Chapter 11.

Approved by:Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Coffee Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- In March 2022, the governments of Yukon and Canada accepted the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation that the Coffee Gold project proceed.
- The Government of Yukon is anticipating a quartz mining licence application from Coffee Gold site owner Newmont later this year.
- Newmont must also obtain a water licence from the Yukon Water Board and receive required federal approvals.

Additional response:

- We recognize that if the Coffee Gold mine advances, it will provide many jobs and opportunities for Yukoners over its projected operation and closure phases.
- We continue to actively consult with affected First Nations on the project and remain committed to ensuring the mine is developed and operated in a sustainable manner, based on strong environmental and social principles and performance.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Coffee Gold generates broad interest as it progresses closer to mine development and eventual operations.

Background:

- The Coffee Gold Mine is located approximately 130 kilometres south of Dawson City.
- The project is an open pit and heap leach gold mine with a 30-month construction period followed by a 10-year operation phase and an 11-year closure phase.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Coffee Gold Mine**Energy, Mines and Resources

- The access road to the project is proposed to be a 214-kilometre 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.
- The Government of Yukon, Transport Canada and Natural Resources Canada issued a joint Decision Document on March 3, 2022. This Decision Document accepted all terms and conditions in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's Final Screening Report.
- The Decision Document included several monitoring requirements, and socio-economic terms and conditions that fall outside of the typical regulatory authorizations. The Government of Yukon is developing an approach to address all the recommendations.
- The Government of Yukon is consulting with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, and White River First Nation and engaging with Newmont on the upcoming regulatory applications for the Quartz Mining Licence and authorizations for the proposed access road.
- Newmont has agreements with all affected First Nations on the project and is actively engaging with First Nations on regulatory application materials.
- The company continues to explore the Coffee Gold property to expand its resource.

Approved by:

A/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 30, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note Compensation for Mineral Claims

Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon works on a case-by-case basis with mineral claim holders to consider compensation requests.
- In some cases, we provide opportunities for eligible claim holders to relinquish their mineral claims in exchange for non-monetary benefits, such as a period of relief from annual requirements to work or provide payment on mineral claims in other regions of the territory.
- The Steering Committee for the development of new minerals legislation is considering how to incorporate clear and fair compensation rules for claims impacted by changes in allowable land use. (See BN #8)

Additional response:

- Mineral activities in areas with new or approved land use plans and in municipalities must comply with all legislation, land use plans and other requirements for that area.
- No expropriations of placer or quartz mining claims have resulted from implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan. As regional land use planning in other regions advances, we will be able to offer more clarity as to where development is and is not permitted and to what degree.
- We have completed public consultation on the draft Mineral Staking and Development Framework for Planned and Zoned Communities and are now developing the final framework based on feedback to reduce conflict and provide guidance for planners and regulators within community boundaries.

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The mining and exploration sector is interested in the approach to compensation for mineral claimholders when land use planning, regulatory decisions, changes to municipal boundaries or other initiatives affect its interests.

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources has received compensation requests from resource rights holders who feel the regulatory process has slowed or denied their ability to work their claims.
- At times, non-monetary compensation has been provided for mineral claims affected by federally and territorially imposed changes to land use (e.g., Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan). (See BN #82)

Claims within Municipalities

- There is a quartz mineral staking prohibition order in place until December 2023 for the municipal boundary of the City of Dawson, and the Government of Yukon is consulting on an extension of the prohibition. A similar quartz mineral staking prohibition order is in place until July 2027 for most of the City of Whitehorse, aligning with the Official Community Plan.
- The *Placer Mining Act* prohibits staking of mineral claims within municipal boundaries and the land immediately surrounding a dwelling. Due to the expansion of the municipal boundaries, there are existing placer claims within some municipal boundaries, notably the City of Dawson.
- The Department of Community Services is working with the City of Dawson to plan for land development. In certain areas, conflicts have arisen due to active placer claims in future development areas.

Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 31, 2023

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 17, 2023
Last updated:

Session Briefing Note

Critical Minerals

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response

- In 2021, the Government of Canada released a list of 31 critical minerals that are essential to Canada's economic security and transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Through our 2021 Yukon Critical Minerals Inventory, we understand the Yukon has known deposits for nine critical minerals and documented occurrences for 16 critical minerals.
- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, we updated the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals as the primary exploration goal.

Additional response

- We are working with Natural Resources Canada on the implementation of Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and considering other made-in-Yukon solutions to advance critical minerals opportunities in the territory.
- In 2022, the Yukon saw exploration activity for the following critical minerals: copper, zinc, tungsten, nickel, cobalt, platinum group metals, and rare earth elements.
- Starting in the 2022/23 fiscal year, the Government of Canada is investing \$3.8 billion over eight years to implement the Critical Mineral Strategy, with funding available to support critical metals infrastructure, geoscience research, and an exploration tax credit.

Session Briefing Note Critical Minerals

Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Recent geopolitical tensions have increased the focus on securing domestic supply chains for critical minerals. Questions may be raised on whether the development of critical minerals is prioritized in the Yukon.
-

Background:

- Critical minerals are important for economic prosperity and supplies are vulnerable to disruption due to geopolitical events.
- In 2021, Canada released a list of 31 critical minerals, of which the Yukon has deposits for nine, including copper (electrical transmission), zinc (anode in material batteries), tungsten (strengthening metals), nickel (metal coatings), cobalt (batteries), platinum group metals (catalytic agents), molybdenum (alloy steel), antimony (batteries) and tin (protective metal coatings).
- The Yukon's endowment of critical minerals represents both economic opportunities and an opportunity to contribute to renewable energy/green economy in Canada.
- The federal government's budget commitments include \$103.4 million to promote sustainable mining and extraction processing that targets benefit sharing with Indigenous groups. At least \$25 million of this amount will be dedicated to early engagement and capacity building.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 28, 2023

Date

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Eagle Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Victoria Gold continues to operate its open pit, heap leach gold mine in the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. Many Yukoners are employed at the mine and many Yukon companies are providing contract services to the mine.
- The Government of Yukon is completing its review of the 2022 Reclamation and Closure Plan and updating the required financial security for the Eagle Gold Mine. The Government of Yukon currently holds \$68.7 million [for the site](#).

Additional response:

- Victoria Gold pleaded guilty on September 28, [2023](#) to contraventions of its water licence conditions [in 2021 and 2022](#), namely failure to maintain minimum water storage requirements and a cyanide process solution spill on site. The total fine for the infractions was \$95,000.
- [The most recent inspection of the site on October 18, 2023 identified issues related to water management requirements. As this is part of an ongoing investigation, I will not be commenting further at this time.](#)
- [We are responsible for ensuring that mining is conducted in an environmentally responsible manner in accordance with regulatory authorizations.](#) Natural Resource Officers continue to regularly [inspect](#) this site to ensure the company complies with its licence terms and conditions.
- [The Government of Yukon conducted a review of Victoria Gold's cyanide management and heap leach facility operations on site and the company is implementing recommendations from that review. The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is engaged regarding progress.](#)

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Eagle Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Victoria Gold's [2022](#) court filing regarding the Yukon Water Board's security determination and charges filed by the Government of Yukon regarding water management have drawn media attention. [The court process is ongoing.](#)
- There have been cyanide spills ([six during 2021 and 2022](#)) on site.

Background:

- The Eagle Gold Mine is a large conventional open pit and heap leach gold operation located in north-central Yukon within the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Traditional Territory. Victoria Gold's [Eagle mine is in its 3rd year of commercial production of an approximate 9 year mine life](#).
- Victoria Gold and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun developed and implemented a Comprehensive Cooperation and Benefits Agreement in 2011.
- The "Eagle Gold Mine Extension Project" has been submitted to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board Executive Committee. The Project Proposal Guidelines were issued to Victoria Gold in March 2023, and they have 24 months from the issued date to respond (Phase 3 of the pre-submission engagement process).
- The Extension Project proposes to extend the mine life to 15 years, and it includes development of a secondary heap leach facility, new Olive Deposit open pits, a new waste rock storage area and a production rate increase from 29,500 tonnes of ore per day to 50,000 tonnes of ore per day.
- Water management at the Eagle Gold mine has been of concern in that desired available storage has been exceeded upon inspection.

[Infractions in 2021 and 2022 leading to guilty pleas:](#)

- Victoria Gold was charged by Energy, Mines and Resources' Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch and pled guilty to unauthorized water transfers [made in 2021 and 2022](#).
- Victoria Gold paid \$95,000 in fines to these charges in [September 2023](#).

[Other infractions in 2022 and 2023:](#)

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Eagle Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and Resources

- As a result of water-related infractions between October 2, 2022 and October 23, 2023, in consultation with Department of Justice, a total of five charges have been sent for review by Justice for consideration of prosecution.
- Water-related compliance issues are noted in the publicly available reports.

Security

- The Government of Yukon currently holds \$68,662,300 in financial security for the Eagle Gold mine. Energy, Mines and Resources is revising the required security determination based on the most recent update to the Reclamation and Closure Plan.
- Energy, Mines and Resources and the Yukon Water Board are conducting a second pilot project to review the 2022 Reclamation and Closure Plan and Security costing for the Eagle Gold mine. Determinations have not yet been made.
- The Yukon Water Board issued a final security determination (based on the 2020 Reclamation and Closure Plan) for \$104,903,628 to be furnished no later than September 15, 2022. On August 1, 2022, Victoria Gold sought leave to appeal the Yukon Water Board's decision on security to the Yukon Supreme Court.
- Victoria Gold was granted a stay by the Yukon Supreme Court and is not required to furnish the remaining Yukon Water Board security until 30 days following a decision on the appeal. [The Court recently noted that the timeline for this decision is approximately April 2024.](#)

Evacuations this summer

- Victoria Gold was evacuated twice (July and August) due to the threat of wildland fire. [\(See BN #96\)](#)
- The evacuations did not disrupt environmental protection measures at the site.

Most recent inspection report:

- The recent inspection of the Eagle Gold mine on October 18, 2023 found the operator had failed to maintain the site's minimum water storage requirements. This has been a recurring issue at the mine site

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Eagle Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and Resources

- There is an ongoing investigation on site. The Government of Yukon does not comment on ongoing investigations.
- Inspection reports are published on the Yukon Water Board's Waterline website.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 16, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023Energy, Mines and
Resources

Metallic Minerals

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has decided to appeal the Yukon Supreme Court decision in the Metallic Minerals case because the case raises significant legal issues beyond this one project.
- As this case is before the courts, we will not be commenting on it any further at this time.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to implementing the Final and Self-government Agreements and to conducting meaningful consultation with Indigenous governments and groups.
- We continue to consult with First Nations on every project application that may impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights and apply mitigations both in the decision documents and in any future mining land use approvals.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the Metallic Minerals court case and implications for First Nations and project proponents.

Background:

- In 2020, Metallic Minerals applied for a Class 3 exploration permit for the LOTR project, in the Beaver River area north of Keno City. The project proposal received a “proceed with terms and conditions” recommendation from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.
- The Government of Yukon consulted the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) on the potential impacts of the project. The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun expressed that the project should not proceed until the Beaver River Land Use Plan is complete.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023Energy, Mines and
Resources

Metallic Minerals

- In response to the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun's concerns, the Government of Yukon added several terms and conditions and issued a decision document in February 2021 to allow the project to proceed.
- On March 15, 2022, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun filed a petition against the Government of Yukon in the Yukon Supreme Court in response to the Government of Yukon issuing the decision document for the project.
- As a result of the petition, reviewing the decision, Yukon agreed to not continue to the regulatory (permitting) process for this application, until the case was concluded.
- The petition references a 2018 intergovernmental agreement between the Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun that contains a commitment to complete a sub-regional land use plan for the Beaver River watershed. (EMR BN #79)
- The judicial review was heard in June 2022 and the decision of the Supreme Court of Yukon was released on January 31, 2023. The Court overturned the Government of Yukon's issuance of the decision document for the Metallic Minerals project, and referred the matter back to the Government of Yukon to reengage in consultation to the depth requested by FNNND. The Government of Yukon filed an appeal with the Yukon Court of Appeal on March 1, 2023.
- The LOTR project consists of 52 claims located approximately 64 km from Keno City and 103 km from Mayo within the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

Approved by:

August 31, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Michelle Creek Project

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon uses the environmental and socio-economic assessments of projects to make decisions on whether projects should proceed and under what terms and conditions.
- In the case of the proposed Michelle Project, a judicial review is the only option available to review and clarify an evaluation report from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.
- The Government of Yukon identified several significant flaws in the evaluation report that make it challenging to draw a well-informed conclusion about the potential effects of the project.

Additional response:

- We are committed to implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan and advancing work on other regional land use plans.
- This work honours the Final Agreements of Yukon First Nations, helps reduce land use conflicts, and provides more certainty for industry.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on the judicial review announced in May 2023 and how Regional Land Use Plans are interpreted and applied during environmental and socio-economic assessments of mineral exploration projects in planned areas.

Background:

- The proposed Michelle Creek project is a mineral exploration project on claims within the Peel Watershed region. The claims pre-exist the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan that was approved in August 2019. The Class 3 quartz project is the first

Session Briefing Note Michelle Creek Project

Energy, Mines and
Resources

mineral project proposed in an area with an approved regional land use plan that has undergone a review by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.

- The Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan respects existing mineral claims and leases and provides direction about managing land and resources in the Peel River watershed. (See BN #82)
- The proposed mineral exploration project straddles Landscape Management Units that are designated for both conservation and development, increasing the complexity of analysis.
- During the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board assessment for the Michelle project, two affected First Nations submitted an opinion that the proposed project did not conform to the approved regional land use plan, whereas the Yukon Land Use Planning Council concluded through its own analysis that it did conform.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is reviewing the position of the First Nations and looking closely at potential precedents for how regional land use plans are interpreted and applied to proposed projects in planned areas.
- The Michelle Creek project is the first time that the Government of Yukon has requested a judicial review of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation for a project.

Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 31, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

EMR #92 / ENV #55

Fall 2023

Placer Mining in Wetlands

Energy, Mines and Resources
And Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has released *A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands* to guide how we make decisions on wetland use and conservation. (See ENV BN #3)
- The policy provides a publicly available framework to guide the Government of Yukon land and water regulators and may also assist boards and industry in the planning, assessment and permitting of development and reclamation projects.
- An interim approach for placer mining in the Indian River area is currently in place. This approach protects the most sensitive areas and requires a wetland reclamation plan for Class 4 placer mines.
- With the recent release of the wetland stewardship policy and the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan on the horizon, we will be evaluating the need for an interim approach to the Indian River area following the signing of a final land use plan that encompasses that region.
- We are planning the next steps in relation to implementation actions of the policy, many of which involve working in partnership with First Nations, industry and environmental non-governmental organizations.

Additional response:

- In conjunction with other planning tools, like regional land use plans, we aim to provide certainty to the industry as they design their operating and reclamation plans in wetland areas.
- Our regulators work with the industry to clarify reclamation requirements, support the design of effective wetland reclamation plans, and review submissions as part of mine authorization processes.

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EMR #92 / ENV #55

Fall 2023

Placer Mining in Wetlands Energy, Mines and Resources And Environment

- The Yukon Water Board has drafted wetland information guidelines for placer mining applications based on the feedback from the board's public interest hearing on placer mining in wetlands held in 2020.

Third response:

- We recognize the topic of carbon storage and release in the Yukon's wetlands is of high public interest.
- Peat-forming wetlands, such as bogs and fens, store large quantities of soil carbon. This carbon can be vulnerable to release when these types of wetlands are disturbed by human activities or climate change.
- To help fill knowledge gaps on the role of carbon sinks in northern wetlands and to continue to improve our reclamation practices, we have initiated a multi-party study designed to explore the extent of carbon release and potential for carbon sink restoration following placer mining.
- We look forward to working with our partners, including First Nations, industry and environmental organizations, to come together to coordinate additional wetland research.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Wetlands are at the forefront of public discussion due to increasing development pressure from placer mining, calls for wetlands protection and the recent announcement of *A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands*.

Background:


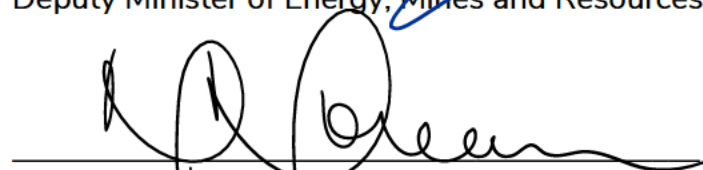
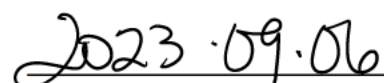
- Development of the wetlands stewardship policy began in late 2017 using a collaborative roundtable partnership approach.
- The *Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands* was formally launched on January 10, 2023.

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EMR #92 / ENV #55**Fall 2023**

Placer Mining in Wetlands Energy, Mines and Resources And Environment

- In response to land use planning and development assessment needs around wetlands, the Yukon government previously completed regional-scale wetland mapping for the Peel Watershed planning region and broad-scale mapping in the Beaver River, Mayo/McQuesten and Indian River watersheds.
- We are developing a revised wetland classification system, new wetland mapping standards, Yukon-specific methods for evaluating wetland benefits and functions, and improving our understanding of open-water wetland reclamation effectiveness.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Date approved
Deputy Minister of Environment
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Project Approval Timelines

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Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Timelines for assessment and regulatory processes for mining and exploration projects reflect the volume and complexity of projects managed by the Government of Yukon and our commitment to meaningfully consult affected First Nations and support a sustainable industry that respects all Yukoners.
- The mining and exploration industry in the Yukon remains robust. Already more claims have been staked in 2023 than all of 2022, and the number of notifications, Decision Documents and permits issued by the Mineral Resources Branch remains at a steady, high volume.
- The Mineral Resources Branch engages in over 600 distinct consultations annually.

Additional Response:

- We continue to strive to improve the efficiency of our regulatory processes. We are engaging with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board and the Yukon Water Board to improve our systems and continue to develop new minerals legislation with Yukon First Nations.
- We support affected First Nations in project review discussions by seeking appropriate pathways to consult and taking the necessary time for dialogue; fulfilling this duty sometimes takes longer than the statutory timelines.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Industry may have questions on timelines for the issuance of permits.

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Project Approval Timelines

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Resources

Background:

- Mineral Resources Branch is the Decision Body for most mining and exploration projects assessed under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act, and as the regulator for exploration programs and major mines.
- Mineral Resources administers and manages mineral tenure and provides direct support to claimholders and operators.
- The Yukon Water Board has delegated authority to act as the Chief of Placer Land Use and the regulator for Class 4 placer projects and is responsible for issuing Class 4 placer permits. The duties of the Chief revert to Mineral Resources Branch upon issuance of the Water Licence and Class 4 Placer Mining Authorization.
- On occasion, as Mineral Resources Branch engaged in consultation, a few projects have taken months to conclude. There are, at times, issues that warrant significant discussion around potential impacts to rights and therefore longer periods of consultation are required before they are resolved.
- The following table includes the number of notifications, Decision Documents, and approvals that Mineral Resources Branch has issued, by year, since 2019:

	Number issued per year					Avg. # of days to issue
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (as of Aug 9)	
Placer Class 1 Notifications	126*	282	415	332	219	37
Quartz Class 1 Notifications	53*	130	128	82	78	32
Placer Class 3 and 4 – Decision Documents	68	55	50	62	22	53
Quartz Class 3 and 4 Decision Documents	15	20	19	16	2	61

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 18, 2023
Last Updated:

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Project Approval Timelines

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Quartz Mining Land Use Approvals	14	19	17	12	0	73
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* Class 1 exploration notifications were implemented after the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) vs. Yukon court decision in spring 2020. Prior, Class 1 notification was required only within the RRDC area and if projects overlapped with First Nation Settlement Land.

Approved by:



August 30, 2023

A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Sector Status and Supports

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon continues to attract interest from investors, explorers and miners due to the territory's mineral potential, identified resources and stability as a jurisdiction.
- Natural Resources Canada's Spring 2023 preliminary forecast for mineral exploration spending in the Yukon is \$145 million. \$163 million was spent on exploration in 2022.
- The reported placer gold production for 2022 was 82,388 crude ounces worth \$157.3 million. This is an increase from the 2021 production of 77,696 crude ounces worth \$139 million.
- Already in 2023, there are more quartz and placer claims that have been staked than in all of 2022.

Additional response:

- Year over year, the Yukon places very well in surveys such as the Fraser Institute's annual rankings. The territory ranked 20th in the world for desirable mining jurisdictions according to the Fraser Institute survey for 2022.
- We continue to fund exploration through the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program which leverages private sector funding at a ratio of more than 2:1 and is leading to many new discoveries and significant investments in our territory, including in critical minerals.
- We are also working with First Nations partners to develop new minerals legislation, one outcome of which will be increased certainty for industry on rules and processes that are better aligned with Final Agreements and best practices.

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Sector Status and Supports

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the health of the mineral and exploration sector in the Yukon, and what the Government of Yukon is doing to support the sector.
-

Background:

- Indicators of the general health of the quartz and placer mining sector include exploration expenditures, increases in mineral and metal production, new mineral claims staked, total number of existing claims, and strong commodity prices.

Yukon Mineral Exploration Program Funding

- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program provides part of the risk capital to support early-stage exploration for both hard rock and placer exploration projects.
- In 2023, \$1.4 million has been committed to support 44 exploration projects. This investment is expected to leverage an additional \$3.2 million in private sector spending on these projects.
- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program was recently updated to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals as the primary exploration goal.

Mineral Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditure Statistics

- Junior exploration companies conduct the majority of mineral exploration in the Yukon. Exploration activities contribute significantly to the Yukon's annual economic activity.
 - Companies with advanced exploration programs having the largest estimated exploration budgets (\$10 million and over) in 2023 are expected to be Banyan Gold Corp., Newmont, Fireweed Zinc, Western Copper and Gold, and Alexco Resource Corp (Hecla Mining).
 - In 2023, companies with medium-sized exploration programs (\$6 million to \$10 million) include Seabridge Gold Inc, Snowline Gold Corp, and Victoria Gold Corporation.
 - Approximately 47 companies reported smaller exploration programs (under \$6 million) for the 2023 season.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Sector Status and
Supports**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Placer and Quartz Production**

- In recent years, annual placer production has been approximately 80,000 ounces of gold.
- Increased quartz production was documented through 2022 with operations at Eagle Gold and Keno Hill mines continuing to expand within their licence limits.
- Natural Resources Canada valued quartz mineral and metal production in 2022 at approximately \$491 million. This is less than \$499 million in 2021, but more than previous years: \$458 million in 2020, \$157 million in 2019 and \$218 million in 2018.

Staking Activity —2022 and 2023 Comparison (January 1 – July 31)

- There have been 4,064 quartz claims staked between January 1 and July 3 2023, and 161,424 total quartz claims are in good standing. This is already more than in 2022, where there were 3,178 quartz claims staked.
- There have been 823 placer claims staked in between January 1 and July 3, 2023 and 29,245 total placer claims are in good standing. This is already more than in 2022, where there were 327 placer claims staked.

Approved by:


August 30, 2023

 A/Deputy Minister
 Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

 Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Securities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon requires financial security for all quartz mines, for most quartz exploration projects and certain placer projects.
- We review security for quartz mines at least every two years, and once per year for quartz exploration projects. We also complete a full review during quartz licence amendments or renewals of quartz licences.
- We calculate securities based on the anticipated cost for reclaiming and closing the site, should it be necessary. The Government of Yukon currently holds a total of \$161 million in financial security for quartz mines and mineral exploration projects.

Additional response:

- We are implementing the reclamation and closure plan for the abandoned Minto mine in consultation with Selkirk First Nation and using the security we currently hold.
- The Minto mine is the first time we have utilized a surety bond to respond to an abandoned mine. Surety bonds are an acceptable form of security under our current regulations.
- Forms and types of security are areas of focus in our work to develop new mining legislation in partnership with First Nations, and we will use the experiences gained at Minto to inform that work.

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Securities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been raised about the Yukon's financial security process and outcomes for major quartz mines. This is of particular interest since Minto Metals Corporation abandoned the Minto Mine in spring 2023. (See BN #6)

Background

Government of Yukon Actions

- We are exploring legislative options to best ensure adequate security and improve reclamation and closure planning as part of developing new minerals legislation. (See BN #8)
- Energy, Mines and Resources is focused on improving financial security determination processes. We are currently reviewing the financial guidelines for quartz mining licences.
- Energy, Mines and Resources' Mineral Resources Branch is participating in a second collaborative pilot project with the Yukon Water Board to work towards better aligning the work of the two regulatory agencies in regards to securities.

Mine Reclamation and Closure

- The Government of Yukon reviews and approves a mine operator's security, and reclamation and closure plan before issuing a quartz mining licence and on a regular basis thereafter.
- Every year, mine operators must produce a report on progressive reclamation, results of monitoring programs and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Minto Mine

- Security for the Minto mine was increased between the 2018 assessment and the 2020 assessment due to changing site conditions. These conditions would require additional planning and resources prior to the implementation of the closure plan, particularly for the management of mine impacted water on site and uncertainty regarding waste rock relocation.

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Securities

Energy, Mines and
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-
- Based on a review of Minto's updated Reclamation and Closure plan, security for the Minto mine increased in 2020 and the Government of Yukon implemented a cash payment plan for the increased value in 2022.
 - The Government of Yukon is applying the lessons learned from the Wolverine Mine to Minto, from ensuring the owner was progressively remediating environmental liabilities, to acting immediately on its announcement that the mine was abandoned to ensure the environment was protected.

Financial Security for Quartz Mines

- Energy, Mines and Resources recently completed a security determination for the Keno Hill mine. A review for the Eagle Gold mine site is underway.
- The Government of Yukon holds approximately \$161 million in securities for quartz mining projects. This includes \$1.7 million held for Brewery Creek, \$80,000 for Carmacks Copper, \$68.7 million for Eagle Gold Mine, \$10.2 million for Keno Hill Silver District, \$75.2 million for Minto Mine and \$4.9 million held for Sä Dena Hes.
- Financial security for quartz mines is determined by both the Government of Yukon and Yukon Water Board. The Yukon Water Board determines required security under its own legislation.
- The Government of Yukon collects whichever security determination amount is higher between the Yukon Water Board and the Government of Yukon. The Government of Yukon is responsible for holding the financial security.

Financial Security for Quartz Exploration and Placer

- The Government of Yukon currently holds \$3.8 million in financial securities for quartz exploration and placer projects.
- The Yukon Water Board can require financial security for Class 4 placer mines.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Securities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:



August 30, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note**Victoria Gold Evacuations** Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon worked closely with Victoria Gold staff when wildfire threatened the Eagle Gold mine site this summer, prompting site evacuations from July 30 to 31 and August 4 to 6.
- During these two brief evacuations, over 300 workers were moved to nearby exploration camps at Mayo and Whitehorse. A skeleton crew of 15 workers remained on site to ensure critical functions, such as power generation, continued.
- Victoria Gold staff worked closely with emergency response resources and other government departmental staff to supply information and coordinate efforts to ensure public and staff safety was maintained.

Additional response:

- The company was able to remotely operate the mine's main systems, allowing staff to remain out of harm's way and continue safe operation of the gold extraction process.
- On site chemicals necessary for the mining process were secured against impacts from fire, ensuring that no public health risk would arise should fire enter the site.
- The transmission line to the site was de-energized prior to fire contacting it and the backup generators on site were effective and reliable during that period.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- We may be asked to elaborate on Energy, Mines and Resources' role in supporting wildfire management and human safety.

Session Briefing Note**Victoria Gold Evacuations** Energy, Mines and Resources

- Victoria Gold's Eagle Gold Mine near Mayo evacuated 360 people in August 2023, on two separate evacuation orders in the span of a week, which received media coverage.

Background:

- Since the water treatment plant on site was commissioned, water levels have returned to licensed levels. During the evacuations, water in the site storage pond and the events pond were both within permitted levels.
- Water quality in the site storage pond was determined to be sufficient to be used to support suppression efforts on site, as needed.
- Explosives were moved off site in advance of the evacuation, as an additional safety measure.
- The Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) requested a list and quantities of reagents found on site that may pose a risk to public health if containment failed in the event of a fire on site.
- Victoria Gold provided this information and the health risk was assessed. No additional measures were enacted by the CMOH after analyzing the situation and safety systems in place.
- We provided regular updates to the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) about activities on site, additional public health risk determinations and progress of the situation, to ensure coordination of efforts, and for assurance of FNNND citizen safety.

Approved by:

August 30, 2023

A/Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

**Session Briefing Note
Yukon Wetland Policy
Implementation**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- I am pleased to share that we are working on a number of initiatives for the wetland stewardship policy.
- The implementation working group identified several priority actions, including wetland classification, guidance for wetland identification, and comprehensive, territory-wide wetland mapping.
- We are developing guidance to ensure wetland impacts are considered in project assessments and finalizing guidance for the nomination, evaluation and protection of Wetlands of Special Importance.
- We will be initiating collaborative research on wetlands to further the implementation of this important policy.

Additional response:

- Our wetland stewardship policy implementation actions include broad-scale wetland mapping within the Peel, Beaver River, Mayo and McQuesten watersheds.
- We are collecting data to support local mapping in key areas, and we will be initiating a multi-party research project designed to explore the extent of carbon release and potential for carbon sink restoration following placer mining. (See EMR BN #92)
- We will be launching new wetland information pages on Yukon.ca.

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Third response:

- We acknowledge the importance of being responsive to new information as we continue to build our knowledge and improve our understanding of Yukon's wetlands, including recognizing and respecting traditional, local, and scientific knowledge.
- We will continue to engage with other governments, departments, agencies, regulatory bodies, and external partners to discuss specific aspects of wetland stewardship policy implementation.
- We remain committed to addressing wetland stewardship and protection within land use planning discussions and project reviews.

Context:

- Implementation of the Yukon Wetland Policy and the ongoing management of wetlands is of significant interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands was released on January 10, 2023. The goal of the policy is to ensure the benefits of Yukon's wetlands are sustained.
- The Government of Yukon conducted an online public survey in October 2021 to gather feedback on the draft policy. First Nations consultation in 2022 followed the release of the March 2022 What We Heard report from the public survey.
- In January 2023, the Government of Yukon formed an internal working group to advance and coordinate the implementation of the wetland stewardship policy.
 - The working group is co-chaired by the Energy, Mines and Resources - Strategic Alliances Branch (Manager, Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives) and Environment - Fish and Wildlife Branch (Senior Biologist, Habitat).

**Session Briefing Note
Yukon Wetland Policy
Implementation**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

- The working group is composed of members of Environment (Environmental Protection and Assessment, Fish and Wildlife, Policy and Planning), Energy Mines and Resources (Strategic Alliances, Compliance Monitoring and Inspection, Mineral Resources Branch, Corporate Policy, as well as occasional members from Agriculture and Forest Management Branch), Executive Council Office (Major Projects Yukon), and Highways and Public Works.
- The group meets monthly to advance various aspects of policy implementation, as well as ensuring a whole-of-government approach to policy implementation.
- In addition to policy approval, Management Board approved \$1.68 million in time-limited funding over two fiscal years (2023-24 to 2024-25) for the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources to begin jointly implementing the Wetlands Policy. This included:
 - \$840,000 in 2023-24 and \$840,000 in 2024-25 to support the policy's implementation.
 - Personnel have also been approved for one, 2-year FTE at the Department of Environment, and one 2-year and one permanent FTE at the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.
- The Wetlands Policy contains 16 implementation actions with near-term, mid-term and long-term implementation targets over the next 10 years.

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

Fall 2023

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Appendix A: Actions described and committed to within the wetland stewardship policy			
Policy Actions (bold = near-term priorities)	Timeline * priority adjusted	Lead Department	Status update Inactive Initiated Underway Near_Complete
1. Develop guidance for the evaluation of wetland benefits in the Yukon	Long-term	ENV	
2. Update and finalize a Yukon wetland classification system	Near-term	ENV	External review and engagement
3. Develop an accessible and easy to use guide to identifying Yukon's wetlands for proponents and the public	Mid-term	External	DUC-lead (ENV supporting), completion in 2024
4. Develop wetland mapping standards for regional, local, and project specific mapping applications	Near-term	ENV	Ready for internal review
5. Create a broad scale territory-wide wetland inventory	Near-term	ENV	Underway (year 1 of 5)
6. Support local scale wetland mapping, where needed	Near-term*	ENV	Underway (Data acquisition for priority areas of goldfields)
7. Promote northern wetland research	Near-term*	EMR	Limited communications to potential research partners
8. Promote public awareness of wetlands	Long-term	ENV	
9. Develop guidance for the application and use of the mitigation hierarchy	Near-term	EMR / ENV	Internal guidance only

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

Fall 2023

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Appendix A: Actions described and committed to within the wetland stewardship policy			
Policy Actions (bold = near-term priorities)	Timeline * priority adjusted	Lead Department	Status update
			Inactive Initiated Underway Near_Complete
10. Update or develop proponent guidance to be used when submitting wetland impact mitigation information	Near-term	EMR	Limited new guidance; reliance on existing guidance (Ruby Creek guidelines)
11. Update or develop Standard Operating Procedures / Preferred Management Practices for different activities impacting wetlands	Long-term	EMR	
12. Update or develop general wetland reclamation guidelines, and, where required, sector specific guidelines	Near-term*	EMR	Limited new guidance; reliance on existing guidance (Ruby Creek guidelines)
13. Develop guidance for offsetting wetland impacts	Long-term	ENV / EMR	
14. Develop specific and measurable guidance for the interpretation and application of Wetland of Special Importance nomination criteria	Near-term	ENV	Draft being finalized for internal review
15. Establish a process for legal designation of Wetlands of Special Importance, e.g., through existing legislation such as application of Wilderness Management Areas under the Environment Act	Mid-term*	ENV	
16. Create a publicly accessible catalogue of Wetlands of Special Importance.	Mid-term	ENV	Initial discussions underway

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

Fall 2023

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Appendix B: Detailed Status of Wetlands Policy Implementation Working Group Priorities

Timeline	Commitment/Description	Rationale / Plan to complete and achieve	Lead department
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE – WETLAND RESEARCH, CLASSIFICATION AND MAPPING			
Near-Term (1 – 3 years)	2. Update and finalize a Yukon wetland classification system Engagement level outlined in policy: YG-led, with review from all parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENV is currently developing updated descriptions and classification of wetlands with authoritative descriptions of each wetland class. A draft version was completed in June 2023. A technical wetland identification key is being finalized, which is intended for experienced/qualified professionals doing wetland field identification/mapping. Broader YG engagement and refinement is underway and will be complete in October 2023. External engagement, including Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), on this will be conducted following a YG review. This classification and key will be used by Ducks Unlimited Canada in the development of a more widely accessible field guide to Yukon wetlands (Policy Action 3). DUC is aiming to complete this in 2024. 	ENV lead, multi-depart. support
Near-Term (1 – 3 years)	4. Develop wetland mapping standards for regional, local, and project-specific mapping applications Engagement level outlined in policy: YG-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENV is leading a cross-departmental working group to develop wetland mapping standards with the objective of meeting technical mapping needs. First draft completed in September 2023. Broader YG engagement and refinement will begin in October 2023. External review will be undertaken following internal YG review. 	ENV lead, multi-depart. support

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

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Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

	led, with review from all FN and industry		
Within five years of policy approval	<p>5. Create a broad scale territory-wide wetland inventory</p> <p>Engagement level outlined in policy: YG-led, with involvement from FN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENV is initiating a variety of projects to advance this policy commitment and complete territory-wide wetland mapping over the next 5 years. ENV will assemble a standardized inventory of validated data on upland and wetland ecosystems by the end of August 2023, with ongoing efforts to continually build this repository. ENV plans to issue a tender for the next phase of wetland mapping in late 2023. ENV has completed: i) initial feasibility pilot studies in the Peel and Mayo/McQuesten watersheds; ii) initial evaluation of use of SPOT imagery during predictive mapping; iii) piloted a map accuracy assessment protocol; iv) compiled and updated all available wetland ground truthing data; and will be v) orthorectifying territory-wide SPOT imagery for use in future mapping. Indigenous governments will be provided an opportunity to review the mapping tactical plan, and to participate as appropriate/desired in future mapping efforts. 	ENV lead
Ongoing	<p>6. Support local scale wetland mapping, where needed</p> <p>Engagement level outlined in policy: YG, FN and project proponents to complete as necessary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENV has been working with EMR to determine priorities for local and broad-scale wetland mapping. Additional budget and time may be necessary to meet the mapping objectives based on the identified local-scale mapping needs. ENV and EMR-Forest Management Branch are collaborating on aerial imagery acquisition through planned Dawson Vegetation Inventory (planned imagery acquisition in summer 2023). First Nation governments and industry will be engaged as areas are confirmed. 	ENV lead, EMR support

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Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

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Ongoing	7. Promote northern wetland research Engagement level outlined in policy: Case-by-case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Yukon plans to proceed with a research initiative on carbon emissions from wetlands affected by placer mining as it aligns with policy research priorities regarding carbon storage and release and wetland reclamation. EMR will lead and facilitate the project through discussions with First Nations and with the assistance of program areas/subject matter experts. Industry associations and ENGOs confirmed their interest in participating and EMR has met with ENGOs to identify their representatives. Once the interest and participation of First Nations has been confirmed, the anticipated next step will be to collaboratively develop a scope and schedule for research. Similar research initiatives are also underway that involve private proponents, research institutes, and some support from Yukon government. 	EMR lead, ENV support
MANAGING WETLAND IMPACTS – PROPONENT GUIDANCE AND GUIDELINES			
Near-Term (1 –3 years)	9. Develop guidance for the application and use of the mitigation hierarchy Engagement level outlined in policy: YG-led, with input and review from FN, boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This applies to all sectors and types of activities. However, the focus for developing written guidance documents will start with the mining sector. ENV and EMR are developing a brief 2-page overview for Mining Land Use Applications. 	ENV and EMR co-lead

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

Fall 2023
Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

	and councils and assessment and regulatory bodies		
Near-Term (1-3 years)	<p>10. Update or develop proponent guidance to be used when submitting wetland impact mitigation information</p> <p>Engagement level outlined in policy: YG-led, with input and review from FN, boards and councils and assessment and regulatory bodies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMR has released a template for placer wetland reclamation plans within the Indian River Wetlands, based on the wetland reclamation guide developed in 2017 for the Ruby Creek and Indian River East Block Placer Mine. EMR is currently working on a guidance document to help operators use the tools available on GeoYukon for wetland mapping purposes. In addition, ENV and EMR are developing a brief 2-page overview for Mining Land Use Applications. It is anticipated that it will take several months to complete this work. The Yukon Water Board is in the process of developing new Wetland Information Guidelines for Placer Applications. A draft is available on their website for proponent use (see related priority below). 	EMR lead, ENV support
*Near-Term (1 – 3 years)	<p>12. Update or develop general wetland reclamation guidelines and, where required, sector-specific guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While identified in the policy as a mid-term action (within 5 years), more comprehensive guidelines for the exploration and mining sector have been identified by the working group as a near-term priority. It is anticipated that this work will follow the completion of #10 above and build off the resulting guidance. Placer and Quartz project proponents are currently being directed to the guidance provided in the Ruby Creek and Indian River East Block Placer Mine wetland reclamation guide. 	EMR lead, ENV support

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

Fall 2023
Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

	Engagement level outlined in policy: YG-led, with input and review from all parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FN, industry and regulatory partners will have the opportunity to be engaged in developing comprehensive guidelines. Guidelines for other sectors may be developed. 	
Near-Term (1 – 3 years)	14. Develop specific and measurable guidance for the interpretation and application of nomination criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands of Special Importance (WSI) nomination process, authorities and criteria were largely completed prior to the approved policy and requires little work. Current Implementation document will be revised and finalized with the nomination process in October 2023. Internal review will be completed in late 2023, and external review in early 2024. 	ENV lead
Mid-Term (3 – 5 years)	15. Establish a process for legal designation of Wetlands of Special Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While identified in the policy as a near-term action (1 – 3 years), the Department or Environment will focus on developing the WSI nomination process utilizing existing tools (e.g., admin reserves, map notations or Wildlife Key Areas) and look to develop a new legal designation tool in the mid-term (3 – 5 years). 	ENV lead
OTHER/OPERATIONAL NEEDS (NOT OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A OF THE YUKON WETLANDS POLICY)			
High	Project review and approval: The Government of Yukon must ensure that	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This requirement affects program areas across the Yukon government that are responsible for reviewing, authorizing and overseeing land use activities. Often, project review and approvals involve multiple program areas and require interdepartmental coordination. 	EMR and ENV

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

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	projects occurring in wetland areas conform to the wetland policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet this requirement, internal operational policies and procedures are required. Process for initial project reviews is established. Processes and resources to oversee projects throughout the term of the project (e.g., to review and respond to reporting, etc.), including the development of database and submission portals, have yet to be established. ENV and EMR have received funding to support this work, including new full-time positions (ENV, MRB and CMI). This work is anticipated to be an ongoing and evolving operational effort. As an external component, proponent guidance and communications will be necessary to support project applications and their conformity with the policy. 	
High	Compliance and enforcement: The Government of Yukon must ensure projects approved in wetland areas comply with the terms and conditions of their authorizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch is responsible for inspecting mineral projects in wetland areas and ensuring activities comply with any wetland-related terms and conditions. More specifically, the policy requires that projects employ a mitigation hierarchy to plans and activities in wetland areas (i.e., avoid, minimize, reclaim, offset). Inspections of projects will document compliance and enforce the terms and conditions of authorizations to ensure wetland avoidance, where required, and confirm wetland disturbance and wetland reclamation. This will require new tools and resources as well as coordination and communication with project regulators (e.g., Mineral Resources Branch, etc.). CMI is currently reviewing policies and procedures to identify how to incorporate this work into normal duties and investigating additional tools to support the work of Natural Resource Officers. Additional training and technical support for staff may be needed. 	EMR (Mineral projects)

Session Briefing Note

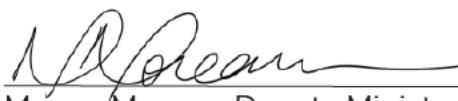
Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work is anticipated to be an ongoing and evolving operational effort, dependent on the resources and tools developed (e.g., mapping products, project reporting, etc.), as well as proponent requirements set out in wetland reclamation plans. 	
High	Develop a Yukon.ca wetlands policy landing page as a centralized location for finding relevant information (from mining applications to mapping)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENV and EMR are coordinating the development of a landing page. ENV aims to have structure and content ready for approval/publication by October 2023. 	ENV-lead, EMR support

**Session Briefing Note
Yukon Wetland Policy
Implementation**

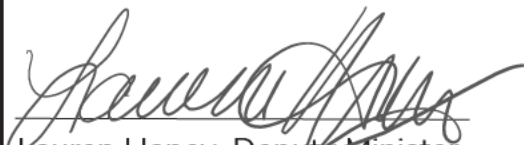
Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources



Manon Moreau, Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

2023-10-30

Date approved



Lauren Haney, Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-10-30

Date approved

Recommended Response:

- The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Oversight Group, also known as the Oversight Group, is a joint effort between the governments of Canada, Yukon, and Yukon First Nations to oversee the YESAA process and promote its ongoing improvement.
- The Oversight Group is making progress on an amendment to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* to allow existing projects requiring amendments or renewals of their authorizations to be exempted from a reassessment when certain criteria are met.
- Phase one consultations on the concept of the proposed amendment were completed in December 2022. Officials from the governments of Canada and Yukon as well as the Council of Yukon First Nations are developing a guidance document and implementation plan to help support federal legislative drafting requirements.
- The Oversight Group continues to work with the YESAA Board to identify and advance other improvements to the YESAA process.

Additional Response:

- The Oversight Group committed to undertake a comprehensive review of YESAA by 2027, as outlined in their Terms of Reference. The Oversight Group will define the scope and approach for a future review.

Context - this may be an issue because:

- Some industry representatives may be frustrated with the amount of progress on YESAA amendments.

YESAA Reset Oversight Group

Executive Council
Office

Background:

- The Oversight Group is a joint effort between the governments of Canada, Yukon, and First Nations to seek efficiencies and ongoing improvements to the YESAA and YESAA processes.
- The Oversight Group was established because of the YESAA Reset Memorandum of Understanding ("Reset MOU"), signed in November 2017.
- In 2018, the Oversight Group 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.
- The Oversight Group meets regularly to continue its work under the YESAA Reset MOU.
- The Government of Yukon and the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) sent a joint letter to the Minister of Northern Affairs in December 2020 requesting a focused review of the YESAA.
- In February 2021, the Minister of Northern Affairs indicated his commitment to working with members of the Oversight Group on amendments and renewals.
- The purpose of the review will be to propose amendments to address the need for an assessment of when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- Yukon First Nations maintain 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. The Government of Yukon supports Yukon First Nations' position.
- The Technical Working Group, supporting the Oversight Group, held engagement workshops with industry, First Nations, and other organizations on the targeted YESAA amendment to address the assessment of amendments and renewals on October 25 and November 16, 2022. The engagement period closed December 2, 2022. A What We Heard report was developed and shared with the Oversight Group.

- The Oversight Group continues to advance the targeted amendment.

Approved by:



September 8, 2023

A/Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Current Yukon Water Board licence applications of note.

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Minto Metals Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minto Metals has a current Type A Water Licence and in August 2016 filed an amendment application for its Reclamation and Closure Plan as per an existing licence condition. In addition, the company applied to licence its new underground workings (Phase VII). The application was deemed adequate for public comment and the comment period closed in April 2021. YG and Selkirk First Nation advised the Board that activities applied for have not been assessed and this resulted in the Board requesting an updated application. The company submitted updated application documents on August 26, 2022, and the Board sought additional information from YG and Selkirk First Nation related to assessment. On December 8, 2022, the Board made a preliminary determination that the project had been assessed and directed the Secretariat to complete an adequacy review of the application. The adequacy review of the updated documents was nearing conclusion with the assistance of Hutchinson Environmental, when Minto Metals Corp. abandoned the Minto Mine property.
Victoria Gold Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company has a Type A Water Licence and in November 2020 submitted an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) and security costing. The Board and EMR signed an agreement in January 2021 to pilot a process in which the two regulators conducted a collaborative review of the submission and hold joint meetings with the company. On June 17, 2022, the Board determined to not approve the RCP and Ordered \$104,903,628 in security inclusive of security held under the <i>Quartz Mining Act</i>.

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 1, 2022, the company filed documents (an appeal) with the Yukon Supreme Court related to the Board's determinations. On September 28, 2022, the Court ordered that the Water Board Order dated June 17, 2022, be stayed, insofar as it required the company to furnish an additional \$36,241,328 in security, until 30 days after a decision is released by the Court on the appeal. On October 3, 2022, the company submitted an updated (2022) RCP and security costing pursuant to the licence which the Board is reviewing. The Board and EMR signed a second pilot process for the review of the RCP and security costing. Two information requests, jointly issued by the Secretariat and EMR, have been sent to VGC asking for more information. The regulators await VGC's responses.
BMC – Kudz Ze Kayah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2020 the company created an application for a Type A Water Licence and began submitting supporting documents. On November 30, 2020, the company was provided a letter advising that the application was incomplete. This was largely due to the project still being assessed under YESAA and a Decision Document (DD) had not been issued. A DD was issued for the project on June 15, 2022. On August 23, 2022, the company submitted updated documents. The public comment period for the application began on January 6, 2023. The Board extended the intervention deadline date to May 5, 2023, following a request by Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation. The Board is currently waiting for BMC to submit a response to

Fall 2023

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

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QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
	the interventions.
Newmont - Coffee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company has not submitted an application to the Yukon Water Board.
Alexco Keno Hill Mining Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company has a Type A Water Licence and in November 2021 submitted an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) and security costing. The Board completed its review of the RCP and security costing and is drafting its findings.

HYDRO UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Yukon Energy Corp. – Aishihik Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YEC submitted an application on April 8, 2022, for a five year renewal of the Aishihik Generating Station Type A Water Licence which expired on December 31, 2022. The application was advertised for public comment and a public hearing was held November 21 to 25, 2022. Licence HY22-016 was issued on December 21, 2022, and the Reasons for Decision were issued on March 31, 2023. On April 30, 2023, YEC submitted for Board Review and Approval, a Five-Year Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (“MAMP”) pursuant to the licence. The Secretariat is currently working on adequacy of the MAMP.

MUNICIPAL UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
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. Notification of the application was advertised on March 15,

Fall 2023

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

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	<p>2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An intervention was received from the Government of Yukon. Community Services responded to the intervention on August 9, 2023. The Board will be calling a public hearing on this application.
Haines Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In May 2021 the Village of Haines Junction opened an application to renew its Type B Water Licence for municipal water supply and waste disposal which expired on January 29, 2022. Notification of the application was advertised on May 19, 2023. Interventions were received from Government of Yukon and Parks Canada/Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in June 2023. The Village of Haines Junction provided a response to interventions in July 2023. The Board will hold a public hearing on this application.

Miscellaneous Licences	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December 2021, YG - Highways and Public Works ("HPW") submitted a water licence application for the replacement of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge located at Teslin. The Board issued a water licence on August 31, 2022, and reasons for the decision were issued on September 9, 2022. HPW submitted an application to amend the water licence asking to reduce the environmental monitoring requirements and some other minor changes. The application is before the Board.

PLACER UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS

Fall 2023**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

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 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 several active applications before it which are in the Indian River wetlands complex.• YESAB 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 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

Fall 2023

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

	<p>Information Guidelines, which will eventually be informed by the wetland policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board continues to deliberate each application on a case-by-case basis given the evidence provided by all parties.
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Statistics - Water Licence Applications 2013 to Date			
Year	Type B	Type A	Total
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
2022	108	3	111
2023	50	1	51

Statistics do not include plans submitted for review and approval by the Board.

Approved by:



September 8, 2023

A/Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Session Briefing Note

Collaborative Stewardship

#101
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response

- Since 2020, we have been advancing the collaborative stewardship initiative with Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Selkirk First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- We value working together with our Yukon First Nations partners to enhance environmental stewardship, information sharing, and monitoring across the Yukon.
- We recently introduced joint water monitoring and enhanced collaboration and reporting tools and continue to see the initiative increase capacity and cultural understanding between our governments.

Additional response:

- To date, in 2023, we conducted ten joint site visits in mineral development, forestry, and land use activities.
- In July 2023, Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections staff were invited and attended both the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations' general assemblies.
- This was the first year the branch received invitations to these assemblies, and we appreciated the opportunity to enhance our relationships with Yukon First Nations as we continue to grow the collaborative stewardship program.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukon First Nations have expressed increasing interest in participating in joint compliance enforcement and monitoring efforts under the Yukon's natural resource legislation.

Session Briefing Note

Collaborative Stewardship

#101
Fall 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

- The Collaborative Stewardship Initiative has been successful to date, with additional Yukon First Nations expressing interest in participating, though the initiative is not widely known amongst the public.

Background:

- The Collaborative Stewardship Initiative pilot program is in its third year. Activities focus on inspection processes and procedures, information-sharing, cross-training and joint fieldwork.
- The initiative does not cover investigation, enforcement, or reciprocal legal action (i.e., prosecution) under either Yukon or Yukon First Nations laws, nor does it involve wildlife management or harvesting issues.
- Through the work with our Yukon First Nations partners, we have determined that the initiative should expand in three areas:
 - knowledge and skill transfer related to compliance promotion;
 - training opportunities for Yukon First Nations; and
 - Yukon First Nations-led, community-based water quality monitoring networks.
- On July 28, 2023, a final joint inspection was completed with Kwanlin Dün First Nation on an outstanding Licence of Occupation file. The process to transfer this land back to the Yukon government has begun.

Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 29, 2023

Date approved

**Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**

ECO/EMR

Recommended response:

- Our government has continued the mineral staking prohibition within the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon to allow time to address the court declarations made in the Ross River Dena Council and Kaska Dena Council mining cases.
- We also instituted a mineral staking prohibition for the Áashú (a-shoo) 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 Yukoners.
- We are working collaboratively with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation to replace the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act*. In that process, we are considering many of the issues raised in the court cases and anticipate that the new legislation will help address those as well as the declarations.

Additional response:If asked about the Ross River Area:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River Area was put in place on March 27, 2013, and is in place until April 30, 2024. This is intended to allow time to advance consultation with the Ross River Dena Council and the other Kaska Nations on how best to address the court declarations regarding mineral staking, exploration and development.
- Ross River Dena Council has been actively participating in the work to develop the new mineral legislation, most recently at the meeting held on September 19 – 22 of this year.
- It remains the view of the Yukon government that the discussions around the development of the new mineral legislation will create the foundation

**Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**

ECO/EMR

to address the issues covered by the Declarations, after which we will be able to re-assess the need for the mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River area and in other areas in the territory.

- These important discussions about Yukon's mining legislation are ongoing. On behalf of the Yukon government, I would like to extend my thanks to the representatives from Ross River Dena Council and all of our other First Nations partners for their valuable input to date.

If asked about the southern Yukon portion of Kaska asserted Traditional Territory:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the southern portion of the Kaska asserted Traditional Territory in the Yukon was put in place on February 1, 2017, and is in place until April 30, 2024.
- Liard First Nation has been actively participating in the work to develop the new mineral legislation.

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:

- We are advancing discussions with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on a number of matters including the mineral declarations, consultation and their land interests in the Yukon.
- To support these discussions, our government withdrew land associated with the Áashú Village from potential land disposition and mineral staking on March 28, 2019. This withdrawal is in place until December 31, 2024.

Context — this may be an issue because:

Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation

ECO/EMR

- 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.
- The Leader of the Official Opposition asked about the status of discussions with Ross River Dena Council on the removal of the staking prohibition in the Ross River Area in the House on October 26, 2023.

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.
- 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 (KDC) 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.
- The three mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska and TRTFN traditional territories cover approximately 23 per cent of the Yukon.
- Additional staking prohibitions are in place for reasons such as land use planning, to create parks and protected areas, or to disallow staking within municipal boundaries. About 53 per cent of the total area of the Yukon is currently under a prohibition.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2023 11 02

Date


Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-11-01

Date

Session Briefing Note

Northern First Nations'

Memorandum of Understanding

#103
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are committed to collaborative and sustainable resource management in the best interest of Yukoners.
- In 2019, the Government of Yukon signed The North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.
- Through the Memorandum of Understanding, the Government of Yukon committed to collaborate with the Yukon First Nations to review decision-making processes and tools under the *Oil and Gas Act*.
- We are completing this work through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum which includes all signatories.

Additional response:

- The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum advances the goals of reconciliation and economic development for the territory.
- Our joint approach respects environmental stewardship, including the protection of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The First Nations in northern Yukon have expressed a desire to see a more collaborative approach to any future oil and gas development in their traditional territories.
-

Background:

- In 2022, The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum developed and signed a work plan to address priority issues.
 - The work plan includes a collaborative review of current decision-making processes and tools under the *Oil and Gas Act (Yukon)* that apply within the traditional territories of the northern Yukon First Nations.
-

Session Briefing Note Northern First Nations' Memorandum of Understanding

#103
Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- On July 25, 2022, the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum decided to defer discussions regarding dispositions until the Successor Resource Legislation process concludes, to avoid overlap in the engagement processes.
- The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum Working Group continues to meet monthly. Matters related to Chance Oil and Gas Limited have been a focus of recent discussions.
- On June 9, 2023, the three newly elected Chiefs of the participating Yukon First Nations briefly met with the Minister to discuss:
 - Chance Oil and Gas Limited permit extension request; permits were extended until February 29, 2024, to allow additional time for consultation.
 - Section 68 Benefits Agreement; and
 - the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act Screening Committee Assessment Process steps.

Approved by:



August 28, 2023

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: General program overview

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting critical mineral exploration and development in the Yukon.
- Improving infrastructure to Yukon's most mineral-rich areas will set us on course for a more prosperous future.
- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program has several infrastructure projects that are going through various stages of planning, design, assessment, and construction.
- In the upcoming year, in collaboration with the First Nations in whose traditional territory the projects are planned, we aim to tender work for the Robert Campbell Highway, and begin design work on the Silver Trail project.

Additional response: Program structure

- The Government of Yukon has committed to working with Yukon First Nations to build meaningful and collaborative relationships to support the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's success for all parties.
- For each component identified, Energy, Mines and Resources negotiates a project agreement with the affected Yukon First Nation in whose Traditional Territory the project resides.
- These agreements provide a process by which the Yukon government and Yukon First Nations will work collaboratively.
- They also outline how we will structure procurements to align with the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy and to ensure there are benefits for each community.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

- Once an agreement is signed, Highways and Public Works starts implementing the agreement.
- This process involves continued planning and collaboration with the affected Yukon First Nation.
- It encompasses key steps like project planning and design, YESAB assessment, regulatory review and permitting.
- Implementation work may not be visible, but it is crucial.
- Once the foundational work is complete, project procurement and construction can begin.

Additional response: Yukon First Nations involvement

- The Yukon government is working in collaboration with Yukon First Nations to seek input and finalize Project Agreements for components of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program within their respective Traditional Territories.
- Six Project Agreements have been signed with Yukon First Nations for seven components to date.
- The program will provide opportunities to Yukon First Nations through short and long-term employment opportunities, training, and benefit agreements.

Additional response: Funding

- The Yukon government has worked to increase the flexibility of the Gateway funding program with the Government of Canada. The funding program now includes additional flexibility to focus on projects that First Nations and communities have requested.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

-
- This flexibility allowed us to include additional road components on the Silver Trail, North Canol, and sections of the Robert Campbell Highway.
 - The Yukon government was successful in negotiating a Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada that resulted in the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's completion date being extended from 2025 to March 2031.

Recommended response: Carmacks Bypass

- The Carmacks Bypass officially opened on Friday October 27, 2023. This project is the first to be completed under the Yukon Resource Gateway Program and is jointly funded by the Government of Canada.
- The new road connects the existing Freegold Road with the Klondike Highway.
- The project was a collaborative effort between Pelly Construction, the Yukon government and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- Pelly Construction was awarded the \$29.6 million contract to construct the new road and bridge on November 3, 2021.
- The project was successfully finished a year in advance of the designated timeframe and within budget.

Additional response:

- In the spring of 2019, a Project Agreement for the Carmacks Bypass component was signed with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- This contract had specific commitments for total labour hours to be done by First Nations persons. I'm happy to report that as of August 31, the total labour hours performed by Yukon First Nations persons

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

was 99,175 – 3 per cent more than the labour hour commitment made at the time of bid submission by the contractor.

- The construction of the new road and bridge allows industrial vehicles to bypass the community of Carmacks, creating a safer flow of traffic for residents.
- The Carmacks Bypass will provide improved access to mining activities while enabling the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation to benefit from contracting, education and training associated with the project.

Recommended response: Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 (Ross River to Faro)

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement for this component of the Robert Campbell Highway was signed with the Ross River Dena Council.
- This road rehabilitation project runs from Ross River to Faro (km 354.9 to km 414.4).
- Right-of-way clearing contracts have been awarded for this component of the Robert Campbell Highway. This was a direct award contract to a Ross River Dena Council citizen-owned company. This portion of clearing work has been completed.
- The YESAB assessment is complete and permitting is in place for a portion of the project near Ross River (km 363.6 to km 367.5), which will allow work to proceed for this section of the component.
- In 2023, the Yukon government has continued to work with Ross River Dena Council to implement the Project Agreement and determine the next steps of this project together.
- The aim is to tender this work this fiscal year.

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Public Works**Recommended response: Silver Trail**

- A Project Agreement for the Silver Trail component was signed with the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun in February 2021.
- The Silver Trail component includes rehabilitation of the Mayo River bridge, road reconstruction and spot repairs from km 0 to km 110 between Mayo and Keno City.
- In the coming year, the department will be advancing the implementation of the agreement with the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, with design and assessment activities planned to occur in 2024-25.
- Officials from the Department of Highways and Public Works are in regular contact with the Executive Director of the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, and the next meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2023.

Recommended response: Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171

- In June 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Liard First Nation for this section of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- This project, which runs from just past the Tuchtua River Bridge to the Frances Lake campground (km 114 to km 171), includes road reconstruction and sight-line improvements. It has an estimated capital construction cost of \$50 million.
- In 2022, we worked to develop the environmental baseline work plan and anticipate entering into a funding contribution with Liard First Nation later this year. Additionally, we underwent preliminary project planning and developed the scope of work.

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- The department is making progress on identification of granular resources, developing the work plan for the environmental assessment processes, as well as planning further phases of the project.
- Officials have been in regular contact with Liard First Nation this summer and fall.

Recommended response: Freegold Road Phase II

- In October 2020, a Project Agreement with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation for the Freegold Road Phase II component was signed.
- The Freegold Road Phase II component includes replacement of three bridges, two of which are in an area where the Traditional Territories of Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation overlap.
- As such, a Project Agreement with Selkirk First Nation is required, and discussions are being led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Recommended response: Nahanni Range Road Phase 1

- In January 2020, a Project Agreement with Liard First Nation was signed for the first phase of the Nahanni Range Road component.
- Clearing of the right-of-way to improve lines of sight began in 2020, with two direct-award contracts to First Kaska Limited, and work has continued with two additional contracts awarded in fall 2023.
- The Yukon government and the Liard First Nation entered into an additional agreement to provide heavy equipment operator training for Liard First Nation citizens.
- This training was completed in November 2021, and successfully certified eight Liard First Nation citizens. The training objective is to

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help increase capacity for the Liard First Nation to participate in road construction projects in the future.

- Environmental baseline information for this project will be collected in collaboration with the Liard First Nation.
- We continue to engage with the Yukon Resource Gateway Project Committee, which includes Liard First Nation and Yukon government representatives, on this project.
- This work includes identifying clearing and brushing work, completing the draft environmental assessment, project planning and design work.

Recommended response: North Canol Phase 1

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Ross River Dena Council for the North Canol component of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program.
- This project would include bridge replacements, line of sight improvements and vegetation clearing on the North Canol Road.
- We are working with Ross River Dene Council on advancing the agreement.
- Officials from the Department of Highways and Public Works are planning a visit to Ross River this fall to discuss the Gateway projects.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders and First Nations involvement.

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Public Works**Background:****First Nation Involvement**

- Implementation of Project Agreements is happening between the department's Major Programs Unit and the Yukon First Nations with Project Agreements.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is leading the Project Agreement negotiations with Selkirk First Nation for the Freegold Road component. However, the Department of Highways and Public Works is involved in these discussions.
- Federal government support has been confirmed through the Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada.

Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council	Ongoing
Design (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Spring 2020 – Complete
YESAB Submission (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Fall 2020 – Complete
Construction (right-of-way clearing) (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Fall 2020 – Complete
Procurement (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council.
Construction (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council. Anticipate in summer 2024.

Silver Trail Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines

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Silver Trail Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun	Ongoing
Design, planning and assessment - first projects	2024-25
Construction of Silver Trail - first projects	2026-27

Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Liard First Nation	Ongoing
Preliminary Design	2021
YESAB Submission	To be determined in collaboration with Liard First Nation. Anticipate by fall 2024.
Procurement – sub project	2024.
Construction of Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 – sub project	2025

Freegold Road Phase II	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
A Project Agreement with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation for the Freegold Road Phase II component was signed.	Fall 2020
Project Agreement negotiations are ongoing with Selkirk First nation, led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.	Ongoing

Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timeline

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Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Liard First Nation	Ongoing
Construction (right-of-way clearing)	October 2020
YESAB and other regulatory submissions – bridges at km 143 and Upper Frances River	Winter 2024-25
Construction of bridge replacement and rehabilitation	To be determined

North Canol Phase 1 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timeline
North Canol Phase 1 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council	Ongoing
YESAB submission	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council
Procurement	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council
Construction	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council

Approved by:

November 20, 2023

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved