



Economic Development Briefing Notes

2023 Spring Sitting

Minister of Economic Development

Premier Ranj Pillai



The DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
2023 Spring Session
DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING NOTES

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**The DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
2023 Spring Session
DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING NOTES**

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Department of Economic Development Accomplishments

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development aims to be a dynamic partner to First Nations, municipalities and the private sector with responsive resources for targeted opportunities that have measurable impacts on economic growth and diversification.
- The Department of Economic Development continues to provide a wide range of programs and investments aimed at driving growth, diversification and market expansion across the Yukon.
- The department continues to support Yukoners and their businesses as the recovery from the pandemic progresses.

Covid 19:

- *The Economic resilience plan: Building Yukon's COVID-19 economic resiliency* was released to the public on March 10, 2021, to guide the Yukon's economy back to pre-pandemic levels of productivity, and to chart a path beyond in a way that is consistent with our environmental and socio-economic commitments.
- Covid programs delivered by the Department since 2020-21 included the Yukon Business Relief Program and the Yukon Emergency Relief Program, the Paid Sick Leave Rebate program, the Tourism Accommodation and Tourism Non-Accommodation Support Supplements program, the Yukon Essential Workers Income Support Program, the Vaccine Verification Rebate the Regional Relief Loan Program and the Temporary Support for Cancelled Events Program.
- The one remaining Covid 19 program being delivered is the Paid Sick Leave Rebate Program.

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Development Accomplishments**Economic
Development

- As of March 7, 2023, employees have received \$3,624,224 in rebates through the Paid Sick Leave Rebate program.

Mineral Exploration and Development:

- The department continues to attract mining investment and maximize benefits to the Yukon's economy by working collaboratively with mineral sector stakeholders and First Nations partners.
- By promoting the Yukon as a stable investment jurisdiction for mineral development, First Nations governments, communities and families will continue to benefit from investments in the industry.
- Economic Development is working with relevant departments in consultation with other partners, including the federal government and industry, to support reliable tidewater access in Skagway for the Yukon's mining industry as Skagway advances its port redevelopment project.
- With a return to in-person events, the department has promoted Yukon's investment potential at mining forums and through the Yukon Property Tours this year.
- We provide the Yukon Mining Alliance (YMA) with annual funding to support its global investment attraction activities.

Immigration:

- The department provides economic immigration programs to help businesses across the territory meet their labour needs.
- In 2022, YNP utilized its full annual allocation of 300 spaces for the second time since the program was established in 2007.

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Development Accomplishments**Economic
Development

- The YNP allocation for 2023 is 430 people (400 Base and 30 Enhanced).
- Between January 1, 2023 and March 31, 2023, 241 new candidates have been approved.
- The governments of the Yukon and the Philippines signed a memorandum of understanding on March 18, 2022 to make it easier for Filipinos to immigrate to the Yukon under the territory's Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).

Technology and Innovation:

- The department is committed to building a thriving innovation economy by supporting technological growth and entrepreneurship.
- The department is collaborating with business, industry and First Nations partners to make strategic investments and promote an entrepreneurial culture that attracts and supports start-ups.
- An Innovation Commission was established between August and November 2021 to advise on the development of a five-year innovation strategy that will attract technology start-ups and grow the Yukon's digital ecosystem.
- We are committed to building a thriving innovation economy and have supported YuKconstruct's Startup Bootcamp, TechYukon's North of AI program, and Yukon University Innovation and Entrepreneurship's Yukon Innovation Prize.

Funding Supports:

- We have streamlined our funding support programs by amalgamating the Enterprise Trade Fund (ETF), Regional Economic Development

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Fund (REDF) and Strategic Industries Development Fund (SIDF) into a single Economic Development Fund (EDF), launched on April 1, 2021.

- During the 2021-22 fiscal year, EDF supported 54 projects with a total contribution commitment of over \$1.4 million.
- From April 1, 2022 to February 23, 2023, 60 projects have been supported through EDF with a total contribution commitment of \$2,233,029, including several multi-year initiatives.
- The Community Development Fund (CDF) enabled us to support 59 projects for the 2021-22 fiscal year with a total contribution commitment of \$2,931,497.
- In the period between April 1, 2022 to February 23, 2023, 67 projects have been supported through the CDF, with a total contribution commitment of \$3,027,671.

Media Development:

- Four new media funding programs and their administrative business guidelines were announced on January 10, 2022, to support the production of professional film, television and digital media projects.
- As of February 23, 2023, we have approved 18 film applications for \$1,524,810 with total anticipated spending in the Yukon of \$8,819,283, creating local jobs and building capacity while supporting Yukon businesses and entrepreneurs and contributing to economic diversification.
- The new Performing Musicians Fund held its first three intakes, approving funding for 32 musicians for a total of \$305,539. Nine established musicians and 23 emerging musicians received funding in 2022-23 (to date).

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Development Accomplishments**Economic
Development

Trade:

- We are creating opportunities for businesses to expand beyond our territory while applying the Yukon's special provisions and negotiated exceptions to develop our economy at home through the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA).
- As Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade for 2022, Yukon facilitated an annual meeting of the CFTA Parties on December 8, 2022, in Toronto.
- Key decisions related to trade in cannabis and financial services were adopted at the meeting.
- Since last session, Yukon has signed onto a reconciliation agreement to implement entry-level training for commercial drivers. Reconciliation agreements remove non-tariff barriers to trade within Canada and are simplifying inter-jurisdictional operations for Yukoners and Yukon companies.
- We continue to engage with our federal, provincial and territorial counterparts in consultations related to Canada's international trading relationships and agreements.
- We continue to participate in regional and global innovation initiatives to encourage investments in our economy, support growth of Yukon businesses across all sectors and create opportunities for employment, diversification and market expansion.

Labour Market Development:

- To support strategic alignment and economic recovery, Economic Development became the lead department for Labour Market Development on April 1, 2022.

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Development Accomplishments**Economic
Development

- The department is now administering programs and services that will help individuals meet their labour market goals and help employers recruit, train and retain staff they need for their businesses to thrive
- Labour Market Development expects to invest over \$7.001M in 2022-23 to help individuals meet their labour market goals and help employers recruit, train and retain staff they need for their businesses to thrive.
- Within that budget, Labour Market Development has committed support for:
 - eleven organizations providing labour market programs for First Nations, benefitting nearly 1,000 individuals.
 - fifteen service providers to provide services to approximately 3,000 Yukoners to help them develop the foundational skills they need to attach to the labour market.
 - nine organizations to provide employment assistance services to help approximately 7,000 individuals obtain employment. This category includes needs determination, employment counselling and job search training, and providing labour market information.
 - four organizations to support and promote trades and apprenticeship and subsidies to provide work experience and on-the-job training to 30 Yukoners.
 - nine organizations to provide supports for employers.

Collaborative Initiatives with First Nations:

- Yukon First Nation government and their respective development corporations are critical in the growth and diversification of the Yukon's economy.

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Department of Economic Development Accomplishments

Economic Development

- Through funds like the new Economic Development Fund and Community Development Fund, the department continues to support First Nation governments and development corporations as they grow capacity, invest in new ventures, strengthen their communities and plan for the future.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Department of Economic Development has been focused on supporting the Yukon's businesses to weather the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it has continued to advance many important files and priorities.

Background:

- Economic Development's current Strategic Plan (2022-23 to 2024-25) identifies a vision of:

The Department of Economic Development aims to be a dynamic partner to First Nations, municipalities and the private sector with responsive resources for targeted opportunities that have measurable impacts on economic growth and diversification.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 17, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Economic Overview**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- By most measures, the Yukon's economy is among the strongest in Canada.
- Key points:
 - Data from Statistics Canada indicate that the Yukon's real GDP grew by 10.0% in 2021, double Canada's 5.0% growth;
 - The Yukon continues to have among the lowest unemployment rates in Canada (averaging 3.7% in 2022) and currently at 2.9% for March 2023;
 - There are many available jobs in the Yukon, 1,290 in the fourth quarter of 2022. The average wage offered for these jobs was \$28.40 per hour. Particularly encouraging is that the average wage offered for the 425 vacant jobs in sales and service occupations has risen to \$19.00 per hour, up by 12.1% over the offered wage a year before; and
 - The population continues to grow, average weekly earnings are up and retail sales are still strong and rising.
- In 2022 the Yukon's retail sales topped one billion for the first time at \$1.03 billion, an increase of 16.4% over 2021.
- With two operating hard rock mines and the potential for others to start or restart in the near future, mining continues to be a bright spot in the Yukon economy. This means more mining jobs in the Yukon, more money for local businesses and more partnerships that bring jobs and training to our communities.
Construction, particularly residential construction, is another sector showing significant strength.

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- The latest year-over-year inflation number for Whitehorse is 5.5% for March 2023, down sharply from 7.0% in February 2023, but higher than the Canadian rate of 4.3%;
 - Nationally, gasoline prices are down by 13.8% from a year ago but in Whitehorse they are up by 3.8% from March 2022.
- For all of 2022, inflation averaged 6.8% both in Whitehorse and nationally.

Additional response:

- Tourism, in the Yukon as in the rest of Canada, has been rebounding strongly but Yukon border-crossing data shows international visitor numbers still have a long way to go to return to pre-pandemic levels.
 - For 2022, Yukon's Canada Customs crossings total 170,913, up by 416% over 2021 but still only about one-third of crossings reported in 2018 and 2019; and
 - Statistics Canada is reporting that national tourism spending rose by 2.1% in Q4 of 2022, the seventh consecutive quarterly increase. Overall spending remains down by 16.2% from the pre-COVID Q4 2019.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is heightened interest in the state of the economy due to concerns over high inflation and the potential for a recession both nationally and globally.
- The issue has been raised in the house that more should be done to help mitigate inflationary pressure for individuals.

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Economic Overview

Spring 2023**Economic
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Background:**Real GDP:**

- Statistics Canada's GDP numbers show the Yukon's economy grew by 10.0% in 2021, while Canada's GDP grew by 5.0% over the year.
- Two big drivers of the Yukon's GDP growth in 2021 were:
 - Mining, responsible for 45.4% of the growth; and
 - Construction, responsible for 16.8% of the growth.
- The Conference Board of Canada predicts continued strong growth in the Yukon's GDP through 2023.

Population:

- Despite the onset of COVID-19, the Yukon's population has continued to grow, reaching a new high of 44,160 at the end of September 2022.

Labour Market:

- The Yukon continues to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada (averaging 3.7% in 2022).
- In 2022, the labour force has averaged 24,300, up by 600 over the 2021 average.
- In 2022, the average number of employed Yukoners increased by 1,000 over the 2021 number.
- The Yukon's average weekly earnings increased by 3.4% in 2021 compared to 2020 and to date by November 2022 earnings are up by another 2.9% on average compared to the same period in 2021.

Retail Sales:

- Numbers for 2021 show retail sales continuing strong growth, up 7.0% over 2020 to another record of \$963.4 million.
- In 2022 the Yukon's retail sales topped one billion for the first time at \$1.03 billion, an increase of 16.4% over 2021.

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Real Estate:

- Value of real estate transactions and overall the average price of homes continue to rise though with a drop off of a peak in Q4 of 2022.
 - In 2022 the value of real estate transactions continued to rise, up another 8.5% over 2021;
 - In 2022, the average weighted price of a single-detached house in Whitehorse was \$676,700, up from \$645,000 in 2021 and \$564,700 in 2020; and
 - The costs of construction have also increased sharply in part due to supply chain pressures in southern Canada.
- Residential construction remains strong.
 - In 2020, permits were issued for 657 new or converted dwelling units, up by more than 70% over 2019;
 - In 2021 the number of permits issued for new or converted dwelling units fell slightly to 639, down 2.7% from 2020; and
 - In 2022 the number of permits fell sharply, down 35% to 414 (about the average level in 2018 and 2019).

Mining:

- The Yukon's mining sector is contributing significantly to the economy:
 - Victoria Gold's Eagle Gold Mine, the largest gold mine in the Yukon's history, achieved full commercial production as of July 1, 2020:
 - Total gold production in 2020 was 116,644 ounces;
 - In 2021 production rose to 164,222 ounces;
 - Production in 2022 fell to 150,182 ounces due in large part to a 4.5-week pause in milling in the first half of the year due to excess water in the mine due to a heavy spring thaw, along with a 2.5-week shutdown of the mine's conveyer system in the fall; and
 - Beyond 2022, production is expected to average over 200,000 ounces per year when the mine is at full production.

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- The Minto Mine, under the ownership of Pembridge Resources, resumed producing copper concentrate in late 2019. It is now owned by Minto Metals Corporation:
 - Copper production rose from 17.8 million pounds in 2020 to 25.6 million pounds in 2021;
 - Copper production rose to 28.9 million pounds in 2022; and
 - The expected mine life has been extended from 2023 to 2028.
- Alexco Resource Corporation resumed production at Keno Hill in late 2020 and production levels ramped up sharply in 2021 with annual production of:
 - 621,601 ounces silver;
 - 4.8 million pounds lead; and
 - 1.7 million pounds zinc.
- Keno Hill continued to produce in the first half of 2022 but suspended mining and milling in June 2022.
- Alexco was officially acquired by Hecla Mining Company in early September, and Hecla has announced plans to keep operations at Keno Hill suspended for 18 months, as they work to redesign the mine plan, accelerate development and open up sufficient working faces.
- Newmont's proposed Coffee Creek mine has cleared its initial environmental assessment, a significant advance for the project.
- Preliminary 2022 data show that the industry spent \$163.1 million on exploration and deposit appraisal, up from the \$153.9 million spent in 2021.
- The industry expects to increase exploration and deposit appraisal spending to \$144.7 million in 2023.

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Economic Overview

TAB 2

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	2020	2021	2022
Real GDP			
Annual per cent change	5.2	10.0	N/A
Population			
Population (persons)	42,198	43,118	44,160 (to Sept)
Annual per cent change	1.9	2.2	N/A
Labour Market			
Average labour force	22,900	23,700	24,300
Average employed	21,700	22,400	23,400
Average unemployment rate (%)	5.2	5.5	3.7
Consumers			
Inflation (per cent)	1.0	3.3	6.8
Retail sales (\$millions)	900.5	963.5	1,026
Real Estate (Whitehorse)			
Total sales (\$millions)	342.1	386.9	403.4
Average detached house price (\$)	564,700	645,000	676,700

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 18, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Labour Market Conditions

Tab 3

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Recommended response:

- The Yukon is experiencing the effects of a nationwide labour market shortage in which many employers are experiencing difficulty finding suitable workers to maintain or grow their businesses.
- The Department of Economic Development is working to help Yukon businesses by aligning supports provided by the Labour Market Development Branch and the Immigration Branch.
- We have re-deployed labour market development supports from the Department of Education to the Department of Economic Development to centralize support, leverage the department's existing relationships with employers, and coordinate labour market development initiatives.
- Labour market development programming is targeted at Yukoners as the first priority, and immigration programming seeks to address the workforce gaps remaining.

Additional response:

- We are moving on a number of initiatives:
 - Projects under Building UP to strengthen labour market participation of those not in the labour market, including foundational skills, Skills for Success and vocational skills, disability supports and employment assistance services;
 - Wage and training subsidies through the Staffing Up program help employers find, hire and keep suitable workers that they need for their businesses to thrive.

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Development

- Labour Market Development expects to invest over \$7.001M in 2022-23 to help individuals meet their labour market goals and help employers recruit, train and retain staff they need for their businesses to thrive.
- Within that budget, Labour Market Development has committed:
 - Support for 11 organizations providing labour market programs for First Nations, benefitting nearly 1,000 individuals;
 - Support for 15 service providers to provide services to approximately 3,000 Yukoners to help them develop the foundational skills they need to attach to the labour market;
 - Support for nine organizations to provide employment assistance services to help approximately 7,000 individuals to obtain employment. This category includes needs determination and employment counselling and job search training and providing labour market information;
 - Support for four organizations to support and promote trades and apprenticeship including subsidies to provide work experience and on-the-job training to 30 Yukoners; and
 - Support for nine organizations to provide support for employers.
- Our data consistently demonstrates that the number of unfilled jobs is exceeded by the number of working-age Yukoners who are not in the labour force for a variety of reasons.
- Work is underway to determine:
 - Who are those working-age Yukoners who are not participating in the labour market?
 - What are the available skill sets of those Yukoners? and

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Labour Market Conditions

Tab 3

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- What supports and incentives (employer and program) should be employed to engage or re-engage these individuals?
- On September 28, 2022, Economic Development staff participated in Jobs Canada Fair in Edmonton, Alberta, the country's most attended career fair. Immigration Unit staff interacted with hundreds of attendees looking to learn about the employment opportunities in Yukon.
 - 33 local employers provided our department with 219 job opportunities.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Employers in Whitehorse and the communities continue to have trouble finding and retaining staff.
- Inability to secure staff is impacting businesses' ability to operate.
- Job vacancies continue to rise across Canada, leading to a high demand for labour and a tight job market.

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Labour Market Conditions

Tab 3

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Background:

- The table below summarizes key data from the 2021 Yukon Employment and Skills Survey carried out by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics in the fall of 2021. For the purposes of labour market development it is far better to rely on this annual survey rather than the more volatile data sets such as the monthly Labour Force Survey or the monthly number of EI recipients.

Working- age (18-65) population	29,649
Labour force	23,484
Employed (including self-employment)	22,758
Unemployed	726
Not in the labour force	5,846
Not currently working or looking for work but able to work	3,600
Number citing retirement as reason for not working while able to work	2,323
Unable to work for a variety of reasons	1,819

- Statistics Canada's Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours provides a more granular look at how many payroll jobs are filled (and vacant) in the Yukon each month (note that it does not cover the self-employed).
- Preliminary data for October 2022 show that there were 24,003 filled jobs and 1,400 vacant jobs in the Yukon, indicating a job vacancy rate of 6.6%.
- Five sectors – health care, construction, accommodation and food, retail trade and manufacturing – continue to drive the growth in job vacancies, with vacancies increasing more in low-wage occupations than in high-wage occupations.
- On April 22, 2022, IRCC announced several measures to ease labour shortages being experienced across Canada, including:

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Labour Market Conditions

Tab 3

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- Resuming Express Entry draws with invitations for candidates to apply for permanent residence;
 - Resuming invitations to apply for federal high-skilled streams, including the Canadian experience class, federal skilled worker class and federal skilled trades class;
 - Implementing a temporary policy to provide additional work permits of up to 18 months to post-graduation international students currently on a work permit expiring between January and December 2022; and
 - Several measures to facilitate applications made before the November 2021 deadline to transition from temporary to permanent residency.
- Economic Development's Labour Market Development supports the Government of Canada Job Bank, which created in March 2022 a dedicated resource called "Jobs for Ukraine" to help connect Ukrainian job seekers with employment opportunities in Canada.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 3, 2023
Date approved

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Mandate Commitments**Spring 2023**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development is taking action on its mandate commitments to support local jobs and diversify our economy.
- These initiatives will create opportunities for innovation in the Yukon and support economic development and diversification.
- Priority initiatives include continuing to support community and economic development initiatives and addressing the Yukon's workforce needs through immigration and labour market development programs.
- Economic Development will continue to align the department's work with the needs of the business community through the development of a labour market strategy and supporting immigration of francophone and skilled workers.
- We are continuing work on our innovation strategy, and appreciate the important role that the Innovation Commission played in its development.
- These commitments focus on supporting local entrepreneurs and innovators and providing Yukon businesses with the assistance they need now and into the future.

Additional response:

- Other commitments include: exploring the feasibility of commercial and passenger rail in the Yukon, and; ensuring the Port of Skagway remains a viable export option for the Yukon's mining industry.

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Mandate Commitments

Spring 2023Economic
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Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions may arise about the timing for completion of commitments already underway, and funding and resources for new commitments.
-

Background:

Key mandate commitments:

Complete an **Innovation Strategy** that will guide our work in creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs:

- We are finalizing the Innovation Strategy in consideration of the input provided by the Innovation Commission.
- The five-year strategy will outline the Yukon's unique strengths and identify actions, programs and services that will achieve our vision of attracting technology start-ups and growing the Yukon's digital ecosystem.
- Engagement for the development of the innovation plan was completed and the *What We Heard* report was issued in August 2021.

Introduce a new **Immigration strategy** to address labour challenges facing the private sector and our healthcare and education systems:

- Modernizing our Immigration Strategy will guide policy and program development over the next decade to be responsive to the needs of the Yukon's employers.
- The *What We Heard* report on the engagement for the Immigration Strategy was released to the public in July 2021.
- The department is continuing to finalize the contents of the strategy, and hopes to release it shortly.

Work with the French Language Services Directorate to support **Francophone Immigration**:

- We will work to support francophone immigration to meet the needs of Yukon employers and communities.

Begin consultation on a Labour Market Strategy:

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Mandate Commitments

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- The previous *Yukon Labour Market Framework* was a 10-year initiative that expired in 2020
- The department is beginning to develop a consultation plan for a Labour Market Strategy

Work in partnership with other levels of government and Yukon University to identify opportunities to streamline and support **recognition of foreign credentials**:

- Foreign credential recognition is key to meeting labour needs, particularly in skilled trades, education and health care.
- Economic Development will work with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts to identify ways to streamline processes with licensing bodies.

Investigate the feasibility of **commercial and passenger rail** in the Yukon:

- The department is working with partners, including the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway, to evaluate the feasibility of bringing back commercial and passenger rail to the Yukon.
- Reopening the railway to regular freight and passenger service would provide an alternative supply chain route in the event of a closure of the Alaska Highway south of Whitehorse.
- Economic Development has held two meetings with White Pass and Yukon Route and one meeting with Blackstone Infrastructure Partners for high level conceptual discussions.
- Follow up discussions have resulted in information sharing with a view to developing a terms of reference for a feasibility study.

Ensure the **Port of Skagway** remains accessible as an export option for the Yukon mining industry:

- Skagway is undertaking a port redevelopment project that will eliminate its ore export capability by March 2023. Yukon has proposed a marine services platform capable of supporting ore loading equipment to be constructed as part of the redevelopment project.
- The Skagway Assembly voted on March 2, 2023 to approve a resolution authorizing the Borough Manager to both finalize the non-binding terms sheet and subsequently to

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Mandate Commitments

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conclude a binding agreement on the basis of that terms sheet. A summary of the terms sheet was published on Skagway's website along with the resolution.

- The department hopes that it will finalize and sign the terms sheet, which will form the basis for a final agreement, in the coming weeks. The department hopes subsequently to begin negotiations on a binding agreement.

2021 Mandate Commitments

For reference purposes, the following items were identified in the 2021 Mandate Letter for Minister Pillai and were actioned as follows:

COVID support programs:

- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate program was extended to March 31, 2023.
- The Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS) and the Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS) were transferred from Tourism to Economic Development. Both programs have ended (TASS ended on March 31, 2022 and TNASS ended on July 31, 2022).
- The Vaccine Verification Rebate program and the Yukon Emergency Business Relief program were developed in response to CEMA that was declared on November 08, 2021. Both programs have ended.

Establish an **Innovation Commission** to attract new technology start-ups and grow the Yukon's digital ecosystem:

- The Innovation Commission was established and met six times between August and November 2021. The work of the Commission has now concluded.

Foster the growth of the **Yukon's film industry**:

- Four new media programs, including administrative business guidelines, were announced on January 10, 2022, to support the production of professional film, television and digital media projects.
- The new budget to support the four funds within the program (Predevelopment, Development, Media Production and Training) totals \$1,160,000.

Working with Yukon University to investigate the feasibility of a **varsity sports program**:

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Mandate Commitments

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- The department worked on this project in collaboration with the Department of Education, Yukon University, Sport Yukon and Aboriginal Sport Circle.
- A feasibility study and roadmap for how YukonU might develop a varsity sports program including estimated costs for each stage was completed.
- Department of Education is now considering next steps for this program.

Creating a **Mineral Exploration Fund** to support junior mining companies operating in the Yukon:

- The department completed a preliminary review for a number of fund models and tendered a contract for fund design in February 2022. Three proponents submitted bids by April 2022, but only one bid met the technical requirements for the project. The bid was rejected due to a substantially higher cost than the RFP budget.
- The department will continue to be open to potential opportunities related to the establishment of a Mineral Exploration Fund.

Investigating, in partnership with the private sector, the potential to develop a **flexible fieldhouse complex** for athletes and large public conferences and events:

- Preliminary scoping and background research was completed on the feasibility of building a flexible fieldhouse complex for athletes and large public events.
- The research considered inflatable dome, insulated fabric building structure, and standard building designs. For various reasons, including cost and lack of suitability to the Yukon's climate, all options posed significant challenges to implementation.
- The Department is not moving forward with further research at this time.

Working with the **non-profit sector** to ensure that this important industry is able to recover from COVID-19 by enhancing opportunities for collaboration and shared services:

- This was a shared mandate commitment with Community Services.
- The department designed a short-term COVID response and recovery program in collaboration with the non-profit sector, which was administered by Volunteer

Session Briefing Note

Mandate Commitments

TAB 4
Spring 2023
Economic
Development

Bénévoles Yukon. This program provided a fund of \$250,000 to help address the impacts of Covid-19 that are still having an effect on Yukon's NGOs.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 13, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Russian Invasion of Ukraine and
Canadian Response**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Yukon condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. This is a blatant violation of international law, of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and of the Ukrainian people's right to determine their own future.
- The Ukrainian Family Support Desk was launched in March 2022 to help Ukrainians seek residency and employment in the Yukon.
- As of March 23, 2023, the Support Desk has received 346 inquiries, including 61 Ukrainian citizens seeking jobs and relocation in the Yukon.
- Yukon provided support for Ukrainians arriving at the Erik Nielsen Airport in August-September 2022 during Condor's seasonal flights from Frankfurt. This included signage, translation, and support finding accommodations.
 - At the end of Condor's 2022 seasonal flights, Yukon has provided support services to 45 Ukrainians, including 11 families and 10 single travelers.
- As of March 23, 2023, at least 50 Ukrainians have chosen to settle in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Economic Development's Labour Market Development branch supports the "Jobs for Ukraine" program launched in March 2022 by the Government of Canada Job Bank, to support Ukrainians seeking jobs in Canada.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation has ended the sale of Russian-produced products in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Russian Invasion of Ukraine and
Canadian Response**Economic
Development

- On March 17, 2022, Canada announced the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET), a temporary pathway, for Ukrainians and their families.
 - The Yukon supports Canadian sanctions against senior Russian officials and institutions, as well as export controls.
 - We support all efforts by Canada, alongside NATO Allies and other likeminded countries, to bring an end to the fighting.
 - This unjustified invasion has created a humanitarian disaster. The fighting has caused nearly eight million people to flee the country, nearly six million are internally displaced, and there have been over twenty thousand civilian casualties.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Russian invasion of Ukraine has created a major humanitarian crisis. It has significant implications for NATO, the European security order, and global security. Yukoners may want to know the Government of Yukon's position.
-

Background:

- On February 24, 2022, Russia launched an unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine.
 - The invasion created a humanitarian crisis. The following are current UNHCR estimates, with real figures inside Ukraine likely much higher.
 - 8.1 million have fled to other European countries (February 28, 2023);
 - At least 5.4 million are internally displaced (January 23, 2023); and
 - At least 21,965 civilian casualties, including 8,231 deaths (March 13, 2023).
-

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Russian Invasion of Ukraine and
Canadian Response****Economic
Development**

Canada's Response:

- **Immigration and Refugees:** Canada's new immigration measures include:
 - One-time financial support of \$3,000 per Ukrainian adult in Canada (18 years and older) and \$1,500 per child (17 years and under);
 - The announcement of two new immigration streams for Ukrainians to come to Canada temporarily or permanently:
 - The Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) for Ukrainian nationals fleeing Ukraine. It has received 943,730 applications, with 616,429 approved as of March 16, 2023:
 - On March 22, 2023, Canada announced the extension of CUAET:
 - CUAET has been extended from March 31, 2023 to July 15, 2023 for Ukrainians to apply overseas without fee;
 - Ukrainians can apply to other temporary resident programs to come to Canada after CUAET expires;
 - CUAET holders have until March 31, 2024 to travel to Canada under special measures;
 - CUAET holders can extend or adjust their temporary status through these measures until March 31, 2024.
 - Settlement services, one-time transitional financial support and emergency accommodation remain available.
 - A special family reunification sponsorship for permanent residence.
 - Increased newcomer services for Ukrainians Arriving in Canada;
 - Waiving of fees;
 - Support for flights for Ukrainians to Canada;
 - Adding new ways for people to contact IRCC, including:
 - A dedicated channel for Ukraine for immigration inquiries accepting collect calls at 613-321-4243;

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Russian Invasion of Ukraine and
Canadian Response****Economic
Development**

- A web page and email signup for current information on measures, including Ukrainian-language content for ease of reference; and
- In April 2022, the Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance (CISSA-ACSEI) launched Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven (ukrainiansafehaven.ca). Canadians can support arrived Ukrainians with donations, housing, employment and volunteering.
- **Other measures:** Canada has implemented a range of economic measures, including targeted sanctions against officials and organizations, and trade restrictions.
- Canada has also provided humanitarian, economic and military assistance packages, as well as diplomatic support for Ukraine.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Skagway Port Redevelopment Project**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the Skagway ore terminal is a valuable export option for the Yukon mining industry.
- Control of the ore terminal will revert to Skagway in March 2023, when the White Pass lease lapses.
- Skagway's planned port redevelopment will eliminate its ore export capability. The ore loader is scheduled for demolition in October 2023.
- Yukon is negotiating the inclusion of a marine services platform capable of supporting ore-loading equipment to be included in its port redevelopment project in Skagway's redevelopment project.
- We welcome the decision of the Skagway Assembly on March 2, 2023 to approve proceeding with an export cooperation agreement with Yukon to support this new infrastructure on the basis of terms outlined in a non-binding terms sheet.
- We look forward to signing the terms sheet in the coming weeks and proceeding to negotiations on a final, binding agreement.
- Yukon has funded 60% design for the platform, totaling \$257,988 USD.
- Based on 60% design, the platform is estimated to cost \$17.65 million USD. The amount that Yukon would spend has not yet been decided.
- The payment schedule, as outlined in the draft terms, will be on a milestone basis. The Government of Yukon would reimburse Skagway as construction milestones are met.

Additional response:

- We respect the priorities and responsibilities of the Municipality of Skagway as they plan for the future of the ore peninsula post-2023, including the need to modernize the port for cruise ship traffic.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Skagway Port Redevelopment Project**Economic
Development

- Reliable access to Skagway's port helps attract investment, supports mine development and encourages mineral exploration in the Yukon.
- We believe that we are working toward a solution that will secure long term tidewater access for Yukon's industry and work for the community of Skagway.
- We are pleased with the progress made to date. Yukon and Skagway benefit greatly from our deep and neighbourly relationship. Our continuing cooperation demonstrates the strength of this friendship.

If asked about the draft terms sheet:

- Our objective is to secure waterfront space to ensure that Skagway remains an export option for Yukon industry in the future:
 - We hope to avoid a scenario wherein the loss of an ore export option in Yukon's nearest deep water port disincentivizes mine development, mineral exploration, and investment in Yukon; and
 - Yukon and Skagway both benefit from a port that supports both tourism and industrial use. We are seeking a solution that works for industry and the community of Skagway.
- The Skagway Assembly approved a resolution on March 2, 2023 to proceed with terms for a binding export cooperation agreement.
- The terms sheet is a non-binding document that will provide a basis for the final agreement, outlining provisionally-agreed business terms.
- We hope to finalize and sign a non-binding terms sheet in the coming weeks, and then begin negotiations on the final agreement.
- The terms sheet proposes that the Government of Yukon will reimburse Skagway to include a marine services platform in its port development project.
- In exchange, Yukon would designate mining companies to receive:

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Skagway Port Redevelopment Project**Economic
Development

- Preferential access to ore export facilities for 35 years, with an option to extend for an additional 15 years; and
 - A 25% discount on all fees associated with using the platform for 20 years.
- The designation process is procedural and would not be discriminatory. The purpose of this process is to confirm to the Port of Skagway that these companies are operating in Yukon. Because this is a government-to-government agreement, this is a necessary step so that companies can benefit in their contracts under this agreement.
- The Municipality would at all times own, operate, and manage the platform.
- The platform is planned to be a 227 foot fixed concrete T-shaped dock capable of supporting multiple ore loading methods, as well as the loading and unloading of other heavy goods.
- The agreement would include approval rights for Yukon and continuing consultation during the construction process to ensure that money is properly spent and the project meets specifications.
- The selection of loading method depends on both acceptability in Skagway and industry needs. This will require additional conversations between Skagway and industry representatives.

If asked about Minto Metals:

- Minto Metals is the only current user of the ore terminal.
- The Department facilitated a conversation between Minto and Skagway in October 2022 on potential interim solutions.
- Questions about Minto's plans should be directed to the company.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Skagway Port Redevelopment Project

Economic Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Skagway’s planned port redevelopment project will eliminate its ore export capability after it takes control of the ore terminal in March 2023. Yukon is negotiating with Skagway to secure replacement infrastructure in the port.
- The public is aware of the Yukon-Skagway negotiations. Yukon’s engagement with Skagway was raised in question period during the Fall 2022 sitting.
- The Skagway Assembly voted on March 2, 2023 to approve a resolution authorizing the Borough Manager to both finalize the non-binding terms sheet and conclude a binding agreement on the basis of that terms sheet. A summary of the non-binding terms sheet was published on Skagway’s website along with the resolution. This resulted in various media attention.

Background:

- The Port of Skagway is the closest ice-free, deep-water port access to most of the Yukon. The current location of the ore terminal shortens the sailing time to Asian markets as compared to other western North American ports.
- In October 2021, AIDEA announced it would allow its sublease with White Pass for the terminal to lapse in March 2023. Its lease ends on March 16, while White Pass’s lease ends on March 19, at which point control reverts to Skagway.
- Skagway has no current plans to operate the ore terminal in 2023, and plans to demolish the ore loader in October 2023.

Anticipated Timeline:

March 2-17, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department will finalize and complete a legal review of the non-binding terms sheet.
March 20-April 7, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department will meet to discuss next steps with the Municipality of Skagway (MoS), and MoS will conduct its legal review.
April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yukon government and MoS sign the non-binding terms sheet.
Late March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for completion of 90% design on MSP.
March-April, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department and MoS negotiate a final binding contract.
April 24, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for completion of 100% design on MSP.
April-May, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department returns with a Joint Submission to Cabinet and Management Board to seek a decision on whether to sign the contract. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTE: This may occur during session.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Skagway Port Redevelopment Project

Economic Development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Municipality of Skagway will submit the contract for approval by the Borough Assembly.
May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contract comes into effect, and Skagway begins its procurement process for its port redevelopment project, including the MSP component.
October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skagway Ore Terminal ore loader demolition begins.
November-December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Services Platform construction begins.
December 2023-April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely first milestone payment for MSP construction.
April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned earliest completion of Marine Services Platform.
Fall 2024-Spring 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Marine Services Platform with delays. Completion of Skagway Port Redevelopment Project.

Skagway Port Redevelopment:

- Skagway is undertaking a port redevelopment project that will eliminate its ore export capability by March 2023. Yukon has proposed a marine service platform capable of supporting ore loading equipment to be constructed as part of the redevelopment project.
- Skagway's timelines are aggressive, and are organized around expanding the port's cruise ship capacity for the 2024 cruise season.
- The contract is planned to be submitted for approval by Yukon's Cabinet and Management Board and the Skagway Assembly in the first quarter of 2023.
- The Department secured a negotiation mandate from CCPP on August 17, 2022. Negotiations have been ongoing since September 2022. The Department returned to CCPP in December 2022 for policy direction.
- On February 9, 2023, Management Board approved the Department to sign a non-binding terms sheet, enabling the terms sheet to be considered by the Skagway Assembly.
- On February 24, 2023, the sides agreed to most outstanding key business terms needed to finalize the draft terms sheet. A summary of the terms sheet was referred to the Assembly.
- On March 2, 2023, Skagway's Assembly voted to approve a resolution empowering the Borough Manager to proceed with finalizing the terms sheet and concluding a binding agreement on the basis of those terms.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Skagway Port Redevelopment
Project****Economic
Development**

- The Department hopes that it will finalize and sign the terms sheet in the coming weeks, and begin negotiations on a binding agreement in the coming weeks.

Minto Metals:

- Minto Metals is the only current user of the Skagway ore terminal, with a contract to export 40,000 metric tonnes of ore concentrate annually. That contract ends once the White Pass lease lapses in March 2023.
- The Department arranged a meeting between Minto and Skagway in October 2022 to discuss interim solutions. Minto committed to provide a proposal for interim solutions to Skagway:
 - Minto Metals submitted a proposal that would allow four additional ore shipments once Skagway takes control in 2023;
 - The proposal went to the Skagway Ports and Harbors Advisory Board in January 2023; and
 - The Board indicated that, given delays in gaining access to the facility to conduct contamination testing, Skagway would not have time to conduct the necessary due diligence to be able to operate the loader in 2023.
- Minto has expressed concern over an Ordinance proposed by Skagway Mayor Andrew Cremata to require containerized bulk handling (CBH) for ore loading in Skagway. The proposed ordinance went before the Skagway Ports and Harbors Advisory Board on February 22, 2023 but has not yet been considered in the Skagway Assembly. Minto is considering its options for ore shipments given this potential requirement.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Northern Food Working Group
(NFWG)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Northern Food Working Group (NFWG) was established in 2017 under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, and it includes the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Government of Canada.
- The NFWG produced a final report in 2018 with recommendations to support the territorial food sector, but due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts to fully explore those recommendations took pause.
- As Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) in 2022, Yukon tabled a recommendation to renew the activities of the NFWG and set a timeframe for establishing the next working group on northern food priorities under the CFTA that would include the provinces.
- The CIT agreed to renew the NFWG, and work is now underway among officials to revisit the 2018 final report in light of current northern food priorities.
- Officials are meeting regularly to advance the remaining mandate of the working group, approximately on a monthly basis. They are next scheduled to meet in mid-April.

Additional response:

- The NFWG's 2018 final report identified recommendations for advancing the development of the territorial food sector. Those recommendations addressed challenges related to four key areas: (1) access to capital, (2) innovation and research, (3) regulatory development, and (4) local food production.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Northern Food Working Group
(NFWG)**Economic
Development

- A funding stream under CanNor's \$15 million Northern Isolated Community Initiatives (NICI) supports territorial initiatives identified by the NFWG.
 - Officials are currently taking stock of what projects were previously supported by NICI and other related programs as part of their initial efforts to renew the NFWG.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon was Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade for 2022 and hosted the Committee's annual meeting in Toronto on December 8, 2022.
- The activities of the NFWG were put on hold due to COVID-19. Officials have been directed to renew the working group's initiatives.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Northern Food Working Group
(NFWG)**Economic
Development**Background:**

- Under Article 1103 of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), the Parties agreed to establish two working groups focused on developing the food sector in the Territories.
- The NFWG is the first of the two working groups to be established. Consisting of only the Government of Canada and the three territories, its mandate is to identify economic development opportunities for the respective territorial food sectors.
- The establishment of the second working is pending a recommendation to do so from the NFWG. This forthcoming working group will include the provinces and prioritize the following:
 - identify ways in which the provinces and the Government of Canada could work with the Territories to better direct the innovation strengths of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector to provide for economic benefits and improved access to healthy foods in the Territories; and
 - assess and consider the role of supply management, including the quota allocation process, in economic development in the Territories.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentApril 6, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Türkiye and Syria Response**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Yukon sends its deepest condolences to Turkish and Syrian families who have been affected by the deadly earthquake that has killed more than 50,000 people and displaced millions.
- On April 14, we announced the expansion of our support services for affected families and individuals that began with the Ukrainian Family Support Desk in 2022.
- Our initial response to the humanitarian crisis in Türkiye and Syria will have three main pillars:
 - A Türkiye and Syria Support Desk and dedicated web page with information on federal programs to assist with immigration and family reunification and connect those in need with local programs, services, humanitarian aid and jobs;
 - Prioritization of Yukon Nominee Program applications for Turkish and Syrian immigrants seeking employment and Canadian permanent residence in the Yukon; and,
 - A donation of \$25,000 to Yukon Cares to assist with the resettlement of Turkish and Syrian nationals arriving in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Contact the Türkiye and Syria Support Desk:
 - By email at refugees@yukon.ca
 - By phone at 867-667-9500

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Türkiye and Syria Response**Economic
Development

- Find information about the support desk and available resources online at yukon.ca/turkiye-syria-support
- On March 18, 2023, Canada announced support for Turkish and Syrian temporary residents, a temporary measure be in effect from March 29 to September 25, 2023.
- Turkish and Syrian nationals can:
 - continue to study, work or visit family in Canada by applying for an extension of their status free of charge;
 - receive prioritized processing for immigration applications;
 - be approved for a permanent resident visa to come to Canada without a passport or travel document;
 - utilize a streamlined process for work permit applications for those already in Canada; and
 - acquire necessary travel documents free of charge.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 7.8-magnitude earthquake and several powerful aftershocks have created a major humanitarian crisis. Yukoners may want to know how the Government of Yukon is supporting those displaced by the disaster.

Background:

- On February 6, 2023, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake and several powerful aftershocks hit the border of Türkiye and Syria.
- The earthquake in Syria has affected at least 8.8 million people. Before the earthquake hit, an estimated 15.3 million people in Syria were already in need of humanitarian assistance.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Türkiye and Syria Response****Economic
Development**

Canada's Response:

- As of February 8, 2023, approximately 16,000 applications from Turkish and Syrian residents were in progress with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Of these, approximately 1,670 (750 permanent and 920 temporary residents) were from the area impacted by the earthquakes.
- As of February 24, 2023, Canada announced \$50 million in humanitarian support for the earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria.
- On March 18, 2023, Canada announced support for Turkish and Syrian temporary residents, a temporary measure be in effect from March 29 to September 25, 2023.
 - Effective March 29, 2023, Turkish and Syrian nationals can continue to study, work or visit family by applying for an extension of their status free of charge;
 - Prioritize processing for immigration applications submitted by those impacted by the earthquake, including refugee applications;
 - Create an open work permit pathway for Turkish and Syrian nationals already in Canada;
 - Waive the requirement to hold a passport or travel document to be approved for a permanent resident visa to come to Canada; and
 - Waive fees for temporary passports, limited-validity passports or emergency travel documents as well as Canadian citizenship certificates and permanent resident travel documents for Canadian citizens and permanent residents from Türkiye and Syria to return to Canada planning to return to Canada.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 24, 2023
Date approved

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Session Briefing Note

Paid Sick Leave Rebate

Tab 9

Spring 2023

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Temporary Paid Sick Leave Rebate program (TPSLP) will provide support for eligible Yukon workers (employees and self-employed) who earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94 per hour.
- Coverage will be for 40 hours of work per 12-month period.
- Coverage will be for all illnesses (and injuries not covered by any other Act, benefit or program).
- The program will run from April 1, 2023 until March 31, 2025.

Additional response:

- Employers who have established paid sick leave for their workers for less than 40 hours annually may use the TPSLP to top up to 40 hours per employee.
- We are focusing on those at lower wage levels who may otherwise choose to go to work while sick to avoid financial hardship, especially if they have no other means of meeting their economic needs.
- The program will also help reduce the spread of infectious illness in the workplace and in our communities: lower-wage workers tend to interact directly with the public, further increasing their risk of both contracting and spreading respiratory illnesses
- Many businesses are unable to provide this level of coverage for their employees, so this program will also help support them to be able to attract, retain and care for their staff.
- Employee retention is especially important. This program will help strengthen the relationship between employers and employees which is important in a time of national labour shortage.

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Session Briefing Note

Paid Sick Leave Rebate

Tab 9

Spring 2023

Economic
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Context—this may be an issue because:

- The COVID-19 program, the work of the Making Work Safe Panel, and the 2023 budget speech announcement that there will continue to be a paid sick leave rebate has created the public expectation that there be some form of paid sick leave in place.

Background:

- Economic Development has administered a paid sick leave rebate program for employers and the self-employed, focused on COVID-19 only, since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. The last extension of that program expired on March 31, 2023.
- The estimated budget per fiscal year for the program is \$3.65 million, totaling \$7.3 million for the duration of the two years
- No other jurisdiction in Canada has a paid sick leave program for the private sector funded, in whole or in part, by the provincial or territorial governments. However, British Columbia does require employers to pay an annual maximum of 5 days sick leave to each employee, while Quebec and PEI require 2 days and 1 day paid respectively.
- The program will be delivered by employers because that ensures continuity of income, as the sick pay will be part of the regular payroll process.
- The department will make sure that the program is properly explained to employers to help ensure that they understand the program and its benefits both to their workers and the business itself.
- The amount of sick time has been reduced from the 10 days provided in the Covid program to 40 hours in the new program. The original program followed the guidelines for Covid-19 related self-isolation; without that requirement there is no need to cover a full 10 days.

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Session Briefing Note

Paid Sick Leave Rebate

Tab 9

Spring 2023

Economic
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- The Making Work Safe Panel (MWSP) conducted engagement on paid sick leave in the Yukon and published its findings and 22 recommendations in January 2022.

Key MWSP Recommendations	TPSLR
Cover employees and self-employed	Covers employees and self-employed
Provide 100% coverage	Covers those making less than the average private sector wage of \$33.94.
Provide equivalent to 10 days paid sick leave	Provides coverage for 40 hours per 12-month period.
Workers not experience a delay or disruption in their regular income.	Workers will not experience a delay or disruption in their regular income: employers continue regular pay and apply for a rebate.
That there be no qualification period for the benefit.	There is a 90-day qualification period but seasonal workers may count days from previous season toward the total.
That no medical notes be required.	That no medical notes be required.
That options for a co-funded (employer and Yukon government) model be explored.	This is 100% funded by YG.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 25, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Business Incentive Program (BIP)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Business Incentive Program supports local economic activity and diversification by providing rebates to businesses working on eligible Government of Yukon contracts.
- Rebates are available for hiring Yukon youth, apprentices and adults and also for Yukon-made goods and services.
- Since April 1, 2022, BIP has processed six applications totaling \$33,959 in rebate payments.

Additional response:

- BIP must comply with the Yukon's domestic and international free trade obligations, including procurement thresholds.
 - Any changes to BIP would have to comply with the rules and spirit of trade agreements, which work to reduce barriers to trade.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Contractors have expressed concern over free trade threshold limitations on BIP and over contracts awarded to non-Yukon companies.
-

Background:

- BIP provides two types of rebates for eligible Yukon government procurements:
 - Yukon government construction contracts: rebates for labour and apprentice costs, youth employment and Yukon materials; and
 - Goods and Services: rebates for items produced locally and sold directly.

BIP and Trade Agreements:

- BIP preference for the use of local content amounts to prohibitive discrimination against other provinces and territories and in international free trade agreements.
-

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Business Incentive Program (BIP)****Economic
Development**

- The Yukon has an exception for BIP in the Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), allowing the operation of BIP to deviate from CFTA procurement obligations.
- There are no exceptions for BIP in any of Canada's international trade agreements, but two carve-outs do exist:
 - The Yukon does not include school boards or municipalities as covered entities in Canadian FTAs; their procurement is not bound by treaty; and
 - The Yukon has access to ten regional economic development exceptions per year for contracts of up to \$1 million. The Yukon must formally notify Global Affairs Canada when it intends to use one of these exceptions.
- The Yukon can't otherwise apply the BIP to contracts exceeding FTA thresholds, set at \$238,000 for goods and services and \$9.1 million for construction.
- Current year payments have supported Yukon Labour and Apprentices from two businesses and three projects.

Aboriginal Exceptions in Trade Agreements:

- Canada maintains indigenous exceptions and/or reservations in all its major trade agreements to meet its constitutional and/or statutory obligations. BIP can be applied to favour Yukon Indigenous peoples over other Yukoners, Canadians or foreigners without contravening trade obligations.

Expenditures:

- For the 2021-22 fiscal year, \$458,072 in BIP rebates were paid.
- As of February 23, 2023, \$33,959 has been paid.
- It is estimated that an additional \$77,981 may be paid on three pending BIP claims by March 31, 2023.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 13, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Economic Development Fund (EDF)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Economic Development Fund is intended to support economic growth and diversification by providing funding for the broadest possible range of initiatives.
- From April 1 to January 13, 2023, 60 projects have been supported through the EDF, with a total contribution commitment of \$2,233,029. Several projects are multi-year initiatives.
- These projects are located throughout the Yukon and include, among others:
 - Kaska Dena Designs supported to attend the International Indigenous Fashion Show in Paris to gain exposure in the international market.
 - Yukon Motorcycle Park supported to complete the development of an accommodation business focused on the motorcycle rider market segment.
 - Sarah's Harvest supported to purchase equipment and material to develop a solar passive greenhouse to extend the growing season and diversify operations to accommodate commercial seedlings and greenhouse crop production.

Additional response:

- During the 2021-22 fiscal year, 54 projects were approved for a total commitment of \$1,479,476.
- Eligible projects include those that:
 - support business innovation, sustainability and planning;

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Economic Development Fund (EDF)**Economic
Development

- encourage economic diversification through market support; and
 - increase business competitiveness through capacity and capital development.
 - All EDF applications are reviewed and assessed to ensure they meet fund eligibility and evaluation criteria.
 - The program enables businesses to make improvements through capital purchases in order to enhance competitiveness.
 - Capital investments will be considered where the applicant can show that the project has real potential for a positive long-term impact on the broader Yukon economy, not solely on an individual business.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The EDF is a competitive program that is often oversubscribed.
 - Projects that compete with an established eligible business and cannot demonstrate a defensible greater economic benefit to the community or territory will not be approved.
-

Background:

- The fund provides support to Yukon businesses, First Nation governments, First Nation development entities, municipalities, community societies or industry associations and non-profits. It invests in projects focused on local or regional economic and business development, job creation, or economic planning.
 - The 2022-23 funding intakes for the following tiers:
 - Tier 1 – A rolling intake for applications up to \$30,000;
 - Tier 2 – Applications between \$30,001 and \$100,000 with intakes on April 15 and September 15; and
 - Tier 3 – Applications over \$100,000 with a \$500,000 per project cap, with an intake on January 15.
-

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Economic Development Fund (EDF)**Economic
Development

- Contributions from all Government of Yukon sources for the same project may be up to 75% of the total project costs.
- Contributions from the EDF may not exceed 50% of eligible capital expenditures.
- The total allocation for the new fund is \$1.96 million.

Other Examples of Supported Projects from 2022-23:

- Business innovation, sustainability and planning:
 - RAB Energy Group Inc. was provided funding to develop a strategy for improving efficiency and maximizing productivity to meet growing market demand.
 - Icefield Discovery Tours was supported to investigate the financial feasibility of bringing a twin-engine aircraft into its operations.
- Market support and diversification:
 - Yukon Brewing was supported to attend Whiskey Live Paris 2022 to grow exports of Yukon Brewing's single malt whiskey to France.
 - MakeIT Inc. was provided funding to assess the feasibility of marketing MakeIT's software development services in the London, England market.
- Capacity and capital development:
 - Icefield Tools Corporation was provided funding to purchase a multi-axis calibration system at its Whitehorse facility to expand its production capacity.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentFebruary 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Investment Attraction**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development's investment attraction efforts support the growth of Yukon businesses and creates opportunities for employment, diversification and market expansion.
- The department supports initiatives aimed at broadening the Yukon's economic base and increasing competitiveness to attract investment by providing two investment attraction funding programs.
- In addition, the department works to attract domestic and foreign direct investment through its mining investment attraction strategy and Yukon Business Nominee Program.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Investment into the Yukon is an important factor in Yukon's economic growth.

Background:

- The Department operates two principal investment attraction programs, in addition to its regular work on investment attraction.
 - **Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Program:** A partnership between the Government of Yukon and participating financial institutions that supports private sector to attract investment by allowing lending institutions to partially guarantee a business loan in the event of loss; and
 - **Yukon Small Business Investment Tax Credit:** A 25% individual tax credit for Yukon investors that allows Yukon entities to issue shares in exchange for an agreed upon return and the tax credit. The program supports businesses to attract investment.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to attracting responsible mining investment that incorporates the views of local communities.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Investment Attraction**Economic
Development

- The Department's mining investment attraction work includes:
 - relationship-oriented approach that emphasizes face-to-face attendance at mining trade shows and investment conferences;
 - supporting the Yukon Mining Alliance to promote Yukon;
 - supporting the Yukon Chamber of Mines for the Yukon Geoscience Forum, Yukon Mining & Geology Week, and the Association of Mineral Exploration Round-Up; and
 - expanding joint initiatives with federal partners such as: Invest in Canada to attract Foreign Direct Investment.
- In addition, delivery of the Yukon Business Nominee Program, attracts investment into Yukon companies from around the world.
- Between January 1, 2021, and January 5, 2023, the Yukon Business Nominee Program accepted six applications into the selection pool with a total potential investment of \$5.12 million.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Mining Sector Supports

Spring 2023Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Government of Yukon is proud to attract mining investment and maximize benefits to the Yukon's economy by working collaboratively with mineral sector stakeholders and First Nations partners.
- By promoting the Yukon as a stable investment jurisdiction for mineral development, First Nations governments, communities and families will continue to benefit from investments in the industry.
- The department is working with industry partners to identify and undertake new initiatives for the upcoming 2023 season.
- We are in discussions with the Municipality of Skagway, industry, and federal partners on the future of tidewater access through the Port of Skagway.

Additional response:

- Yukon Mineral Exploration Program (YMEP) provided \$1.4M to 42 projects for the 2022 field season. 79% of YMEP expenditures stayed in the Yukon.
- With a return to in-person events, the department continues to promote Yukon's investment potential at mining forums such as AME RoundUP, the Vancouver Resource Investment Conference (VRIC), the Prospector's & Developers Association of Canada annual conference, and through the Yukon Property Tours.

Session Briefing Note

Mining Sector Supports

Spring 2023**Economic
Development**

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The mineral sector is a key contributor to the Yukon's economy and there is ongoing interest expressed in the level of government support to the sector and permitting delays are affecting industry certainty.
 - New successor resource mining legislation may be seen as creating new barriers for exploration and mining through additional environmental management and regulatory framework requirements.
-

Background:**Yukon Mining Alliance (YMA):**

- The department had a one-year TPA with YMA for \$300,000 which expired on March 31, 2023.
- Previous funding for the YMA was \$397,500 in annual funding between 2019-22. Prior to this it was \$301,500 annually.
- In June 2022, the Yukon Property Investor and Media Tour returned to the Yukon, and another tour is being planned for July 2023.
- In January 2023, the Yukon government sponsored the Invest Yukon Pavilion at Vancouver Resource Investment Conference, which has hosted a variety of thought leader conversations and corporate updates that promoted Yukon.

Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM):

- Economic Development, in partnership with Energy, Mines and Resources, provided \$50,000 in funding to the Yukon Chamber of Mines for the 50th Geoscience Forum and Trade Show on November 2022, in Whitehorse.
- YCM received \$10,000 in 2022, from the NGO – Emergency Relief Program.

Klondike Placer Miners Association (KPMA):

- KPMA launched a professional development application, KPMA 101, on Google Play and in the Apple App Store in January 2022.

Session Briefing Note

Mining Sector Supports

Spring 2023**Economic
Development**

- This program was funded by the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Education in the amount of \$398,875.
- The program was aimed at strengthening the community in four broad areas: reclamation practices; compliance with legislation; community and stakeholder relations; and modernization of placer practices.

Yukon Women in Mining (YWIM):

- In 2021, Economic Development provided YWIM with \$5,900 to develop a strategic plan for the next five to ten years to deliver its mission of advancing a diverse, inclusive, respectful, and progressive mineral sector.
- In January 2022, YWIM submitted a three-year project proposal for \$269,359, but was approved for only \$20,625. YWIM declined the support.

Invest Canada North (ICN):

- ICN has been a strategic mining industry-led investment attraction pilot project.
- Yukon has provided \$20,000 annually in sponsorship since inception.
- The NWT/NU Chamber of Mines, in collaboration with CSR Management, has been approved CanNor funding for 2023.
- Previously, YMA and the governments of Canada, Nunavut, Northwest Territories and the Yukon ran a three-year pilot of Invest Canada North at PDAC 2019-22.

Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC):

- Economic Development and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources jointly coordinate participation in the annual PDAC convention. Activities include:
 - advertising and promotional material;
 - hosting events to generate interest in the Yukon; and
 - attracting resource-focused media interest in the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note
Mining Sector Supports**Spring 2023**Economic
Development

- PDAC helps international investors learn about northern mining. It highlights competitive advantages in each jurisdiction including geological potential, political stability, Indigenous partnerships and leaders in exploration and mining.
- Yukon government will attend PDAC 2023, scheduled March 5-8 in Toronto.
- Yukon government staff will also promote Yukon's mining sector at a pan-territorial booth sponsored by CanNor.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****First Nations Collaboration
Initiatives**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Yukon First Nation governments and their respective development corporations play a critical role in growing and diversifying the Yukon's economy.
- Through funds like the Economic Development Fund and Community Development Fund, we are supporting First Nation governments and development corporations as they grow capacity, invest in new ventures, strengthen their communities, and plan for the future.
- First Nation governments and development corporations are pillars of the Yukon's economic and social development.

Additional response:

- We are supporting First Nations to build capacity and identify economic priorities in their Traditional Territories by:
 - Supporting the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation to inventory their human resources, businesses, and cultural capacity to take advantage of community economic opportunities.
 - Supporting the Carcross/Tagish First Nation in their planning and implementation of a land registry system.
 - Supporting the Kluane Community Development Limited Partnership to develop an Economic Analysis and Civil Construction Business Plan, a Workforce Assessment and Development Plan, and a Procurement & Contracting Policy, all in preparation for their new construction business.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

First Nations Collaboration Initiatives

Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon government is committed to increasing entrepreneurial opportunities for First Nation development corporations and working collaboratively with First Nations for their benefit and the benefit of all Yukoners.
- It also supports Government of Yukon obligations under Chapter 22 of Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.

Background:

- First Nations and their development corporations can access funding support from the Economic Development Fund and Community Development Fund.
- The department works both with individual development corporations and on territory-wide initiatives.
- The Yukon government provides advisory and funding support for First Nations' economic development, from business planning to project evaluation, including:
 - Building governance institutions through capacity development:
 - Supporting the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce in 2022-23, including the secondment of a department employee to act as the executive director (due to end April 2023).
 - Supporting strategic and economic planning efforts:
 - Supporting the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce to develop an actionable business and impact plan that addresses the priorities and goals of the organization.
 - Identifying and supporting projects that will provide lasting benefits to Yukoners:
 - Supporting the Council of Yukon First Nations to sustain Traditional Indigenous languages through the translation and targeted distribution of popular youth books;
 - Providing support to Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association to showcase local First Nation artists locally and nationally and to provide them with market expansion opportunities;

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****First Nations Collaboration
Initiatives****Economic
Development**

- Providing support to Liard First Nation for the restoration of the Upper Liard Cemetery;
- Supporting the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation to provide hands-on reforestation and restoration training to youth in Pelly Crossing;
- Supporting Selkirk First Nation to build a community boardwalk with interpretive signs from Big Johnathan House to the Community Park; and
- Providing support to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation to purchase equipment to help with season extension, cold-sensitive crops, and maintenance of the market gardens.
- Providing support to Council of Yukon First Nation to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the presentation of Together Today for our Children Tomorrow to the federal government.
- Supporting and developing feasibility studies, and establishing business ventures:
 - Supporting Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership to undertake an environmental assessment for the development of a large commercial building; and
 - Providing support to Kluane Community Development Limited Partnership to complete the structural engineering, civil design, and architectural drafting to build an addition to the community grocery store.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentFebruary 3, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy (YFNPP)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Labour Market Development unit works with First Nations on labour market and workforce development projects that contribute to the implementation of the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy (YFNPP).
- Since April 1, 2022, we have committed to over \$7.0 million in labour market activity to support Workforce Development, with \$1.2 million committed to First Nations and First Nation-serving organizations in 2022-23.
- Economic Development is working with the Department of Highways and Public Works, YFNPP oversight committees and the Council of Yukon First Nations to support the implementation of the YFNPP.

Additional Response:

- An example of activity directly supporting the YFNPP is a three-year, \$650,000 investment in the SPARK project with Teslin Tlingit Council in support of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge project.
- Additional activity supporting First Nations workforce development, but not directly tied to procurement, includes:
 - A one-year \$153,000 agreement to support Liard First Nation to provide participant action planning, case management, training opportunities and a job fair.
 - A three-year, \$211,000 agreement to support First Nations youth to explore healthcare careers via work experience placements at Whitehorse General Hospital.
 - A one-year, \$384,000 agreement with Selkirk First Nation to provide work experience for citizens facing multiple issues to labour market success.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon First Nations Procurement
Policy (YFNPP)**Economic
Development

- A three-year, \$900,000 agreement with Carcross/Tagish First Nation to provide a complete suite of labour market programs including training support, case management and referral and on-the-land development of Skills for Success.
- A three-year, \$700,000 agreement with Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, providing labour market support for Youth, principally Yukon First Nations.
- A one-year, \$400,000 agreement with Yukon First Nation Wildfire Warrior Program, providing Skills for Success and vocational skill enhancement for Yukon First Nations Youth.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Industry stakeholders and First Nations are keenly interested in workforce development as an important component of the YFNPP. Frustrations have been expressed at what are perceived as undue delays to implementation of specific projects alluded to in the YFNPP.

Background:

- YFNPP came into force on February 9, 2022.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works was the lead department in developing the policy and is the lead department in coordinating implementation.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Entrepreneurial & Innovation
Support**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- We are collaborating with business, industry and First Nations partners to make strategic investments and promote an entrepreneurial culture that attracts and supports start-ups.
- We have valued partnerships with TechYukon, Yukonstruct and Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship to deliver the physical spaces, education programming and networking opportunities that promote and grow innovation experience and knowledge.
- We partnered with the Government of Canada to support the implementation of the Canada Digital Adoption Program for Yukon. This program will help up to 140 small and medium-sized businesses to go online over the next three years. There are currently 28 Yukon businesses in the Canada Digital Adoption Program.
- Throughout the second half of 2022, we partnered with Yukon University and ComIT to deliver the first coding training for Yukon First Nations. 15 students completed stage one of the training in July.
- We continue to partner with the innovation ecosystem to deliver on programs such as:
 - Yukonstruct's 12-week training program called Startup Bootcamp;
 - TechYukon's North of AI [Artificial Intelligence] program which had three startup companies accepted into the Scale AI program – ColdAcre Food Systems, Replic8 Technologies Inc. and AirView Yukon;

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Entrepreneurial & Innovation
Support**Economic
Development

- Investment readiness workshops for entrepreneurs and angel investors through a partnership between Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Vancouver-based Spring;
- Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship's innovation grant, Yukon innovation week and the Hall of Innovators;
- Sponsoring the Mitacs Accelerate Research and Business Strategy Internship Program;
- Hosting the Open Data Summit in the North in November 2022; and
- Continued support for Yukon University's IncubateNorth program to provide space, tools and services to help market-ready startups grow faster.

Additional response:

- We continue to support the growth and attraction of start-ups and innovators in the Yukon through a wide range of programs and partnerships.
- We look forward to sharing the Yukon's innovation strategy with you this year.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The technology and innovation sector is a key area for diversification in the Yukon's economy.
- Two of Economic Development's 2021 mandate items relate to innovation and entrepreneurial support.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Entrepreneurial & Innovation
Support**Economic
Development**Background:**

- The Technology and Innovation (TI) Branch is tasked with supporting the technology and innovation sector in the Yukon.
- Over the past five years, the Yukon's tech sector has continued to grow and represented approximately 3.5% of the Yukon's GDP.
- The department provides financial support to the following organizations:
 - Innovation & Entrepreneurship – \$835,000 per year;
 - Yukonstruct – \$250,000 per year; and
 - TechYukon – \$125,000 per year.
- Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship is focused on areas of innovation that will contribute to the social and economic prosperity of the Yukon. The unit aims to provide living laboratories for learners, innovators and entrepreneurs to lead work on the focus areas including technology development, social justice, climate action, community development and sustainable resource development.
- TechYukon is the technology industry association for the Yukon, with a mission to grow the technology industry in the Yukon. The society represents 27 Yukon technology companies.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentFebruary 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Innovation Strategy**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to building a thriving innovation economy by supporting technological growth and entrepreneurship.
- We have completed the public engagement on a new five-year strategy and worked with the Innovation Commission and innovation experts to seek their professional and technical input.
- The strategy is nearing completion and will outline the Yukon's unique strengths and identify actions to help Yukoners create, grow and mature their business ideas in the Yukon.
- By supporting innovation across sectors, we are creating jobs and building a strong, diverse Yukon economy.

Additional response:

- Over the past five years, the Yukon's tech sector has continued to grow on average representing approximately 3.5% of the Yukon's GDP.
- The strategy will seek to grow and attract technology start-ups and expand the Yukon's digital ecosystem.
- Our strong innovation and entrepreneurial culture in the Yukon will continue providing momentum to expand and diversify our economy.
- The innovation strategy will encourage and support entrepreneurship and innovation in the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

Innovation Strategy

Spring 2023**Economic
Development**

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Minister Pillai's 2021 mandate letter identified the direction to develop an innovation strategy to create opportunities for local entrepreneurs and to establish an Innovation Commission.
 - The May 2021 Speech from the Throne highlighted the importance of innovation to the Yukon in the coming years.
-

Background:

- Technology and innovation is the fastest growing sector across the globe. The global technology sector accounts for 4.5% of global GDP and is expected to double within the next 15 to 20 years.
- A public engagement period that included interviews, focus groups and surveys, ran from September 28, 2020 to October 28, 2020. The What We Heard was released in August 2021 in conjunction with the establishment of the innovation commission.

Innovation Commission:

- An Innovation Commission was formed in 2021 to provide technical and professional input on the development of the five-year innovation strategy. Made up of members and advisors from within the Yukon, across Canada and in Europe, the commission was convened to advise on topics such as attracting start-ups, building a digital ecosystem and fostering innovation and sharing networks across communities.
- The Innovation Commission members were chosen for their experience, diversity and interest in innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. Between August and November 2021, the commission met six times, considering key actions and priorities that would provide the foundation for the development of a thriving and diverse economy.
- Commission members included:
 - Astrid Grawehr, Kryotek Arctic Innovation Inc.;
 - Cherish Clarke, Digital Engine Technology;

Session Briefing Note

Innovation Strategy

Spring 2023**Economic
Development**

- Chris Lane, Make IT Solutions; Northmark Ventures; TechYukon;
- Curtis Shaw, Northwestel;
- Inga Petri, Strategic Moves;
- John Jensen, MGrid Energy; and
- Melaina Sheldon, Melaina Sheldon Consulting.
- Commission advisors included:
 - Bernd Petak, Northmark Ventures;
 - David Larkin, Northmark Ventures;
 - Dr. Alexandra Greenhill, Careteam Technologies Inc.;
 - Micheal Mooney, Creative Lab North;
 - Norm Fraser, SoftIron;
 - Patrick Lor, Panache Ventures;
 - Thomas Park, BDC Deep Tech Fund; and
 - Véronique Herry, Startup Palace.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Panache Ventures**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- In 2019, the Government of Yukon provided \$2 million to the Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation to support their overall investment of \$5 million in Panache Ventures, a Canadian venture capital fund.
- Panache has met and/or coached over 16 Yukon firms, invested in one Yukon enterprise and participated in the Innovation Commission.
- This investment and support for the Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation is one step towards growing our innovation ecosystem and it aligns with the intent of Chapter 22 to provide Yukon First Nations with opportunities to fully participate in the Yukon's economy.

Additional response:

- The investment in Panache Ventures by the Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation helps diversify their investments and return benefits to Yukon communities.
- The value of the Government of Yukon's partnership with the First Nation Investment Corporation is in the capital and mentorship opportunities that it will bring to Yukon businesses. The government does not receive a financial return from its contribution.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The deal is a unique arrangement that does not have any recent comparable prospect. At two million dollars, the scale of the Yukon government's contribution is significant.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Panache Ventures**Economic
Development

- During budget debate in April 2023, the Official Opposition raised concerns about the value of the investment to Yukon businesses.

Background:

- Government of Yukon transferred \$2 million, matched by a \$3 million contribution from the Yukon First Nation Investment Limited Partnership (the investment vehicle), for the purposes of a \$5 million investment in Panache Ventures Investment Fund Limited, 2018.
- The Yukon First Nation Investment Limited Partnership is comprised of seven Yukon First Nations development corporations.
- Panache Ventures Investment Fund Limited, 2018, was launched in March 2018 with \$25 million in capital and a commitment to focus on seed-stage companies.
- According to AngelList, Panache Ventures Fund 2018 is performing in the top 15th percentile of Venture Capital funds.
- The portfolio has seen three successful exits to date and has returned 11% of called capital to Limited Partners.

Panache's commitment towards investment in Yukon:

- This is a 10-year fund, from 2018-2028. We are in the fifth year of the fund and working to develop investment ready Yukon opportunities.
- Panache noted that it is targeting to invest a minimum of 3% of \$58 million in the Yukon over the life of the fund, which is approximately \$2 million. They have also committed to use commercially reasonable efforts to identify and make investments in a minimum of three more Yukon companies over the life of the fund.
- In the case of the Yukon based company, Panache's investment was leveraged to raise further capital investment from other pools resulting in more than just Panache's investment flowing to the company.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Panache Ventures**Economic
Development

- In 2021, Panache Ventures participated in the Yukon entrepreneurial ecosystem by:
 - joining the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce (YFNCC) and attending monthly CEO breakfast meetings to help screen presenting businesses. In addition, they nominated multiple organizations to present at YFNCC meetings;
 - participating in the Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference as a session organizer & panelist;
 - attending several Yukonstruct Demo Days events to offer feedback and encouragement to program participants;
 - coaching and mentoring in Yukonstruct STEM and Local Leaders Business Bootcamps, including the delivery of specific advice for developing company pitches, as well as product development and go-to-market strategies;
 - continuing to develop plans for a 2023 Panache CEO Summit in Whitehorse;
 - consulting with Yukon University and Yukonstruct on the development of entrepreneurship programs;
 - attending monthly check-ins with the CEOs of Yukon First Nations Business Development Corporations to discuss investment deal flow; and
 - participating as an advisor of the Innovation Commission (Patrick Lor).

Investment in Proof Data Technology:

- The exact investment amount is confidential and cannot be disclosed. The investment was leveraged to support Proof Data Technology to raise more significant capital from additional investment pools.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Panache Ventures**Economic
Development

Assessment and Due Diligence:

- The Department of Economic Development contracted an independent consultant on venture capital, to assess the fund. The consultant's track record includes advising the Government of Nova Scotia on setting up its own venture capital fund.
- The assessment included the fund, the investment strategy, the team, the investors, the financial and economic development benefits for Yukon, and the risks of the investment and recommended that the department pursue this opportunity for the benefit of Yukoners.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 6, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Media Funding Programs

Spring 2023**Economic
Development**

Recommended response:

- Four new media funding programs were announced on January 10, 2022, to support the production of professional film, television and digital media projects.
- The new funding programs streamline production funding, strengthen support for development, simplify access to training supports and standardize business policies.
- Local stakeholders and industry experts were extensively engaged during the development of the new programs.
- The budget to support these new programs was increased by \$500,000 to \$1,160,000.

Additional response:

- As of February 23, 2023, the department has approved 18 applications for \$1,524,810, including:
 - nine applications for \$1,408,585 total under the Media Production Fund;
 - three applications for \$44,688 total under the Development Fund;
 - five applications for \$64,675 total under the Pre-Development Fund;
 - one application for \$6,862 under the Training Fund.
- 18 current projects anticipate spending \$8,819,283 in the Yukon, creating local jobs and building capacity while supporting Yukon businesses and entrepreneurs and contributing to economic diversification.
- Creators can find information on programs online at Yukon.ca or by contacting our Media Development team at Economic Development.

Session Briefing Note

Media Funding Programs

Spring 2023

Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Screen Production Yukon Association was highly involved in and supported the development of the new funding programs.
- Some new program elements may be unpopular with some applicants, specifically:
 - In most funds, applicants are required to be incorporated (Training Fund is the only exception);
 - In the Media Production Fund and the Development Fund, applicants are limited in the amount they can invest in their own productions; and
 - In the Media Production Fund, applicants are required to have three unique Yukoners in key positions. Documentary producers see this as a challenge.

Background:

- The Media funding programs' annual intake dates are announced online. Each program may be closed once funding has been fully subscribed.
 - This is consistent with federal funding programs.
 - Closing these programs allows the department to allocate resources to the year the activity occurs and manage its budget appropriately.
- The development of the new programs included:
 - Identification of best practices and development of terms of reference and project charter;
 - Public engagement;
 - Development of Recommendations for Change and release to industry stakeholders;
 - Development and release of a What We Heard document; and
 - Public information sessions to review each program and application process with stakeholders.
- The application process mirrors that of federal funding programs for the media industries. Applications are not accepted verbally.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 2, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Performing Musicians Fund**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development released a comprehensive new funding program for Yukon musicians to foster continued growth in this vibrant creative industry.
- We increased the annual budget of the program by \$250,000 from \$50,000 for a total of \$300,000 in available support for artists.
- The Performing Musicians Fund was launched in June 2022 and its fourth intake closed on April 3, 2023.
- In 2022–23, three review committees of music industry professionals from across Canada recommended approval of 32 applications for a combined total of \$305,539.
- Nine established musicians and 23 emerging musicians received funding over the first three intakes.

Additional response:

- The new program expands the range of activities eligible under the fund to include:
 - Music video content and sound recordings;
 - Marketing activities such as touring and showcasing; and
 - Training and development of Yukon musicians.
- The new program increases the funding available to Yukon musicians:
 - Up to \$10,000 for emerging musicians, and
 - Up to \$30,000 for established musicians.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Performing Musicians Fund**Economic
Development

- The music industry creates local jobs and builds capacity, supports Yukon businesses and entrepreneurs and contributes to economic diversification.
 - Creators can find information on programs online at Yukon.ca or by contacting our Media Development team at Economic Development.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Minister's 2016-20 mandate included a commitment to review economic funding programs to make programming more responsive with less red tape.
-

Background:

- The Department undertook engagement with Yukon stakeholders and consulted with program managers of provincial and territorial funding programs for music when developing the new program.
- The Performing Musicians Fund replaced the Yukon Sound Recording Program.
- The changes to the program are intended to broaden the spectrum of supports offered through the department to better meet the needs of Yukon musicians.
- The application process mirrors that of federal and provincial funding programs for the music industry. Applications are not accepted verbally.
- To date, program intakes have occurred with closing dates on July 4, 2022, September 15, 2022, February 6, 2023 and most recently on April 3, 2023.
- Eligible activities under the PMF include: Activities that help musicians improve their skills, such as preproduction activities or workshop registration;
- Professional sound recordings intended for commercial release, applying to showcases and for auditions to secure bookings; and
- Costs associated with marketing newly-released music and developing opportunities to contribute substantially to their income.

Eligible transportation expenses include:

- Assistance with travel costs for touring and showcase opportunities outside the Yukon, including:

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Performing Musicians Fund**Economic
Development

- Applicants may choose to fly or drive to a touring area, but the total cost may not exceed the cost of a return economy airfare from Whitehorse to the nearest international airport in the touring area, per musician;
 - Within the touring area, rental vehicle expenses (including fuel) may not exceed the cost of rental of one passenger van (plus fuel); and
 - Where accommodation is not provided in the performance contract, accommodation will be based on double occupancy of standard rooms required at each performance location.
- Specific expense coverage for each approved application is outlined within a transfer payment agreement. All applicants are encouraged to discuss their specific project needs with a Media Advisor.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 6, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Community Development Fund
(CDF)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Projects funded by the Community Development Fund support events and initiatives that provide long-term, sustainable economic and social benefits to communities across the Yukon.
- From April 1, 2022 to February 23, 2023, 67 projects have been supported through the CDF, with a total contribution commitment of \$3,027,671.
- These projects are located throughout the Yukon and include, among others:
 - \$202,599 to the Village of Teslin to build a new playground in the new Sawmill Subdivision;
 - \$75,000 to the Village of Carmacks to repair, improve and extend the existing riverfront boardwalk;
 - \$17,599 to Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation to provide hands-on reforestation and restoration training to youth in Pelly Crossing; and
 - \$152,616 to the City of Dawson for the expansion and upgrading of the city's skate park.

Additional response:

- In the 2021-22 fiscal year, we approved \$2,931,497 for 59 projects, with over 50% of that money going to communities outside of Whitehorse.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Community Development Fund
(CDF)**Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The CDF is well-known and well-regarded, and demand for program funding is high.
 - Questions may be asked on how CDF was distributed to communities across the territory.
 - COVID-19 affected clients' ability to complete projects on time due to supply chain challenges, lockdowns and staffing shortages.
-

Background:

- The Community Development Fund is for projects that:
 - Create economic benefits such as generating local spending, creating employment opportunities, building needed infrastructure and bringing new money into the Yukon from outside sources;
 - Develop skills, knowledge and experience;
 - Create social benefits such as strengthening social and community networks, building partnerships and facilitating community involvement;
 - Support the community's long-term well-being; and
 - Have measurable social, cultural and economic benefits for Yukon residents and communities.
- Funding is dispersed across three tiers:
 - Tier 1 for projects less than \$20,000 (four intakes per year);
 - Tier 2 for projects between \$20,001 and \$75,000 (two intakes per year); and
 - Tier 3 for projects over \$75,000 (one intake per year).

Other Major Projects from 2022-23:

Yukon Circus Society – \$17,095 - To hire a professional fly director to train members to install and operate aerial suspension equipment at the Yukon Arts Centre. For over eleven years, the Yukon Circus Society (YCS) has been doing popular circus arts

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Community Development Fund
(CDF)**Economic
Development

education in many communities throughout the Yukon. To continue to grow the circus community and complete aerial suspension work at the very popular Yukon Arts Centre, YCS will hire a contractor to train artists to do aerial suspension tricks.

Yukon Transportation Museum - \$75,000 – To create three digital experiences to expand Yukon's ability to establish as an innovator and leader in XR applications for heritage, culture and creative industries. Heritage organizations currently lack the digital and technological capacity to meet the growing requirements to reach peer and public expectations. The experiences created by this project will allow Yukoners and visitors alike interpretive and learning opportunities about sites and artifacts that could not be experienced otherwise, expanding the sharing of Yukon heritage.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 2, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Regional Accomplishments

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has made significant investments across all communities in the Yukon.
- Communities have benefitted from a variety of funds administered by the Department of Economic Development, most significantly the Community Development Fund and the Economic Development Fund.
- Community funding is broken down by region. From April 1, 2022 to February 23, 2023, the department has provided communities outside of Whitehorse with \$1,857,387 in financial assistance through our various funding programs as follows:
 - North region: \$839,856;
 - West region: \$143,591;
 - Central region: \$363,400; and
 - Southeast region: \$510,540.

Additional response:

- From April 2021 to March 31, 2022, \$1,271,738 in financial assistance was provided to communities outside of Whitehorse through our various funding programs as follows:
 - North region: \$435,589;
 - West region: \$122,954;
 - Central region: \$178,841; and
 - Southeast region: \$534,354.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be a perception that funding activities are Whitehorse-centric. The data shows that funding activities are occurring in all regions and communities throughout the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Regional Accomplishments

Economic
Development

- Between CDF and EDF, Whitehorse received 66% of the total contribution (37% CDF, 73% EDF) from April 1, 2022 to February 23, 2023.
- Total contributions to date are \$5,443,857 based on the total approved in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Background:

- The regional funding overview provides a breakdown of Economic Development funding to clients and projects within communities outside of Whitehorse from April 2022 to February 23, 2023.
- North Region: Dawson City, Eagle Plains, Keno, Mayo, Old Crow.
 - 14 organizations received combined total funding of \$839,856;
 - Economic Development Fund: three organizations, \$206,502;
 - Community Development Fund: 11 organizations, \$633,354.
- West Region: Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction.
 - Six organizations received combined total funding of \$143,591;
 - Economic Development Fund: three organizations, \$99,277;
 - Community Development Fund: three organizations, \$44,314.
- Central Region: Carmacks, Faro, Pelly Crossing, Ross River.
 - Community Development Fund: seven organizations, \$363,400.
- Southeast Region: Carcross, Southern Lakes, Teslin, Watson Lake.
 - Community Development Fund: six organizations, \$510,540.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 2, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Labour Market Programs**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- On April 1, 2022, Economic Development became the lead department for Labour Market Programs with the creation of the Labour Market Development Branch.
- Labour Market Development supports the delivery of services to adult learners and job seekers and those under-represented in the workforce to increase the pool of appropriately skilled workers in Yukon's labour market.
- The Branch also works directly with employers to develop solutions to address capacity issues and staff unfilled jobs.
- Economic Development is the lead for employer and organization support through the Staffing UP and Building UP programs.
- Education retains the lead for individual support provided under the Working UP program.
- Labour Market Development is working with stakeholders to determine annual labour market priorities. This will support Workforce Development activities under the First Nations Procurement Policy.

Additional response:

- Labour Market Development expects to distribute \$7.001 million in 2022-23 for programs and services that will help individuals meet their labour market goals and help employers recruit, train and retain the staff they need for their businesses to thrive.
 - Within that budget, Labour Market Development has committed:
 - Support for eleven organizations providing labour market programs for First Nations, benefitting nearly 1,000 individuals;

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Labour Market Programs**Economic
Development

- Support to 15 service providers to provide services to approximately 3,000 Yukoners to help them develop the foundational skills they need to attach to the labour market;
 - Support to nine organizations to provide employment assistance services to help approximately 7,000 individuals to obtain employment. This category includes needs determination and employment counselling and job search training, and providing labour market information;
 - Support for four organizations to support and promote trades and apprenticeship.
 - Subsidies to provide work experience and on-the-job training to 30 Yukoners; and
 - Support for nine organizations to provide assistance for employers.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There are unfilled jobs in all sectors across Canada, which is a concern for businesses in the Yukon.
 - Some working-age Yukoners are either on work-ready Employment Insurance claims or not in the labour market.
-

Background:

- Economic Development is the strategic lead for Yukon with Canada on the Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTAs), the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM), and for F/P/T strategic engagement.
 - The Department of Economic Development has responsibility for the Canada – Yukon Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTAs), which include:
 - Canada – Yukon Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA):
-

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Labour Market Programs

Economic
Development

- To assist individuals in preparing for, obtaining and maintaining employment; and
 - To reduce individuals' dependency on government forms of income support.
- Canada – Yukon Workforce Development Agreement (WDA):
 - To foster labour market participation;
 - To align skills with labour market needs; and
 - To create efficient labour markets.
- Together these agreements account for 75% of the annual labour market program budget for Yukon.
- The LMTAs are scheduled to be renewed in all jurisdictions. Negotiations with the Government of Canada are pending a mandate from the Federal Minister. The recent Federal Budget (March 28, 2023) has allocated additional funds to the LMTAs for FY 2023-24 to maintain current funding levels. We are awaiting specific information on Yukon's allocation from these funds.
- In addition to the LMTAs and also included in the overall budget for the Labour Market Development Branch, the Canada-Yukon Skills for Success (SFS) is a two-year funding agreement providing \$2,222,798 to Government of Yukon to strengthen adult literacy and essential skills for individuals furthest removed from employment.
- This funding is distributed through existing programming, primarily Building UP.
- The annual allocation towards LMD is as follows:
 - 2022-23 - \$740,033
 - 2023-24 - \$1,482,765

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 6, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Labour Mobility**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Yukon is experiencing the effects of a nationwide labour market shortage in which many employers are experiencing difficulty finding suitable workers to maintain or grow their businesses.
- Labour mobility is an important tool for addressing the shortage of professional and skilled workers in the territory, however, the process of credential recognition between jurisdictions can complicate matters.
- Most certified workers in Yukon are credentialed in other jurisdictions and only require licensing in Yukon.
- The sectors that continue to drive the growth in professional and certified job vacancies are health care, construction and manufacturing.
- Government of Yukon continues to participate in the Forum of Labour Mobility Ministers (FLMM) and its Working Groups to support measures to streamline application requirements, align occupational standards and improve the communication and transparency of labour mobility opportunities across Canada.

Additional response:

- The following initiatives are being developed by the Government of Yukon to support the health care sector in the territory:
 - Additional funding for practical nurse training at Yukon University (via Alberta-based Bow Valley College);
 - Joint initiatives with other jurisdictions to mobilize health care workers for virtual services;

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Labour Mobility**Economic
Development

- Funding incentives to provide Yukon First Nation citizens with introductory experiences in careers in the health care sector; and
- A proposal has been submitted to Canada for funding support to create a system for recognizing the credentials of internationally trained health care workers.
- Labour Market Development expects to invest over \$7.001M in 2022-23 to help individuals meet their labour market goals and help employers recruit, train and retain staff they need for their businesses to thrive.
- That funding can be leveraged to strengthen labour mobility; for instance, employers can apply to support workers looking to upgrade or attain recognition for credentials earned outside of the territory.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The issue of labour market shortages may be raised during the legislative session, and questions asked about the Yukon government's plans to mitigate impacts to the territorial economy.
- Labour mobility initiatives were presented by the co-chairs of the FLMM (Canada and Northwest Territories) at the annual meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade on December 8, 2022.

Background:

- Housing is a major impediment to attracting workers from outside the territory. The Yukon Housing Corporation's Housing Initiatives Fund aims to increase the supply of affordable housing across Yukon, which could have a positive spillover effect on labour flows to the territory.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Labour Mobility**Economic
Development

- The Yukon does not have a designated Labour Mobility Coordinator. Economic Development, Community Services, and Health and Social Services oversee issues related to mobility in a collaborative manner.
- The Yukon has flexibility in obtaining regulated workers from other jurisdictions, however, with the absence of regulators in the territory, it has no authority when it comes to foreign credentials. Many new permanent residents with a professional designation leave the territory to have credentials recognized in other jurisdictions.
- A national review is underway of several occupations that have exceptions to mobility, mostly in health care. The only identified exception for the Yukon is lawyers.
- Yukon regulates only three trades: oil burner mechanics, gas fitters and electricians, which eases the pathway for other trades specialists to enter the Yukon.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentFebruary 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Francophone Immigration**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Francophone immigration is a priority for the Yukon and we recognize the economic, social, cultural and demographic opportunities that French-speaking immigrants represent for the territory.
- The department is completing work on a new immigration strategy and continues to recognize and prioritize francophone immigration as a valued and important contributor to supporting the needs of Yukon employers and communities.
- The Yukon is the third most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, making us an attractive settlement destination for francophone immigrants.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work in partnership with the Government of Canada and L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) to recruit bilingual immigrants and help them integrate into Yukon communities.
- AFY was an active participant in our stakeholder engagement for the new Immigration Strategy, providing meaningful feedback that has been thoroughly considered.

Additional response:

- In 2022, 20 francophones (and their households), were approved under the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- Between 2016 and 2021, the Yukon was the only Canadian jurisdiction to increase the number and proportion of those who speak predominantly French at home (up from 2.4% to 2.6%).
 - The number of Yukon residents who identified French as their exclusive first official language grew by more than 200.

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Francophone Immigration

Spring 2023

Economic
Development

- In 2021, French was the first official language spoken by 4.5% of the Yukon's population.
 - In 2021, the rate of English-French bilingualism in the Yukon was 14.2%.
 - Since 2007 when the YNP was established, 126 nominees (including their households) from French-speaking countries have been approved through the program.
 - This accounts for approximately 5.8% of the total number of Yukon nominees and exceeds the Government of Canada's goal of having francophone newcomers make up at least 4.4% of all economic immigrants settling outside Quebec.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be a spike in interest as the Government of Canada is preparing the next *Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-28*.
-

Background:

- Provinces and Territories met with IRCC on August 22, 2022, for consultations on the Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-28. Themes included:
 - A new policy on francophone immigration and the demographic weight of francophone minority communities;
 - Promotion and recruitment support in Canada and overseas;
 - Francophone and French-language teacher shortages;
 - The francophone integration pathway; and
 - The Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Francophone Immigration**Economic
Development

- Increasing francophone immigration is a high priority of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Vision Action Plan (VAP). The VAP outlines shared goals for immigration based on FPT collaboration, consultation, and cooperation.
- Whitehorse was selected as 1 of 14 communities across Canada under the three-year Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative. Under the initiative, AFY receives \$102,079/year (2020-24) to create programs and activities to help French-speaking newcomers feel welcomed and integrate into the community.
- The Immigration Unit has attended Destination Canada, an annual francophone recruitment fair in Paris and Brussels, since 2017, to fill labour market needs in the Yukon. Program staff participated in a virtual booth in partnership with AFY in 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- The Immigration Unit offers bilingual services for clients and is represented on the “Réseau d’immigration francophone au Yukon”.
- AFY receives federal funding to provide settlement services including language instruction, orientation to healthcare, education and information on the employment sector.
- The Yukon’s top source francophone countries are France, Belgium, Switzerland and Morocco.
- In addition to the YNP, some skilled francophone workers arrive through the federally administered Mobilité Francophone stream, while young francophones may arrive with federal, temporary working holiday permits.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentFebruary 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon provides economic immigration programs to help businesses across the territory meet their labour needs.
- The Department of Economic Development administers two immigration programs in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC): The Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP) and the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- In 2020, the department launched a new stream, the Yukon Community Program (YCP), specifically designed to support employers and nominees in rural communities.
- The YNP allocation for 2022 was 300 people (270 Base and 30 Enhanced).
- The YNP allocation for 2023 is 430 people (400 Base and 30 Enhanced).
 - The Yukon is continuing to advocate for additional allocations during in-year rebalancing exercises and for future years.
- Between January 1 and March 31, 2023, 241 new nominees have been approved; 199 Critical Impact Workers, 28 Skilled Workers and 14 Express Entry.

Additional response:

- In 2022, YNP utilized its full annual allocation of 300 spaces for the second time since the program was established in 2007.
 - For the fourth consecutive year, we utilized the entire base allocation of 270 nominations, showing the demand from both employers and nominees for this program.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs**Economic
Development

- Due to the Yukon's advocacy with IRCC, there has been an 82% increase in the Yukon's base allocations in the last two years (from 220 in 2021, 270 in 2022, to 400 in 2023).

Application Processing Times:

- The typical processing time by the Government of Yukon from receipt of a complete application is 8-9 weeks. Processing times vary with the volume of applications received and the complexity of the application.
- Following a YNP approval, a nominee may need to apply to IRCC for a work permit. As of March 14, 2023:
 - Overseas nominees are subject to the processing times of the local visa office which varies greatly by location, present capacity or priorities, taking from as little as 2 weeks to more than 60 weeks;
 - Work permit applications from inside Canada are 156 days for online applications and 53 days for paper applications.
- Permanent Residence application review by IRCC for provincial and territorial nominees is 20 months (11 months for the Express Entry stream).

The Yukon Business Nominee Program:

- The YBNP aims to attract and retain skilled international entrepreneurs who inject new capital and business expertise into the Yukon's economy, creating job opportunities and enhancing economic diversification and growth within the territory.
- The program has successfully attracted entrepreneurs to the hospitality, service, tourism, arts and agricultural sectors in Dawson City, Mayo, Faro, Haines Junction and Whitehorse.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs**Economic
Development

- Between January 1, 2022, and March 14, 2023, eight business concepts have been accepted into the selection pool with a total potential investment of \$6 million.

The Yukon Nominee Program:

- The YNP helps employers fill crucial positions with foreign nationals who intend to settle in the Yukon and gain Permanent Resident status.
- Between January 1 and December 31, 2022, 312 Critical Impact Workers, 68 Skilled Workers and 25 Express Entry were approved through the program. This represents a 100% increase compared to 2019.

The Yukon Community Program (YCP):

- The YCP was launched in June 2020 as a new pilot stream of the YNP to provide flexibility to employers in rural communities where seasonal and part-time work is a fundamental part of the local economy and essential for local economic development.
- Up to 50 candidates can be nominated through the program enabling them to work in one of the participating communities of Dawson City, Carmacks, Carcross, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.
- Between June 1, 2020, and February 23, 2023, 24 candidates have been approved through the program – nine in Whitehorse, seven in Dawson City, six in Carmacks and two in Haines Junction.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukon businesses continue to express concerns over labour shortages. The Yukon's unemployment rate remains among the lowest in Canada.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration
Programs****Economic
Development**

Background:

- On April 22, 2022, IRCC announced several measures to ease labour shortages being experienced across Canada, including:
 - Resuming Express Entry draws with invitations for candidates to apply for permanent residence beginning in early July 2022;
 - Providing additional work permits for post-graduation international students;
 - Facilitating the transition from temporary to permanent residency to address pressing labour needs in all sectors across the country;
 - Resuming invitations to apply for federal high-skilled streams, including the Canadian experience class, federal skilled worker class and federal skilled trades class in early July 2022;
 - Implementing a temporary policy to provide additional work permits of up to 18 months to post-graduation international students currently on a work permit expiring between January and December 2022; and
 - Several measures to facilitate applications made before the November 2021 deadline to transition from temporary to permanent residency.

The Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot:

- In 2018, IRCC launched EMPP (Phase One) to identify possible candidates registered with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).
- The Yukon was one of five jurisdictions, including Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Ontario that partnered with IRCC in the creation and implementation of EMPP.
- During Phase One, 25 candidates were referred to the Yukon but with no successful matches.
- EMPP is not a new pathway, but rather facilitation for the recruitment and processing of qualified refugee candidates through existing economic pathways, such as the YNP.
- The goals and benefits of EMPP are to provide durable solutions for refugees with the skills and qualifications that Canadian employers need; raise awareness

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs****Economic Development**

among Canadian employers about the untapped potential of the skilled talent pool; and address the labour shortages that Canada has been experiencing.

- The Yukon's role in EMPP is to assist IRCC with facilitating job matching where possible, identifying the labour market needs, and building awareness among employers of refugees as a talent pool.
- In June 2021, IRCC announced EMPP – Phase Two, a two-year phase with a goal of admitting up to 500 applications.
- Phase Two is a two-staged implementation. The first stage ran from December 2021 to June 30, 2022 with a cap of 150 applications. The second stage started from July 1, 2022 with a cap of 350 applications.

Vital Stats:

- There are currently four streams under the YNP: Critical Impact Worker, Skilled Worker, Express Entry and the YCP (end date June 2023).
- The YNP 2022 allocation was 300 persons -270 Base, 30 Enhanced
 - An additional 2 bases spaces were received in November 2022 through the fall redistribution of allocation exercise, bringing the total for the year to 302.
- The average application processing time for nominee applications by the Immigration Unit in 2022 was 60 days.
- Top five countries of origin for the YNP in 2022:
 - India – 150;
 - Philippines – 139;
 - China – 20;
 - Vietnam – 11; and
 - France – 9
- Top five occupations filled by nominees in 2022:
 - Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers and Related Occupations – 99;
 - Light Duty Cleaners – 52
 - Cashiers – 34;

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs****Economic Development**

- Early Childhood Educators – 32; and
 - Grocery Clerks and Store Shelf Stockers – 26.
- Since 2007, the YNP has received applications from over 602 employers to address labour shortages, approving 2,446 principal nominees to date.
- Between 2018 and 2022, the number of employers who welcomed workers utilizing the YNP almost doubled:
 - 2018 – 94 employers;
 - 2019 – 118 employers;
 - 2020 – 116 employers;
 - 2021 – 169 employers; and
 - 2022 – 186 employers.
- Since 2004, 46 candidates have been nominated for Permanent Residence through the YBNP, establishing 27 businesses and investing \$22.16 million in the Yukon.
- YBNP participants are required to contribute a minimum of \$300,000 to their business in the Yukon and have a minimum verifiable net worth of \$500,000 to ensure their business' viability.
- Although immigration may be a factor in resolving seasonal labour shortages in the Yukon, there are other challenges, such as housing and community retention, which may constrain the availability of seasonal workers.
- Once a nominee has received their Permanent Resident status they are no longer part of the YNP and the Yukon does not actively collect information on whether nominees remain within the territory.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentApril 17, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Immigration Strategy

Spring 2023Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Economic immigration is an essential tool for attracting workers and developing a labour force that supports investment and economic growth while meeting the needs of Yukon businesses.
- Immigrants contribute to the modernization and diversification of the Yukon's economy, invest in businesses that create jobs and enrich the culture of the territory.
- We are developing a Yukon Immigration Strategy to provide policy and program guidance over the next decade and to ensure our immigration programs are responsive to the evolving needs of the Yukon's economy, employers and communities.
- The department will be engaging with Federal colleagues over the coming weeks to ensure the strategy is reflective of the rapidly changing employment environment.

Additional response:

- The department has worked with stakeholders and government partners to ensure the new strategy will meet the territory's needs now and into the future.
- Public engagement that asked Yukoners for their ideas and experiences with the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP) and Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP) concluded in December 2020.
 - The Government of Yukon published the *What We Heard* report in July 2021.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Immigration Strategy

Economic
Development

- The feedback from engagement will help the Government of Yukon position the territory as a northern leader in immigration programs that reflect the values and priorities of Yukoners.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Minister's mandate letter includes introducing a new immigration strategy to support workforce requirements of business and industry.
- Labour shortage has been a concern for many employers as the Yukon's unemployment rate remains well below the national average.

Background:

- The engagement ran from October 20 to December 4, 2020, and included an online survey and discussion document, phone interview and virtual meetings.
- The engaged stakeholders included nominee program users (employers and nominees), municipalities, chambers of commerce, settlement agencies (Association franco-yukonnaise, the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon) and other cultural associations.
- The previous immigration strategy was developed in 2010 by the Immigration Strategy Working Group, which included representatives from businesses, non-governmental organizations, cultural groups, educational providers, federal and territorial governments, and Council of Yukon First Nations' staff.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Philippines MOU**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- On March 18, 2022, the Yukon and the Philippines signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Employment and Protection of Filipinos under the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- The Philippines reorganized its departments following a general election. Work on MOU implementation continues with the new Department of Migrant Workers, formed in February 2022.
- The Department of Economic Development is working to finalize the Implementation Guidelines for the MOU with the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers. It is expected to be completed in the coming months.
- The MOU will make it easier for Filipinos to come to the Yukon while reducing costs and red tape for employers.

Additional response:

- The Filipino community greatly contributes to the Yukon's diverse culture and economy.

If asked about the status of negotiations:

- Implementation guidelines are still being negotiated between the governments of Yukon and the Philippines. We hope to conclude negotiations in the coming months.
- A Yukon-Philippines working committee to develop implementation guidelines has been in contact regularly since September 2022. The guidelines have undergone several revisions.
- Yukon officials last met with counterparts at the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver on March 2, 2023. Talks were productive.
- Economic Development is currently awaiting new text proposals from the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers.

Session Briefing Note

Philippines MOU

Spring 2023**Economic
Development**

If asked about the implementation guidelines text:

- The text is still under draft, and has not been finalized and approved by either the Government of Yukon or the Philippines.
 - The MOU is a government-to-government mechanism.
 - The implementation guidelines include an activities plan for the Government of Yukon and the Philippines, as well as terms of reference for a Joint Committee that will monitor and advise on the implementation of the MOU.
 - Under the current draft, the Joint Committee would be co-chaired by Yukon and the Philippines, with three members from each side. Membership has not yet been finalized.
 - The implementation guidelines cannot be made public until final text has been confirmed by both Yukon and the Philippines.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The MOU with the Philippines being signed off on March 18, 2022 may lead to a request for a status update on progress.
 - The Implementation Guidelines have taken longer than expected to complete, primarily due to logistical challenges. This was raised in the Spring 2023 sitting.
-

Background:

- On July 15, 2022, the Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines provided a copy of the Instrument of Ratification (IoR) signed by then President Rodrigo Duterte on June 29, 2022.
 - Since a Letter of Intent was signed in 2019 the Government of Yukon and the Government of the Philippines have been negotiating an MOU aimed at improving the system of recruitment and employment for Filipino workers in the Yukon.
 - In February 2022, the Department of Migrant Workers was formed, absorbing the responsibilities of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, and certain offices of the Departments of Labor and Foreign Affairs.
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Session Briefing Note

Philippines MOU

Spring 2023**Economic
Development**

- On March 18, 2022, the MOU was signed by both Parties.
- The MOU focuses on the YNP. It exempts Filipino nominees from fees in the Philippines that would otherwise apply to Filipino Temporary Workers.
- The MOU improves coordination between the Yukon and the Philippines on labour mobility and specifically:
 - improves the ability for Filipinos to be identified and recruited through the YNP process;
 - supports the safety of Filipino nominees coming to the Yukon through requirements for Yukon employers under the YNP;
 - formalizes Yukon-Philippines cooperation on labour mobility and the YNP through the creation of a Joint Committee;
 - waives existing fees applied by the Philippines to Filipino YNP applicants; and
 - clarifies the interaction between the YNP and the Philippines pre-screened and vetted pool of qualified Filipino workers.

Implementation Guidelines:

- The Department began the process of negotiating implementation guidelines with the Philippines in fall 2021 and provided the Philippines with proposed text.
- On July 15, 2022, the Philippines provided proposed revisions to the draft implementation guidelines.
- The Department is currently awaiting a response to its counterproposal, which was shared with the Philippines in November 2022.
- Department officials met with counterparts at the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver on March 2, 2023.
 - The Philippines indicated they had prepared a counterproposal that was currently going through the Philippines' approval process. Once approved, it will convey the proposed changes to Yukon.

Session Briefing Note
Philippines MOU**Spring 2023**Economic
Development

- The Consulate's Labor Attaché covered the Department of Migrant Workers' substantive proposals at a high level. Economic Development will need to review the proposals in text form.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 13, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Settlement Services**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Settlement services are an important part of welcoming and integrating newcomers to the Yukon into our communities.
- The Department of Economic Development provides settlement support to Yukon Nominees in the form of workplace standards sessions, information sessions, worksite monitoring and community outreach.
- L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) and the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon (MCY) provide settlement assistance through a wide range of integration services and programs on behalf of the Government of Canada. Settlement services include support in finding a house or information on the employment sector; accessing language instruction (tutoring) and government services such as early childcare, education and health care.
- The Government of Canada invested \$1.45 million for settlement services for permanent residents (PR) in the Yukon in 2022-23, and has a projected investment of \$1.42 million dollars in 2023-24.

Additional response:

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is working with provinces and territories to assess the funding of settlement services for temporary foreign workers, nominees and international students.
- IRCC invested \$1.7 billion dollars across Canada in 2021-22 to support the settlement and integration needs of newcomers outside of Quebec. Re-settlement is not included in this figure.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Settlement Services

Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Settlement services and the ability of newcomers to integrate into society remains an area of topical interest.
 - Retention is a key interest of many Yukon communities. The launch of the Yukon Community Program may draw additional focus on settlement and retention.
 - The average home price for a single detached house in 2022, Q3 reached a record high of \$701,200. Lack of access to affordable housing could pose a problem for newcomers settling in the Yukon.
-

Background:

- Settlement services are generally funded by the federal government to support permanent residents to integrate and establish themselves in the economic, social, political and cultural aspects of their chosen community, whereas Temporary Residents (international students, foreign workers, refugee claimants) are usually supported by the province or territory.
 - The Immigration Unit provides the following settlement services directly to its Yukon Nominee Program clients (foreign workers and employers):
 - Review and interpretation of the Nominee Tri-Partite Agreement;
 - Employee and employer worksite monitoring;
 - Mandatory workplace standards information sessions; and
 - Community Outreach visits, including a weekly drop-in session.
 - The Canada-Yukon Local Coordination Working Group, a group made up of government representatives, meets regularly to oversee settlement within the Yukon and promote effective communication, cooperation and collaboration between Canada and the Yukon on settlement outcomes, pre-arrival services, integration programs and policy issues.
 - Yukon Local Immigration Partnership brings together settlement service providers every three months to discuss the coordination, communication and enhancement of current services and supports for immigrants to the Yukon.
-

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Settlement Services

Economic
Development

Settlement Agencies:

- In 2022-23, MCY received \$1.422 million in funding from IRCC through Yukon Tourism Education Council in support of Canada's Settlement Program (ends in 2025) for people who have permanent resident status and refugees.
- L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) received \$191,881 in 2022-23 with an anticipated increase in 2023-24.
- Agreements AFY has with IRCC:
 - Francophone Welcoming Community (pilot project), 2020-24
\$102,079/year:
 - Indirect (resource development);
 - Promo and publications (raise awareness, inform);
 - Community connections (community dinners, film presentations, cultural activities, networking opportunities);
 - Information sessions; and
 - Employers' connections.
 - Francophone Settlement, 2020-25 \$65,000/year:
 - Information sessions and orientation;
 - Employment and settlement services;
 - Community connections (community dinners, film presentation, cultural activities, networking opportunities); and
 - Indirect (meet with employers, tournée de liaison nationale de l'IRCC, participate in virtual job fair organized by RDÉE Canada).
 - Réseau en immigration francophone du Yukon (RIFY), 2020-25
\$25,000/year
 - Mobilize, share, discuss and work on immigration issues;
 - Meet and lead a group of Francophone partners (organizations);
 - Educate RIFY members and raise awareness in the community;
 - Implement the group strategic and action plans; and
 - Conduct research.

Session Briefing Note

Settlement Services

Spring 2023**Economic
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- Yukon University and Yukon Cares sponsor refugees.
 - Yukon University sponsored five refugees in 2021-22;
 - Yukon University has formed an Intercultural Services team and are point of contact for support for international students and sponsored refugees; and
 - Yukon Cares sponsored two families from Sierra Leone through the Family Reunification Program
- Since 2014, refugees have arrived in the Yukon from the following countries:
 - Syria – 11;
 - Sudan – 8;
 - Liberia – 2;
 - Eritrea – 6;
 - Iraq – 4;
 - Congo – 4; and
 - Pakistan – 2.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 2, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon Nominee Program
Monitoring Process**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Immigration Unit conducts regular monitoring of nominees and employers to ensure compliance with the nomination requirements, as set out in each Tri-Partite Agreement (TPA).
- Monitoring covers a range of workplace conditions including wages, hours of work, employment standards, health and safety standards, travel costs and accommodations.
- The first monitoring exercise takes place within three months of the signing of the TPA and then as many times as deemed necessary by the Unit.
- The monitoring process involves both distance monitoring via email and in-person monitoring.
- The Immigration Unit reviews the information received through the monitoring process for compliance with the TPA.

Additional response:

- Between December 2022 and March 14, 2023, the Immigration Unit completed 362 monitoring contacts via email, including:
 - Yukon Nominee Program (YNP) monitoring:
 - 84 business and 192 nominees in Whitehorse;
 - Four businesses and 16 nominees in Dawson City; and
 - Six businesses and 25 nominees in the communities.
 - Yukon Community Program (YCP) monitoring, where nominees have multiple employers:
 - Eight businesses and six nominees in Whitehorse;
 - Six businesses and four nominees in Dawson City; and

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon Nominee Program
Monitoring Process**Economic
Development

- Six businesses and five nominees in the communities.
 - In the last two years, the Immigration Unit conducted in-person monitoring of 35 businesses with 119 nominees for the Yukon Nominee Program, including;
 - 22 businesses and 55 nominees in Whitehorse;
 - Seven businesses with 14 nominees in Dawson City (summer 2022); and
 - Six businesses with nominees in the communities.
 - The Immigration Unit also conducts in-person monitoring of nominees under the Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP). In 2022, the Immigration Unit monitored three businesses with four nominees under the YBNP.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The issue of nominee protection in the workplace has been raised during previous Opposition briefings.
-

Background:

- In the event that non-compliance with the Tri-Partite Agreement is found during monitoring, the Immigration Unit can direct the employer to take corrective action (e.g. increase hours if the nominee is not receiving adequate scheduling) or refer the case to other local or federal agencies such as the Yukon Human Rights Office, Yukon Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, Yukon Employment Standards or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, Canada Revenue Agency and RCMP.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon Nominee Program
Monitoring Process****Economic
Development**

- If there are ongoing problems in a particular workplace or the employer fails to comply with their employment obligations, the employer can be restricted from access to the program until a resolution is identified or for a period of time.
- The Immigration Unit monitors both the applicant and the employer separately to protect the employer's and the applicant's privacy and to ensure they comply with the TPA and applicable laws and regulations.
 - Examples of monitoring may include:
 - Site visits to employment location;
 - Requests for up-to-date immigration documents;
 - Invitations to interview;
 - Requests for payroll information;
 - Requests to complete a Monitoring Form over email; and/or
 - Any monitoring necessary as outlined in the TPA.
- On-site monitoring of nominees and employers continues to be one of the strengths of the YNP.
- On-site monitoring permits the program to operate in a manner that assures a level of personal interaction with the nominees and employers and resolves any potential problems that may arise in the employment relationship.
- The employer is contacted to set up a mutually agreeable time and then each party is met with separately.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 15, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Canada-United States Trade**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- We work closely with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts on supporting trade with the United States that secures Canadian interests through advocacy, trade agreement implementation, and promotion.
- We work actively with counterparts on Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) implementation. CUSMA preserves key elements of the long-lasting Canada-US trading relationship, with new and updated provisions that address modern trade issues.
- We support the federal commitment to rules-based international trade and a trading relationship with the US that protects Yukon interests.

Additional response:

- Alaska is our most important international trading partner. We work closely with our counterparts there to benefit both our economies.
- The Yukon's two-way merchandise trade with the US for 2021 was \$212.4 million. Two-way merchandise trade with Alaska for the same period was \$188.5 million.
- In December 2022, department officials participated in a trade mission to Alaska with the Senior Trade Commissioner from the Consulate General of Canada in Seattle to strengthen bilateral relations and promote the interests of Yukon businesses.
- The Yukon continues to promote greater cross-border trade and collaboration that advances and protects Yukoners' interests.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Canada-United States Trade**Economic
Development

- Rules-based trade is the cornerstone of a healthy Canada-US relationship.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Canadian jurisdictions, including the Yukon, are monitoring protectionist trends in the US, such as “Buy American” policies in federal infrastructure projects.
 - The first CUSMA dispute resolution panel published its decision on January 4, 2022. It held Canada’s reservation of tariff rate quotas (TRQs) to dairy processors was in breach of CUSMA. Canada succeeded on a separate challenge against the US over protections for solar products in February 2022. Both Mexico and Canada are in an ongoing challenge on US valuation of regional content for automotives.
 - CUSMA parties are currently undertaking a review of CUSMA Annex 22-C, relating to the potential application of Chapter 22 (State-owned enterprises and designated monopolies) to sub-national entities.
-

Background:

- Trade between Canada and the United States is governed by the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement. CUSMA replaced NAFTA, and entered into force on July 1, 2020.
 - CUSMA applies to the Yukon, except in areas where there is exclusive federal jurisdiction. The Yukon is not a signatory, but as a member of the WTO, Canada must take reasonable measures to ensure observance by provinces and territories.
 - US-Yukon Trade in 2021 stood at \$212.4 million, up 46.5% from 2020. Preliminary 2022 trade estimates indicate trade with the US fell 3% in 2022 to \$206 million.
 - The vast majority of the Yukon’s trade with the US is with the State of Alaska, constituting roughly 85-95% of the Yukon’s trade with the US. Trade with Alaska fell substantially in 2018-20, to a low of \$56.5 million in 2019. It recovered to the pre-COVID level in 2021, standing at \$188.5 million.
-

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Canada-United States Trade**Economic
Development

- Skagway, AK is a key port for Yukon-US trade relations, and is the primary gateway for Yukon ore exports. The Department of Economic Development has a representative that sits on Skagway's Ports and Harbors Advisory Board, and is in negotiations with the municipality on the future of the ore loading terminal in Skagway.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentFebruary 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Canadian Free Trade Agreement
Implementation (CFTA)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- As a Party to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement we are ensuring Yukon businesses have access to markets, procurement and investment opportunities across Canada.
- We are creating opportunities for Yukon businesses to expand beyond our territory while utilizing the Yukon's exceptions to increase local employment, support small businesses and strengthen our regional economies.
- In Yukon's role as Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade for 2022, we facilitated an in-person meeting of the CFTA Parties on December 8, 2022, in Toronto to conclude negotiations on cannabis and financial services, and to move the needle on regulatory reconciliation and cooperation in support of economic growth in the Yukon and across Canada.
- To promote greater transparency on doing business in the Yukon, and to demonstrate our support for liberalizing interprovincial trade within Canada, our government removed five of the Yukon's exceptions to the CFTA, based on a technical review that identified those exceptions as having no practical force or effect.

Additional response:

- As a small economy, the Yukon negotiated exceptions to support local industries. These exceptions can provide significant benefits to Yukon businesses by limiting competition from extra-territorial entities.
- However, the following five exceptions were determined to have no practical force or effect and removed from the CFTA:

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Canadian Free Trade Agreement
Implementation (CFTA)**Economic
Development

- One government procurement exception with a transitional timeline that has since expired;
 - Three exceptions for authorizations relating to agriculture, grazing and forestry, respectively. There are no references to residency or other discriminatory criteria in relevant Yukon measures (e.g. regulations); and
 - One exception for recycling services as there is no existing policy or future intention to restrict market access for recycling services in the Yukon.
- We are working with our provincial, territorial and federal colleagues at the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT) to identify and address non-tariff barriers to trade within Canada.
 - The table has completed 14 reconciliation agreements and two regulatory cooperation items to date, and the Yukon has signed onto all agreements for which it has relevant measures.
 - In signing onto these agreements we are streamlining interprovincial regulatory requirements in areas such as health and safety, transportation and construction to the benefit of Yukon businesses.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon was Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade for 2022 and hosted the Committee's annual meeting in Toronto on December 8, 2022.
 - The Canadian Federation of Independent Business released its 2022 State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card. This report ranks provinces and territories on their openness to trade based largely on the number of exceptions taken against the CFTA. The Yukon was second last in the ranking with 33 total exceptions to the CFTA as of 2021.
-

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Canadian Free Trade Agreement
Implementation (CFTA)**Economic
Development

- As part of an initiative to actively review the Yukon's exceptions to the CFTA, five exceptions were identified for removal based on the fact that no corresponding measures actually exist to make use of those exceptions. The Yukon will be left with 28 total exceptions to the CFTA.
-

Background:

- Since 2017, the CFTA has applied to all government measures affecting trade unless explicitly excluded. Parties can retain exclusions through general and party-specific exceptions.
- The CFTA has been updated as of August 10, 2021. Canada made amendments to some of their exceptions, the most notable of which is the removal of their Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act exception. This change removes the barrier prohibiting individuals from transporting intoxicating liquors from one province to another.
- The CFTA makes it easier and more profitable for businesses to operate inter-provincially because its parties commit to:
 - Transparency about measures affecting trade;
 - Non-discriminatory treatment and access to their markets, investment opportunities and government tenders;
 - Reducing regulatory barriers to trade; and
 - Dispute settlement processes.
- CFTA does not impact territorial legislation or protections related to Indigenous peoples, language, their environment, culture or health care. These areas are exempt from the rules of the agreement.

Exceptions:

- All parties share general exceptions that exclude measures for Indigenous Peoples, social services, language, culture, gambling and betting, and other

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Canadian Free Trade Agreement
Implementation (CFTA)**Economic
Development

sensitive areas. Parties have taken party-specific exceptions reflecting local economic priorities.

- In 2021, the Yukon had 33 exceptions, comprising 13 Annex I, nine Annex II, and 11 procurement exceptions, more than all parties except Quebec. However, given the size of our economy, these exceptions have little negative impact on Canada's overall growth in practice.
- Yukon exceptions include:
 - Annex I: Exceptions for Existing Measures:
 - The Yukon is able to undertake certain discriminatory actions that provide preference to Yukon residents including preference to Yukon resident real estate agents and authorizations related to agricultural land use;
 - limit market access for wilderness and outfitter tourism operations and land lotteries; and
 - impose performance requirements under the *Yukon Income Tax Act* as it relates to investment tax credits; the *Waters Act* as it relates to electrical energy; the *Corporate Governance Act* as it relates to regulating energy; the *Public Utilities Act* as it relates to energy transportation, among others.
 - Annex II: Exceptions for Future Measures:
 - The Yukon has maintained the ability to control the right of entry or exit of goods and to limit market access in advertising, storage, manufacture, distribution, transport, sale and trade of alcoholic beverages;
 - the ability to limit market access in areas such as oil and gas development; commercial and industrial water uses; forestry activities; agricultural land; fisheries and recycling services; and

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Canadian Free Trade Agreement
Implementation (CFTA)****Economic
Development**

- has a broad exception for measures for Regional Economic Development. Non-discrimination and Performance requirements do not apply to the general framework of the Yukon's regional economic development.
- The Yukon has a number of procurement exceptions as well.
 - Regional, local, district or other forms of municipal governments; Francophone School Board and publically funded academic institutions and health and social service entities are not covered by the CFTA procurement chapter;
 - The procurement chapter does not cover the Yukon Business Incentive Policy or any successor policy having similar objectives; and
 - Yukon may detract from the procurement chapter in order to promote regional economic development, up to ten times per year and up to \$1 million per occasion.
- A Party may unilaterally remove any of its exceptions or, with the consent of other parties, narrow any of its exceptions.

Technical Review of Exceptions:

- Parties undertook technical reviews to verify the accuracy of their current exceptions. This review considers the accuracy of each element of each exception: sector, sub-sector, industry classification, type of exception, measure and description.
- The technical review was directed by the Committee on Internal Trade in May 2019 and reaffirmed in December 2019. Some parties anticipated the technical review would support a subsequent renegotiation and liberalization of exceptions. However, this is not a consensus view, and parties have not exchanged any information regarding their technical reviews, partly due to the onset of COVID-19.

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Implementation (CFTA)**Economic
Development

- The Yukon's technical review identified five party-specific exceptions that could be removed with limited impact on operations. Cabinet discussed and approved the removal of these exceptions from the CFTA in September 2022. The five exceptions are as follows:
 - YT-520.1, Part C: "Procurement – Transitional Measures";
 - YT-I-06: "Grazing Agreement";
 - YT-I-07: "Regulate and issue various authorizations relating to agriculture";
 - YT-I-08: "Forestry and Logging Products"; and
 - YT-II-07: "Limiting market access in recycling services".

Other Issues:

- The RCT reduces barriers to trade by reconciling existing regulatory measures and cooperating in the development of future regulatory measures.
- The RCT has endorsed 14 reconciliation agreements since 2018 and individual parties implement only those agreements for which they have relevant regulations.
- The Yukon has signed all agreements for which it has measures (seven agreements), which includes occupational health and equipment, pressure vessel registration, construction codes, corporate registries, fall protection equipment, wide-base single tires and entry-level training for commercial drivers.
- Article 1205 commits parties to negotiating the inclusion of Financial Services. Negotiations have been underway since 2018 however several substantive issues remain to be resolved. The CIT has directed parties to exchange final offers by July 2023.
- Article 1206 commits parties to negotiating the inclusion of Cannabis for Non-Medical Purposes. As of December 2022, negotiations have been completed and Parties now look to ratifying the Second Protocol of Amendment that will embed the provisions relevant to cannabis into the CFTA.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Canadian Free Trade Agreement Implementation (CFTA)

Economic
Development

- In September 2020, rules and party-specific exceptions pursuant to Annex 309 Electricity Transmission Service Providers and Trade in Electricity Transmission Services came into effect. The Yukon took a broad exception to electricity obligations, to be reviewed within two years of any future connection to the North American electricity grid.
- Parties have developed several recommendations to facilitate trade in alcohol. The Yukon is:
 - Already compliant with recommendations relating to improved sales channels, information transparency, and listing and pricing practices;
 - Contributing information on its alcohol regime to alcohollaws.ca, a new website aimed at manufacturers and distributors;
 - Participating on the task force to investigate the implementation of a direct-to-consumer model. The task force must report to CIT Ministers by February 2023 with an implementation roadmap for consideration; and
 - Personal import limits of alcohol are among the potential changes being examined in the Government of Yukon's review of liquor regulations.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****International Trade & Agreements**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Increasing market access for Yukon businesses and investments helps grow the economy and provides good jobs for Yukoners.
- The Yukon participates in federal-provincial-territorial consultations on international trade, including implementation, and new initiatives. We advocate that Canada's efforts reflect the Yukon's trade interests.
- We promote the Yukon's trade interests, including regional economic development, small business and government procurement.

Additional response:

- We work with Global Affairs Canada and the Trade Commissioner Service to identify opportunities for Yukoners and Yukon companies.
- Trade liberalization opens foreign markets and creates economic opportunity for Yukoners, Yukon businesses and Canadians.
- In December 2022, department officials participated in a trade mission to Alaska with the Senior Trade Commissioner from the Consulate General of Canada in Seattle to strengthen relations between Yukon and Alaska.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Canada is undertaking a number of new international trade initiatives that may impact Yukon's interest. This includes exploring new agreements with India, Indonesia and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), creating a successor FTA with the UK, and modernizing the Canada-Ukraine FTA.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

International Trade & Agreements

Economic
Development

Background:

- The Government of Canada is the only order of government that can negotiate international trade agreements. Canada consults provinces and territories, as modern agreements include commitments within provincial/territorial jurisdiction.

Trade Initiatives:

- **Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement (CUSMA):** Canada is currently consulting PTs on the subnational application of the State Owned Enterprises (SOE) chapter and on the Environment chapter implementation.
- **Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA):** Canada is engaging provinces and territories on implementation, including the first mutual recognition agreement (MRA) under CETA, on architects, the work of the CETA Committee of Wines and Spirits, and on a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.
 - In December 2022, Germany's legislature voted to ratify CETA. Once signed, Germany will be the 17th of 27 EU member states to ratify CETA.
- **Canada–UK Trade Continuity Agreement:** The agreement entered into force in April 2021, as a bridge until a full FTA is negotiated. FTA negotiations began in April 2022, with additional rounds in June, September and November 2022.
- **Canada-India CEPA Negotiations:** Canada has been in negotiations with India on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) since 2010, and the tenth full round of negotiations took place in 2017.
 - In March 2022, Canada and India agreed to work towards an “early harvest” agreement (EPTA). The sides have held six rounds on the EPTA, with the most recent taking place in January 2023.
- **Canada-Indonesia CEPA Negotiations:** Canada and Indonesia launched negotiations toward a CEPA on June 20, 2021. There have been three rounds, in March, August, and November 2022.

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International Trade & Agreements

Economic
Development

- **Canada-ASEAN FTA Negotiations:** Canada and ASEAN launched negotiations toward an FTA in November 2021, with rounds beginning in 2022. The Trade Negotiating Committee held rounds in August and November 2022.
- **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP):** Canada is one of eleven members of the CPTPP Free Trade Agreement. The UK began formal accession negotiations in June 2021.
- **Canada-Ecuador FTA Exploratory Talks.** On November 24, 2022 Canada and Ecuador launched exploratory discussions toward an FTA. The announcement followed a meeting of both trade ministers, Canada's Mary Ng and Ecuador's Julio José Prado, on the margins of the Pacific Alliance Summit in Mexico City.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 3, 2023
Date approved

Spring 2023

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office
Economic Development

Recommended response:

- The Yukon and the United States, in particular Alaska, share many common interests and challenges. The future of the Yukon and Alaska are linked.
- Our interests in Arctic security, a healthy environment, critical minerals, robust transportation infrastructure, and access to tidewater serve both our jurisdictions as the investment and geopolitical lens turns towards the North.
- We regularly engage with our American and Alaskan counterparts as part of our long-standing positive relationships.

Additional response (Shakwak):

- The Alaska Highway is a critical component of highway infrastructure for life in the North and the tourism sector. The Shakwak project encompasses the Haines Road and the Alaska Highway north of Haines Junction.
- This stretch of highway is essential to supplying Alaskan and Yukon communities, and is integral to the security of the North and the continent.
- Our work with American and Alaskan officials led to recognition of the Alaska Highway in the U.S. *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, and allowed the corridor to apply for American funding to support reconstruction.
- Supporting the good repair and safety of this road advances Canadian and U.S. priorities, including resilience to climate change, economic development, supporting communities and people in the Arctic, and maintaining Indigenous connections that span across borders.

Spring 2023

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office
Economic Development

- The State of Alaska, in collaboration and cooperation with our government, submitted an application seeking approximately \$31 million USD to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (“RAISE”) grant program in late February 2023. We are expecting to see a response on that application this summer.
- This grant will allow our government to restore some of the most degraded sections of the north Alaska Highway in Yukon to improve this critical overland route into Alaska that is adversely affected by thawing permafrost, exacerbated by climate change.

Additional response (Port of Skagway):

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the Skagway ore terminal as a valuable export option for the Yukon mining industry.
- Skagway’s planned port redevelopment will eliminate its ore export capability. The ore loader is scheduled for demolition in October 2023.
- We are currently in negotiations with Skagway about the potential for new infrastructure capable of supporting ore-loading equipment to be included in its port redevelopment project.
- We believe that our interests are broadly aligned with Skagway, and will continue to work towards a solution that addresses the needs of the Yukon’s current and future ore terminal users.

Additional response (Borders):

- A return to normal at our borders is good for both the Yukon and the Alaskan economies. We look forward to seeing more visitors from the U.S. this year, as well as Yukoners visiting our neighbours in Skagway and Haines.

Spring 2023

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office
Economic Development

- I was thrilled to hear that the White Pass and Yukon Route railway would be bringing back its excursions into Canada. This is a significant driver of the economy for Carcross, and the start of many tourists journeys deeper into the Yukon.
 - I am continuing to work with the federal government and Alaskan elected officials to get the Little Gold border crossing near Dawson back to its pre-pandemic operating window. I urge strong cooperation between Canadian and U.S. authorities on this issue.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in our efforts to secure funding for the Shakwak highway and explore why our 2022 application was not approved.
 - The redevelopment of the Port of Skagway will start in 2023. Skagway plans to demolish the current ore loader and does not plan to replace it without financial support from the Yukon. Interested parties may want to ensure Yukon does not lose access to the ore export terminal.
 - Little Gold/Poker Creek did not open in 2020 or 2021 and was open for a shorter operating window in 2022 than was typical pre-pandemic. This resulted in loss of business for tourism operators and suppliers in Dawson City.
-

Background:

America Relations:

- The Canada/U.S. Roadmap is guiding relationships across borders. We are seeing more engagement with U.S. officials since the Roadmap was announced.
 - Consul General Hardt (Vancouver) has visited the Yukon twice since October 2021. Consular staff also visited the Yukon and met with YG officials.
 - Premier Pillai recently engaged with American representatives in the following meetings:
 - A meeting with Ambassador Cohen in December 2022; and
-

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office
Economic Development

- A video call with Governor Dunleavy's Deputy Chief of Staff in December 2022.

Shakwak:

- A new funding opportunity for the Shakwak project was identified in the US government's *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. The Haines Road and the Alaska Highway north of Haines Junction are now eligible for competitive grants administered by the US Department of Transportation.
- The Yukon government worked closely with Alaska in 2022 to apply to the RAISE grant program for USD \$25 million over 5 years, the maximum available for an individual project. The proposal would have funded the reconstruction of permafrost-affected areas in an 80km stretch of the highway.
- The 2022 RAISE recipients were announced on August 11, 2022. None of the three projects Alaska submitted, including Shakwak, were successful.
- The 2023 application makes the same request as in 2022 but is a more detailed application that also highlights and profiles the American interests in the project.
- The total project cost is USD \$31.25M. RAISE is proposed to make up 80% of that cost, with Alaska and the Yukon covering 10% each.
- A new application was prepared by HPW for submission by Alaska this spring for the same amount. The 2023 application takes an America-first approach and aims to be more palatable for a U.S. audience.
- There is strong communication and support for our application in both the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Skagway Port Redevelopment:

- Control of the ore terminal facilities will revert to the municipality in March 2023. Skagway is undertaking a port redevelopment project that will be developed in two stages between 2023 and 2025.

Spring 2023

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office
Economic Development

- The Yukon is negotiating the inclusion of a marine service platform capable of supporting ore loading equipment, as part of the redevelopment project.
- An agreement on a “terms sheet” intended to inform the terms of a contract outlining the financial and operating conditions of the facility is expected. Skagway’s timelines are aggressive and are organized around expanding the port’s cruise ship capacity for the 2024 cruise season.
- The Port of Skagway is the closest ice-free, deep water port to most of the Yukon. Shipping using the Skagway ore terminal shortens the sailing time to Asian markets as compared to other western North American ports.
- Skagway plans to demolish the ore loader in October 2023.
- The Skagway ore terminal’s only current user is Minto Mine.
- Minto Metals is currently conducting outreach to Skagway to request that the ore terminal continue to operate until demolition begins. In December 2022, Minto submitted a proposal to allow continued use of the facility in 2023.
- Minto’s proposal was considered by Skagway in January 2023. Skagway officials indicated that, due to delays in gaining access to the facility for environmental testing, they would likely not be able to operate the terminal in 2023.

Approved by:

_____	<u>February 1, 2023</u>
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	Date
_____	<u>February 2, 2023</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Red Tape Reduction**Economic Development &
Community Services

Recommended response:

- We continue to focus on improvements that make services easier to access. We know this is key to ensuring that the Yukon remains a competitive place to work and do business.
- Departments are working to reduce red tape and manage regulatory processes for Yukon businesses and individuals.
- We know that efficient and fair procurement processes are important to Yukon businesses, so we are also putting resources, policies and processes in place to improve government procurement.
- We are in direct contact with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business to discuss the current regulatory climate in the Yukon, ongoing efforts to improve the ease of doing business, and how the Federation can reflect the unique realities of the North in its assessment criteria when assigning grades for red tape.
- Some specific examples of improvements include:
 - Amalgamated the Enterprise Trade Fund, Regional Economic Development Fund and Strategic Industries Development Fund to launch the new Economic Development Fund on March 9, 2021. This reduced red tape for clients by implementing a standardized application process;
 - Modernized the funding supports for the film industry;
 - Modernized the funding supports for Yukon's performing musicians;
 - Yukoners can now pay their property taxes online;

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Red Tape Reduction**Economic Development &
Community Services

- Societies can incorporate and file disclosure reports online once they are transitioned; and
 - In November 2022, we launched the first phase of a new online licensing system. Once fully implemented in July 2023, it will streamline annual licensing for about 280 businesses and 3,200 individuals, in addition to health professionals licenced by Community Services.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Ministers of Community Services and Economic Development are mandated to “identify and work to remove regulatory and service impediments to competitiveness”. Questions may arise about the progress made on this initiative.
-

Background:

- At a meeting on Thursday January 12, 2023 the CFIB outlined a request that the Yukon government create a red tape feedback mechanism modelled on what the GNWT has in place.
 - In January 2021, Economic Development met with CFIB to discuss how the Yukon’s unique situation as a Northern jurisdiction can be reflected better under the CFIB grading criteria. The government will continue working with CFIB to highlight the ongoing government efforts to improve the ease of doing business in the territory.
 - In January 2019, CFIB released a report card giving Yukon an “F” grade, down from a “D” in 2018, for its progress on red tape reduction.
 - CFIB recognized the need to better understand the uniqueness and realities in the Yukon, and did not assign a grade for northern territories in 2020.
 - CFIB planned to work with the Government of Yukon (and other territorial governments) later in the year to discuss revised grading criteria comparable and reflective of northern realities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CFIB was unable to hold these conversations, and as a result, no grades were assigned to the territories in 2021.
-

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Red Tape Reduction

Economic Development &
Community Services

- CFIB will work with the territorial governments, including the Government of Yukon, towards applying the revised criteria and assigning a grade for the Yukon in 2022.
- Examples of initiatives undertaken since 2016 include:
 - Amalgamated the Enterprise Trade Fund, Regional Economic Development Fund and Strategic Industries Development Fund to launch the new Economic Development Fund on March 9, 2021. This reduced red tape for clients by implementing a standardized application process;
 - Modernized the funding supports for the film industry;
 - Modernized the funding supports for Yukon's performing musicians;
 - Coordinated with Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) for applications to the Government of Yukon's Yukon Business Relief Program and CanNor's Northern Business Relief Fund;
 - Departmental feedback for business support and immigration each have a single point of contact – limiting redundancy;
 - Yukoners can now pay their property taxes online;
 - While COVID-19 programs were active, applications were available for download and submission online;
 - While the programs were active, we merged the application forms for the Yukon Business Relief Program, Tourism Accommodation and Non-Accommodation Sector Supplements into one form to apply for financial assistance;
 - The Yukon Corporate Registry desktop application system was converted into the Yukon Corporate Online Registry (YCOR) in March of 2017 with certain basic online capabilities. In August 2019, additional online features were added to allow corporations to submit annual reports and change notices online;
 - A new Societies Act (modernized legislation governing societies in the territory) came into force April 1, 2021;
 - YCOR was further expanded to support the new Societies Act and regulations as from April 2021, allowing for online incorporation of new societies and online filing of disclosure reports for fully transitioned societies;
 - In spring of 2022, Yukon signed a trade reconciliation agreement, enabling the development of an Application Programming Interface to connect YCOR with the

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Community Services**

federally developed Multi-jurisdictional Registry Access Service (MRAS) system that facilitates cross-border searches and exchange of information regarding business corporations for greater efficiencies. Yukon will onboard MRAS as soon as the YCOR technical capacity solution has been resolved on a new platform.

- Ongoing initiatives include:
 - Reviewing Department of Economic Development funding programs to ensure they continue to meet the needs of Yukon's businesses and communities.
 - Continuing to harmonize Yukon's securities regulatory framework with the rest of Canada to streamline the regulatory process for public companies seeking to raise investment capital and providing market participants with streamlined access to Canada's capital markets.
- Examples of inter-governmental initiatives include:
 - The Canadian Free Trade Agreement, which establishes a regulatory reconciliation process to help address inter-provincial and territorial trade barriers, including diverging or duplicate regulation, which impede the flow of goods. The Yukon and its provincial and territorial counterparts coordinate the reduction of red tape by working to reduce regulatory burdens.
 - Biz Pal, a free online service that helps businesses identify the permits and licenses required to operate in a chosen jurisdiction, is operational in the Yukon.

Approved by:

_____	<u>March 2, 2023</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved
_____	<u>March 2, 2023</u>
Deputy Minister, Community Services	Date approved

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Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

- We continue to enhance our Community Housing stock to support a full housing continuum - 47 new affordable units at 401 Jeckell, 10 units of affordable and supportive housing for seniors through Normandy Living and three new triplexes in Watson Lake, Mayo and Whitehorse demonstrate how we are responding to the 2022 Office of the Auditor General of Canada recommendations on housing.
- Partnership with Da Daghay Development Corporation for the construction of 98 new units is one of numerous housing examples that further support vulnerable Yukoners.

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Spring 2023

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- Through our new approach to housing YG employees in communities, we aim to decrease the housing cost disparities in communities, further incentivize private sector investment in housing, and prioritize allocations of the government's existing staff housing units to meet critical needs for community well-being.
- Finally, as part of the response to the 2022 Office of the Auditor General of Canada recommendations on housing, we have expanded capital incentive programs to include land development for residential housing, while also enhancing our Community Housing stock.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Recent interest rate hikes

- The Bank of Canada raised interest rates for an eighth time in January, bringing the Bank rate to 4.50%. At the start of 2022, that rate was 0.25 %. Rising debt costs will make it more challenging for homeowners to qualify for a mortgage and will increase monthly debt costs for existing homeowners and developers.

Housing Action Plan and Safe at Home Plan

- The 10-year Housing Action Plan (HAP) for Yukon was launched in 2015 and provides guidance on housing priorities for the territory.
 - A Housing Action Plan Implementation Committee (HAP – IC) made up of key housing stakeholders and partners from across the territory oversees its implementation.
- The Safe at Home community-based Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness (Safe at Home) was launched in November 2017.

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Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- The Safe at Home plan was developed by the Government of Yukon, the City of Whitehorse, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and a number of local NGOs.
- The Safe at Home Society was awarded \$10 million under the Northern Carve-Out of the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, \$5 million in funding under the federal Rapid Housing Initiative 2.0, and \$1.02 million in funding from YHC's Housing Initiatives Fund - for a supportive housing project.

Land Development

- The Government of Yukon continues to support new land development to increase the supply of land available for housing development. This includes:
 - Government-led land initiatives in Whistle bend, as well initiatives to sell the 5th and Rogers site (See TAB #34) and old Macaulay Lodge site (See TAB #37);
 - First Nations land development projects – KDFN's Copper Ridge West (See TAB #35) and Range Point projects;
 - Private Sector land development project initiatives – the Tank Farm (See TAB #40).
- Community Services estimates an additional 1,476 new housing lots will come online by 2026, enough to accommodate 2,713 additional housing units.

New Housing Construction and partnerships with the Private Sector

- Yukon Housing Corporation offers several loans and grants programs (See TAB #4) to incentivize new housing construction – namely, the *Housing Initiative Fund* (See TAB #63), the *Developer Build Loan* (See TAB #59), and the *Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program* (MMRCP).
- These territorial-based programs complement new housing construction incentive programs under the National Housing Strategy, including the *National Housing Co-investment Fund* and the *Rapid Housing Initiative*.
- Finally, we provide subsidies to households living in private market housing through the *Canada Yukon Housing Benefit* (See TAB #57) and the *Rent Supplement* program.

Community Housing and the Most Vulnerable

- Yukon Housing Corporation and its partners continue to implement the new Community Housing Program, which aims to improve better client outcomes and fiscal resiliency (See TAB #58)

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Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- Currently, YHC offers over 700 units through the Community Housing program in which eligible Yukoners pay 25% of their income for rent (rent-geared-to-income), we provide support to more than 80 households through our rent supplement program and more than 130 Yukoners through the Canada Yukon Housing Benefit.
- Starting in early 2023, YHC is introducing a mixed-income and mixed-use tenant's allocation policy to its Whitehorse buildings while providing tenants with appropriate partner supports to help them maintain housing.
- Work continues with the Safe at Home Society with the intent of allocating a percentage of units to individuals on the By-Name List.
- YHC is working to implement the Aging in Place Action Plan, which includes broadening programming to include Senior Supportive Housing Program as an option for seniors who require additional supports.
- YHC will be operating and maintaining a new 10-plex in Old Crow (See TAB #23);
- Finally, YHC and housing providers have recently completed or are currently making significant capital investments to expand the community housing stock, including:
 - The 401 Jeckell – 47-unit building (See TAB #19);
 - Three new triplexes in Mayo, Watson and Whitehorse (See TAB #21);
 - A new Housing First building in Watson Lake (See TAB #25); and
 - Duplexes in Carmacks, Dawson, Mayo, and Faro (See TAB #20).

Major investments in housing include:

- The Canada Yukon Housing Benefit, an eight-year rent subsidy program to support low to moderate income Yukoners renting private market rental housing (See TAB #57).
- Normandy Living was supported with approximately \$34.5 million from the Government of Canada through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, \$4.5 million from the Government of Yukon through the Yukon Housing Corporation, private investments of more than \$1.8 million, and \$500,000 in development incentives from the City of Whitehorse. (See TAB #38)
- \$21M for the design and construction of the 4th and Jeckell, a 47-unit mixed-income housing development in Whitehorse (See TAB #19).
- \$5.4M for the construction of three triplexes in Mayo, Watson Lake, and Whitehorse including \$3M of federal funding under the Rapid Housing Initiative - contributing nine units of housing options. (See TAB #21)

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Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- \$400K in 2021-2022 for the design of the Watson Lake Housing First project which will be tendered in February 2023 (See TAB #25).
- Design work to support the housing needs in the communities of Teslin, Carcross and Dawson in 2022-2023.
- \$5.7M annually under the Housing Initiatives Fund (See TAB #63).
- \$6.9M for First Nation Energy Efficiency Program and \$8.4M for Community Housing retrofits under the Low Carbon Economy Fund (LCEF) provided on a 75% (Canada) - 25% (First Nations) cost-matching ratio between 2019 and 2024. (See TAB #60 & #61)
- \$4.1M for the construction of a Housing First residence for vulnerable individuals (5th and Wood St.) in Whitehorse.
- Continued commitment by Government of Yukon toward the Municipal Matching Rental Construction program for new rental units.

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

- Since its inception in 2019, the Housing Initiatives Fund (HIF) intakes have brought on line 361 units and 159 are under construction. (See Tab #63).
 - The sixth intake of the Housing Initiative Fund was launched in November 2022. The deadline to submit the application was February 3, 2023.
- The Municipal Matching Rental Construction Grant has supported the construction of over 126 new rental homes throughout the Yukon, ten of which are in progress.
- Since 2020, our homeownership loan program that focuses on providing financial support for the purchase and construction of building projects in rural Yukon, has helped 21 Yukoners to buy or build their first homes. 14 of these projects are completed.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

January 31, 2023

Date approved

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

Recommended response:

- We continue to make significant progress in the implementation of *Our Clean Future*.
- In September 2022, we released our second annual report. It outlines the progress we made in taking action on climate change in 2021.
 - Notably, in 2021, the Yukon Climate Risk Assessment was released and we saw a 12% decrease in our emissions when compared to 2020.
- Through this report we introduced five new actions and revised 13 existing actions to better meet our goals.
- *Our Clean Future* is an adaptive strategy, which means that we assess and adjust the actions we are taking year-over-year to stay on track to meet our long-term goals.
- We will continue to track and report our progress annually.

Additional response:

- Over the past year, we have advanced several key actions, such as:
 - Legislated greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and associated reporting through the *Clean Energy Act*;
 - Received and analyzed the recommendations from the Yukon Climate Leadership Council ([Ref ENV #24 / EMR #34](#));
 - Established a standard method for determining the health of wetland ecosystems, and tracking baseline conditions to understand future changes;
 - Established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks to the Yukon's transportation corridors; and,
 - Enacted the single-use paper bag ban on January 1, 2023.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Annual Report

Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Third response:

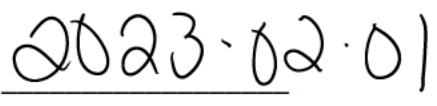
- Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our 45 per cent greenhouse gas emissions target reduction by 2030.
- We will continue to build on *Our Clean Future* as we learn more about climate change and introduce more actions. This will be reflected in future annual reports.
- We will also continue to work with experts, stakeholders and partner governments across the territory and beyond, to identify opportunities for new actions and to accelerate and intensify existing actions to reach our ambitious target.

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 in September 2020 and is a 10-year strategy.
- *Our Clean Future* contains 136 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and supports the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change.

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

Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability

Finance
Executive Council Office

Recommended:

- All Yukon households are seeing their budgets stretched by elevated levels of inflation, with lower-income households often feeling the effects more than others.
- The government continues to assess how inflation is impacting Yukoners and several measures included in the 2023-24 Budget will help make life more affordable for Yukoners.
- In 2023–24, the government is extending the Inflation Relief Rebate Program, which provides a \$50 per month rebate on ATCO Electric and Yukon Energy utility bills for the April and May billing periods, along with an additional three months later in the year.
- Other measures in the 2023-24 Budget to help make life more affordable to Yukoners include funding for food in Yukon schools, the timber harvesting incentive to boost fuelwood supply, a quarterly top-up of \$150 to eligible recipients of the Yukon Senior Income Supplement, and a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.

Additional response:

- This government already 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.

Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability

Finance
Executive Council Office

- 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.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Inflation has increased to decade highs in many countries, including Canada, which is experiencing the highest inflation in almost 40 years.
- Energy prices have been a significant driver and these prices are more obvious to consumers.
- Housing affordability has been a concern in the Yukon for several years.
- [March's rate of inflation in Yukon was the highest in Canada at 5.5 per cent vs 4.3 per cent nationally according to the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index.](#)

Background:

Key government initiatives addressing affordability in Yukon

Highlight of affordability spending in Budget 2023-24

- \$5.3 million to extend the Inflation Relief Rebate. Yukoners will receive a \$50 credit on their power bill in April and May and for an additional three months later in the year.

Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability

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- \$300,000 for the Timber Harvesting Incentive program.
- \$1.5 million to increase monthly social assistance payments by \$100.
- Over \$800,000 to recipients of the Yukon Seniors Income Supplement.
- \$500,000 for food in schools.

This builds on previous programs to protect the affordability of Yukoners including

- Last year, the Government of Yukon announced almost \$10 million in new inflation relief measures targeted at vulnerable groups.
- 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, this program is retroactive to April 1, 2022. Yukon also introduced the Timber Harvesting Incentive that gives commercial timber harvesters \$10 per cubic metre.
- The pilot program giving an extra \$500 per month to Extended Family Caregiver agreement caregivers and foster caregivers was extended to the end of the fiscal year.
- 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

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- Accelerated Canada Workers Benefit payments and new minimum entitlement starting in July 2023 (\$4 billion over six years, starting in 2022-23).
- Making all Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans 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 will be doubled for six months in 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 (below \$39,826, and gradually phased out above that level). Single Canadians without children would receive up to an extra \$234 and couples with two children would receive up to an extra \$467 this year. Seniors would receive an extra \$225 on average.

Inflation outlook

- The inflation rate in Whitehorse was 5.5 per cent in March, down from 7.0 in February, but 1.2 percentage points higher than the national inflation rate of 4.3 per cent. Whitehorse's inflation rate was the highest in Canada for fourth consecutive month.
- This ranking is a reversal from earlier in 2022 when Whitehorse had the lowest inflation in Canada. For 2022 as a whole, the relatively lower inflation at the beginning of the year and higher inflation at the end of the year cancelled out, and so, the annual inflation rate in Whitehorse was the same as the national rate: 6.8 per cent.
- It is natural that relatively lower inflation in Whitehorse is eventually followed by relatively higher inflation as prices in Whitehorse follow the national trend over the long term.

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- The Bank of Canada has started to take a more aggressive approach to battling inflation by raising interest rates 4.25 percentage points since March 2022. The Bank's increase of 0.25 percentage point on January 25 brought the overnight rate to 4.5 per cent, the highest rate since early 2008. [This rate was maintained at the April rate announcement.](#)
- The housing market in the Yukon has stayed resilient the face of higher interest rates that have cooled markets in most other parts of Canada. Yukon was the only Canadian jurisdiction that saw residential sales in 2022 increase over 2021
- It wasn't until the fourth quarter until signs of cooling showed in the Yukon data, with average sales prices falling across all housing type. Compared with the end of 2021, prices were down by 1.2 per cent for single-detached, 3.9 per cent for duplexes, 11.4 per cent for condos, and 1.6 per cent for mobile homes.
- Most forecasters expect inflation in Canada will move towards historic norms over the next couple of years as supply chain problems subside and the effect of higher interest rates move through the economy. Canadian inflation is expected to decline from near 7 per cent in 2022, to between 3.5-4.0 per cent in 2023. Inflation in 2024 is expected to return to the midpoint of the Bank of Canada's target range of 1-3 per cent.
- Inflation in Whitehorse follows the national trend and therefore expected to fall to 3.8 per cent in 2023 and to 2.5 per cent in 2024.

INFLATION RELIEF ACROSS GOVERNMENT

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, beginning with the Yukon Business Relief Program (YBRP) in

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2020, which was open to any business from any sector that experienced at least a 30% 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 TRRP committed \$15 million over three years to support the tourism sector and was focused on four 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:
 - 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).

Community Tourism Destination Development Fund

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- In October 2022, the Department of Tourism and Culture announced the creation of the new Community Tourism Destination Development Fund, which is slated to run for an initial three-year term.
- The new annual funding program is available to local businesses, First Nations governments, First Nation Development entities, municipalities and not-for-profit 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 identifies 4 strategic objectives and 22 key actions, which reflect input gathered through extensive public and sector engagement.
- We have identified 10 actions in support of pandemic recovery to be completed over three years as Phase 1 implementation, which includes:
 - Modernizing existing funding;
 - Offering new funding streams;
 - Industry branding and promotion;
 - Marketing and export strategies;
 - Workshops; and

Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability

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- Labour market supports.

In 2023-24, three 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.

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

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- Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund;

Yukon Development Corporation:

Inflation Relief Rebate

- The Inflation Relief Rebate provides \$50 per month to all non-government residential and commercial electricity customers to help ease the impacts of rising inflation.
- The IRR initially covered June, July, and August 2022, and was extended to cover October, November, and December 2022. The budgets for these were included in 2022-23 Supplementary Estimates.
- The IRR was subsequently extended for March, April, and May 2023. The budget in 2023-24 is comprised of:
 - \$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 three 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:

- Economic Development is in the process of developing a temporary paid sick leave program. Program criteria, including eligibility and duration, are currently being developed.

Energy, Mines and Resources:

Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency and offset costs

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- Our energy programs are successfully encouraging Yukon residents and local businesses to reduce their energy use, save money and choose low carbon options to live and move.
- Energy efficiency programs are available for the transportation sector, renewable heating sector, and the construction sector focusing on high efficiency buildings.
- For existing homes, the Energy Branch offers the Good Energy rebate program for high performance heating systems and upgrades to thermal enclosures including insulation and windows and high performance new homes. Taking these measures will save homeowners money on their energy costs.
- For commercial and institutional buildings, the Energy Branch offers rebates for greenhouse gas-reducing retrofits and renewable heating.
- For First Nation and municipal buildings, the Energy Branch offers retrofit and funding support through its Community Institutional Energy Efficiency Program.
- There are two current incentives for wood, one for harvesters and one to offset fuelwood costs:
 - In October 2022 we launched the timber harvesting incentive to provide registered Yukon timber harvesting businesses an incentive of \$10 per cubic metre of timber harvested or sold between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023. We have paid out \$163,000 to industry so far.
 - In September 2022, we launched a new firewood rebate to offset the increased costs of firewood for home heating. The rebate provides \$50 for each cord of firewood purchased, up to a maximum of 10 cords. As of February 14, 2023 we processed 586 applications, and paid out approximately \$69,850 in rebates for 1,389 cords of firewood.

Yukon Housing Corporation:

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

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- 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;
- The Opportunities Yukon 45-unit Cornerstone Development in Whitehorse opened in summer 2022 and is providing supportive living and accessible housing;
- 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;
- In Old Crow, the 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing complex is under construction with expected completion in summer 2023; and
- The 10-Plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake is included in the Northern Carve-Out. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2023-24.

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, Mayo, and Carmacks. These homes are on track for completion in summer 2023.
- The demolition of Macaulay Lodge in Whitehorse was completed in October 2022. Planning for the redevelopment of the site to support mixed commercial and residential use is underway.

Health and Social Services:

For 2022-23:

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- 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 six-month extension of \$500 per month to caregivers of children in out of home care; and
- Committed \$100,000 to Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition to continue to support food security across the territory.

For 2023-24:

- a quarterly top-up of \$150 to eligible Yukon Senior Income Supplement recipients; and
- a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.

Public Service Commission: *(no change from Fall BN)*

Remote work policy in support of employees working in communities

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

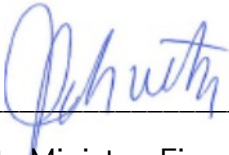
Session Briefing Note

FIN TAB #26
ECO TAB #73
Spring 2023

Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability

Finance
Executive Council Office

Approved by:



April 24, 2023

a/Deputy Minister, Finance

Approved

2023 04 21



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Approved

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

Recommended response:

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process, and the Government of Yukon is continuing our work to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- We are working collaboratively with First Nations to advance progress in key areas including health and social services, education, justice and heritage, through the Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan.
- We are also working with Yukon First Nations to implement Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy*, which will further advance reconciliation and address the Calls to Action.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations governments are leaders in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- At the Yukon Forum in November 2022, we discussed the approach to implementing and reporting on the Calls to Action with Yukon First Nations.
- We will continue our collaborative work to implement and report on the Calls to Action, including implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations for health and social services.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon government (YG) previously made public its intention to fulfill its commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action.
- The Calls to Action were a topic at the November 29, 2022 Yukon Forum.

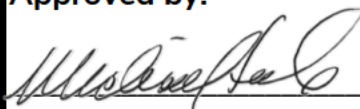
Background:

- 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

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

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) collaborate on addressing the Calls to Action through the Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan.
- YG has taken steps to address the Calls to Action, including:
 - establishing the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations Initiatives at the Department of Education, signing an agreement to establish a YFN School Board, and entering into education agreements with all YFNs (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 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
 - 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

February 6, 2023

Date

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Recommended response:

- In 2023-24, the Yukon continues to demonstrate its robust position nationally with population and economic growth among the strongest in the country.
- Budget 2023-24 delivers spending initiatives aimed at making life more affordable for Yukoners while also including several inflation relief measures to help combat the rising cost of goods.
- This budget continues to invest in the Yukon's health and social system and includes investments in new and expanded health services through the implementation of *Putting People First*. This includes addressing the substance-use health emergency and supporting the mental health of Yukoners.
- It delivers on our commitment to support a green economy with investments outlined in *Our Clean Future*.
- There are also strategic investments in infrastructure, particularly in housing for the most vulnerable. Other investments in housing include funds for land development, investments in housing projects in Dawson City, Watson Lake and Teslin, subsidies and supports for renters and funding for various affordable and community housing projects.
- Like in previous budgets, Budget 2023-24 continues to build relationships and further reconciliation with Yukon First Nations.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Additional response:

- The Yukon government is delivering on its commitment to grow a strong and resilient economy while ensuring robust, sustainable fiscal management.
- A surplus of 2.49 per cent of expenditures serves as a prudent fiscal management tool and demonstrates the ability of the government to address unforeseen events without going into a deficit.
- The fiscal summary includes a \$50 million contingency for presently undefined expected expenditures in 2023-24. This will not affect the Yukon's forecast fiscal position and allows the government to remain transparent about potential pressures.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023-24 Main Estimates will be debated during the March 2023 legislative session.
-

Background:

- The 2023-24 Main Estimates include a surplus of \$48.2 million and year-end debt of \$374.8 million.
- Total revenue is expected to be \$1.58 billion in 2023-24. This is an increase of \$115.2 million or 7.3 per cent from the 2022-23 Main Estimates.
- Forecast O&M expenditures total \$1.45 billion, with O&M recoveries offsetting this amount by \$130.9 million. This is an increase of 2.6 per cent in net O&M expenditures from the 2022-23 Main Estimates.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

- Forecast capital expenditures total \$483.8 million with recoveries of \$164.5 million. This is a 9.9 per cent decrease in net capital expenditures from the 2022-23 Main Estimates. This represents a reduction of \$63 million from last year's capital budget. This reduction reflects a sustainable approach to budgeting in the territory following elevated capital spending over the last two years, which helped stimulate Yukon's economy during the pandemic.
- There are 5,332.0 FTEs in the 2023-24 budget, which is a decrease of 89.1 FTEs from 2022-23.

Approved by:

a/Deputy Minister, Department

February 23, 2023

Approved

Recommended response:

- Overall, the changes outlined in the Supplementary Estimates #2 show a government that continues to make sure Yukoners and our economy remain healthy as we emerge from the pandemic while also responding to new and emerging challenges.
- Inflation continues to have an impact on Yukoners, as well as an impact on government projects. Several changes included as part of this Supplementary Estimates are in response to higher costs or work progressing faster than planned.
- The capital budget has no overall gross change in this Supplementary Estimates, but this is not because no adjustments were made. Major projects are still getting the resources they need to reach completion, but other projects were decreased to reflect timelines and funds were reallocated accordingly.
- The increase of \$37.5 million for the Department of Highways and Public Works is being offset by deferrals and offsets in other projects.

Session Briefing Note

TAB#28

Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2022-23

Spring 2023

Supplementary Overview

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Additional response:

- The largest expenditures are on three important capital projects, accounting for \$53.8 million altogether.
- The first is the replacement of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge. This increase covers higher costs and an accelerated schedule. The additional work on this project results in an increase of \$35.8 million as part of this Supplementary Estimate.
- We also provided additional funding for building the Carmacks Bypass, which is part of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program. Work in this area makes up \$11.8 million of the Capital increase.
- The third project is the construction of the Dempster Fibre Line, which will open a second fibre optic link instead of relying just on one, and so give Yukoners more reliable access to the internet as well as necessary redundancy. This project includes a proposed increase of \$5.7 million.

Session Briefing Note

TAB#28

Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2022-23

Spring 2023

Supplementary Overview

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

- These increases are offset by decreases in capital. The most significant reductions can be seen in the Yukon Housing Corporation. This is largely the result of revised timelines for various projects and initiatives as well as lower uptake in application-based programs, but also accounts for the housing and building cycle as Normandy Living, Cornerstone and the 47-unit 4th and Jeckell facility are all ready and taking in clients and we are now shifting towards building new relationships for potential future projects.
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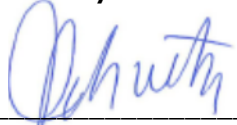
Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2022-23 Supplementary Estimates #2 is tabled in the spring session and will be the subject of debate.
-

Background:

- Opposition may request an explanation for the changes included as part of the Supplementary Estimates #2.


Approved by:



a/Deputy Minister, Finance

March 02, 2023

Approved



Deputy Minister, HPW

March 02, 2023

Approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

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

Tourism and
Culture

Recommended response:

- Creative and cultural industries are an essential part of the Yukon's economy, well-being, and northern way of life.
- Our strategy, *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries*, is aimed at growing and developing Yukon's creative and cultural industries.
- The strategy identifies 4 strategic objectives and 22 key actions which reflect input gathered through extensive public and sector engagement. We have identified 10 actions in support of pandemic recovery to be completed over three years as Phase 1 implementation.
- These include: modernizing existing funding; offering new funding streams; industry branding and promotion; marketing and export strategies; workshops; and labour market supports.

Additional response:

- Approximately \$500,000 was allocated to new initiatives starting in fiscal year 2022-23, and we have implemented four key actions, with more underway.
- In 2023-24, three new programs will provide an additional \$450,000 to the creative and cultural sectors. These are the: Express Micro-grant, the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant, and the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund. (see DPT 4 Funding Programs)
- An expanded professional development workshop series was offered by the department in 2022-23, and further industry development is planned for 2023-24.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

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

Tourism and
Culture

- Government of Yukon, along with museums, cultural centres, and Yukon First Nations has also developed a draft Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums Policy, a priority action in Creative Potential. (see also C13 Museums and First Nations Cultural Centres Policy)

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Action 1.4 (sector specific fund) has not yet been delivered, and there may be questions on its status.

Background:

- The Yukon's 2018 Culture GDP was \$59.7 million, representing 2% of the total territorial economy. Canada's 2018 Culture GDP was \$56.1 billion, representing 2.7% of Canada's total economy. Moving Yukon to 2.7% through implementation of this strategy will increase Yukon's GDP by \$21 million per year.
- The creative and cultural industries sector encompasses the creation, production, promotion, distribution and commercialization of cultural goods, as well as the labour force and institutions required to support it.
- Yukon has the third-highest concentration of artists in the country (1.14%) and the highest concentration of cultural workers (5.3%) in Canada (2016).

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 3, 2023

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note Critical Minerals

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response

- Critical minerals are essential to Canada's economic security and transition to a low-carbon economy.
- In 2021, the Government of Canada released a list of 31 critical minerals.
- Through our 2021 Yukon Critical Minerals Inventory, we understand the Yukon has known deposits for nine and documented occurrences for 16 critical minerals.
- We will work with Natural Resources Canada on the implementation of Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and we are considering other made-in-Yukon solutions.

Additional response

- 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 data, and an exploration tax credit.

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.

Session Briefing Note Critical Minerals

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

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 represent both economic opportunities and an opportunity to contribute to renewable energy/green economy in Canada.
- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the territory, evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program now includes extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals as the primary exploration goal.
- The federal government's budget commitments also 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

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Regional Economic Development
Exceptions (10x\$1M)**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government is helping boost economic development across the territory through the use of trade agreement exceptions.
- The exceptions allow us to restrict procurement competitions exclusively to qualified Yukon businesses ten times per year in order to keep government dollars in the territory and support local businesses.
- Over the past five years, manufacturing, construction, and consulting contracts have been awarded for work in communities across the Yukon.
- Since 2018, Yukon businesses have competed for and secured 53 Yukon-exclusive government contracts worth \$ 27 million.

Additional response: This year's projects

- For the 2022-23 fiscal year, we have awarded 8 projects to Yukon businesses, totaling \$4.3 million.
- The criteria for selecting Regional Economic Development Exceptions includes how much of the money spent on the project will create economic opportunities in the Yukon, and whether the project supports the territory's industries and suppliers.
- At the close of a project, suppliers are now required to report on the total dollar value expended on Yukon labour and materials to quantify the direct positive impact these projects have on Yukoners.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Regional Economic Development
Exceptions (10x\$1M)**Highways and
Public Works

- Since we implemented the requirement to report on the total dollar value, 13 projects have submitted reporting on their completed contracts, with eight projects using 100 per cent Yukon labour and Yukon materials. The reporting from the 13 projects shows that just over \$1 million was spent on Yukon employee labour.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Regional Economic Development Exceptions are important tools to support the Yukon's economy.
-

Background:

- The following **eight** contracts were awarded for the 2022-23 fiscal year:
 - Six direct current fast chargers in Yukon communities (Ross River, Faro, Burwash Landing, Beaver Creek and Whitehorse) awarded to Solvest Inc.
 - The Green Street paving project in the Whistle Bend Subdivision of Whitehorse. Awarded to Castle Rock Enterprises Ltd.
 - The Community Scale Composting Program design and installation in Deep Creek, Tagish, Carcross, and Marsh Lake awarded to Boreal Compost Ent Ltd.
 - The Building Management System Upgrade at the Mayo Community Centre awarded to 12094 Yukon inc. (also known as Dynamic Systems).
 - Fire Separation Improvements at the Yukon Justice Centre in Whitehorse to Ketza Construction Corporation.
 - The Ghùch Tlâ Community School public address, phone and clock upgrades in Carcross awarded to Spectrum Security Sound Ltd.
 - Dynamic Message Signs Upgrades in Whitehorse, Teslin, Haines Junction, Carcross and Tagish to Total North
-

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2023

Regional Economic Development Exceptions (10x\$1M)

Highways and
Public Works

- Solid Waste Facility Groundwater Monitoring in various Yukon communities to Core Geoscience Services Inc.
- The total value of the eight contracts is \$4.3 million.
- It can be challenging to find tenders to maximize the use of these exceptions. Issues such as inflation, supply chain shortages and a tight labour market can impact the use of exceptions.
- For example, two projects were tendered under the exception, but they received bids that were over budget and had to be cancelled.
- The Procurement Support Centre continues to work alongside departments to find projects which are suitable for the exception.

Approved by:



March 30, 2023

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Size of Government/
FTE Growth**Public Service Commission

Recommended response:

- Based on actual hours worked, there were about 5,250 FTEs across the Yukon government workforce over the 2022 calendar year.
- This is a decrease of nearly 74 FTEs, or a 1.3% decrease, over the previous calendar year.
- The decrease in FTEs is mainly due to the government's changed response to COVID-19.

Additional response:

- While the size of the Yukon government has increased in recent years, it's grown at a rate consistent with trends over the last two decades as government has adapted to serve a changing society.
- Growth in the departments of Education and Health and Social Services accounts for most of the overall growth in FTEs in the past decade, as the Yukon government has expanded and improved services for Yukoners.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 'size of government' is a topic of consistent media and Opposition interest.
-

Background:

- The Yukon Financial Advisory Panel report devoted several pages to the "size of government" and growth in spending as a share of GDP (gross domestic product). The report did not provide details that may account for the growth trends. For example:

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Size of Government/
FTE Growth**Public Service Commission

- Growth in government spending as a share of GDP between 1980 and 2015 is partly explained by a notable drop in Yukon's GDP after the 1982 shut-down of the Faro mine.
- Growth in the number of YG jobs as a percentage of the Yukon population is partly attributable to devolution of federal programs.
- Since 2003, 250 federal employees have transferred to YG through devolution of the Northern Affairs Program (246) and a component of Human Resources and Skills Development (4).
- Aside from growth related to devolution, YG has responded to pressures to both expand services and improve service standards in a number of areas, particularly in health care and education.
- The Yukon Bureau of Statistics (YBS) reports monthly on Yukon employment, including a breakdown of employment by public and private sector. This data is based on estimates from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.
- Public and private sector employment in the YBS monthly reports is measured by the number of employed persons in each sector and includes full-time, part-time, permanent, and temporary employees.
- The YBS data for public sector employees includes employees of territorial, federal, municipal and First Nation governments, as well as employees of organizations that are publicly funded such as schools, post-secondary institutions, and hospitals. The YBS data is not broken down by public sector employer. Growth in public sector employment in Yukon is sometimes mistakenly attributed wholly to growth in the Yukon government.

Measuring FTEs

- The FTEs tracked and reported through PSC are based on actual hours worked, measured after the fact. They are determined by looking at all staffed positions, taking part-time jobs and unconventional working hours into account, and calculating how many full-time hours have been worked. Total FTEs are therefore impacted by the number of positions that are vacant within the reporting period.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

**Size of Government/
FTE Growth**

Public Service Commission

- These FTEs are not equivalent to the projected FTEs reported in the Main and Supplementary budgets.
- The Public Service Commission and the Department of Finance are working together to review both approaches to reporting and to explore further options for improvements in the future.
- See attached Appendix for the number of FTEs by department from 2012-2022.

Approved by:



Public Service Commissioner

2023-02-15

Date Approved

Appendix – Number of FTEs by Hours Worked

Total FTEs by Department: 2012 - 2022

Department	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Community Services	288.9	282.2	280.3	283.2	281.7	292.3	298.5	296.4	319.6	337.8	329.3
Economic Development	50.8	52.4	55.3	54.2	52.8	44.2	48.1	50.0	49.9	55.4	56.5
Education	897.6	934.7	935.7	944.7	980.7	1,060.4	1,056.6	1,043.9	1,045.1	1,094.5	1,074
EMR, YDC	253.0	259.4	262.7	266.9	269.8	265.0	255.0	259.7	248.6	264.9	264.7
Environment	191.6	196.5	195.9	203.9	205.5	209.2	213.3	211.3	218.7	228.3	235.3
Executive Council Office	87.3	88.4	90.7	100.7	93.6	84.1	89.0	93.6	87.2	87.5	86.4
Finance	52.8	51.9	54.2	53.9	65.0	80.9	89.7	89.8	79.4	73.1	72
French Language Services Dir.	-	7.7	12.7	14.0	15.5	20.6	23.0	23.6	22.4	23.4	19.3
Highways & Public Works	768.1	776.6	782.5	792.4	788.5	765.7	785.8	813.7	841.0	863.4	870.7
Health & Social Services	905.9	944.3	965.7	958.6	1,021.1	1,114.8	1,183.6	1,408.5	1,479.2	1,488.9	1,441
Justice	247.8	255.3	277.9	275.9	276.2	285.7	275.1	279.2	281.7	296.0	302.5
Leg Assembly and Elec.	11.1	8.2	8.3	10.6	11.6	9.8	8.9	9.3	8.6	8.3	8.7
Public Service Commission	94.4	97.5	95.1	97.3	97.6	101.6	110.6	118.1	138.1	151.8	148.9
Tourism & Culture	97.7	101.0	102.9	100.4	105.2	105.2	106.9	105.9	100.7	106.1	105.8
WCHSB	76.9	76.4	75.4	75.9	79.4	79.2	81.2	84.2	86.2	85.2	78.9
Women & Gender Equity Dir.	8.0	7.6	7.1	6.3	7.1	7.9	8.2	8.5	9.1	8.0	7.5
Yukon Housing Corporation	69.5	71.1	71.8	72.0	65.2	63.9	65.8	64.3	64.1	68.1	65.1
Yukon Liquor, Lotteries Yukon	63.2	60.9	60.4	61.6	63.5	74.0	79.3	84.3	82.4	82.7	83
YG Total	4,164.6	4,272.1	4,334.6	4,372.7	4,479.9	4,664.5	4,778.5	5,044.3	5,162.1	5,323.6	5,249.8
FTE count change over previous year		107.5	62.5	38.1	107.2	184.6	114.0	265.8	117.8	161.5	-73.8
Percent change over previous year		2.6%	1.5%	0.9%	2.5%	4.1%	2.4%	5.6%	2.3%	3.1%	-1.3%

Full-time Equivalents (FTEs) are determined by looking at all staffed positions, taking part-time jobs and unconventional working hours into account, and calculating how many full-time hours have been worked over a period of time. With this measure, two half-time jobs would count as one FTE.

Appendix – Number of FTEs by Hours Worked

Total FTEs by Department: 2012 - 2022

Department	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Community Services	288.9	282.2	280.3	283.2	281.7	292.3	298.5	296.4	319.6	337.8	329.3
Economic Development	50.8	52.4	55.3	54.2	52.8	44.2	48.1	50.0	49.9	55.4	56.5
Education	897.6	934.7	935.7	944.7	980.7	1,060.4	1,056.6	1,043.9	1,045.1	1,094.5	1,074
EMR, YDC	253.0	259.4	262.7	266.9	269.8	265.0	255.0	259.7	248.6	264.9	264.7
Environment	191.6	196.5	195.9	203.9	205.5	209.2	213.3	211.3	218.7	228.3	235.3
Executive Council Office	87.3	88.4	90.7	100.7	93.6	84.1	89.0	93.6	87.2	87.5	86.4
Finance	52.8	51.9	54.2	53.9	65.0	80.9	89.7	89.8	79.4	73.1	72
French Language Services Dir.	-	7.7	12.7	14.0	15.5	20.6	23.0	23.6	22.4	23.4	19.3
Highways & Public Works	768.1	776.6	782.5	792.4	788.5	765.7	785.8	813.7	841.0	863.4	870.7
Health & Social Services	905.9	944.3	965.7	958.6	1,021.1	1,114.8	1,183.6	1,408.5	1,479.2	1,488.9	1,441
Justice	247.8	255.3	277.9	275.9	276.2	285.7	275.1	279.2	281.7	296.0	302.5
Leg Assembly and Elec.	11.1	8.2	8.3	10.6	11.6	9.8	8.9	9.3	8.6	8.3	8.7
Public Service Commission	94.4	97.5	95.1	97.3	97.6	101.6	110.6	118.1	138.1	151.8	148.9
Tourism & Culture	97.7	101.0	102.9	100.4	105.2	105.2	106.9	105.9	100.7	106.1	105.8
WCHSB	76.9	76.4	75.4	75.9	79.4	79.2	81.2	84.2	86.2	85.2	78.9
Women & Gender Equity Dir.	8.0	7.6	7.1	6.3	7.1	7.9	8.2	8.5	9.1	8.0	7.5
Yukon Housing Corporation	69.5	71.1	71.8	72.0	65.2	63.9	65.8	64.3	64.1	68.1	65.1
Yukon Liquor, Lotteries Yukon	63.2	60.9	60.4	61.6	63.5	74.0	79.3	84.3	82.4	82.7	83
YG Total	4,164.6	4,272.1	4,334.6	4,372.7	4,479.9	4,664.5	4,778.5	5,044.3	5,162.1	5,323.6	5,249.8
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Percent change over previous year		2.6%	1.5%	0.9%	2.5%	4.1%	2.4%	5.6%	2.3%	3.1%	-1.3%

Full-time Equivalents (FTEs) are determined by looking at all staffed positions, taking part-time jobs and unconventional working hours into account, and calculating how many full-time hours have been worked over a period of time. With this measure, two half-time jobs would count as one FTE.

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2023

Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: General Program Overview

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program is valued at \$468 million and includes infrastructure upgrades for up to 650 kilometres of existing roads in areas of high mineral potential and active mining 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 a number of infrastructure projects that are going through various stages of planning, design, assessment and construction.

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 ensure there are benefits for each community.
- 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.

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2023

Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and
Public Works

- 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

- Our 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.
- As a result, the Yukon Resource Gateway Program has several infrastructure projects going through various stages of implementation, planning, design, assessment and construction.
- 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.
- 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

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

Resource Gateway Program's completion date being extended from 2025 to March 2031.

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program also includes an industry component for funding.
- Industry has indicated an interest in accessing the funding; however, no formal industry agreements are in place at this time.

Recommended response:

- **Carmacks Bypass**
 - In the spring of 2019, a Project Agreement for the Carmacks Bypass component was signed with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
 - The project includes the construction of a new road and bridge, which will allow industrial vehicles to bypass the community of Carmacks, creating a safer flow of traffic for residents.
- The new road connects the existing Freegold Road with the Klondike Highway.
- This project will also improve access to mining activities while enabling the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation to benefit from contracting, education and training associated with the project.
- This project is a key component under the Yukon Resource Gateway Program and is the first project to be awarded under the program.

Additional Response:

- The Carmacks Bypass project has been a collaborative effort between the Yukon government and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- On November 3, 2021, Pelly Construction was awarded the \$29.6 million contract to construct the new road and bridge.

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Public Works

- Construction of the road and bridge is well underway. The contractor has completed approximately 80 per cent of the roadwork and 60 per cent of the bridge work this past construction season.
- The remaining road and bridge work will be substantially complete this season, and any remaining work will be finished in 2024.

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 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 (km 363.6 to km 367.5), which will allow work to proceed for this section of the component.
- In 2023, the Yukon government will continue to work with Ross River Dena Council to implement the Project Agreement and determine the next steps of this project together.

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.

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

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- This 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.

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.
- This proposed project includes two bridge replacements and one bridge rehabilitation. The estimated capital construction cost is \$17 million.
- Clearing of the right-of-way to improve lines of sight began in 2020, with two direct-award contracts to First Kaska Limited.
- 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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Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

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Public Works

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

- Environmental baseline information for this project is being collected in collaboration with the Liard First Nation.
- Throughout 2022, our government worked on the ongoing implementation of the Project Agreement with Liard First Nation and drafting the environmental assessment for the replacement of the bridge at kilometre 143.
- In 2023, we are continuing to work 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 for this season and completing the draft environmental assessment, project planning and designs.

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 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 the funding contribution with Liard First Nation. Additionally, we underwent preliminary project planning and developed the scope of work.
- Environmental baseline information will be collected in collaboration with Liard First Nation beginning this summer.

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- 2023 will also see the drafting of environmental assessments and identification of granular resources, in addition to project planning and identifying which phases of the component will be planned and carried out.

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 will include road rehabilitation and replacement of several bridges along the North Canol road and has an estimated capital construction cost of \$16 million.
- We continue to work with Ross River Dena Council on implementing the Project Agreement and determining the timeline and next steps for this project.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Carmacks Bypass

- Right-of-way clearing to support construction of the Carmacks Bypass was awarded to Cobalt Construction in 2020.
- Recommendation by YESAB on the application for the geotechnical assessment component of the Carmacks Bypass project was received in January 2019 and is now complete.

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- The geotechnical assessment results supported an application for the full Carmacks Bypass project, which was submitted to YESAB in May 2020 and the Decision Document was completed in December 2020.
- A project working group for the Carmacks Bypass project between Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and the Yukon government meets monthly.

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.
- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program proposal is valued at \$468 million with a federal government investment of up to \$247 million, a Yukon investment of up to \$112 million and an industry investment of up to \$108 million over the life span of the program.
 - Federal government support has been confirmed through the Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada.
 - The Yukon government will also contribute an additional estimated \$4.8 million for ineligible costs over the life of the program, such as salaries and benefits for Yukon government employees.
- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes industry partners as part of the investment of the program. Current industry components include the Goldfields Road and Casino Road, with the potential for additional components to be considered. However no formal industry agreements are in place at this time.

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

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Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

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Design (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Spring 2020
YESAB Submission (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Fall 2020
Construction (right-of-way clearing)	Fall 2020
Procurement	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

Silver Trail Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Silver Trail Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun	Ongoing
Design, planning and assessment	2024-25
Construction of Silver Trail	2026-27

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

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Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and Public Works

Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timeline
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 – KM 143 and Upper Frances River	Spring/Summer 2023
Construction of bridge replacement and rehabilitation	To be determined

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
Procurement	2024
Construction of Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171	2025

North Canol Phase 1 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timeline

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Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

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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:



April 12, 2023

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Xplore and Starlink**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

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- Our government understands the importance of having access to affordable, robust, and dependable internet for Yukoners.
- For the past number of years, the Xplornet satellite service has provided an important way for more than 280 rural Yukoners to access the internet.
- Xplornet, now known as Xplore, is a Canadian rural internet service provider and mobile network operator. It is also the largest rural fixed wireless broadband service provider in Canada.
- The services historically provided by Xplore are quickly deteriorating due to issues with their satellite network.
- The service will cease to be available to Yukoners this coming September and it is likely that customers will experience issues between now and September 2023.
- Yukoners should be aware of the risk that Xplore's services could fail before September; we are encouraging all Yukoners to switch to a new provider such as Starlink or OneWeb as soon as they are able to.

Additional response:

- Xplore first announced their intention to shut down services in December 2020, however, this deadline was extended until December 31, 2022.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Xplore and Starlink**Highways and
Public Works

- We advocated in 2022 on behalf of Yukoners to find a commercial solution to this important issue and expressed our concerns to the President and CEO of Xplore.
- An agreement between Telesat and Xplore was announced on November 10, 2022, to extend service in the Yukon until September 2023.
- However, this extension of service is based on the increasingly degraded performance of the Anik F2 satellite.

Third response:

-
- We recommend that Yukoners who are Xplore customers look to Starlink as a replacement satellite service.
- Starlink started offering service to Yukoners in a 'beta' mode as of January 2023, while it continues to launch more satellites to fill out its Polar orbit.
- Once Starlink is fully deployed and operational, Yukoners located in remote regions will have access to continuous connectivity.
- Starlink offers improved service options that are faster and with significantly reduced interruption over current Xplore service.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Xplore services are scheduled to end across Canada in September 2023, impacting 280 Yukon customer accounts.

Background:

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Xplore and Starlink

Highways and
Public Works

- Telecommunications services in Canada are regulated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. Ultimately, the responsibility for managing, regulating, and providing satellite services rests with the Government of Canada.
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development is the lead department for broadband initiatives in Canada, with a mandate to improve rural Canadians' access to broadband.
- Xplornet rebranded to Xplore in September 2022.
- The Telesat satellite (Anik F2), is past the end of its operational life and will experience increasing availability issues for satellite users starting in January 2023, with a best estimate of availability until September 2023.

Approved by:



January 20, 2023

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Active COVID Relief Programs**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Rebate program is the only remaining active COVID program.
- The COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Rebate program has been in place since March 2020 and is scheduled to run until March 31, 2023.
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate program helps employers and workers without paid sick leave benefits to meet their financial needs while staying home with specific COVID-19 illness.
- As of March 7, 2023, employees have received \$3,624,224 in rebates through the Paid Sick Leave Rebate program.
- The retail trade sector is the largest user of the program at 25.3% of the funding to date.
- The health and social services sector, which includes day care operators and the construction sector, are also significant users of the program, receiving 22.4% and 16.4% of funding to date, respectively.

Additional response:

- This program supports our efforts to keep Yukoners healthy by encouraging workers to stay home if they are sick with COVID-19, supporting businesses who encourage their workers to stay home if sick with COVID-19 and providing workers with financial stability when sick with COVID-19.
- Program staff are available to help applicants understand the process, answer questions and guide them through the process.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Active COVID Relief Programs**Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on why the Yukon program still exists now that the state of emergency has lifted and all other jurisdictions have ceased their COVID-19 sick leave programs.
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Background:

- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate reimburses employers and people who are self-employed, who pay their workers to take sick days due to COVID-19 if they are sick, self-isolating or caring for other household members.
- Worker retention is vital for the Yukon's economic recovery and the rebate program encourages workers to remain employed while off sick instead of leaving their employer and applying for federal EI due to financial hardship.
- The benefit of an employer-driven program is it:
 - encourages the employer to provide the worker with paid sick leave while ensuring employer costs will be reimbursed;
 - allows the worker to continue to receive their wages uninterrupted if they are off sick because their employer continues to pay their regular wages
- There have been three phases of the Sick Leave Rebate program thus far. Each phase offers a rebate of up to ten days of base wages, to a maximum of \$378.13 per day. Left over days do not carry over into the following phase(s).
- A doctor's note is not required for the program.

Payments by Phase:

- Phase 1 of the program was from March 26, 2020 through March 31, 2021 and paid out \$663,294 in rebates.
 - Phase 2 ran from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 and paid out \$444,693 in rebates.
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Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Active COVID Relief Programs

Economic
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- Phase 3, currently in effect, began October 1, 2021 and has been extended until March 31, 2023. As of March 7, 2023 Phase 3 of the program has paid out \$2,516,237 in rebates.

Payments for all three phases by community as of March 7, 2023:

Community	Total Paid (\$)	% of Total Paid
Beaver Creek	8,653	0.24
Carmacks	24,595	0.68
Dawson City	67,418	1.86
Haines Junction	15,639	0.43
Keno City	2,431	0.07
Mayo	2,292	0.06
Pelly Crossing	15,816	0.44
Ross River	4,720	0.13
Teslin	4,650	0.13
Watson Lake	20,258	0.56
Whitehorse	3,457,752	95.40
Total	\$3,624,224	100.0

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Active COVID Relief Programs

Economic
Development

Payment for all three phases by industry sector as of March 7, 2023:

Sector	Total Paid (\$)	% of Total Paid
Accommodation and food services	326,963	9.02%
Administrative support, waste management	34,594	0.95%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	9,642	0.27%
Arts, entertainment, recreation	28,024	0.77%
Construction	592,945	16.36%
Educational Services	2,219	0.06%
Finance and insurance	2,414	0.07%
Health and social assistance	810,051	22.35%
Information and cultural industries	10,065	0.28%
Management of companies and enterprises	22,645	0.62%
Manufacturing	191,022	5.27%
Mining, quarrying and oil and gas	82,014	2.26%
Other service except public administration	115,075	3.18%
Professional, scientific and technical services	173,684	4.79%
Real estate, rental, leasing	91,788	2.53%
Retail trade	915,744	25.28%
Transportation and warehousing	133,891	3.69%
Wholesale Trade	81,444	2.25%
Total	\$3,624,224	100.00%

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 15, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Economic Resilience Plan**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Economic Resilience Plan, released March 2021, coordinated over 40 programs and initiatives that demonstrate our commitment to the Yukon's people, jobs, business supports, infrastructure development and economic diversification.
- The plan supported the Government of Yukon's COVID-19 objectives:
 - Yukon's economy rebounds and is responsive and adaptable;
 - Yukon communities recover and are resilient and our partnerships with First Nations are strengthened; and,
 - Yukoners, including vulnerable citizens, are safe and healthy.
- Broad supports were implemented across the Yukon's economic sectors through expanded programming, new initiatives and waived or deferred fees.

Additional response:

- Throughout the pandemic, we monitored and adapted our supports to meet Yukoners' changing needs, from immediate relief to adaptation and investment.
- We will continue working closely with industry, Yukon First Nations, communities and the Government of Canada to implement the plan in ways that reflect local realities and needs.
- Our plan demonstrates our comprehensive, transparent approach for minimizing COVID-19's economic damage during the height of the pandemic and building a foundation for the future.

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Economic Resilience Plan

Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The *Economic resilience plan: Building Yukon's COVID-19 economic resiliency* was released to the public on March 10, 2021.

Background:

- The plan details the Government of Yukon's initial pandemic response and ongoing supports for five key pillars underlying economic recovery:
 - People – ensuring Yukoners are able to meet their critical needs including childcare, healthcare and affordable housing;
 - Jobs – new job creation, skills development and employer assistance to find and retain staff;
 - Business supports – developing, adapting and extending initiatives and funding programs;
 - Infrastructure development – current and new strategic investments to support economic resilience, growth, and prosperity; and
 - Economic diversification – investments to support entrepreneurship and the knowledge economy.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, a total of approximately \$85 million in supports has been announced across the Yukon's economic sectors through expanded programming, new initiatives and waived or deferred fees.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 3, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Expired COVID Relief Programs

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Yukon Business Relief Program:
 - Ran from the onset of the pandemic through to September 2021, helping Yukon businesses cover their eligible fixed costs.
 - Provided almost \$13.5 million to over 500 businesses.
 - The accommodation and food services sector received 43.5% of the total funding.
 - Funding went to businesses in every Yukon community.

- Yukon Essential Workers Income Support Program:
 - Provided a top-up to wages of up to \$4.00 per hour to essential workers until February 2021.
 - Paid out \$5.4 million (of which the federal government provided \$4.3 million) to more than 2,000 workers employed by 160 businesses.

Top-up Level	No. of Employees	Percentage of Employees
\$4.00 per hour	1,678	59.0%
\$3.00 per hour to \$3.99 per hour	569	20.0%
\$2.00 per hour to \$2.99 per hour	331	11.6%
\$1.00 per hour to \$1.99 per hour	211	7.4%
Less than \$1.00 per hour	56	2.0%
Total	2,845	100.0%

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Expired COVID Relief Programs**Economic
Development

- Temporary Support for Cancelled Events:
 - Ran from March to July of 2020.
 - Provided \$1.87 million in relief to 43 businesses connected to 31 cancelled events.
- Regional Relief Loan Program:
 - Program announced February 2021 with applications for low or no interest, partially forgivable business loans accepted until June 30, 2021.
 - Total funding of \$3.93 million provided by CanNor.
 - 62 applicants received \$3,446,202 in loans.
 - \$908,472 has been repaid;
 - \$230,875 has been forgiven for 16 loans which have been repaid in full; and
 - \$2,306,855 remains outstanding.
- Vaccine Verification Rebate:
 - Program launched on November 25, 2021 to support eligible businesses and non-governmental organizations directly impacted by the Civil Emergency Measures Act (CEMA) orders and restrictions put in place on November 8, 2021.
 - Provided a 50% rebate (to a maximum of \$500) towards the purchase of equipment required for the efficient and accurate checking of vaccine statuses.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Expired COVID Relief Programs**Economic
Development

- At the program's conclusion on January 31, 2022, 48 inquiries were received resulting in rebates to 34 organizations.
 - The total rebates issued were \$12,997.
- Yukon Emergency Relief Program:
 - The Yukon Emergency Relief Program supported Yukon businesses and non-government organizations directly affected by restrictions under the CEMA.
 - The program focused on funding eligible fixed costs for businesses, and non-recoverable financial commitments or incremental expenses incurred by non-government organizations for events cancelled or significantly altered due to CEMA orders.
 - Between November 8, 2021 and March 31, 2022, 25 organizations received \$307,679 in support through the Yukon Emergency Relief Program.
- Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement and Non-Accommodation (TASS/TNASS)
 - The program ran from October 1, 2020 to August 31, 2022 and was initially administered by Tourism and Culture until September 2021.
 - Tourism and Culture report that, approximately 94 Yukon tourism businesses submitted 140 applications under TASS and TNASS from October 2020 to September 2021. These

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Expired COVID Relief Programs**Economic
Development

applications have resulted in funding agreements totaling \$4.1M.

- Since October 1, 2021, the Department of Economic Development has been administering these two programs.
- From October 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022, 102 businesses received support through TASS/TNASS resulting in a total contribution of approximately \$3,833,595.
- On February 10, 2022, the department announced the enhanced TNASS stream for restaurants and bars.
- Restaurants and bars were eligible to apply for the Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement for the period from November 8, 2021, to March 31, 2022, and/or also receive a One-Time- Sector supplement of \$10,000.
- During this time, 59 restaurants/bars received financial assistance through the enhanced TNASS stream with a total contribution of \$1,056,494.
- Non-Profit Relief and Recovery Fund
 - Working with the non-profit sector to ensure that this important industry is able to recover from COVID-19 by enhancing opportunities for collaboration and shared services:
 - This is a shared mandate commitment with Community Services.
 - The department of Economic Development designed a short-term COVID response and recovery program in collaboration with the non-profit sector, that is administered by Volunteer

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Expired COVID Relief Programs**Economic
Development

Bénévoles Yukon. This program provided a fund of \$250,000 to help address the impacts of Covid-19 that were still having an effect on Yukon's NGOs.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 3, 2023
Date approved