



# **Women and Gender Equity Directorate (WGED)**

## **2024 Fall Sitting**



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# Women and Gender Equity Directorate

## Briefing Notes – Fall Session 2024

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### WGED Accomplishment Notes

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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#### Recommended response:

- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate has made progress on several major initiatives, in partnership with other departments, governments, and organizations, including:
  - Implementation of the first year of the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence:
    - Budgeted \$2.72M over 2023-24 and 2024-25 for community organizations to provide gender based violence prevention and victim support;
    - Beginning a collaborative program review in partnership with equity-seeking organizations.
  - Supporting the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ by:
    - holding the **third** accountability forum for Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy in **October 2024**;
    - leading the development of the first annual report;
    - supporting the creation of two new committees to lead implementation and accountability of the work, respectively.
  - Coordinating the LGBTQ2S+ Action Plan, including planning the release of a What We Heard report on engagement from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and allies that will inform the final two years of the action plan's implementation;
  - Supporting the Department of Justice with planning for the expansion of services to sexualized assault victims beyond

### WGED Accomplishment Notes

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

Whitehorse to Yukon communities, including the release of a What We Heard report;

- In addition to this work, the Directorate has also made progress on other mandate items:
  - Recruiting new members for the two sub-committees on the Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity (MACWAGE); and
  - continuing to lead the implementation of Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis.

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

- WGED is leading several wide-reaching and high-profile initiatives, including the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence, the Yukon's Strategy on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People and the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan.
- Equity-seeking NGOs that are funded through WGED continue to highlight concerns about their funding levels and struggle to maintain services with rising demands and increasing costs.

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#### Background:

LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan accomplishments:

- As of July 2024, progress of action items included: 17 complete, 53 underway/ongoing, 30 not started.
- Since they were hired in May 2023, the project coordinator has done significant outreach to members of Yukon's 2SLGBTQIA+ community and developed strong working relationships with Queer Yukon Society.

### WGED Accomplishment Notes

### Women and Gender Equity Directorate

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- In the fall of 2023, WGED held a territory-wide targeted community survey for 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners and allies to gauge progress of the action plan and find out if any priorities have shifted. We received 267 eligible responses.
- WGED will release a What We Heard document with survey results in Winter 2025.

#### Expansion of SART services – accomplishments:

- Justice is now the lead Yukon government department on the Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART) community expansion. WGED and HSS play a supporting role in coordination, policy development, and communications.
- WGED continues to chair the Whitehorse SART Implementation Committee with representation from WGED, Justice, HSS, Yukon Hospital Corporation, Yukon RCMP, Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, Public Prosecution Services of Canada, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and physician representation.
- The Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ – with secretariat support of WGED – identified milestones in Yukon's MMIWG2S+ implementation plan tied to SART – including the expansion of SART services to Yukon communities within 5 years.

#### NAPGBV accomplishments:

- Yukon's implementation plan includes 16 initiatives:
  - 3 are existing Government of Yukon initiatives;
  - 13 are new initiatives; and
  - 6 are focused on increasing prevention efforts (4 new and 2 existing initiatives).
- Work on the following key initiatives is underway at WGED:
  - Capacity building within the gender-based violence sector through a transfer payment agreement with Yukon Women's Coalition.
  - Enhanced funding for existing partners to provide victim supports.
  - Enhanced funding for existing partners to support prevention efforts.

### WGED Accomplishment Notes

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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#### MMIWG2S+ implementation – accomplishments:

- The Yukon Advisory Committee released the implementation plan for the MMIWG2S+ strategy in June 2023.
- The implementation plan sets out objectives, milestones, timelines and proposes leads for 32 action items.
- The plan is the result of significant collaboration between the committee's members to develop a guiding document that can support the strategy's partners and signatories in realizing systemic change. The committee also engaged with families and survivors of MMIWG2S+ to ensure the plan was centered on their voices and insights.
- WGED compiled information to create the first annual report, which was released at the third annual accountability forum in October 2024.

#### MACWAGE accomplishments

- In the 2023 spring sitting, the name of the council was changed from the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues to the Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity.
- At this time, the mandate of the council was expanded from a focus on women to include advising on issues relating to gender equity and equity for individuals who may face discrimination because of their sexual orientation.
- The updated mandate also allows the council to review and advise on policies, programs and legislation from all Government of Yukon departments.
- The Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity (MACWAGE) regulations were brought into force this fall and new members will be appointed.

#### GIDA

- WGED continues to promote the online training modules for Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis.
- More than 200 people have taken the training in the last two years.

### WGED Accomplishment Notes

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- WGED strives to integrate GIDA at both communications and policy review committees, or upon request from departments.
- The directorate often supports connection or collaboration between departments and/or equity-seeking organizations.
- Work with stakeholders on gender-based violence prevention programming for young men and boys.
- Work is beginning on this mandate letter item.
- WGED is supporting a project at Skookum Jim Friendship Centre focused on men and boys in 2024-25 through NAPGBV funding.

#### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

November 20, 2024

Date approved

### Funding to Equity-Seeking Organizations

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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#### Recommended response:

- We are incredibly grateful for the work that the Yukon's equity-seeking organizations do to advance gender-equity, reduce gender-based violence, and build safer communities in our territory.
- This fiscal year, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate has allocated \$3.97 million in operational and project funding to 14 community organizations.
- This total includes \$1.9 million through the Yukon's bilateral funding agreement with Canada under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and \$150,000 from the Crisis Hotline Funding Agreement.
- This funding helps provide services such as drop-in meals, peer support, violence prevention projects, systems navigation, support for victims of sexualized assault, safe community spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners, and participation in the implementation of Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy.

#### Additional response:

- We recognize increased demands for service and rising costs are creating challenges for NGOs. We have clearly heard their requests for sustainable long-term funding and are actively working with them to determine an appropriate long-term approach to funding.



### Funding to Equity-Seeking Organizations

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- In the meantime, we are working with organizations to find ways to streamline processes and reduce the administrative burdens of project reporting.

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

- Indigenous women's organizations and women's organizations have made public requests for increases in funding.
  - On April 11, 2021, Indigenous women's organizations publicly called on all parties to commit to long-term funding.
  - On August 6, 2021, women's organizations wrote a letter to Minister McLean requesting an increase of funding in the Women's Equality Fund to \$85,000 per organization.
  - On February 28, 2023, the Women's Coalition wrote a letter to Minister McLean requesting an increase of funding to eight women's organizations, totaling \$1.3 million, and a request for core funding consideration for Queer Yukon.
  - On March 6, 2024, the Women's Coalition wrote a letter to Minister McLean outlining concerns with NAPGBV implementation and how funds were allocated. This was followed by an in-person meeting on April 5, 2024.

#### Background:

This fiscal year (2024-25), the Women and Gender Equity Directorate is providing funding to equity-seeking organizations, budgeted as follows:

Organization	Funding program	Agreement Details	2024-25
Liard Aboriginal Women's Society	IWEF	One-year 2024-25 \$200,000	\$200,000

Prepared for Minister McLean  
Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Date prepared: 07/30/2024  
Last Updated: 11/19/2024

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# Session Briefing Note

**TAB 02**  
**Fall 2024**

## Funding to Equity-Seeking Organizations

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

	NAPGBV – Prevention	One-year 2023-24, extended until January 2025 \$53,910	\$32,346
	NAPGBV – Prevention	One-year 2024-25 \$63,000	\$63,000
	NAPGBV – Victim Support	Two-year \$132,000	\$63,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$358,346</b>
Les Essentielles	WEF	Three-year 2022-25 \$134,500	\$46,500
	NAPGBV – Prevention	Two and a half years 2023-26 \$110,449	\$53,229
	NAPGBV – Victim Support	Two and a half years 2023-26 \$124,600	\$68,783
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$201,310</b>
Canadian Mental Health Association	Crisis Hotline	One-year 2024-25 \$37,500	\$37,500
Dawson Women's Shelter	Crisis Hotline	One year 2024-25 \$37,500	\$37,500
Help and Hope for Families	Crisis Hotline	One-year 2024-25 \$37,500	\$37,500
Queer Yukon	Operational	One-year 2024-25 \$375,000	\$375,000
	NAPGBV – Prevention	Two-year 2023-25 \$125,970	\$63,000
	NAPGBV – Victim Support	Two-year 2023-25 \$132,000	\$89,380
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$527,380</b>
Skookum Jim Friendship Centre	Women's Legal Advocate	Three-year 2024-27 \$279,000	\$93,000
	NAPGBV – Prevention	Two-year 2023-25 \$132,000	\$104,400

Prepared for Minister McLean  
Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Date prepared: 07/30/2024  
Last Updated: 11/19/2024  
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# Session Briefing Note

**TAB 02**  
**Fall 2024**

## Funding to Equity-Seeking Organizations

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

	NAPGBV – Victim Support	Two-year 2023-25 \$132,000	\$63,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$260,400</b>
Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre	Women's Advocate	Three-year 2024-27 \$300,000	\$100,000
	A Safe Place	One-year 2024-27 \$95,000	\$95,000
	WEF	Three-year 2022-25 \$167,500	\$57,500
	NAPGBV – Prevention	Two-year 2023-25 \$132,000	\$63,000
	NAPGBV – Victim Support	Two-year 2023-25 \$132,000	\$63,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$378,500</b>
Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle	IWEF	One-year 2024-25 \$200,000	\$200,000
	NAPGBV – Prevention	Two-year 2023-25 \$88,577	\$78,346
	NAPGBV – Victim Support	Two-year 2023-25 \$59,000	\$54,600
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$332,946</b>
Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council	Family Coordination for Accountability Forum	One-year 2024-25 \$116,000	\$116,000
	IWEF	One-year 2024-25 \$200,000	\$200,000
	Sally and Sisters	One-year 2024-25 \$168,000	\$168,000
	NAPGBV – Prevention	Two-year 2023-25 \$132,000	\$104,400
	NAPGBV – Victim Support	Two-year 2023-25 \$132,000	\$104,400

Prepared for Minister McLean  
Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Date prepared: 07/30/2024

Last Updated: 11/19/2024

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# Session Briefing Note

**TAB 02**  
**Fall 2024**

## Funding to Equity-Seeking Organizations

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

<b>Total</b>			<b>\$692,800</b>
Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition	Whitehorse Affordable Family Housing	Three-year 2024-27 \$229,500	\$76,500
	NAPGBV – Prevention	Two-year 2023-25 \$84,360	\$72,203
	NAPGBV – Victim Support	Two-year 2023-25 \$110,554	\$80,389
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$229,093</b>
Yukon Status of Women's Council	WEF	Three-year 2022-25 \$149,500	\$51,500
	NAPGBV – Prevention	Two-year 2023-25 \$132,000	\$63,000
	NAPGBV – Victim Support	Two-year 2023-25 \$132,000	\$68,524
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$183,024</b>
Yukon Women in Trades and Technology	WEF	Three-year 2022-25 \$149,500	\$51,500
	NAPGBV – Prevention	Two-year 2023-25 \$96,160	\$71,910
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$123,410</b>
Yukon Women's Transition Home Society	Crisis Hotline	One-year 2024-25 \$37,500	\$37,500
Yukon Women's Coalition	Strategic Planning	Two-year 2023-25 \$120,000	\$83,618
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$3,483,328</b>

- Due to the late signing of the NAPGBV, NGOs received these funds late in the 2023-24 fiscal year and as a result were not able to spend all the funding by fiscal year's end.

Prepared for Minister McLean  
Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Date prepared: 07/30/2024

Last Updated: 11/19/2024

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# Session Briefing Note

**TAB 02**  
**Fall 2024**

## Funding to Equity-Seeking Organizations

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- To address this issue, WGED has carried-forward a total of \$607,000 to 2024-25 for the NGOs in order to complete the projects as intended, in addition to the amounts shown above.
- Crisis hotline funding is provided through a 4-year agreement with Women and Gender Equality Canada, expiring in March 2026.

### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer  
Deputy Minister, WGED

November 20, 2024  
Date Approved

## National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

WGED, Justice

### Recommended response:

- In July 2023, the governments of Yukon and Canada signed a bilateral funding agreement to support the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. Under the agreement, the Government of Canada is providing \$16.4 million to Yukon over four years to support implementation efforts in the territory.
- The Government of Yukon is matching the Government of Canada's financial contribution.
- Yukon's implementation work focuses on addressing the high prevalence of gender-based violence in the Yukon, improving social supports for Yukoners affected by gender-based violence, and supporting and partnering with non-profit organizations to further responses to gender-based violence and enhance prevention efforts.

### Additional response:

- The Yukon's implementation plan includes initiatives addressing gender-based violence from multiple angles. The Women and Gender Equity Directorate, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Social Services are each responsible for the development and delivery of specific initiatives in Yukon's implementation plan.
- The initiatives in the Yukon's implementation plan are consistent with the intent and priorities of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy.
- As part of the Yukon's implementation plan, our government is providing over \$4.0 million in two fiscal years (2023-24 and 2024-25) to 13 non-

## National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

WGED, Justice

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governmental organizations working to address gender-based violence in the territory.

- Because the agreement with Canada was not signed until July 2023, much of the funding allocated for Year 1 was not spent by March 31, 2024. According to the agreement, just over \$600,000 in funding for NGOs and \$1.4 million for projects within WGED and Justice was carried over to 2024-25 and expended by September 30, 2024.

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### Context:

- We know that the prevalence of gender-based violence and rates of victimization are significantly higher in the Yukon than in most Canadian jurisdictions, and that Indigenous women are disproportionately affected.
- While people experience violence as individuals, vulnerability to violence varies based on the individual belonging to different social groups: First Nations, racialized groups, the queer community, the trans community, and other gender-nonconforming groups.

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### Background:

#### National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and Bilateral Agreement

- In January 2021, the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for the status of women endorsed the Joint Declaration for a Canada Free of Gender-Based Violence, which laid out the Framework for Joint Action, identifying the vision, goals, pillars and foundation for a ten-year national action plan.
- The five pillars of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence are:
  - support for survivors and their families;
  - prevention;
  - responsive justice system;
  - implementing Indigenous-led approaches; and
  - social infrastructure and enabling environment.

## **National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence**

WGED, Justice

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- The Government of Canada is contributing approximately \$4 million per year to support Yukon's initiatives to end gender-based violence.
  - The implementation of the agreement is based on a 50-50 cost-share between Yukon and Canada. The arrangement recognizes funding currently provided by the Government of Yukon to several initiatives addressing gender-based violence, including SART, transition homes and funding provided to non-governmental organizations for preventing gender-biased violence and supporting those affected by it.
  - Under the agreement, 25 per cent of the federal funding must be directed towards prevention of gender-based violence.
  - Each jurisdiction's progress towards the objectives of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence will be made publicly available by Women and Gender Equality Canada.

### Government of Yukon's Implementation Plan

- Federal funding to support the implementation of the initiatives in Yukon's implementation plan over the course of the agreement is allocated between departments as follows:
  - Department of Justice – \$6.7 million for initiatives addressing gender-based violence from multiple angles: prevention, breaking the cycle of violence in families, intervention, specialized care, court support, trauma healing for justice-involved Yukoners and First Nations' responses to gender-based violence.
  - Department of Health and Social Services – \$2.6 million to increase operational funding to transition homes.
  - Women and Gender Equity Directorate - \$7.1 million to enhance funding for existing community partners working to end gender-based violence in the territory through prevention and victim support. This amount includes \$1 million allocated for the coordination of the Yukon's implementation plan.



National Action Plan to End  
Gender-Based Violence

WGED, Justice

Approved by:	
<u>Sierra van der Meer</u>	<u>2024-09-17</u>
Deputy Minister, WGED	Date approved
<u>Jeff Simons</u>	<u>2024-09-17</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Justice	Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – WGED Implementation

TAB 3A WGED

Fall 2024

WGED

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### Recommended response:

- Women and Gender Equity Directorate will receive \$7.1 million over 4 fiscal years from the Government of Canada through the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence. This will enhance funding for existing community partners, support coordination and leadership of Yukon's implementation, and enable stakeholder engagement, research and knowledge mobilization.
- In the first two years of implementation, more than \$4.0 million has been allocated to 13 non-governmental organizations that are working to address gender-based violence prevention and support for victims in the Yukon.
- To create a shared vision on how we can work together to implement the national action plan beyond 2024-25, the Yukon Women's Coalition is leading a sector-wide engagement and research on gaps and opportunities in organizations addressing gender-based violence in the territory. WGED has allocated \$250,000 to the Women's Coalition in the 2024-25 fiscal year to complete this work.

### Additional response:

- Twenty-one community projects currently funded under the Yukon's implementation plan to end gender-based violence are consistent with the intent and priorities of Yukon's Strategy on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-spirit+ People and its Implementation Plan.
- In collaboration with Department of Justice and Health and Social

# Session Briefing Note

## National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – WGED Implementation

TAB 3A WGED

Fall 2024

WGED

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Services, WGED submitted the first annual report to Canada in July 2024. Women and Gender Equality Canada is compiling the information provided by provinces and territories into a nation-wide annual report, which will be made publicly available online when it is complete, expected for December 2024.

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

- The Yukon Women's Coalition sent letters to Minister McLean in February 2024 and March 2024 requesting a more substantive role in the development and implementation of the Yukon's Implementation Plan to end gender-based violence.
  - In February 2023, the Yukon Women's Coalition asked for increased core funding for Yukon women's and 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations and a central role in funding prioritization and implementation decisions.
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### Background:

- The following 13 NGOs received funding as part of the Yukon's Implementation Plan for years 1 and 2 of the agreement with Canada (2023-24 and 2024-25).
  - Dawson Women's Shelter
  - Les Essentielles
  - Queer Yukon Society
  - Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre
  - Women's Transition Home
  - Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition
  - Yukon Women in Trades and
  - Help and Hope for Families
  - Liard Aboriginal Women's Society
  - Skookum Jim Friendship Centre
  - Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle
  - Yukon Aboriginal Women's Society
  - Yukon Status of Women Council

**Session Briefing Note**  
**National Action Plan to End**  
**Gender-Based Violence –**  
**WGED Implementation**

**TAB 3A WGED**  
  
**Fall 2024**  
  
WGED

Technology

- Over \$4.0 million provided in 2023-24 and 2024-25 includes funding for 21 projects undertaken by 11 organizations funded by Women and Gender Equity Directorate (WGED) and increased operational funding to three transition homes funded by Health and Social Services.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

November 20, 2024

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****National Action Plan to End  
Gender-Based Violence –  
Program Review**

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WGED

**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Women's Coalition is currently leading a sector-wide engagement and program review to identify gaps and opportunities in programs and services addressing gender-based violence in the territory.
- This approach was taken in direct response to a request from the sector to have greater involvement in the implementation plan of the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence. Timeline, workplan, and budget were developed collaboratively between WGED and representatives of the Yukon Women's Coalition.
- We have a shared goal of improving the long-term stability of the gender-based violence sector and meaningfully preventing and responding to gender-based violence in the Yukon.
- The findings of this program review will inform the development of an updated implementation plan for Years 3 & 4 of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

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

- A stakeholder engagement and program review are included in the Yukon's implementation plan for the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence, which is publicly available on the Government of Canada website.
- The change in direction to have the Yukon Women's Coalition lead the program review has delayed the date of expected findings to January 2025.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****National Action Plan to End  
Gender-Based Violence –  
Program Review**

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WGED

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**Background:**

- In July 2023, Management Board and Cabinet approved the Yukon's Implementation Plan for NAP GBV, which included a proposed program review and stakeholder engagement to ensure that all gender-equity seeking organizations and Yukon First Nations in the territory can inform future decisions on where to focus efforts to end gender-based violence in the Yukon.
- In March 2024, the Yukon Women's Coalition (YWC) extended a request to take an active part in the implementation of the Yukon's Implementation Plan. Specifically, YWC asked to be able to participate in the direction of the Program Review and Stakeholder Engagement.
- In May 2024, WGED and YWC agreed that YWC would coordinate the sector-wide engagement and program review, including supporting a contractor and extensive engagement and involvement with all members of the Women's Coalition and key partners.
- In October 2024, a TPA was signed formally outlining that YWC will lead the work under NAP GBV Foundation pillar: "stakeholder engagement, research and knowledge mobilization towards the implementation of the Plan". YWC will receive \$250,000 in fully recoverable funding for this work.
- The agreed-upon objective of this work is to engage equity-seeking organizations and guide WGED's implementation of the national action plan by exploring the following:
  - Recommended criteria for on-going operational funding;
  - Areas of common need across the sector and opportunities for sharing resources / efficiencies;
  - Gaps in service provision;

**Session Briefing Note**

**Fall 2024**

**National Action Plan to End  
Gender-Based Violence –  
Program Review**

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WGED

- Recommendations for immediate projects to build foundational capacity and knowledge; and
- Recommendations for strategic investment for NAP GBV to enhance long-term stability in the equity-seeking NGO sector
- Final reporting is due to the department by January 31, 2025.

**Approved by:**

Sierra van der Meer

November 20, 2024

Deputy Minister, WGED

Date approved

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

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Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

#### **Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is steadfastly committed to addressing the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit+ people.
- Our government is now taking action on many items that align with the implementation plan for *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ Strategy*.
- This is a 15-year, whole-of-Yukon strategy, led by the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+. Not only does it involve many Government of Yukon departments, it also involves many organizational partners – all working together to implement actions that are intended to work together to create systemic change. Our partners include:
  - Yukon First Nations Governments;
  - The Government of Canada;
  - the RCMP;
  - Yukon municipalities; and
  - Indigenous women's organizations.
- To advance the Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy and 15-year implementation plan, all Yukon partners will need to work together to provide leadership, prioritize the work, and allocate resources.

#### **Additional response:**

- We recognize the value of the work delivered by the Yukon Advisory Committee and acknowledge their dedication and commitment in production of the strategy, priority actions items document, and implementation plan.



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

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Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- Now that work on MMIWG2S+ has moved from planning into implementation, the advisory committee is evolving to better support the areas of current work: implementation and accountability.
- WGED supported the Yukon Advisory Committee to host the third annual accountability forum on October 28-30, 2024.
- The 2023–24 annual report – providing information on all partners' actions during the first year of the implementation plan – was released to coincide with the forum.
- This year, our government has allocated the following to support the Yukon's MMIWGS2+ strategy:
  - \$217,000 for the annual accountability forum on MMIWG2S+ and technical gathering(s) for partners and contributors to the strategy,
  - \$63,000 for the Yukon Advisory Committee to continue their important work; and
  - \$600,000 for the Indigenous Women's Equality fund.
- In addition, many of the initiatives in Yukon's bilateral agreement with Canada under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence are consistent with the Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy.

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

- The Government of Yukon, along with federal, municipal and First Nation government leaders, committed to act on *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy* in December 2020. The implementation plan was released in June of 2023, which proposes the leads for the identified action items and milestones.
- While there is alignment between some of the priorities of Yukon's

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

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Women and Gender Equity Directorate

implementation plan under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy, there is no new dedicated federal or territorial funding to support implementation of Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy.

- As a Yukon-wide strategy, a multi-partner approach with shared commitment to implementation and dedicated financial resources across partners will be needed.

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#### **Background:**

- The Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ (YAC) was created in 2015 and includes representatives of the Government of Yukon (YG), Yukon First Nations governments, three Indigenous women's organizations in the Yukon, 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners and an Elder.
- The Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ worked closely with Yukon First Nations, Yukon Indigenous women's groups and family representatives to finalize *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy*.
- The Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy includes outlines 32 actions (31 in the original strategy and one added subsequently) under four pathways to guide action in response to Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The four pathways include:
  - 1) Strengthening Connections and Supports.
  - 2) Community Safety and Justice.
  - 3) Economic Independence and Education.
  - 4) Community Action and Accountability.
- Input from Yukon First Nations governments on the first draft of the implementation framework was sought through the Yukon Forum, Council for Yukon First Nations Health Commission, Justice Commission and Yukon First Nations Education Commission.
- The Yukon Advisory Committee completed and released the implementation plan on June 6, 2023. A technical meeting of partners and contributors was also held on June 7, 2023, at the Haa Shagóon Hídi in Carcross.
- YG hosted a second accountability forum for families from October 16 to 18,

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

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

2023, bringing together families and survivors with partners and contributors. A third day was added, with a focus on family and survivors, allowing time to hear and honour their stories.

- At the accountability forum in October 2023, our government shared that we would work with partner organizations to prepare an annual tracking report for 2023. The annual tracking report relies on voluntary submissions from partners and will remain an evergreen document. It is anticipated that, with time, the report becomes more complete, as partners see how their work is related to MMIWG2S+ and submit information as part of the accountability commitments.

#### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

November 20, 2024

Date Approved

### 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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#### Recommended response:

- We are committed to creating a society that is inclusive and free of discrimination, where 2SLGBTQIA+ people can live, work, and play in safe and supportive communities.
- The LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan is guiding our actions in this work. This 5-year plan, which was released in 2021, was developed in partnership with the community and includes multiple actions for government to increase inclusion in its programs and services.
- This survey – which was for the community and its allies – is a commitment in the action plan. We received 267 eligible responses to the survey. The results will help us focus our efforts going forward.

#### Additional response:

- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is plans to release the What We Heard report early in 2025. This report will summarize the valuable feedback we have received and the perspectives we heard from the 2LGBTQIA+ community. It will also help us focus our efforts going forward.
- We recognize that finalizing this report has taken extra time. We want to ensure we work with experts to appropriately reflect all responses, while prioritizing the voices of those most impacted. A final What We Heard report will be available this winter on [engageyukon.ca](https://engageyukon.ca).
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate has worked closely with Queer Yukon since the beginning of this work to help guide the

### 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion

### Women and Gender Equity Directorate

development and implementation of the action plan. We continue to strengthen the relationship with Queer Yukon through the outreach by our dedicated coordinator. We will also work with Queer Yukon to deliver results to the communities engaged in the survey.

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

- As of October 2024, it will be a year since the survey closed on [engageyukon.ca](https://engageyukon.ca). People may question the status of its release and perceived delays.
- In recent years, across North America, there has been an increase in transphobic and homophobic rhetoric, and discriminatory policies.
- As of November 2024, progress of action items included: 21 are complete, 66 are in process/ continual, 28 are not started.
- Women and Gender Equity Directorate is providing \$375,000 in operational funding to the society with a one-year agreement. This represents no change in funding from 2023-24.

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#### Background:

- The LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan was released in July 2021, following a comprehensive public engagement in 2018-19 led by QMUNITY based in Vancouver and supported by local 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations in the Yukon.
- Each department involved in the action plan created their own actions and committed to completing them within the five-year timeline.
- Some examples of the plan's successes to date include:
  - Passing the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act, which bans conversion therapy in the Yukon.
  - New building standards for gender inclusive washrooms.
  - Expanding health care insurance coverage for gender-affirming therapies, procedures and surgeries.

## 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion

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- Providing coverage for comprehensive gender-affirming care and offering World Professional Association for Transgender Health mental health training to all Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services clinicians.
- The creation of a new internal peer group for Government of Yukon employees who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ or allies.
- The survey was available on [engageyukon.ca](https://engageyukon.ca) from September 14, 2023 to October 27, 2023 and was reviewed by Queer Yukon, YG's internal Pride resource group and the action plan's internal policy review group before its release.
- The Yukon Government has updated the acronym to center Two-Spirit and Indigenous identities and is now using 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual and others). When referring to the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action plan, LGBTQ2S+ will still be used for the time being.

Although data about the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Yukon and Canada is limited, Statistics Canada reports that 4.4% of Canadians report being part of this community. If extrapolated to Yukon, that translates to approximately 1800 people.

### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

November 21, 2024

Date approved

### Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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#### Recommended response:

- We are proud of the changes we made to the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Act in the Spring 2023 sitting and are working diligently to bring the Act and its regulations into force.
- The changes we introduced -including updating the name of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues to the Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity – will allow the council to provide advice to all government ministers on policies, programs and legislation related to gender equity, sexual orientation and women's issues.
- We are finalizing the process to call the regulations into force and look forward to appointing new members to this council shortly.

#### Additional response:

- The changes to this Council were developed after years of work with council members to review the function and focus of YACWI in the current Yukon context. We gathered input from women's and 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations, and current and past YACWI members.
- Once the council is appointed, they have the authority to determine how the sub-committees will operate, including which issues are referred there.

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

- The new Act and its accompanying regulation were passed in Spring 2023 but are not yet in force.
- There are currently two members who were on YACWI that are considered to have been appointed to the Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender

### Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity

### Women and Gender Equity Directorate

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Equity and would be eligible for appointment to the sub-committee with a focus on equity for women.

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#### Background:

- The council was originally established by the Yukon Council on Women's Issues Act in May 1992.
- During the Spring 2023 sitting, amendments to the YACWI Act were passed and it was renamed the Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity Act.
- The mandate of the council was also expanded from a focus on women to include advising on issues relating to gender equity and equity for individuals who may face discrimination because of their sexual orientation.
- The updated council structure created two sub-committees:
  - a sub-committee on gender equity with a focus on equity for women;
  - a sub-committee on gender equity with a focus on gender diversity and equity for individuals who may face discrimination because of their sexual orientation.
- In August 2023, the Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity (MACWAGE) regulations were approved by Cabinet.
- In November 2023, recruitment of new members began with a public news release and targeted letters to partners.
- In April 2024, after receiving several applications, the department submitted recommendations for new members for the consideration of the Minister.
- However, before appointments can be made and the Council can operate, the updated MACWAGE regulations must be proclaimed by Cabinet.
- The Government Organization Act regulations, which set out the responsibilities for the Ministers of administration of Acts, must also be updated and proclaimed.
- This information was prepared by the department in September. We expect this to go before Cabinet December 9.



### Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- The council is mandated to meet four times each year in Whitehorse and in Yukon communities. The council last met in Whitehorse on September 22, 2023.

#### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

October 21, 2024

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Food programs for women**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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**Recommended response:**

- Food security is a key part of safe housing and freedom from poverty, a priority action item in the Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People + Implementation Plan. It's also connected to our government's response to Putting People First, Our Clean Future and, in Whitehorse, the Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan.
- Alongside the supports offered by the Department of Health and Social Services, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate supports two food provision programs for women and children in Whitehorse. Sally & Sisters provides healthy lunches in a sober environment, while A Safe Place provides meals for women and children in a low-barrier setting.

**Additional response:**

- The Sally & Sisters program is operated by the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council. It addresses the immediate food security and support needs for women and children in Whitehorse, offering them a place to gather, access supports, and enjoy a healthy meal in a safe and sober environment.
- A Safe Place, run by the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, is an invaluable resource for women and children experiencing insecure housing, food insecurity, and mental health issues in Whitehorse.
- We are committed to continuing conversations with equity-seeking organizations about the most effective ways to provide services, address gender-based violence, and advance equity. We know it is important to maintain multiple entry points when providing service for at-risk populations.

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2024**

### Food programs for women

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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- The Department of Health and Social Services provides a variety of supports, including delivering Social Assistance and the Yukon Seniors Income Supplement. These programs help eligible Yukoners with meeting basic needs including food.
  - The Department of Health and Social Services also provides funding to several NGOs that support food security – including the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, Blood Ties Four Directions and Meals on Wheels.
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#### **Context—this may be an issue because:**

- In 2023, Statistics Canada reported that household food insecurity across Canada was on the rise.
  - Options for women and children to access emergency meals, supports, and drop-in services in Whitehorse remain limited. Though the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter does offer hot meals, some women and children may not feel safe accessing services there because of the shelter's low-barrier, harm reduction approach.
- 

#### **Background:**

##### Sally and Sisters

- The Yukon government will provide Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council with **\$168,000** to support the Sally & Sisters program during fiscal year 2024-25.
- The objective of the program is to provide meals in a safe and sober environment on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, connect clients to other community resources, and provide social support and companionship.
- In the 6 months from April to Sept 2023, about 2,160 meals were purchased for \$16.50 per meal. 1,426 were handed out during the programing hours and the vast majority of the remaining 734 meals were handed out as "pick up" meals in the afternoons.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Food programs for women**Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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- The Sally & Sisters program began in 2010 in response to women, particularly women with their children, not feeling safe attending food programs offered by the Salvation Army shelter in Whitehorse.

**A Safe Place:**

- The Yukon government will provide Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre with \$95,000 to operate the Safe Place program during fiscal year 2024-25.
- The goal of the program is to operate a drop-in low-barrier evening and weekend program for women and their children facing homelessness and mental ill health including access to hot meals, support, and referrals.
- In the 6 months from October 2023 to March 2024, 533 service users access the program. 128 were children.
- A Safe Place began in 2015 as a joint program of Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and Yukon Status of Women Council after the release of their report: Repairing the Holes in the Net. The report highlights how women's homelessness is a varied and complex issue, and that mental health challenges and addictions are common among women who are looking for housing services in the North.
- According to Statistics Canada, "families with a female major income earner were more likely to be food insecure compared to those with a male major income earner – 21% versus 16%. Moreover, food insecurity was highest among female lone parent families (41%)

**Approved by:**

Sierra van der Meer  
Deputy Minister, WGED

September 4, 2024  
Date Approved

### Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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#### Recommended response:

- Violence against women is a critical issue that our government takes very seriously. We are committed to making funds available for community organizations and Indigenous governments to prevent violence in their communities.
  - We have heard repeatedly that the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women fund, or PVAAW, has a high administrative burden for organizations, especially considering the fund's limit of \$25,000 per recipient each year.
  - In light of this, we are pausing the fund for the 2024-25 fiscal year to ensure we distribute funding in a manner that aligns with Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy. Violence prevention funding is still available through the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence and we are committed to ensuring funding is available for Indigenous-led organizations and governments.
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#### Context - this may be an issue because:

- Applicants have also raised some concerns regarding the administrative requirements of the fund.
  - WGED did not advertise the intake for PVAAW in 2024-25.
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#### Background:

- In recognition that Indigenous women experience disproportionate rates of violence, PVAAW was developed in 2004 to support Indigenous women's organizations, registered societies, and First Nation governments in developing projects to prevent violence.
  - From a high of 12 applicants to PVAAW in 2006, the number of applicants
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### Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

has regularly been less than 4 since 2017.

- In 2023-24, only \$100,000 of the \$200,000 budgeted was awarded to applicants as no other eligible applications were received. Two rural Yukon First Nations were awarded \$25,000 each; \$25,000 was awarded to a First Nations organization in Whitehorse; and \$25,000 was awarded to an Indigenous Women's organization. One organization did not fully spend their allocation, meaning a total of \$93,000 was spent in 2023-24.
- Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Two-Spirit+ People Strategy action item 2.6 states: Violence Prevention and Response Programs: Review Violence prevention and response programs and services and associated funding programs in Yukon to improve sustainability, positive outcomes and alignment with First Nations' needs.
- Yukon's implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence has brought over \$4 million into the territory, including two new streams of project-based funding open to equity-seeking organizations.

#### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

October 3, 2024

Date Approved

### Crisis Hotlines

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#### Recommended response:

- We know that crisis hotlines often act as the first – or maybe the only – point of access for victims of gender-based violence. Staff are trained to listen and offer victims information and choices.
- In 2022, in partnership with the federal government, we announced the Crisis Hotline Funding Agreement. This agreement committed \$500,000 in additional funding over four years to support existing hotlines providing support to Yukoners experiencing gender-based violence.
- Under this agreement, our support for Yukon crisis hotlines will continue in 2024-25 with \$150,000 flowing to eligible organizations this fiscal. Work continues with eligible organizations to determine funding priorities for this fiscal and future fiscal years.

#### Additional response:

- In 2023-24, funding supported initiatives including upgrading communications equipment, developing and implementing new resources to better support responders, and supporting knowledge exchange and networking.
- For Yukoners who require translation, Victim Services has a dedicated bilingual victim services worker and have access to translation services in multiple languages, including French.
- In addition, all Yukoners can access VictimLink, a toll-free, multilingual, 24/7 service, through an agreement between the Government of Yukon and the Government of BC

## Crisis Hotlines

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

- Following the Crisis Hotline Funding announcement in 2022, the Yukon Francophone Health Network raised concerns about the lack of bilingual services in crisis hotlines.
- Eligible organizations have raised concerns that the amount of funding available is not sufficient to meet ongoing capacity needs or other emerging needs, such as transportation or permanent staffing.

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### Background:

- The Government of Canada, through its Budget 2021, announced \$30 million over five years, starting in 2021-22 “so that crisis hotlines can serve the urgent needs of more Canadians and offer more robust services, resources, and supports to prevent the escalation of gender-based violence (GBV).”
- Four organizations in Yukon were identified as providing crisis hotlines.
  - Yukon Women’s Transition Home Society (including the Sexualized Assault Support Line)
  - Dawson Women’s Shelter
  - Help & Hope Society in Watson Lake
  - Canadian Mental Health Association – Yukon
- The funding is intended to help existing hotlines address challenges coming out of the pandemic, including training, technology upgrades, increased communications, temporary staffing, and enhanced COVID safety measures.
- Eligible activities for funding include:
  - Reviewing, adapting, or expanding existing service approaches
  - Developing communication and outreach strategies
  - Knowledge exchange and networking
  - Temporary staffing



## Crisis Hotlines

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- Developing and implementing new resources to better support responders (i.e., training, orientation, supports)
  - Addressing technology gaps
  - Developing and implementing recruitment/retention strategies
  - Activities to maintain safety and emergency precautions (i.e., PPE, cleaning supplies, rental of additional space)
- In 2022-23, Health and Social Services managed the Transfer Payment Agreement with Canadian Mental Health Association. For 2023-24 and future years, WGED is managing the agreements with the eligible organizations via individual agreements.
  - The Victim Services Branch has an agreement with the Government of BC, so that all Yukoners can access VictimLink, a 24/7 service with access to translation services in French and many other languages.
  - The Victim Services Branch accesses translation services through an App supported by French Language Services Directorate, which allows for real time translation services in French and many other languages.

### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

September 10, 2024

Date Approved

### Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis (GIDA)

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

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#### Recommended response:

- Our government is committed to inclusiveness, equity, and respect for the diversity of all Yukoners. One way we demonstrate this is by integrating Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis or GIDA into our decision-making processes.
  - The Women and Gender Equity Directorate supports the use of GIDA by providing training along with research, analysis, and support to other departments, when requested.
  - The 2022-25 GIDA Action Plan includes 16 actions to guide this work under 3 main pillars: building capacity, strengthening accountability, and fostering leadership.
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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been raised from key stakeholders about the application of GIDA on key initiatives, major Yukon government strategies, or Government of Yukon workplace processes. On July 24, 2024, the Yukon Employees Union contacted the Public Service Commission seeking information on how Government of Yukon workplace processes (e.g. approvals, acting assignments, etc.) are affected by GIDA.
  - The 2023 mandate letter included a commitment for WGED to continue to lead the implementation of GIDA with support from the Public Service Commission, a change from 2021 when Executive Council Office was also responsible for supporting GIDA.
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#### Background:

- GIDA is an analytical process (or lens) used to understand how Yukoners' experience policies or programs differently, in order to work towards mitigating inequitable outcomes.
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### Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis (GIDA)

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

- WGED strives to implement GIDA at interdepartmental committees such as the Policy Review Committee and Communications Review Committee, or upon departmental request on key initiatives.
- In January 2023, ECO launched a new decision-making template that includes an updated section on differential impacts, or GIDA. All departments are responsible for illustrating how they have used a GIDA lens on items that come to Cabinet for decision.

#### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

September 10, 2024

Deputy Minister, WGED

[Date approved]

### Queer Yukon Society Funding

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#### Recommended response:

- We recognize and value the incredible work done by Queer Yukon Society across the territory. This organization provides essential services and programming to 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners.
- To support our commitment to Queer Yukon, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate is providing \$375,000 in operational funding to the society this fiscal year, which represents no change in funding from 2023-24.
- An additional \$152,000 has been provided for 2023-25 from the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence funding.

#### QYS closures and other updates

- In October 2024, Queer Yukon proactively addressed safety concerns that were raised internally regarding potential risks of being open to the public and paused public-facing programming as a preventative measure.
- They are now in the process of re-opening and bringing staff back on site at the Whitehorse office, while ensuring there are always two staff members working during drop-in hours.
- The organization is reviewing policies and procedures and has asked for staff feedback to ensure all employees feel safe and supported.
- The Watson Lake and Dawson City offices will remain closed for now since there is only one staff member at these locations.
- A new Executive Directo started in early November.
- Five new board members were elected during a special general meeting November 14, 2024.

## Queer Yukon Society Funding

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

- Queer Yukon's three-year funding agreement expired in April 2024 and they currently have a one-year agreement. Operational funding was reduced in the 2024-25 budget mains.
- Queer Yukon announced a pause in programming on October 1, 2024.
- Four QYS board members publicly announced their resignation on November 8, 2024.

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### Background:

- Queer Yukon Society is currently the sole service-providing 2SLGBTQIA+ organization in the territory.
- Queer Yukon provides over 25 programs across Dawson City, Watson Lake and Whitehorse. Programming in 2023-2024 included but was not limited to peer support groups, health services, direct aid, the Yukon Gender Gear Program, and training and education.
- The Pride Centre in Whitehorse has a community space with a shared kitchen, mutual aid, laundry, drop-in services, computers, showers, library, and a wide range of programs. These programs range from direct service delivery, referrals, organizing events, and hosting peer support groups for 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, and parents and caregivers of 2SLGBTQIA+ youth. Dedicated community spaces and the current level of services did not exist for 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners prior to Government of Yukon's financial support for Queer Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon is in year three of the five-year LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan.
- The ongoing work of Queer Yukon is linked to, and represents, several of the commitments made in the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan. Queer Yukon is also

### Queer Yukon Society Funding

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frequently called upon to help support and guide the Yukon government's work on 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion, often within an advisory or consulting capacity.

**Approved by:**

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

November 19, 2024

Date approved

### Taxi Safety

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#### Recommended response:

- Ensuring safe transportation has been a long-standing issue in Yukon communities. After a 2022 report released by the Yukon Women's Coalition it was reinforced that more work is needed to ensure women – and all Yukoners – can safely get where they need to go.
- We were pleased to see the City of Whitehorse amend their Vehicle for Hire Bylaw in 2023. These amendments address mandatory fully operational cameras and accessibility to recorded footage. We know that more work is needed for women, girls, and Two-Spirit+ people to feel safe using taxi services and this is a step in the right direction towards our commitments under the MMIWG2S+ Joint Declaration.
- Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy includes an action item on providing safe transportation options. I look forward to continuing our work with the City of Whitehorse, Yukon Women's Coalition, and all our other partners on this.

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

- Renewed concerns about taxi safety have come up on social media and in the community, including concerns about taxi companies that had at one point been deemed safer by Victim Services.
- In February 2023, the Yukon Status of Women Council was interviewed by CBC discussing their concerns with on recorded taxi footage, including storage and access.

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#### Background:

- Departments that use taxis to transport clients and partners have operational policies and practices in place to support clients and staff safety. However, there are limitations to ensuring safe transport such as continuity of drivers.

### Taxi Safety

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- In 2020, the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw was amended to require all taxis to have a global positioning system (GPS) and an emergency call button. The City of Whitehorse has stated that it does regular checks with taxi companies to ensure Bylaw compliance.
- In August 2020, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate provided \$2,047 to Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, on behalf of the Yukon Women's Coalition, to pilot the delivery of sexualized assault prevention and response training to interested taxi drivers (based on material developed in Newfoundland and Labrador and tailored to the Yukon).
- 15 drivers from two taxi companies received the training. Evaluations showed that taxi drivers were very satisfied with the training and want to learn more about how to better support their passengers.
- The Yukon Aboriginal Women's Circle developed and launched a taxi safety campaign in 2021.
- Yukon Women's Coalition conducted an online public survey in February 2021, which received responses from 174 people, 92% of whom identify as women and 28% of whom identify as Indigenous. 62% of survey respondents reported experiencing gender-based violence incidents related to harassment, assault, threats, or coercion.
- The survey found Indigenous women reported being harassed at almost three times the rate of non-Indigenous respondents — 39 per cent for Indigenous women compared to 13 per cent for non-Indigenous. The results found that 49% of Indigenous women reported feeling targeted when taking a cab, compared to 10% of non-Indigenous women.



Taxi Safety

- The City of Whitehorse launched an awareness campaign on how to report issues with taxis. They have also increased the availability of Bylaw Officers to monitor the vehicle for hire rules with the addition of a few nightshifts a month.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer  
Deputy Minister, WGED

August 22, 2024  
Date Approved

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

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Education

### **Gender Identity and Health Curriculum: refer to CU03**

#### **Value:**

- The Department of Education values diversity in its school communities and wants to provide safe, welcoming, inclusive, and affirming learning environments for all students.

#### **Recommended response:**

- All students, staff, and parents have a right to feel safe, and to be safe, in Yukon public schools.
- People of all sexual orientations, gender identities, ancestry, places of origin, ethnicities, citizenships, religions, ages and abilities have the right to be treated with respect and dignity.
- School authorities work with their entire school community to develop and implement proactive strategies that support the inclusion, respect and dignity of 2SLGBTQIA+ students and their families.
- Parents, guardians, and caregivers are encouraged to contact their child's school for information on how Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity inclusive education is being implemented. This includes details about safe spaces, contacts, activities, and organizations that promote equality and non-discrimination in Yukon schools.

#### **Action plan:**

- The Department of Education updated its Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, also known as SOGI, policy in August 2023, as outlined in the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan.
- When we released the SOGI policy update, we committed to further work, including clarifying gender identity inclusion in sports.

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

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Education

- As part of our continued SOGI policy review, we are looking at the best ways to support schools to implement the policy in schools.

### **Yukon Child and Youth Advocate review**

- In June of 2024, the Government of Yukon announced that it has referred the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity policy to the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office for a comprehensive review.
- This referral asks the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate's Office to assess the SOGI policy's current impact and make recommendations to ensure inclusive and safe schools and school communities for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

### **ARC Foundation:**

- In the fall of 2023, the department contracted the ARC Foundation, a charitable foundation, to help educators implement the SOGI policy and foster more inclusive schools. The foundation is providing the tools and resources of the SOGI 1,2,3 program.
- The SOGI policy requires schools to develop school-based procedures and guidelines. Schools, school boards and councils have the support of the Department of Education, and guidance of best practices from the ARC Foundation.
- As Minister of Education and the Women and Gender Equity Directorate, I am fully committed to the ongoing implementation of the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan and am encouraging the two departments to collaborate on this priority.

### **Catholic school parent concerns about textbook:**

- While Catholic schools have the right to provide religious education programs and lessons that teach Catholic values to their students, they do

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

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Education

not have the right to provide teachings about sexual orientation or gender identity that are inconsistent with Yukon's laws and Department of Education policies.

- Catholic schools in the Yukon are public schools, and Catholic educators are Yukon public servants. All schools and teachers must adhere to all Government of Yukon laws and policies.
- There is no place for homophobic or transphobic teachings in our public school system.
- We remain committed to working with the Catholic Episcopal Corporation to jointly review instructional resources and materials that uphold and teach Catholic values and align with Yukon law and Department of Education policies.

### **Education Act Amendments response:**

- In spring 2022, the Government of Yukon was pleased to support amendments to the *Education Act* to promote equity and non-discrimination and to ensure that all Yukon schools have safe spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ students in the form of activities or organizations.
- We continue to encourage and support schools to meet their legal obligations to support 2SLGBTQIA+ students.

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

- There is considerable interest in how Yukon schools are offering safe and inclusive environments to 2SLGBTQIA+ students, including the SOGI policy's statement that schools will recognize people's correct pronouns, as declared by the individuals themselves. This requirement applies to students who have not made official changes to their name or gender in school records.

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

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Education

- SOGI 1, 2, 3 implementation in other provinces has been under scrutiny.
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### **Background:**

#### LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan and SOGI Policy

- Our updated SOGI policy notes:
  - “The SOGI policy has always applied to all school-sponsored activities, and trans students continue to be protected and entitled to support.”
  - “The next rounds of evaluation will include deeper discussions around how to better proactively foster inclusion, with consideration for the inclusion of trans students in sports.”
- Some people believe that schools should tell a parent/guardian if their child wants to be called by a name or pronouns other than their official name/pronouns. The policy states that the “Department of Education values diversity in its school communities and wants to provide safe, welcoming, inclusive and affirming learning environments for all students.”
- While we understand the importance of involving parents in the lives of their children, the issue is a delicate one that must consider the human rights of students, particularly those who are transgender or nonbinary. We believe that schools should involve parents when there is a specific problem or issue that could impact the child's safety, wellbeing, or education.
- Training and resources are offered to all staff. Further training is required for staff members and counsellors identified as safe contacts to prepare them to respond knowledgeably to 2SLGBTQIA+ students and students with 2SLGBTQIA+ family members.
- Yukon schools have a number of universal, stand-alone washrooms available, and we are working to ensure that all school facilities have stand-alone or gender-neutral washrooms. Building standards have now been updated to ensure new schools will have gender inclusive washrooms.
- In the 2021 LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan, the Department of Education made a number of commitments, including to update the SOGI policy.
- The August 2023 updates to the SOGI policy address issues such as use of a student's correct gender pronouns, update terminology to be trans-inclusive, address gender-

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

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Education

identity inclusion in sports, and clarify points of contact and responsibilities at the department and school levels.

- On March 23, 2022, the opposition asked the Minister to commit to engaging with the school community to update the SOGI policy before the end of the current school year (June 2022).
- The funding agreement for Catholic schools in Yukon accommodates religious instruction while emphasizing that they are publicly supported schools with the same responsibilities as other schools, including those identified in the SOGI policy.

### Education Act

- Amendments to the *Education Act* make it a legal requirement for Principals to ensure that initiatives and activities in schools are inclusive of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.
- School administrators have been provided with information about their legislative responsibilities as well as reference materials and resources.
- Counsellors and administrators have been provided with local and national SOGI and Gender and Sexuality Alliance information.
- At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year the Department of Education provided professional development training to administrators and teachers on the requirements of the *Education Act* and the SOGI and Safe and Caring Schools policies.
- Several Yukon schools have Gender and Sexuality Alliances and other 2SLGBTQIA+ initiatives.

### Catholic school parent concerns about textbook

- The process of reviewing the textbook in question was underway prior to the concern being raised.
- Part of this review work includes working with the Catholic Episcopal Corporation and looking to other jurisdictions regarding appropriate resources for religious programming.

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

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Education

Christopher West

- The Department of Education did not, nor will we, invite and endorse Christopher West to speak to Yukon educators, at any school or professional development event.
- We do not support speakers for professional learning whose ideologies and positions do not uphold the principles in:
  - the Education Act,
  - the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy,
  - the Safe and Caring Schools Policy, and
  - the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act, which bans conversion therapy.

Approved by:

**Mary Cameron**

**2024-09-05**

Deputy Minister, Department of Education

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

### Community Safety Planning

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Fall 2024

Justice

**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon continues to prioritize safer and stronger communities across the territory through funding to support First Nations in their safety planning projects.
- We remain committed to ongoing collaboration with the Government of Canada, First Nation governments, and municipalities to support community safety and wellbeing planning processes, as well as the implementation of associated initiatives.
- Communities across the territory are all unique, and these planning processes and the priority initiatives identified through them must be reflective of the individual needs of each community and reflect the perspectives and the priorities of community members.

**Additional response:**

- Phase One of the Community Safety Planning program provides up to \$200,000 to each Yukon First Nation to support community safety planning and the implementation of priorities identified in the plans.
- The Community Safety Planning program launched in February 2023, and we continue to encourage interested parties to contact the Department of Justice with any questions or for support with applications to access this funding.
- A future expansion of the program will explore supporting community safety and well-being planning options for municipalities and rural Yukon.

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**Context:**

- The Department of Justice has implemented Phase One of the Community Safety Planning funding program and is working with Yukon First Nations to develop and submit applications to access available funding.



## Session Briefing Note

### Community Safety Planning

Fall 2024

Justice

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- Yukon First Nations governments and municipalities have expressed interest in community safety planning and implementing community safety initiatives.
- The Minister of Justice's 2021 mandate letter directed the Minister to enhance the Community Safety Planning program to ensure consistent funding to community safety planning activities across the Yukon and investigate how this approach might apply to municipalities.
- Municipal governments and rural communities may have questions about the timing of previously committed-to plans to expand funding in a second phase of the Community Safety Planning program other than the work underway for Whitehorse.

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#### Background:

- In 2017, the Yukon Forum Action Plan prioritized “working with identified First Nations and the Government of Canada to support the development of Community Safety Plans within the Public Safety Canada framework.”
- In December 2020, the Yukon Advisory Committee released *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-spirit People Strategy* (the Strategy).
- The Strategy includes actions to: “Conduct community-based safety assessments designed by communities to identify factors contributing to the ongoing perpetuation of violence and unsafe conditions in each community” and to “develop and implement Community Safety Plans that address these factors and conditions.”
- The Department of Justice issued a news release on March 14, 2022, announcing that Phase One of a Community Safety Planning funding program would make funds available in 2022. The release committed to providing up to \$200,000 for each First Nation for community safety planning or related implementation work.
- In April and May 2022, the Department of Justice reached out to Yukon First Nations for input on developing the Community Safety Planning program guidelines and to receive updates on their current safety planning.
- Feedback from Yukon First Nations indicated that each First Nation is in a different stage of community safety planning and implementation within their communities. Many expressed an interest in accessing funding through the Community Safety Planning program.

## Session Briefing Note

### Community Safety Planning

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- Community safety planning processes were used at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter to identify concerns of surrounding businesses, allied stakeholders, members of the public and shelter clients. Results of this process and subsequent recommendations were released in the House of Wolf and Associates' report, A Path Forward and Vink Consulting's report, Whitehorse Emergency Shelter Evaluation.

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

- In 2010, Public Safety Canada created the Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative to support Indigenous communities in developing tailored approaches to community safety that reflect their concerns, priorities, and unique circumstances, as well as funding for implementation.
- The Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative also addresses the Government of Canada's commitment to focusing on the high numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit persons and enhance accessibility to restorative justice programming.
- The Department of Justice continues to engage with our federal partners on their Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative and explore other funding opportunities that may be complementary to our safety programs to better support Yukon First Nations.

#### Agreements

- To date, the Department of Justice has funded safety planning projects for Kluane First Nation and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and is currently working with Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council on their respective funding agreements.
- The department expects to sign agreements with both Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation in fall 2024.

#### Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2024-09-17

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Gender and Reproductive Care**Health and Social  
Services

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**Government priority:**

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

**Key messages:**

- We are working to support Yukoners to access sexual and reproductive care and services.
- We remain committed to implementing action items from the 2021 LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan and from Putting People First.
- We work with stakeholders and partners including the federal government, health care providers, the Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Registered Nurses Association, and Yukon First Nations to implement these initiatives.
- The Yukon Sexual Health Clinic and the Yukon Women's Midlife Clinic are supported by three contracted Nurse Practitioners.

**Birth Control:****Key facts:**

- Our government is committed to supporting Yukoners in accessing sexual and reproductive health care and will continue to assess access to birth control.
- Our government is committed to developing a new program that will provide Yukoners with access to sexual and reproductive health care. Developing a new program will require careful planning, research, and engagement with Yukoners and our health system partners.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Gender and Reproductive Care**Health and Social  
Services

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- The federal government announced a commitment to funding contraception under a new federal pharmacare framework. We support this announcement and look forward to working with federal partners to understand the implications for the Yukon.

**Background:**

- Coverage for birth control is currently available to youth enrolled in the Children's Drug and Optical Program, which is available to lower-income families with children 18 years of age and younger.
- Birth control is covered for social assistance recipients by Income Support Services.
- The Yukon Sexual Health Clinic provides a variety of conception control products to clients of the clinic.

**Comprehensive Sexual Health Education:****Key facts:**

- The Health Promotion Unit partners with the Department of Education to deliver a Territorial wide comprehensive sexual health education program called Better to Know. The program is implemented by two Certified Sexual Health Educators from the Health Promotion Unit and a Curriculum Consultant at the Department of Education.
- This summer, the Department of Health and Social Services upgraded the Better to Know webpage to include comprehensive and accessible information on sexual and reproductive health services in the territory to ensure that Yukoners have the resources they need to make informed decisions about their health.

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### Gender and Reproductive Care

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- The goal of the Better to Know program is to improve Yukon's sexual health indicators through inclusive and evidence based comprehensive sexual health education.
  - Better to Know follows standards of practice set by the World Health Organization, Canadian Guidelines for Sexual Health Education, Options for Sexual Health BC, and British Columbia's Curriculum Competencies.
  - Evidence consistently shows that quality, comprehensive sexual health education, delivered by sexual health education experts, can contribute to positive health outcomes, with lifelong impacts including appreciation of sexual diversity, dating and intimate partner violence prevention, STI prevention/reduction, development of healthy relationships, prevention of child sex abuse, improved social/emotional learning and increased media literacy.

### Fertility Treatments:

#### Key facts:

- Currently, surrogacy and fertility treatments are not insured health services under the *Health Care Insurance Plan Act*, and the high cost of these treatments is out of reach for many Yukoners.
- We committed to making fertility and surrogacy treatments and associated travel costs more affordable for Yukoners.
- Work is currently underway to amend the *Travel for Medical Treatment Regulations* in order to provide medical travel coverage for eligible fertility treatment that forms part of the regulatory amendment.
- This work will be followed by a second phase focusing on affordability of fertility treatment services.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Gender and Reproductive Care**Health and Social  
Services

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- Our government has also conducted a cross jurisdictional review and analysis on how to make fertility treatments more affordable for Yukoners.

**Background:**

- The Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan can provide travel coverage for insured services and diagnostic testing for those having to travel when services are not available in one's home community, or in Whitehorse.
- The Confidence and Supply Agreement lists "include fertility treatment in medical travel" and "create a refundable tax rebate covering up to \$8,000 per year for fertility treatment and surrogacy expenses for eligible Yukoners for up to a maximum of five years".

**Gender Affirming Care:****Key facts:**

- The Yukon continues to demonstrate leadership, in collaboration with community organizations, in advancing access and coverage for gender-affirming care and in supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners.
- We have completed necessary regulatory amendments to allow Yukoners to receive health care insurance coverage for gender-affirming care services that are not insured by other provinces or territories.
  - These changes do not impact other services that are not insured under the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan.

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### **Gender and Reproductive Care**

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- Yukoners can access a host of gender affirming services including top and bottom surgery, tracheal shave, body contouring, vocal coaching and hair removal.
- Insured Health Services provides coverage for individuals seeking facial feminization and will continue to do so.
- Gender affirming policies B.13 and B.14 are scheduled for review in January of 2025 with Insured Health Services working with Queer Yukon on a gender affirming care program review.
- All surgical assessment processes are completed in accordance with the Gender Affirming policies established by Insured Health Service, built from the World Health Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care version 8.
- We are working to implement recommendations in the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan to enhance health equity in the Yukon.

#### **Background:**

- Starting in 2023-24, we have provided **\$471K** (\$471,027) over three years to Queer Yukon to hire a health care navigator position to support 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners by removing barriers and identifying pathways to safe, inclusive, and supportive gender-affirming care.
- For Yukoners seeking hormone therapy, the Chronic Disease and Disability Benefit Program covers multiple medications for individuals of all ages who are receiving gender-affirming care.
  - This includes testosterone, estrogen and progesterone, when used as treatments for gender dysphoria.
- Puberty blockers refer to a group of medications for youth that temporarily inhibit puberty by suppressing the production of

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hormones and preventing development of secondary sexual characteristics.

- Puberty blockers are intended for youth under the age of 18, with persistent and well documented gender dysphoria as determined by a qualified assessor who is a mental health professional who assesses, refers, and offer therapeutic services for children and adolescent as outlined in the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.
- Taking into consideration the mental health and wellness of youth, the qualified assessor, in collaboration with the primary care provider, makes the recommendation to the Chronic Disease and Disability Benefit Program for coverage of puberty blockers.
- The Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits program covers leuprolide acetate as an exception drug for the suppression of puberty related to gender dysphoria.
- Parental consent is not explicitly required as part of the application or approval process for coverage through Insured Health Services.

**Period Products:****Key facts:**

- Through a funding partnership between our government, the Council of Yukon First Nations, and the Government of Canada, all Yukon schools have been equipped with free period products.
- Free period products are available in many Government of Yukon washrooms and we are in the process of making products available in all Government of Yukon buildings.



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### Gender and Reproductive Care

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- The Council of Yukon First Nations has provided a supply of period products to several non-government organizations and Yukon First Nations offices and is ensuring these products remain available for distribution.
  - Yukon University's campus housing has made period products available in communal bathrooms.
  - As of December 15, 2023, federally regulated employers are required to make period products available in their workplaces at no cost.

### Pregnancy Termination:

#### Key facts:

- Our government is committed to supporting individuals in accessing the abortion care they need.
- In 2018, our government provided universal coverage of Mifegymiso.
  - Mifegymiso is a Health Canada approved combination product containing mifepristone and misoprostol that are taken in sequence to terminate pregnancy.
- This summer, the Department of Health and Social Services upgraded the Better to Know website to include information on abortion resources in the territory.
- Yukoners looking for information on abortion care can visit [Bettertoknow-yukon.ca](https://bettertoknow-yukon.ca) for information on where to receive care.

#### Background:

- Therapeutic (surgical) and medical (medication) pregnancy termination options are available to Yukoners at no cost.

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- Medication Termination (Mifegymiso) is available in Dawson City, Watson Lake and in Whitehorse via the Opal Clinic.
- Surgical terminations are performed at Whitehorse General Hospital.
- Pregnancy termination options are available up to 15 weeks plus three days of pregnancy. For pregnancies over this threshold and up to 24 weeks, services are available through the British Columbia Women's Hospital and are covered through the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan or by Non-Insured Health Benefits.

#### Approved by:

Matt King

October 1, 2024

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

# Session Briefing Note

**JUS 74**  
**WGED 16**  
**HSS 38**  
**Fall 2024**

## Expansion of SART Services

Justice, WGED,  
HSS

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### Recommended response:

- The Sexualized Assault Response Team, or SART, is a network of agencies that provide safe, comprehensive supports for victims of sexualized violence in Whitehorse.
- We are committed to expanding sexualized assault response services to Yukon communities. The departments of Justice, Health and Social Services, and the Women and Gender Equity Directorate are working closely with SART agencies to develop an action plan to support victims of sexualized assault in communities outside of Whitehorse.
- The Government of Yukon is working in partnership with other SART service providers to analyze the findings and recommendations from the What We Heard document in conjunction with leading practices and approaches in other jurisdictions, and to scope options and required resources to develop priorities for next steps on expansion.

### Additional response:

- We are making progress in several areas including:
  - enhancing public communication to increase understanding of sexualized violence and awareness of existing services to support victims, such as the 24/7 toll-free support line and priority access to counselling through the Mental Wellness and Substance Use community hubs;
  - providing travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence; and
  - extending SART training to community service providers.

# Session Briefing Note

**JUS 74  
WGED 16  
HSS 38  
Fall 2024**

## Expansion of SART Services

Justice, WGED,  
HSS

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### Context:

- Both the 2021 and 2023 mandate letters include a commitment to expand the services of the Yukon's SART to Yukon communities beyond Whitehorse.
- There are strong connections and cross-over priorities with the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit Plus People Strategy, and the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence.
- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement includes a commitment to develop a low-cost transportation option for people travelling throughout the Yukon.

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### Background:

- Engagement with First Nations governments, rural service providers and victims occurred in the summer and fall 2023. The What We Heard report was shared with key partners, stakeholders, and the public in spring 2024. The engagement included participants from each community with 244 people reached through interviews, sharing circles and online engagement.
- Work is already underway in many areas to improve services to victims, including:
  - developing an updated website and a refreshed communication campaign to create awareness of available services for communities,
  - cross-agency training for front-line workers in communities outside Whitehorse;
  - bolstering transportation options for victims who need to access services outside their communities; and
- Available services also include Victim Services, community health centres and hospitals, First Nations governments, the RCMP and women's shelters or safe houses where available.
- Additional priorities will be compiled into a more comprehensive list with recommendations based on a full analysis.

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## Expansion of SART Services

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### Whitehorse SART

- SART in Whitehorse was officially launched March 6, 2020, and is based on the core principles of:
  - victim's choice;
  - dignity and respect;
  - preventing system re-traumatization;
  - cultural safety; and
  - access, equity and inclusion.
- Current Whitehorse SART member agencies include:
  - Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Justice and Women and Gender Equity Directorate;
  - Public Prosecution Service of Canada;
  - RCMP "M" Division;
  - Yukon Hospital Corporation; and
  - Yukon Women's Transition Home.
- Whitehorse SART agencies' responses to victims are guided by the Whitehorse SART protocol. The protocol is the first of its kind in Yukon and endeavors to make the network of services sustainable in Whitehorse.
- The Whitehorse SART protocol has been signed by the partner agencies and is available on [sartyukon.ca](http://sartyukon.ca). Educational materials about the protocol for front-line workers have been developed and are also available on [sartyukon.ca](http://sartyukon.ca).

### SART – General information

- There are three main components of SART: victim support, legal/criminal justice services and medical services. Services are available for victims of all genders, ages and sexual orientations.
- Coordination of existing medical and victim services is supported by two Government of Yukon positions: the SART Victim Support Coordinator and the SART Clinical

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Justice, WGED,  
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Coordinator. They work in partnership to ensure there is continuity of care and a team-based, integrated approach for victims of sexualized violence.

- Available services include a 24/7 support line, accompaniments to the hospital and RCMP, 24/7 on-call physicians at Whitehorse General Hospital (WGH) and rapid access to counselling through Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services Hubs.
- The RCMP Sexual Assault Investigations Review Committee is led by the Yukon RCMP in line with national direction. Government of Yukon representatives take part in case reviews of sexualized assault investigations, through this committee.

### Forensic Care

- SART is currently providing comprehensive forensic care in Whitehorse.
- In the Yukon, there are three options for care at health care facilities:
  - medical care (available in all communities);
  - forensic care with a sexual assault evidence kit (SAEK) sent to RCMP (available at WGH); and
  - forensic care “on ice” where the SAEK is stored at the hospital to give time to the victim to decide about reporting to the RCMP (available at WGH).
- Forensic care involves a forensic examination, which may include the completion of a sexual assault evidence kit, toxicology kit, and the writing of a forensic report for the purpose of collecting evidence or information which may be used in court.
- Specialized SART services, such as pediatric care, are also available at WGH. All community health centres continue to offer standardized clinic-based care to support victims. This ensures that individuals seeking medical care in the aftermath of such an assault have access to the services they need, right in their community.
- For those victims who choose forensic care as part of their journey through the criminal justice system, there is transportation support to assist them.
- Ongoing efforts are focused on evaluating how to expand access to SART services to all Yukoners, wherever they may reside.

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## Expansion of SART Services

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- Although forensic care is not available in community health centres, this does not diminish the commitment to providing comprehensive care and support to victims. The ongoing project to expand SART services across the Yukon aims for every individual to have the support they need in times of crisis.

### Training

- Annual cross-agency training is provided for SART agencies and is available to any Yukon service providers who may receive disclosure of sexualized violence.
- Annual priorities are set through the SART training framework and often include topics such as:
  - cultural safety and awareness training for SART agencies and partners;
  - documentation for counsellors working with victims of sexualized violence training;
  - training on responding to specific populations, such as 2SLGBTQIA+ victims and child and youth victims;
  - a victim's path through the criminal justice system training; and
  - Sexual Assault Law.

### Approved by:

Jeff Simons

2024-10-01

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

Sierra van der Meer

October 1, 2024

Deputy Minister, WGED

Date approved

Matt King

October 2, 2024

Deputy Minister, HSS

Date approved

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Crime**

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Justice, HSS

#### **Recommended response**

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that victims of gender-based violence in rural communities may need to travel from their community to access services or to seek safety from a perpetrator.
- The Government of Yukon has lowered barriers for inter-community transportation for rural victims of sexualized assault, intimate partner violence and anti-2SLGBTQ+ violence, with funding through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
- Travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence includes support to leave a violent situation or to access time-sensitive clinical, legal or support services in another community.
- Victim Services is working with non-governmental organizations to provide victims with low-barrier financial support to seek safety from a perpetrator, access services, and return to their community when they are ready.

#### **Additional response:**

- A campaign is planned for fall 2024 to increase awareness of these new transportation supports and how to access them.
- An inventory of transportation resources will also be made available for service providers.
- The Government of Yukon continues to explore flexible options with community partners to address the differing needs and remaining barriers for inter-community transportation for victims of gender-based violence.



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**HSS 25**  
**Fall 2024**

## Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Crime

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Justice, HSS

### Context:

- Safe transportation is included in recommendations in several recent reports and commitments on improving services and safety for Yukoners, including the What We Heard report on Expansion of SART services in Rural Communities.
- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA) includes a commitment to continue to work with Yukon First Nations, communities, and local businesses to develop low-cost transportation options for people travelling throughout the Yukon.

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### Background:

- Transportation options for victims of gender-based violence in Yukon communities are limited. There are few public transportation options and limited, confidential, 24/7 methods of receiving support to flee a community.
- Each victim will have access to different resources. Some may have access to a private vehicle or public transportation, while others do not have access to any means of transportation.
- Each victim will have unique needs. For example, providing consistent travel options to attend scheduled meetings with lawyers or medical appointments is a distinct need. Requiring immediate transportation to escape the threat of violence and seek safety at a women's shelter or access one of Yukon's hospitals to get a Sexualized Assault Evidence Kit performed is an urgent need.
- An inventory of transportation services for each community is complete, and information on travel programs for victims of gender-based violence will soon be available on yukon.ca.
- In addition to making travel assistance available through non-governmental organizations, the Department of Justice has increased the Victims of Crime Emergency Fund by \$10,000 per year for the next three years for emergency travel assistance for victims of crime, through the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence.
- In addition, the department has put in place five contracts with Council of Yukon First Nations, Queer Yukon, Yukon Women's Transition Home, Dawson Women's Shelter,

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Crime**

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Justice, HSS

and Help and Hope for Families for travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence who have their own means of travel but require additional resources to access time-sensitive services in another community.

- In August 2024, the federal Rural Transit Solutions Fund invested \$3 million in First Kaska GP, the economic development corporation of Liard First Nation, to expand scheduled transport services between Dawson City and Whitehorse, beginning in 2025.
- This investment augments the existing First Kaska GP shuttle service between Watson Lake and Whitehorse. The program includes plans to expand routes and connections between Whitehorse and surrounding rural communities in the coming years.
- In summer 2023, the department engaged with communities, First Nations, and people with lived experience assault to help identify the needs of all the communities. A What We Heard report was published in spring 2024.

#### **Opportunities:**

- Funding for the Yukon from the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence includes multi-year funding of \$300,000 per year until 2026-27 to address transportation barriers for rural victims of gender-based violence. Recommendations for transportation between Yukon communities appear in recent reports and agreements, including:
  - The Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy, action item three in the Fourth Area of Growth: Community Safety and Wellbeing: Invest in preventing gender-based violence and improving services for victims of crime by expanding services to rural Yukon communities, including transportation to and from communities.
  - Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy action item 2.8: Create safe and affordable transportation and communication options to and between Yukon communities.
  - Putting People First Recommendation 2.9: Working in partnership with First Nations and municipal governments, provide safe and alternative driving services between rural communities and Whitehorse.

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**Fall 2024**

## **Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Crime**

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Justice, HSS

- Aging in Place Action Plan recommended action 3.5: Develop partnerships with First Nations governments and the private sector to increase transportation options within and between communities.
- CASA 2023 Commitment: Continue to work with Yukon First Nations, communities, and local businesses to develop low-cost transportation options for people travelling throughout the Yukon.

### **SART:**

- The Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART) is a network of partner agencies including the Government of Yukon's Women and Gender Equity Directorate, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Social Services, the RCMP, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, the Yukon Hospital Corporation and the Yukon Women's Transition Home.
- This Team provides coordinated services and supports to victims of sexualized assault.
- Currently the key components of SART include the following.
  - A 24-hour, confidential, toll-free support line is available for all victims of sexualized assault, including those living in communities.
  - Victim support workers are available during weekday business hours and all hours during the weekend in Whitehorse.
  - On-call physicians specially trained to support victims of sexualized assault are available at Whitehorse General Hospital.
  - Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services offers rapid access counselling to all Yukoners, including those living in communities, and priority access to the Child, Youth and Family Treatment Team for children under the age of 13.
- The Department of Health and Social Services has a SART Clinical Coordinator who works in partnership with the Department of Justice's SART Victim Support Coordinator to ensure there is continuity of care and wrap-around services for victims of sexualized violence.
- Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services has staff across various programs who provide wrap-around supports and services to all Yukoners. The SART Clinical

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## Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Crime

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Coordinator works closely with Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services to connect victims of sexualized assault with the resources and supports they need.

- Services are also available through Victim Services, community health centres and hospitals, First Nations governments, the RCMP and women’s shelters or safe houses where available.

**Approved by:**

<u>Jeff Simons</u>	<u>2024-09-05</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Justice	Date approved
<u>Matt King</u>	<u>2024-09-24</u>
Deputy Minister, HSS	Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2024**

### Supervised Housing

Justice

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**Recommended response:**

- Supervised housing is a key component of the criminal justice system that provides structured support for justice-involved individuals to assist with their reintegration back into the community.
- The women's supervised housing program is on pause while an evaluation is completed due to low subscription rates to the program.
- The evaluation of supervised housing programs will include the women and men's supervised housing programs, in response to the motion to evaluate all programs operated by Connective that was adopted unanimously during the Spring 2024 session of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.
- The evaluation will assess if the programs are effective and whether intended outcomes are being met.
- The evaluation is expected to be completed by February 28, 2025, and the results will inform decisions surrounding the future needs for men's and women's programs.

**Additional response:**

- While the women's supervised housing program is paused, women who are justice-involved will be supported by Corrections staff through referrals.
- Residents of the men's supervised housing program receive person-centred support and have access to programs based on their individual needs including, but not limited to:
  - criminogenic programming;
  - employment support and education;
  - Indigenous-focused programming;
  - homelessness prevention programs;

# Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2024**

## Supervised Housing

Justice

- reintegration services;
- community living services;
- peer support;
- inclusive community drop-in centres; and
- food security support.

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### Context:

- In June 2023, Connective opened the Women's Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program to provide services to justice-involved women in the territory.
- Supervised housing for justice-involved men has long been established in the territory.
- The supervised housing program for men operates in a separate area on the grounds of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Supervised housing programs have received significant public attention.
- On September 30, 2024, the Women's Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program was paused to evaluate the structure and future need for such a program.
- The Department of Justice contracted MNP Consulting to complete the evaluation of the Supervised Housing and Reintegration programs.

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### Background:

#### The Men's Program:

- Supervised housing has been available for men in the Yukon since the mid-1980s. Through contract service providers, men have accessed housing programs and community supports as an alternative to custody, or as a tool to support discharge planning and community reintegration.
- Connective has been operating the Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program for justice-involved men since 2020.
- Since 2022, Connective has had an annual operating budget of \$807,632. Prior to this, the operating budget was \$550,000.
- Connective's facility for men has a maximum capacity of 40 beds.

# Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2024**

## Supervised Housing

Justice

- All residents are subject to conditions of release. The program provides 24-hour supervision to monitor and support the residents.
- From May 1, 2020, to August 1, 2024, Connective has provided services to 152 bail and probation clients and 17 federal parole clients.

### The Women's Program:

- Historically, the Salvation Army provided beds for women. Since the Salvation Army discontinued this service, intermittent solutions have addressed this service gap. These have included attempts by the Elizabeth Fry Society to set up housing and the Department of Health and Social Services funding two beds in the home of a retired social worker.
- In August 2020, the Government of Yukon invited organizations to submit options for housing locations and program models.
- Some of the community partners and stakeholders engaged to date include Opportunities North (formally Challenge Disability Resource), the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Safe at Home Society, Connective, Yukon's Anti-Poverty Coalition and the Women's Transition Home.
- In January 2022, the Department of Justice received approval to proceed with the pilot implementation of a 24/7, supervised housing pilot program for women with a budget of \$561,833 per year.
- In April 2022, Connective identified funding shortfalls related to projected operating costs for the women's supervised housing program. Connective requested an increase of \$178,000 to support annual operating costs. To address this pressure, the Department of Justice requested and received funding increases in 2023–24, to a total annual operating budget of \$739,833.
- On February 22, 2023, the Government of Yukon officially announced that the Supervised Housing Program for Women would occupy the old Takhini Haven building at 25 University Drive in Whitehorse. The building is on the Whitehorse Correctional Centre property; however, it is separate and independently operated.
- On June 1, 2023, Connective officially opened the Women's Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program. The program provided equivalent services to those available for men.

# Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

## Supervised Housing

Justice

- From opening on June 1, 2023, until the decision to pause the program on August 23, 2024, there had been eight referrals accepted to the program, with seven admissions.
- On August 23, 2024, the Department of Justice provided notification to Connective that the women's program would be paused, and the transfer payment agreement would lapse on September 30, 2024.
- At the time of the notification, there was one client in the program, and support was provided to transition this individual out of the program.
- The operating budget allocated for April through September 2024 was \$370,000.
- The Department of Justice contracted MNP Consulting to evaluate the programs in a manner that ensures justice-involved women are supported appropriately. This evaluation will also assess the men's Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program.

### Approved by:

Jeff Simons

2024-10-02

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved



#### Recommended response:

- WGED supplementary budget includes an increase of \$932,00, representing a carry-forward of expenses and recoveries related to the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence.
- Two-thirds of this, or \$607,000, represents funding to partners. WGED responded to requests for carry-forward of funding for victim support and prevention projects, as partners were unable to complete their projects due to the time of year the bilateral agreement was signed.
- The remaining one-third, or \$325,000, represents costs to support the stakeholder engagement, research, and program review. The Women's Coalition requested greater involvement in this process, which WGED accommodated by carrying forward the funding.

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

- The Women's Coalition members sent a letter in March 2024 outlining concerns with NAPGBC implementation and how funds were allocated, followed by an in-person meeting in April 2024.

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#### Background:

- The supplementary budget increase represents a 17% increase over 2024/25 Main Estimates. This increase is anticipated to be fully recoverable from Canada.
- WGED also requested an internal transfer of \$200,000, representing a pause in the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund, while other funding is available to support Indigenous-led violence prevention projects.

# Session Briefing Note

**TAB 18**  
**Fall 2024**

Women and Gender  
Equity Directorate

## Supp #1

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- Applicants have shared that the fund has a high administrative burden, especially considering the relatively low annual maximum.
- WGED also requested an increase to Queer Yukon funding to maintain 2023/24 levels of \$375,000, and an increase of \$25,000 to support the MMIWG2S+ Accountability Forum.
- WGED has 12.2 FTE, no change from 2024/25 Main Estimates.
- WGED has no capital budget.

### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

October 21, 2024

Deputy Minister, WGED

[Date approved]

# **WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DIRECTORATE**

**2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 1**



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**Vote 11**  
**WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DIRECTORATE**

**MINISTER**  
**Hon. J. McLean**

**DEPUTY MINISTER**  
**S. van der Meer**

To advance equitable economic, legal, and social outcomes of all gender and sexual orientations and advance the integration of intersectional considerations throughout government.

<b>SUMMARY (\$000s)</b>	2024-25 VOTED TO DATE	SUPPLE- MENTARY NO. 1	2024-25 REVISED VOTE
Supplementary Amounts to be Appropriated			
Operation and Maintenance (Vote 11-1)	5,475	932	6,407
Capital (Vote 11-2)	0	0	0
Total Appropriations	5,475	932	6,407

## Summary

### Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

The Directorate has requested a net increase of \$931,982 in O&M funding.

931,982 NAPGBV for 2023-24; Carry-forward of federal funds in National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence programming

**931,982**

### Internal transfer within WGED

-200,000 Pause in Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund  
175,000 Increase to Queer Yukon Society  
25,000 Increase to fund 2024 Accountability Forum

**200,000**

### Capital Expenditures

WGED has no capital budget

# **WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DIRECTORATE**

## **2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 1**

**Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

**Revenues**

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Women and Gender Equity Directorate

	2024-25 VOTED TO DATE	SUPPLE- MENTARY NO. 1	2024-25 REVISED VOTE
DETAILS (\$000s)			

Supplementary Amounts to be Appropriated

Operation and Maintenance (Vote 11-1)

Policy and Program Development	5,475	932	6,407
Total Operation and Maintenance (Vote 11-1)	5,475	932	6,407
Total Appropriations	5,475	932	6,407

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES**

### **Policy and Program Development**

The Directorate has requested a net increase of \$932,563 in O&M funding.

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932,563 NAPGBV for 2023-24 (100% recoverable from Canada)

**932,563 Total change**

Women and Gender Equity Directorate

	2024-25 VOTED TO DATE	SUPPLE- MENTARY NO. 1	2024-25 REVISED VOTE
<b>REVENUES</b>			
<b><u>TAXES AND GENERAL REVENUES</u></b>			
Total Taxes and General Revenues	0	0	0
<b><u>THIRD PARTY RECOVERIES</u></b>			
Total Third Party Recoveries	0	0	0
<b><u>RECOVERIES FROM CANADA</u></b>			
Operation and Maintenance			
Policy and Program Development			
NAPGBV	2,020	932	2,952
Total Recoveries From Canada	2,020	932	2,952
Total Recoveries	2,020	932	2,952
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>2,952</b>

## **REVENUES**

### **Policy and Program Development**

931,982 NAPGBV Carry Forward from 2023-24

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**931,982    Total change**

#### Recommended response:

- Yukoners continue to face challenges across the housing continuum, which include:
  - Homelessness and a lack of access to housing with services;
  - A lack of affordable rental supply; and
  - High house prices and mortgage rates.
- Exceptionally high building costs and high borrowing costs due to interest rates are creating significant challenges for both Yukon Housing Corporation and partners.
- The corporation's five-year strategic plan, Creating Home, will help transform affordable housing service delivery through the adoption of a more client-centred and collaborative approach that integrates support and leads to better outcomes for Yukoners.

#### Additional response:

- Across governments, we are working with stakeholders to develop new land parcels, increase housing stock while also responding to the findings of the 2022 Office of the Auditor General Report on Housing.
- We continue to advance projects that provide new housing to meet Yukoners' needs.

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#### Context:

- The combination of high rental costs, limited affordable housing options and difficulties in securing mortgages, continues to be a challenge for many Yukoners.

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#### Background:

##### General housing information in the Yukon

##### Homelessness

- At least 197 people were experiencing homelessness in the 2023 Whitehorse Point-in-Time Count. This included: 58% men; 38 % female; 4% other.

##### Rental housing

- According to the Census 2021, within the renter population in Whitehorse:

- 22.7% of households live in unaffordable housing;<sup>1</sup>
- 17.9% live in unsuitable housing; and
- 10.5% live in inadequate housing.

### Rents and vacancy rate, Yukon (YBS)

	<a href="#">October 2022</a>	<a href="#">April 2023</a>	<a href="#">October 2023</a>	<a href="#">April 2024</a>
Median rent (all types)	\$1,300	\$1,325	\$1,350	\$1,420
Vacancy rate (all types)	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	1.8%

### Housing construction

- Labour shortages contribute to higher construction costs and are leading to lower residential construction output.<sup>2</sup>

### Residential building construction, Yukon (YBS)

	<a href="#">January-June 2023</a>	<a href="#">January-June 2024</a>
# residential permits issued*	518	329 (-35% decrease)
\$ value of new permits*	\$59.4 million	\$47.6 million (-20% decrease)

\*In addition to new dwelling units, residential permits include renovations, garages, and additions. The totals do not include permits issued for plumbing or stoves.

### House prices

- Yukon Bureau of Statistics reports that there were 84 real estate transactions recorded in Whitehorse in the first quarter of 2024 – a decrease of 35 compared to the first quarter of 2023 (119).
- While average prices for single-detached homes in Q1-2024 had fallen relative to Q1-2022 and Q1-2023, condo prices for Q1-2024 had increased 13% since Q1-2023.

### Average House Prices, Whitehorse (YBS)

Residence type	Whitehorse Average House Prices		
	<a href="#">2023 Q1</a>	<a href="#">2024 Q1</a>	% Change
Single-detached house	\$635,000	\$629,500	-0.9%
Condominium	\$403,800	\$456,400	13.0%

<sup>1</sup> Housing costs are considered “unaffordable” when they exceed 30% of household income.

<sup>2</sup> Northern Housing Report, 2023

### Yukon Housing Corporation Approach to Address Housing Issues

#### Creating Home – YHC’s new strategic plan

- Creating Home draws on a recognized framework intended to re-design and transform health care delivery, called the Quadruple Aim, and adapts it to housing.
- This innovative approach to housing delivery will lead to better outcomes by:
  - Improving the client and provider experiences;
  - Strengthening community wellbeing; and
  - Contributing to a sustainable future.
- Creating Home represents a significant shift in how Yukon Housing Corporation operates and delivers housing services.

#### Capital builds recently completed by YHC or partners:

- Since 2022, 10 YHC-led projects have been completed, creating a total of 77 new residential units; and
- 8 major partnership projects have been completed through the Housing Initiatives Fund, creating over 276 new units.

#### YHC projects completed 2022-2024

YHC Project	Construction Start Date	Construction Completion Date	Number of Units
401 Jeckell Street, Whitehorse	May 2020	December 2022	47
RHI affordable triplex, Whitehorse	June 2021	June 2022	3
RHI affordable triplex, Watson Lake	June 2021	March 2022	3
RHI affordable triplex, Mayo	June 2021	March 2022	3
Accessible duplex, Mayo	July 2022	June 2023	2
Accessible duplex, Carmacks	August 2022	July 2023	2
RRDC staff trailer, Ross River	June 2023	December 2023	3
10-plex*, Old Crow (*Asset owned by HPW and managed by YHC)	Summer 2021	January 2024	10
Accessible duplex, Faro	Summer 2023	Spring 2024	2
Affordable duplex, Dawson City	August 2022	June 2024	2
Total units completed (YHC projects):			77

### Major partnership projects completed 2022-2024

Project (Lead)	Construction Completion Date	Number of Units
Bringing Citizens Home, Whitehorse (Champagne and Aishihik FN)	Summer 2022	20
Cornerstone multi-use building, Whitehorse (Opportunities Yukon)	July 2022	53
Normandy Living seniors supportive residence, Whitehorse (KBC)	December 2022	84
Boreal Commons apartments, Whitehorse (536754 Yukon Inc)	January 2023	87
Affordable modular housing, Mayo (Na-Cho Nyäk Dun FN)	March 2023	8
Jëje Zho 12-bed men's shelter, Dawson City (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in FN)	July 2023	8
VGFN elders complex, Old Crow (Vuntut Gwitchin FN)	January 2024	9
VGFN mobile homes, Old Crow (Vuntut Gwitchin FN)	March 2024	7
Total units completed (major partnerships):		276

### Underway or upcoming housing capital projects for YHC and partners

#### YHC – Underway (113 units):

- 10-unit Supported Living Residence in Watson Lake
- 34-unit residential building with 8 accessible units in Dawson (former Korbo Apartments)
- 45-unit residential building, which includes 9 accessible units in Whitehorse (former Ryder Apartments)
- 6 staff units across three duplexes in Burwash Landing
- 18 two-bedroom units – purchase of 190 Olive May Way in Whitehorse

#### YHC – Upcoming (37+ units):

Community housing	Staff housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 units in Mayo</li> <li>• 6-plex in Teslin</li> <li>• 6-plex in Carcross</li> <li>• 6-plex Haines Junction</li> <li>• Accessible triplex in Whitehorse</li> <li>• Accessible duplex in Ross River</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible duplex in Destruction Bay</li> <li>• Accessible duplex in Pelly Crossing</li> </ul>



Major partnership projects underway (299 units):

Project	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Number of Units
Safe at Home Society's permanent supportive housing project "The Hearth"	March 2024	Spring 2026	67
Safe at Home Society's temporary housing project at 408 Alexander	May 2024	October 2024	17
DDDC's affordable rental project "Winter Crossing"	Spring 2024	Spring 2026	105
Northern Community Land Trust Society's "Project 1096"	June 2024	December 2025	32
HIF-7 funding recipients	Spring 2024	Fall 2026	78
Total units			299

### Rent subsidy programs to make life more affordable for renters and seniors

- July 2023, the corporation acquired an additional 16 units for lease from Normandy, for a total of 26 units to lease to clients through its rent supplement program.
- Since 2020, the corporation has supported over 300 households pay rent through the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit. As of September 2024, 170 clients are receiving monthly support.

### Support for homeowners

- March 8, the corporation announced the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit Homeowner Stream for homeowners in severe core housing need<sup>3</sup> with annual household incomes under \$100,000:
  - Clients received a one-time payment of \$1,000.00 for Whitehorse homeowners and \$1,500.00 for homeowners living outside of Whitehorse.
- June 2023, the Yukon government launched an \$8.25 million flood recovery program for residents and businesses affected by flooding in the Klondike Valley.
- April 2023, Yukon Housing Corporation launched the expanded Yukon Home Ownership Program to provide qualified households with mortgages to build or buy their homes across the territory, including Whitehorse.
- The program was recently discontinued due to low uptake and the corporation is currently exploring alternative program options to support homeownership.

<sup>3</sup> Severe core housing need is spending 50% or more of a household's income on shelter costs.

- In 2020, Yukon Housing Corporation launched the revised Home Repair Program to support low to moderate-income Yukon homeowners to remain in their homes and age in place by providing funding to address mobility requirements, repairs or core housing needs.

#### Support for new residential land development

September 2024	<p>As part of the Government of Yukon's ongoing commitment to increase land and housing availability and support business growth, new residential and industrial lots were released in partnership with municipalities and Yukon First Nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seven residential lots in Haines Junction, Mayo and Watson Lake; and</li> <li>three industrial lots in Teslin and Haines Junction</li> </ul> <p>This was the sixth lot release this year and is a direct result of the Government of Yukon's historic investment in land development. Through the lotteries and tenders process, the Government of Yukon has released 685 lots across the territory since 2021 and is on track to release over 1,000 lots by 2026 (TAB #59).</p>
August 2024	<p>As part of its efforts to work in collaboration with municipalities and Yukon First Nations governments to address housing and business space needs across the territory, the Government of Yukon released 33 new residential lots across the Yukon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twelve lots were made available in Carmacks and Faro</li> <li>21 country residential lots were made available in the Lone Tree subdivision north of Teslin.</li> </ul>
June 2023	Government of Yukon partnered with the Government of Canada and the City of Dawson to develop four new residential lots in Dawson.
February 2023	120 lots, including single family, multi-family and townhouse lots in Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.
March 2023	Government of Yukon partnered with Liard First Nation on developing 43 new residential lots on Frances Avenue in Watson Lake.
March 2023	74 residential lots in Logan, Mayo and in Whitehorse's Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.
November 2022	Signed a loan agreement with Kwanlin Dün First Nation's arm's-length development corporation, Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership, for a new

	residential land development project at Copper Ridge West in Whitehorse, the first large-scale residential land development on settlement land in the Yukon. An amended loan agreement was signed August 2023 with Chu Níkwän for the same development.
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<div>25-09-24 Date approved</div>
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**Session Briefing Note**  
**Our Clean Future**  
**Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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**Recommended response:**

- We recognize the urgency of the climate emergency and launched Our Clean Future in September 2020 to map our route forward.
- The Government of Yukon continues to make significant progress on implementing Our Clean Future.
- In 2023, we announced the addition of 42 new actions to help us reach our climate goals, which brings the total number of climate actions to 178.
- These new actions are a product of the important work of the Yukon Climate Leadership Council, the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change, Navius Research and the findings in the Climate Risk Assessment report.
- We continue to track our progress on goals, targets and actions. Information on our progress was most recently published in [November in the 2023](#) Our Clean Future Annual Report and on the Our Clean Future website.
- Since releasing Our Clean Future in 2020, the Government of Yukon has completed [68](#) Our Clean Future actions, [105](#) are in progress or ongoing and [5](#) have not yet been started.

**Additional response:**

- As we continue to address climate change, it is important for us to look back on our progress as we diligently work towards our objectives.
- Under Our Clean Future, the government is focused on ensuring the Yukon is highly resilient to climate change impacts by 2030. (See ENV BN #21)

**Session Briefing Note**  
**Our Clean Future**  
**Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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- This year, we:
  - Completed flood maps for the Southern Lakes region, [Teslin](#) and Carmacks. Flood hazard mapping for Old Crow and the City of Dawson and the Klondike Valley are expected to be completed in 2025. [A flood hazard mapping study for Mayo is also underway and will be completed in 2026.](#)
  - Worked with municipalities and First Nations governments to finalize the Community Wildfire Protection Plans in Faro, Haines Junction, Teslin, the [City of Dawson and Whitehorse](#). [Plans for Beaver Creek, Mayo, Old Crow, Watson Lake, Destruction Bay and Burwash Landing are underway.](#)
  - Advanced climate change preparedness by initiating development of a permafrost monitoring system for key public buildings, and guidelines to address climate hazards in major infrastructure projects.
  - Established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors.
  - Completed flood risk mapping for all transportation corridors in the Yukon.
- We are committed to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and we support Yukoners in the transition to cleaner transportation options and energy efficient homes and buildings.
- This year, we:
  - Began providing rebates for medium-duty electric vehicles.
  - Passed an electric vehicle charging station regulation under the *Public Utilities Act* to allow First Nation governments, private

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Our Clean Future Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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businesses and municipalities to sell electricity through electric vehicle charging stations.

- Installed electric vehicle chargers in every road-accessible community in the Yukon, enabling zero-emissions travel throughout the territory. 19 fast charging stations are now operational throughout the territory, [and one new Level 2 charger in Swift River.](#) (See EMR BN #30)
- Since 2020, we have provided rebates for 518 energy efficient new homes, exceeding our 2030 target of 500.

#### **Third response:**

- Existing actions put us on track to reduce the Yukon's emissions by 30 per cent by 2030. However, there is still significant work required to meet our target reduction of 45 per cent by 2030.
- [One of the major drivers of emissions is population – more people means more cars on the road and more homes to heat.](#)
- [However, as the population of the Yukon continues to grow, we aren't seeing the rate of emissions increase that we would expect.](#)
- [We are seeing lower emissions per Yukoner than we saw in 2010.](#)
- [This is a promising sign that the emissions intensity of everyday life for Yukoners may be starting to decrease.](#)
- We [passed](#) legislation to set a target of a 45 per cent reduction in mining sector emissions per unit of production by 2035.
- We will continue to build on Our Clean Future as we learn more and implement new actions. This will be reflected in future annual reports.

## ENV #20 / EMR #34

Fall 2024

### Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

- We will continue to find opportunities to reach our targets as we work with experts, stakeholders and partner governments across the territory and beyond.

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

- Climate change and the government's progress in delivering on Our Clean Future commitments is of interest to Yukoners.

#### Background:

- Our Clean Future was released on September 14, 2020, and now has 178 actions, of which 136 are original actions and 42 are new actions. These actions seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030.
- The Government of Yukon reports annually on progress for the implementation of Our Clean Future. Four Annual Reports have been published to date, with the latest report released on [November 12, 2024](#) (capturing [2023](#) data).
- The Our Clean Future website was launched in December 2023, which shows the government's commitments and successes towards fighting climate change.

#### Approved by:

Dennis Berry

November 19, 2024

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Paul Moore

November 13, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note**  
**Supplementary Overview**  
**(Corporate Note)**

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**Recommended response:**

- The 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 1 forecasts an overall gross increase of \$150.1 million in O&M spending, with an offsetting increase of \$20.7 million in recoveries. The net increase in new O&M spending is forecast at \$129.4 million.
- Capital spending for Supplementary Estimates No. 1 reflects a slight overall gross decrease of \$299,000 in spending and a \$4.2 million decrease in recoveries, resulting in a net increase in spending of \$3.9 million. These adjustments are mainly the result of updated cashflow forecasts for various projects.
- Revenues are projected to decrease by \$8.8 million, primarily due to a revenue forecast update from Canada which revised the projection for Corporate Income Tax downward by \$6.7 million as well as a reduction in royalty payments from Victoria Gold of \$2.5 million. This is partially offset by a \$350,000 increase for driver licenses due to recently increased fees.
- The Yukon government continues to maintain a surplus. As part of the 2024-25 Main Estimates, the Yukon government budgeted for a \$50 million contingency to address emergency pressures. \$50 million of the contingency has been applied towards the pressures identified in the Supplementary Estimates No. 1.
- The use of the contingency fund allows the government to present a revised surplus of \$75.4 million as part of these Supplementary Estimates. Changes in the Supplementary Estimates result in a revised year-end net debt of \$530.4 million



## Session Briefing Note

### Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

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#### Additional response:

- The Supplementary Estimates reflect an O&M increase mainly for:
  - \$50 million for payments to the Receiver for environmental protection work at the Eagle Gold Mine;
  - \$34 million for pressures in Insured Health reflecting support for the wellbeing of Yukoners;
  - \$21 million for wildland firefighting costs in response to the significant fire season experienced in the territory and which helped ensure the safety of Yukoners; and
  - \$10 million for various Yukon Hospital Corporation funding requirements including the added O&M costs of converting ten beds at the Thompson Centre for Acute Care use.
- For the Supplementary Estimates, updates to the 2024-25 Capital Plan have resulted in a decreased allocation of \$299,000. Notable changes include:
  - \$1.9 million towards the completion of the Mental Wellness Unit at Whitehorse General Hospital;
  - \$1.9 million for long-term and acute care bed optimization at Whistle Bend Place and Whitehorse General Hospital;
  - Decrease of \$3.2 million due to cash flow revisions for the construction of the school in Burwash Landing;
  - Decrease of \$600 thousand for the creation of new campsites aligning costs with the revised project timeline.

## Session Briefing Note

### Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

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- There is an increase of 46.6 in FTEs (Full Time Equivalents) for Supplementary Estimates No. 1. These are primarily to hire new long-term care staff in support of additional care beds at Whistle Bend Place, for the Aging with Dignity initiative and new FTEs for schools including teachers, clerical and custodial staff.
- There is also an increase in FTEs related to a transfer in the Capital Planning Office from Highways and Public Works capital budget to Finance in the O&M budget.

#### **Corporate approach to fiscal sustainability:**

- We continue to work to ensure that government spending is allocated in a way that meets key priorities and long-term goals.
- To meet these priorities, departments continue to follow established processes to ensure that funding is distributed efficiently and effectively across public services and programs.
- This means regular financial scrutiny is applied to decision-making and that new requests for funding are approved in a financially sustainable way, while continuing to provide the services that Yukoners expect.
- This coordinated approach to funding ensures that government can respond to new and evolving challenges, while managing resources responsibly.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)**

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

- The 2024-25 Second Appropriation Act is tabled in the fall session and will be the subject of debate.
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#### **Background:**

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

#### **Approved by:**

Jessica Schultz

September 19, 2024

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Deputy Minister, Finance

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Date approved

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

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in the Yukon.
- Our government is deeply committed to advancing reconciliation through collaboration and partnership with Indigenous governments and groups.
- We continue to share our progress toward addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, most recently through a progress report and Pathways magazine both released in Fall 2023.
- The magazine and report provided an update on the actions being taken across the Yukon government and in collaboration with First Nation governments and groups in areas including child welfare, health, education and justice.

#### Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments are leaders in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- While there is still work to do, targeted investments are resulting in meaningful change and creating better programs and services for all Yukoners.
- We will continue our collaborative work to implement and report on the Calls to Action, including through work on the Yukon Forum joint priorities and by implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations.

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

- The 2023 mandate letters include a commitment to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC's) Calls to Action.
- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement includes a commitment to working with Yukon First Nations to continue to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through targeted investments.

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

Executive Council  
Office

#### Background:

- The TRC report *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future* was released in 2015 and contains 94 Calls to Action on redressing the harms resulting from Residential Schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. There are 32 Calls to Action that relate directly to YG.
- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations (YFNs) collaborated on addressing the Calls to Action under the 2017 Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan and through other reconciliation initiatives, such as supporting the important work of the YFN-led Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project.
- The Government of Yukon has taken additional steps to address the Calls to Action, including:
  - establishing the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations Initiatives at the Department of Education, signing an agreement to establish a YFN School Board and entering into education agreements with all YFNs (speaks to Calls 7 and 10 directed to the federal government);
  - supporting Indigenous athletes and the North American Indigenous Games (Call 88);
  - implementing the YFN Procurement Policy (relates to Call 92) and the Representative Public Service Plan: *Breaking Trail Together* (relates to Call 7);
  - working with YFNs and Yukon Indigenous women's groups to implement the Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy* (MMIWG2S+ Strategy) (relates to Call 41);
  - participating at the Trilateral Table on the Wellbeing of YFN Children and Families to address gaps for culturally appropriate parenting programs (Call 5); and
  - receiving input from YFNs on Health and Social Services programming through the Mental Health Advisory Committee (relates to Call 19).

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2024 08 20

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Prepared for Premier Ranj Pillai  
Executive Council Office

Date prepared: August 5, 2024  
Last Updated: October 2, 2024  
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## Session Briefing Note

### Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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#### Recommended response:

- Inflation has continued to improve in recent months, but Yukon households continue to see their budgets stretched by elevated prices, with lower-income households often feeling the worst effects.
- The Government of Yukon continues to monitor inflation and its impact on Yukoners, so that we can take steps to ease the burden.
- As inflationary pressures continue to lessen, efforts to make life more affordable for Yukoners and to help industry are shifting from short-term assistance to measures with the potential to provide longer-term benefits, such as actions to improve home affordability.

#### Additional response:

- The Main Estimates for this year has continued to build on existing supports for Yukoners by making sure they can access essential services at prices they can afford.
- Budget 2024-25 included investments to advance affordable housing projects across the territory. From the Housing First Project in Watson Lake to the recently awarded replacement of the Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse, the Yukon government is taking action to build more affordable homes for Yukoners, especially those in vulnerable situations.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)**

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- There is also over \$42 million in continued funding for early learning and childcare. This includes funding for the universal childcare program, which has reduced childcare fees to less than \$10 per day, on average.
- We are also making life more affordable and leading the nation with our Yukon-wide dental program, which has \$5.4 million in continued funding for 2024-25.
- To make sure that more people have the option of staying home when they are sick, the Temporary Paid Sick Leave was extended.
- We also extended the Interim Electrical Rebate, which provides welcome relief from power bills to Yukoners across the territory.
- In addition to items included in the 2024-25 Main Estimates, additional initiatives in many departments are continuing to assist Yukoners with the cost of living.
- The Department of Community Services, for example, is developing a program that will see free transit passes provided to non-governmental organizations, vulnerable populations and youth.
- The Department of Health and Social Services will also provide additional funding of \$777,000 for Safe at Home to provide temporary supportive housing at 408 Alexander Street.

## Session Briefing Note

### Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- These are just a few examples of the many programs and initiatives that continue to support Yukoners.

#### Third response

- The Government of Yukon has also remained responsive to higher inflation in recent years through its various grants and subsidies, which are indexed to inflation. These include:
  - Subsidies for medical travel
  - The Yukon Child Benefit
  - Social Assistance Payments
  - Student Financial Assistance
  - Seniors' benefits
  - The Pioneer Utility grant
  - The Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation
  - Residential rent caps
- The Yukon's minimum wage is also responsive to price changes, as its annual change is tied to inflation in the previous year.
- After growing 6.8 per cent in 2023, the minimum wage increased a further 4.9 per cent to \$17.59 per hour on April 1, 2024.
- The Yukon's minimum wage is the second highest wage in Canada, behind only Nunavut's minimum wage of \$19.00 per hour.



## Session Briefing Note

### Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- These increases also contribute towards the strong earnings growth we continue to see in the territory, where average weekly earnings grew 6.1 per cent over the first half of 2024. This is the strongest growth in the country.

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

- Inflation has fallen from historical highs, but Yukoners are still dealing with higher prices for a variety of goods and services following a lengthy period of elevated inflation.
- The moderation of inflationary pressures that began to take hold late last year has continued into 2024. Growth in the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been much lower in every month in 2024, and inflation in recent months has been near or below the historic average of 2 per cent.

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#### Background:

##### Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

- Following ten increases in the overnight rate since March 2022, the Bank of Canada has made three 25 basis point cuts in 2024, with the overnight rate dropping from 5.0 per cent to 4.25 per cent. Expectations of further rate cuts this year and in 2025, could further reduce pressure on shelter prices as mortgage rates decline.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- Both locally and nationally, price pressures have lessened, and inflation continues to trend towards historic norms. The current outlook for the Whitehorse CPI reflects expectations of a return to 'normal' levels of inflation, with the inflation forecast of 2 per cent in 2024, much improved from 4.9 per cent in 2023 and 6.8 per cent in 2022. Beyond 2024, annual inflation is expected to remain at 2 per cent over the remainder of the five-year forecast.

### PROGRAMS AND OTHER MEASURES THAT SUPPORT AFFORDABILITY

Five-Year Capital Plan projects supporting housing affordability (Yukon Housing Corporation)

- The **Old Crow 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing** facility is complete and opened in April 2024.
- Construction of the **10-plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake** began in the summer of 2023. It is scheduled to be completed in the fall 2024.
- Construction of the **Faro and Dawson Duplex** projects started in summer 2023 and is now complete.
- Groundwork began at the old **Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse** in September 2024 and we are aiming for completion in spring 2026. When completed, the new complex is anticipated to deliver over 45 new units.

Universal Child Care Program (Education)

- Universal child care is available to all Yukon families using licensed child care spaces. The universal child care program has reduced fees to less than \$10 per day, on average, for families across the Yukon.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inflation and Affordability**

#### **(Corporate Note)**

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#### Dental Care program (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon's Dental Program was launched in 2023 and provides \$1,300 per year in dental benefits to Yukoners without dental coverage. The program will cover dental treatments necessary to relieve pain and infection, prevent disease, treat cavities, and restore chewing and social function. It will also offer full coverage for preventive care, such as routine dental cleaning.

#### Paid sick leave program (Economic Development)

- On April 1, 2023, the Department of Economic Development launched the Paid Sick Leave Rebate. The program runs for two 12-month blocks:
  - April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024; and
  - April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate is a temporary program that offers up to 40 hours of paid sick leave to employees and self-employed Yukoners that earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94/hour. The program includes all illnesses (and injuries not covered by any other Act, benefit, or program). The program is available to employees regardless of whether their employer offers paid sick leave, though employees must use all paid sick leave available to them through their employer before they are eligible for the Paid Sick Leave Rebate. The program is still in effect and will run until March 31, 2025.

#### Yukon Child Benefit (Health and Social Services and Finance)

- The Yukon Child Benefit provides monthly payments to modest and low-income households who have children under 18. The maximum benefit per child is now tied to inflation, effective the 2023–24 benefit year.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inflation and Affordability**

#### **(Corporate Note)**

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#### Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement provides a monthly income supplement for eligible Yukoner senior's receiving Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from the federal government. This amount is adjusted for inflation in October, each year.

#### Inflation Relief Rebate and Interim Electrical Rebate (Yukon Development Corporation)

- The Inflation Relief Rebate, a \$50 rebate that was automatically applied to electrical customers' bills, was a temporary measure to address inflation. The Inflation Relief Rebate was most recently applied to all ATCO Electric Yukon and Yukon Energy bills for November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- The Interim Electrical Rebate continues to provide residential electrical customers with a maximum rebate of \$22.62 per month based on the electricity they consume, up to 1,000 kilowatt hours (up to \$271.44 per year). This affordability measure will continue until March 2025.

#### Social Assistance Review (Health and Social Services)

- Health and Social Services is undertaking a review of the Yukon's Social Assistance rates to inform options to improve the delivery of the program and ensure it is meeting the needs of program clients.
- While the review is underway, the department is providing a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.

#### Out of Home Childcare Increases (Health and Social Services)

- To offset inflationary cost of living increases and provide sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of children placed in their care, Health and Social Services provided an ongoing 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers of children in out of home care in 2023-24, on top of the annual indexed increase.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inflation and Affordability**

#### **(Corporate Note)**

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- Combined, this amounted to a 16.46 per cent rate increase for community and extended family caregivers. The new rates are as follows:
  - o Whitehorse: \$46.86 per day
  - o Rural Communities: \$50.16 per day
  - o Old Crow: \$86.40 per day
- Rates are indexed annually to the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index, with an increase of 2.4% scheduled to take effect in October 2024.

#### Supportive Housing (Health and Social Services)

- \$777,000 for Safe at Home will go towards establishing temporary supportive housing at 408 Alexander Street.

#### Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit Rental Subsidy (Yukon Housing Corporation)

- The Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit offers a rental subsidy for low-to-moderate income renters.

#### Comprehensive Municipal Grant (Community Services)

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant is how the Government of Yukon directly funds municipal governments. This core funding supplements municipal resources and pays for vital services, like the provision of fresh drinking water, the collection of solid waste and recycling, recreation programming and other services as required under the Municipal Act and other legislation.
- The high inflation seen in 2022 (6.8 per cent) increased the grant payments provided in April 2024. This resulted in a \$2.3 million increase for Yukon municipalities with overall contributions of over \$24.5 million for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency and offset costs (Energy, Mines and Resources)

- Energy efficiency rebate 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.
- Between January 1, 2018, and June 30, 2024, 286 high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory.
- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program that offer up-front funding, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits more accessible and affordable for Yukoners.

### Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

September 25, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Finance

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Carbon Pricing  
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

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**Recommended response:**

- Since its introduction in 2019, the Government of Yukon has been supportive of carbon pricing as a policy to help us reduce emissions and move toward our ambitious climate targets.
- We take a balanced approach to carbon pricing in the territory, one which considers the need to reduce emissions as well as the fair return of carbon pricing revenues to Yukoners.
- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral. We are committed to both reducing carbon emissions in the territory and to returning all the federal government's revenues to Yukoners.
- Returning proceeds to individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations, businesses, and mining operations is a critical part of our approach to carbon pricing in the Yukon.
- We are returning 100 per cent of the federal carbon levy to these five rebate groups who receive more, on average, than they pay in carbon pricing levies.

**Additional response:**

- The departments of Environment and Finance work together to coordinate with our federal counterparts to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory and to ensure the needs of the territory are recognized in national policy.
- This includes retaining control over how revenues are distributed back to Yukon individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and businesses.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Carbon Pricing  
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

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- It also includes excluding the carbon price from electricity generation and aviation, in recognition of the unique constraints of our northern jurisdiction.

**Third response:**

- Carbon pricing is just one tool in our toolkit to address the climate emergency.
- We continue to implement Our Clean Future to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions and, more broadly, to reduce the impact of the carbon levy on Yukoners.
- In December of last year, we announced 42 new actions under Our Clean Future as part of the third Our Clean Future annual report outlining the progress we have made on the strategy.
- Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our target of reducing our emissions by 45 per cent by 2030.
- Ensuring that we utilize every policy lever at our disposal, including carbon pricing, is essential to meet our goals.
- Together, we are finding solutions to reduce our emissions while strengthening our economy and supporting our industry partners.

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

- Carbon pricing remains a highly sensitive topic across the country with many provinces and territories voicing their own perspective on how they would like to see this pricing mechanism handled moving forward.



**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Carbon Pricing  
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

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- In October 2023, the federal government announced a temporary 3-year exemption for home-heating oil from the federal carbon price, with the intention of helping Atlantic Canada in particular.
  - While Atlantic Canada welcomed this change, the exemption has received considerable backlash. Most provincial governments (except for British Columbia) have called for extending the carbon price exemption to all home-heating fuels (including natural gas).
  - Critics also argued that the exemption undermines the credibility of the carbon tax and may weaken the incentives to switch to lower carbon heating options.
- 

**Background:**

- The federal Draft Regulations Amending the Fuel Charge Regulations stipulate that all heating oil will be exempt from the fuel charge starting November 8, 2023, until April 2027.
- This means that light fuel oil consumption in all buildings, including residential, commercial, and institutional, will be exempt from the fuel charge.
- Nearly half (49.2% in 2022) of Yukon homes use oil-based heating.
- In Yukon, individuals, businesses, placer/quartz mining operations, Yukon First Nations governments and municipal governments are all eligible for a rebate for carbon pricing.
- Individuals who live outside of Whitehorse receive a remote supplement, which was recently increased from 10 to 20% (and is now in line with the federal remote supplement for backstop jurisdictions including Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan).
- On September 12, 2024, British Columbia's Premier David Eby announced that if the federal government were to remove the carbon pricing backstop, then British Columbia would end the carbon levy in the province.
- British Columbia has had its own carbon pricing system in place since 2008.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Carbon Pricing  
(Corporate Note)**

Environment &amp; Finance

- British Columbia and the Yukon were the remaining supporters of carbon pricing as a climate change policy, with all other provinces publicly opposing the federal system. In late 2023, the newly elected Premier of the Northwest Territories also called for an exemption from the federal carbon levy for the territory.
- To date, Canada has been firm on granting no exception to the backstop.

**Approved by:**

Dennis Berry

October 2, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
A/Deputy Minister of Environment\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved

Jessica Schultz

October 1, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister of Finance\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved

## Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts

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ECO-FIN-EMR

### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the seriousness of the heap leach failure that occurred at the Eagle Gold mine on June 24 and is treating the response as a government priority that reflects the urgency of the situation.
- Our priorities are to ensure the health and wellbeing of Yukoners and to protect the environment.
- An Independent Review Board has been established to investigate the heap leach failure that occurred at the Eagle Gold mine. Three highly qualified experts are on the Independent Review Board. The objective of the investigation is to determine the causes of the heap leach facility failure.
- We are committed to working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to develop remediation strategies for the failure. A joint team of technical experts hired by the Government of Yukon and the First Nation meet on a regular basis to inform our actions.
- For the most up to date information on the situation at Eagle Gold Mine and actions we are taking, you can visit [Yukon.ca/victoria-gold-updates](https://Yukon.ca/victoria-gold-updates).

### Additional responses:

- On August 14, 2024, PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. was appointed by the court as Receiver of the assets and property of Victoria Gold Corp.

## Eagle Gold Mine -

ECO-FIN-EMR

### Impacts

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The Receiver is responsible for overseeing remediation of the heap leach failure and its environmental impacts, including compliance with territorial and federal orders.

- The Government of Yukon is committed to a thorough accounting of events leading up to the failure and the development of recommendations so that a similar event does not happen again in the Yukon.
- Once the causes of the failure are determined by the Independent Review Board, this information will inform the most appropriate subsequent steps and potential investigations, including consideration of a public inquiry.
- As of September 4, 2024, there are 27 liens against Victoria Gold worth over \$58.7 million.

### *Environmental and health impacts:*

- The Department of Health and Social Services is monitoring impacts on human health. This includes ongoing review of any technical information and water sampling results, as well as situational reports, as they become available. Results from surface water samples taken show that the regulated drinking water system serving the area continues to meet the guidelines for drinking water quality.
- Water is sampled both at the site and downstream of Victoria Gold's Eagle Gold Mine. Water samples are collected regularly at select sites to monitor water quality. The results of the testing will let us know the

## Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts

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ECO-FIN-EMR

impacts and inform next steps.

- Technical experts from the Government of Yukon, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans are working closely together to monitor the fish and wildlife in the surrounding areas of the Eagle Gold Mine.

### *Economic and labour market impacts:*

- Operations ceased at Eagle Gold Mine after the heap leach failure occurred. This situation has changed the outlook for mineral production in the Yukon and resulted in a notable downward revision in the medium-term outlook for the Yukon's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The 2024-25 Interim Fiscal and Economic Update released in early October includes the latest forecasts for real GDP.
- At the close of 2023, Victoria Gold had 471 direct hires and another 134 on contract.
- Of the more than 600 employed, the company reported that about 34 per cent were local, amounting to approximately 200 local workers. This represents about 0.8 per cent of the territorial labour force.
- Any possible negative impacts on the labour market are expected to be short-lived, as many displaced workers are likely to be reabsorbed into what is currently a tight labour market. The Yukon's unemployment rate is about half the national figure and the local job vacancy rate has been among the highest in the country throughout

## Eagle Gold Mine -

ECO-FIN-EMR

### Impacts

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2024.

- Monitoring of labour market data, such as the number of unemployed and the number of Employment Insurance claimants, for potential impacts of the mine closure is ongoing.
- As the Eagle Gold situation continues to unfold, we should have a better understanding if there may be longer-term impacts for the local economy.

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

- The June 24, 2024 heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold Mine affects the environmental and socio-economic wellbeing of Yukoners – from an environmental and business perspective.

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### Background:

- On June 24, 2024, a failure occurred at the heap leach facility of the Eagle Gold Mine operated by Victoria Gold Corporation.
- On July 30, 2024, the Premier provided remarks to the Council of Yukon First Nations' General Assembly on a variety of topics including mining and the incident at Eagle Gold Mine
- On August 5, 2024, the Premier provided a statement on mining activity in the Traditional Territory of First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- On August 14, 2024, the Government of Yukon with First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, submitted an application for receivership of Eagle Gold Mine.
- On August 16, 2024, the receivership was granted. It was appointed to PricewaterhouseCoopers. Implementing a receiver is an established process under federal bankruptcy legislation. Decision making and responsibility has

## Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts

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ECO-FIN-EMR

shifted from Victoria Gold to PricewaterhouseCoopers, with direction from the Yukon government.

- As of September 20, 2024, the Government of Yukon has done 10 technical briefings to continue to keep Yukoners informed with up-to-date information.
- The Yukon.ca website is updated on a regular basis along with weekly information bulletins to inform the public on the Victoria Gold heap leach failure's current situation.

### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Lauren Haney

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

[Date approved]

Jessica Schultz

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Finance

[Date approved]