

# Community Services

## Legislative Briefing Notes

### Fall 2024 Sitting

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### CS Accomplishments

### Community Services

#### Regulatory and Consumer Services

**PLRA**- Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, **ESRT**- Employment Standards and Residential Tenancies, **PAT**- Property Assessment and Taxation, **CORP**- Corporate Affairs, **PL**- Public Libraries, **BS**- Building Safety

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
Feb 2024	Public engagement on review of <i>Residential Landlord and Tenant Act</i> from February 1- 29.	ESRT	CASA 2023
Sept 2023	Yukon Public Libraries abolished late fees	YPL	Government Priority (red tape reduction)
Spring 2024	Yukon Public Libraries is in partnership with H&SS piloting Library Outreach Worker program	YPL	
Summer 2024	Modernization of Yukon Public Libraries online services by implementation of a new website (July 2024), meeting room booking system, and program registration (September 2023) software.	YPL	Streamline access to library resources
Spring 2023	Yukon Public Libraries continues to offer the highly successful Indigenous Book Club series in partnership with KDCC. Program provides a platform for readers to learn about Indigenous cultures, histories, and perspectives, The program is offered in the library as well as online so all Yukoners can participate.	YPL	Reconciliation
July 2023	Launched SEDAR+ with other jurisdictions. The new system is used by all market participants to file, disclose and search for securities issuer info in Canada's capital markets	CORP	Government Priority (red tape reduction)
April 2023	National Aboriginal Day name changed to National Indigenous Peoples Day	ESRT	TRC to Action



### CS Accomplishments

### Community Services

April 1, 2024	Effective April 1, 2024, Yukon's minimum wage increased from \$16.77 to \$17.59 per hour, the second highest in the country, following NU.	ESRT	Putting People First
May 15, 2024	The rent index (cap on rent increases) changed to 4.9% based on CPI (decrease from 5% in 2023).	ESRT	CASA 2023
August, 2024	Better Building Program continues to enrol eligible participants and has 64 applicants to date. Low-interest energy efficiency loan program for all Yukon property owners. There are 5 projects currently underway and 4 have been completed.	PAT	Mandate
April 2021	Management of the new Societies Act has moved to the Profession Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch where it benefits from alignment between charitable gaming and registered societies.  Transition to the new act will be complete April 3, 2024 and PLRA is working with remaining societies to come into compliance.	PLRA	Mandate
April 15, 2021	The Midwifery Regulation, standards of practice and code of ethics come into effect. The regulatory framework for the practice of Midwifery in the territory is a key step to regulate, fund, and integrate midwifery into the Yukon's health care system.	PLRA	Putting People First
2021	Extensions to the amount of leave for types of parental leave and introduction of new types of leave (for example, for people experiencing domestic or sexualized violence) introduced.	ESRT	October 2019 mandate letter
January 2024	Director of Employment Standards requested the Employment Standards Board initiate a review of the Fair Wage Schedule. The Board began its review in February 2024.	ESRT	Employment Standards Act

### CS Accomplishments

### Community Services

November 2022	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation recognized as general (statutory) holiday for all Yukoners.	ESRT	TRC to Action
August 1, 2019 June 28, 2022	<p>The <i>Pharmacist Regulation</i> came into effect under the <i>Health Professions Act</i> and was a key step in modernizing the regulation of pharmacists and dispensing physicians.</p> <p>In 2022, the scope of a pharmacists was amended to allow prescribing for minor ailments.</p>	PLRA	Putting People First
November 2022- September 2023	PLRA has launched an online licence and registration system for 22 professions. The final phase of the project will see physicians, and when regulated - psychologists, added to the system. This project was key to reducing red tape and streamlining processes for applicants and registrants.	PLRA	Putting People First
Spring 2023	Amended three professional licensing statutes (for insurance, consumers protection and security guards) to reduce red tape and align with PLRA's new online licensing system. The amendments will come into effect when regulation amendments are complete.	PLRA	Red Tape Reduction
Fall 2023	Changes to the Registered Nurses Profession Act was tabled and approved in the 2023 Fall legislative session. This paves the way to amend the Regulation to allow internationally trained nurses to work in the Yukon and overall makes registration for nurses and nurse practitioners simpler and more effective. Amendments are expected to be finalized by Spring 2024.	PLRA	

### CS Accomplishments

### Community Services

Winter 2024	Regulation of psychologists is well underway, and a technical review was completed in 2023 with anticipated implementation in summer 2024.	PLRA	Mandate
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### Community Development

**CO** - Community Development, **LD** - Land Development, **ID** - Infrastructure Development, **CA** - Community Affairs, **SR** - Sport and Recreation

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
2020-2021	The Yukon Government and Canada jointly provided \$4.35 (Million) in funding to Yukon municipalities to support COVID-19 related operating and maintenance costs incurred in the 2020-21 fiscal year. Of the \$4.35 million in funding, 500K was specifically allocated to support public transit.	CA	Federal Priority - Commitment by First Ministers (Government of Canada Safe Restart Agreement).
2023/24	Advanced regionalization of municipal waste management facilities with Carmacks, Dawson, Haines Junction, Mayo, Teslin and Watson Lake signing regional agreements.	CO	Ministerial Mandate - Streicker
2023/24	Completed consultations on waste disposal options with Braeburn, Johnson's Crossing, Keno and Silver City.	CO/CA	CASA commitment
2023/24	Worked with the City of Whitehorse to design and support a curbside recycling collection program and keep non-refundable recycling happening in		Our Clean Future

### CS Accomplishments

### Community Services

	Whitehorse area through annual support of up to \$2.1 million annually for two years.		
Sept 2022	Completed the Faro public works and firehall building. The facility is designed to meet the Towns of Faro's unique needs and will house emergency and community services. The new building is also designed to exceed minimum energy efficiency standards by 25 per cent.	ID	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
Fall 2022	Amendment to Municipal Act – Change terms of office for municipal councils and local advisory councils from three to four years.	CA	AYC Resolution
August 2023	Completed new Carmacks fire hall	ID	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
Summer 2023	Launched the online flood atlas in 2023 that improves the efficiency and speed of sharing flood information with the public.	Joint CS ENVI project	
Feb 2023	All 8 municipalities signed agreements that allowed residents to access the Better Buildings program.	CA	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
January 2023	The new municipal services building in Watson Lake opened this past winter, housing the town's fire hall, public works department and training facility.	ID	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
2023	Implemented organics composting programs at Carcross, Deep Creek, Marsh Lake, Tagish and Mount Lorne (Mount Lorne pilot project begun in 2021) waste management facilities.	CO	Our Clean Future

### CS Accomplishments

### Community Services

2024	In 2024 we released: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>129 Lots in Whitehorse Whistle Bend Phase 7</li><li>53 lots in Rural Yukon Communities (20 in Grizzly Valley/Mendenhall/Golden Horn; 21 Lone Tree; 6 Faro; 6 Carmacks)</li></ul>	LD	Mandate
2024	We are actively engaging with communities to update our inventory of sport and recreation infrastructure within the territory. The information collected will support the development of sport and recreation opportunities in the Yukon and help us better understand sport infrastructure needs as our population continues to grow.	SR	Mandate
March 2023	Construction on the new arena in Carmacks is now complete. The new building includes a full indoor arena and community space to accommodate year-round multifunctional use, including hockey and skating, curling, concerts, trade shows and community events.	ID	Mandate Government Priority and Our Clean Future
2023	Completed the Selkirk Storm Water replacement project. The project has already increased stormwater system capacity, lowering flood risk and protecting the groundwater aquifer from surface contamination		Mandate Government priority
2023	Extensive upgrades completed to the Mayo and LSCFN community water treatment plants- updates ensure communities have access to safe water supply.		Government Priority and Our Clean Future
2023	Construction began in late 2023 on the new gymnastics and climbing facility and we look forward to completion in 2025. The 3,000 square metre facility is large enough o host competitive and recreational sporting events.	ID	Mandate Government priority

### CS Accomplishments

### Community Services

2023	Completed construction of the new Pool in Pelly Crossing, along with supporting physical and mental health the pool helps bring people together and encourages socialization for community members of all ages.	ID	Mandate Government priority
2023/2024	The land development branch continues to advance projects in partnership with First Nations and Municipalities. We are excited to partner with Kwanlin Dün on the upcoming Range Point subdivision in Whitehorse, which will provide over 300 housing units on both KDFN and Yukon government land.	LD	
Summer 2024	Increased support for senior's active living initiatives by providing \$25,000 in additional funding to the ElderActive Association of Yukon to support Team Yukon's participation at the 2024 Canada 55+ Games. More than 160 participants made the trip to Quebec City and brought home 58 medals.	SR	Mandate
2024	We completed the beautiful White River Community Centre and Potlach house to meet priorities established in the WRFNs comprehensive community development plan.	ID	Mandate Government priority

### CS Accomplishments

### Community Services

#### Protective Services

**EMO** - Emergency Measures Organization, **FMO** - Fire Marshals Office (Fire & Life Safety),  
**WFM** - Wildland Fire Management

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
2021	Completed an independent review of the fire services in November 2021 and started implementing key recommendations.	FMO	Mandate
2022	Community Wildfire Protection Plans signed in Haines Junction, Teslin	WFM	Our Clean Futures (item C9)
2022-23	Significant progress on Whitehorse South Fuel Break, with 170,000 aspen seedlings have been planted in fuel treatment areas around Whitehorse and Haines Junction to further improve the resilience of our forests and communities. Planning is currently underway to plant an additional 230,000 aspen seedlings in strategic fuel breaks around Whitehorse and Haines Junction by 2026.	WFM	-Our Clean Future (Phase 2 – To be confirmed) -2 billion Trees Contribution Agreement – Yukon Wildfire Resiliency Aspen Plant
2023	Wildland Fire Management (WFM) is providing \$400 to \$600K annually to Yukon First Nations governments specifically for community driven FireSmart projects, and supports the implementation of those projects. Funded by Indigenous Services Canada.	WFM	Mandate

### CS Accomplishments

### Community Services

2023	Wildland Fire Management (WFM) signed 14 agreements with Yukon First Nations for wildfire Initial Attack Services for 2023 to 2025.	WFM	Mandate
2023	Wildland Fire Management (WFM) Initial Attack service agreements with Yukon First Nation governments now provides an additional \$1.4M per year for increased crew wages, benefits, overtime pay, vehicles, fuel rates, and an extra ten days of work per season.	WFM	Mandate
2023	Wildland Fire Management (WFM) initial attack service agreements with Yukon First Nation governments now offers the opportunity to hire a fourth crew member, to support mentorship and training opportunities.	WFM	Mandate
2023	WFM issued 7 contracts to Yukon First Nations Wildfire (YFNW) including Unit Crew guaranteed work, vegetation management and 4 Unit Crew service call ups for wildfire, in addition to 9 initial attack contracts to YFNW (delegate to YFNW on behalf of Yukon First Nation governments).	WFM	Mandate
2023	Wildland Fire Management (WFM) provided two annual transfer payment agreements to Yukon First Nation Wildfire for training: one for the Unit Crew capacity and development activities and one for their Beat the Heat training program totaling \$175K per year.	WFM	Mandate
2023	Launched the online Wildfire Hub to improve public access to information about wildfires and local wildfire impacts.	WFM	Mandate



### CS Accomplishments

### Community Services

2023	Successfully responded to floods and wildfires in partnership with other departments and all levels of government.	WFM	Mandate
Winter 2024	In 2023, volunteer firefighters responded to approximately 183 calls across the territory and logged more than 4,000 hours of training and incident response time. Collectively, the Yukon Fire Service (which includes incorporated and unincorporated communities) responded to over 1,047 calls.	FMO	
April 2023	In April 2023, Building Safety implemented the new National Building Code.	BS	Routine adoption of updates to <i>Building Standards Act</i> .
2024	EMO facilitated emergency management capacity development, training and exercises for Yukon communities, including municipalities and First Nations.	EMO	Mandate

September 6, 2024

Date approved

## Climate Change Resilience and the National Building Code of Canada

Community Services

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### Recommended response:

- The safety of Yukoners and the health of our environment is a priority. In April 2023, Yukon adopted the 2020 National Building Code, which ensures that the buildings where we live, work, and play are safe and energy efficient.
- Keeping up with modern standards of construction will bring many benefits to Yukoners, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving safety, and mitigating the cost of power.
- The Building and Safety Standards Branch partnered with the City of Whitehorse to organize a code update course for inspectors and the construction industry at large, to ensure all parties are up to date with the changes.

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### Context:

- Building codes directly impact the new residential and commercial construction in Yukon and changes to the National Building Code are of interest to the construction industry and homeowners.

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### Background:

- In 2019, the Government of Canada announced it will spend an additional \$40 million over five years to integrate climate resilience into building codes and design guides.
- The 2020 National Building Code includes energy efficiency tiers, which provides incremental increases in energy efficiency. Our Clean Future commits the Government of Yukon to enforce tier 5, net zero energy ready by 2032.
- Net zero means a home produces the same amount of energy as it consumes, and a net zero ready home is one that is designed to be ultra-efficient, with the goal of being net zero at some point in the future.

### Climate Change Resilience and the National Building Code of Canada

### Community Services

- As per the *Building Standards Act*, Yukon automatically adopts the National Building Code when it is published. The changes to the National Building Code are of interest to the construction industry and homeowners.
- The National Building Code is not retroactive—existing buildings are not currently required to upgrade to new codes unless major renovation occurs. Pursuing options for existing buildings will require both incentives and enforcement.
- The City of Whitehorse sets some higher energy-efficiency requirements for new buildings than the Yukon. Nevertheless, any changes the Yukon proposes to make for existing commercial and residential buildings will affect the City of Whitehorse Lands and Building Services Department's resources and code enforcement.
- In 2016, the Yukon government made amendments to the Regulation exempting the following from section 9.36 of the National Building Code:
  - Set a minimum eight inches' thickness for squared logs and ten inches' minimum diameter for round logs in exterior walls of log homes.
  - Reduce minimum insulation requirement in ceilings from R60 to R40.
  - Remove minimum insulation requirement of floors in heated crawl space.
  - Exempt residences 480 square feet or less from section 9.36 requirements.
- In December 2012, an 'energy efficiency' section, not in previous codes, was added to the National Building Code. This section requires new construction to have:
  - Minimum insulation requirements for, below the floor/slab or in floors, walls and ceilings.
  - Minimum U-values for all doors and windows.
  - Minimum performance ratings of all furnaces and water heaters.
  - Woodstoves must be Environment Protection Agency (EPA) approved (city bylaw requires this).
  - Building plans must pass an energy audit; to reduce the burden of this requirement, several Yukon government agencies worked together to create preapprovals of most common building methods used in Yukon.

### Climate Change Resilience and the National Building Code of Canada

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Community Services

#### Financial Implications:

- No associated financial implications until such time that the standards are adopted into the National Building Code.

September 3, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- The safety of Yukoners within the built environment is a priority for this government - Laws that detail the rules and standards for construction are critical in ensuring the safety of all occupants.
- The initial step in the process for new construction is a plan review to ensure the construction meets all the applicable building codes and safety standards. This is followed by regular inspections throughout the construction process.
- Within the City of Whitehorse, building permits and inspections are done by city building officials. Outside the Whitehorse city limits, building permits are issued by the Government of Yukon.

#### Additional response:

- The Yukon government aims to approve building permits within 10 business days, if all pertinent information and documentation has been provided at the time of application.
- As of August 15, 2024, the Building and Safety Standards Branch has issued 417 building, oil and woodstove permits and performed 739 inspections. Also, 1236 electrical permits have been issued, and 2494 electrical inspections have been completed through a mix of on-site inspections, picture inspections, and contractor declarations. In addition, permits and inspections were also done for gas appliances, plumbing installations, boilers & pressure vessels, and elevators.

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#### Context:

- This may become a concern because contractors, building within the City of Whitehorse, are experiencing long wait times for permit application approvals, delaying the start of building construction.

##### Background:

- At the beginning of summer, contractors were beginning to express their concern with the time to obtain permits in the municipality. The Yukon government has offered to assist the City of Whitehorse with permit application reviews. Including making a YG inspector available to help with remote / virtual plan reviews, and approaching staff about potential for short term assignments. In the meantime, the City made improvements including adding resources, piloting a new service of virtual inspections, and has initiated new processes to enable quicker permitting of foundations (to enable foundation work before winter).
- Community Services Building and Safety Standards Branch has a building inspector in Dawson who is responsible for Dawson, Mayo, Pelly Crossing and Old Crow.
- There is also a building inspector in Watson Lake who is responsible for Watson Lake, Teslin, Faro and Ross River.
- In the YG Building Safety Whitehorse office, there are 2.5 full time building inspector positions who are responsible for the Whitehorse periphery area, Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake, Haines Junction, Destruction Bay, Burwash, Beaver Creek, Lake Lebarge, Braeburn and Carmacks. In addition, there are currently 2 full-time electrical inspectors covering the territory.

# Session Briefing Note

TAB# BS-02

Fall 2024

## Permitting Demand

Community Services

Permits issued between January 1 and August 15, 2024	
Building, Oil & Woodstove	417
Electrical	1236
Gas	463
Plumbing	72
Boiler/Pressure Vessel	29
Elevator	5
Total permits issued by Building Safety	2222

Inspections completed between January 1 and August 15, 2024	
Building, Oil & Woodstove	739
Electrical	2494
Gas	509
Plumbing	206
Boiler/Pressure Vessel	31
Elevator	53
Total inspections completed by Building Safety	4032

September 5, 2024

Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref #8 and #6

**CA-01 #9**  
**Fall 2024**

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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### Recommended response:

- Exploration and mining activities within community boundaries are subject to mineral development and environmental laws, official community plans, local area plans and zoning regulations.
- New mineral staking is prohibited within the City of Dawson and most of the City of Whitehorse. There are, however, existing mineral claims in these municipalities.
- Often, claims were staked decades ago and predate nearby homes or staking prohibitions. In the Yukon, claims may be renewed yearly provided the claim holder complies with renewal requirements. This is the case with the claims at Cowley Creek. (See BN #8)

### Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon works with municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and affected communities to help resolve land use conflicts when they occur.
- We are developing information materials to help municipalities better understand what is available for managing exploration and mining in planned and zoned communities.
- Part of the work to develop successor resource legislation is to address issues of mining in planned and zoned communities through legislative change. (See BN #6)



# Session Briefing Note

## Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

### INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref #8 and #6  
**CA-01 #9**  
**Fall 2024**  
Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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

- Communities have expressed concern over the conflicts in land use within community boundaries.
- There may be questions about the Gladiator Metals Ltd. activity near Cowley Creek and their new claims near Franklin Lake, within (Łu Zil Män) Fish Lake local plan area.

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#### Background:

- In 2020 and 2022, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources led targeted stakeholder engagement processes to better understand issues with mineral staking and development within the boundaries of Yukon municipalities and communities.
- Limited responses were received so no What We Heard was published. However, the feedback helped shape the information materials that will be provided to municipalities around existing tools to manage mining within their boundaries.
- Although there are pre-existing placer claims within some municipalities, the *Placer Mining Act* does not allow new placer claim staking within any of the Yukon's eight incorporated municipalities, including Dawson City and the City of Whitehorse.
- In summer 2022, the Government of Yukon extended a prohibition of entry order for the City of Whitehorse to July 2027, restricting quartz mineral staking within most areas. We made this decision at the request of the City of Whitehorse and in alignment with the City's Official Community Plan (Whitehorse 2040).
- In December 2023, the Government of Yukon renewed the prohibition of entry order within the City of Dawson's municipal limits. We made this decision in partnership with the City of Dawson and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government.
- The City of Dawson has several active claims and mining operations that may conflict with community development interests. The municipality is doing its best to navigate these claims and operations and the Government of Yukon is providing support as required. This includes an active lawsuit brought against the

# Session Briefing Note

## Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref #8 and #6

**CA-01 #9**

**Fall 2024**

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon by a placer claim holder, alleging a regulatory taking of their placer claims within the City of Dawson.

- Gladiator Metals applied to do exploration work near the historical Arctic Chief mine within City of Whitehorse limits. The Government of Yukon has issued a Class 1 authorization for this work and the City of Whitehorse has issued a development permit. (See BN #8)
- Gladiator Metals' earlier exploration work in the Cowley Creek area attracted complaints and media attention. As a result of an investigation, the company was fined over \$43,000 in August 2023 for violating conditions of a Class 1 operation.
- Gladiator Metals recently staked claims near Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) and Franklin Lake, but has not submitted applications for mineral exploration work.

**Approved by:**

**Dennis Berry**

**2024.09.04**

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

#### Recommended response:

- We understand the significance of responding to the financial pressures faced by municipal governments and appreciate the efforts of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant Enhancement Task Force. This group exploring feasible solutions to support sustainable municipal operations.
- The Task Force was established in May 2024 to explore approaches and strategies for ensuring the financial sustainability of municipalities, with a focus on the renewal of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant. Their work provides valuable context and recommendations to guide future Yukon government budgetary decisions.
- The Task Force finalized their work in early October, and I will carefully consider the report's contents.

#### Additional response:

- In 2024/25, the April grant payments increased by \$2.3 million for Yukon municipalities with overall contributions of over \$24.5 million for the fiscal year.
- This reflected the high inflation seen in 2022. The escalators built into the existing Comprehensive Municipal Grant formula are developed to adjust grant amounts based on a number of factors, including inflation.

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#### Context:

- Renegotiation of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant is a priority for municipal governments and the Association of Yukon Communities.

#### Background:

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant (CMG) provides unconditional block funding each year that supports municipal delivery of core services, together with municipal property taxes and other revenues.
- This annual funding was created in 1991 and remade in 2012 with a set of guiding principles and a prescribed formula to calculate the grants each year.
- The formula considers a base amount per municipality; and factors in the population, number of homes, the infrastructure assets that provide services and the municipalities' own revenue generation capacity.
- The CMG was last reviewed in 2017/18 and resulted in changes to factors within the grant formula including the establishment of a funding floor at the 2017 funding levels from 2017-2022. These changes led to increased grant payments to municipalities for the 2018 to 2024 grant years and it is expected that the grant will continue to increase in 2025 and beyond.
- In 2019, YG agreed to further review the CMG with the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC). A working group was formed and met many times, though the review was extended given priorities through pandemic response over the period of approximately 2020 to 2022. During that period, municipalities were also provided with \$3.85 million in “Municipal Safe Re-start” funding.
- The working group concluded its work in July 2023 with AYC submitting a report to Yukon government for consideration. This report was commissioned by AYC with a financial contribution by Yukon.
- In fall 2023, AYC assigned three representatives to work with Yukon officials to implement changes to the Grant funding. The work includes additional due diligence, clarifying how much investment is required to ensure long-term financial sustainability, and to negotiate potential changes to the Grant in time for the 2025 fiscal year.
- In May 2024, the Minister of Community Services and Association of Yukon Communities former President launched the Comprehensive Municipal Grant Enhancement Task Force.

- The task force is comprised of three Government of Yukon representatives and three representatives named by the Association of Yukon Communities. The Association of Yukon Communities 's representatives are from the Village of Teslin, the Town of Watson Lake and the City of Whitehorse. These communities represent the three sizes of municipalities in the Yukon, collectively ensuring fair representation for all eight municipalities in the territory.
- The task force is guided by the principles developed during the previous Comprehensive Municipal Grant reviews: adequacy, certainty, equity, minimal bias, transparency and accountability. Their efforts will lead to the renewal of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant regulation in 2025.

#### Financial Implications:

- The formula includes lagging indicators that will result in increases to catch up to inflation. The grant grew from \$22.241 million in 2023 to \$24.556 million in 2024.

September 4, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- The resolutions made by the Association of Yukon Communities at annual general meetings are welcomed. They help the Yukon government focus our efforts and prioritize matters of mutual interest.
  - We are proud of the progress made on recent resolutions, including efforts to renew the Comprehensive Municipal Grant, advancing a disaster assistance arrangement for Yukon, conducting research into best practices to inform future decisions related to the Municipal Act, and more. I thank the teams at the Association of Yukon Communities, municipalities, and various government departments for their work.
  - We are committed to understanding each resolution and where possible, considering opportunities for implementation, ensuring that our work continues to reflect the needs and aspirations of Yukon's municipalities.
- 

#### Context:

- The Association of Yukon Communities put forward several resolutions at its last Annual General Meeting.
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#### Background:

- Eight (8) resolutions were voted on at the Annual General meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) in May 2024. Seven resolutions were passed, and one was defeated
  - Resolutions passed include:
    - Resolution 24-AT-01: Administration of Municipal Elections
      - The Executive Council Office is leading the response. Community Services is supporting.
-

- Yukon government (YG) has responded it will have further discussions on this matter in the coming years and in the lead up to 2028 municipal elections.
- Resolution 24-AT-02: Automated Traffic Enforcement
  - Highways and Public Works has responded that they are not intending to direct the fine revenue from automated enforcement to any specific purpose currently.
  - The response indicated that regulations will be developed, and further stakeholder input is anticipated in the development of regulations.
- Resolution 24-AT-03: Negotiation of Comprehensive Municipal Grant (CMG)
  - Community Services has responded indicating that the CMG Enhancement Task Force are collaborating and will provide context, rationale and recommendations to support future budgetary decisions of the Government of Yukon. (reference CA-02)
- Resolution 24-AT-04: Lowering the Voting Age
  - This resolution was defeated.
- Resolution 24-AT-05: Yukon Housing Corporation – RGI Assistance Program Review
  - Yukon Housing Corporation is leading the response.
  - YG has responded that they are interested in meeting with AYC to begin open dialogue on the resolution and the existing Rent Geared to Income program.
- Resolution 24-AT-06: End of Life Vehicle Responsibility
  - Community Services is leading the response in collaboration with HPW.
  - The Government of Yukon acknowledges the challenges of managing End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) and is working with the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) to develop an

environmentally and financially sustainable plan, with further discussions to take place at the upcoming quarterly meeting.

- Resolution 24-AT-07: Municipal Boundaries and First Nation Sovereignty
  - This resolution was not sent to YG for response.
  - AYC has directed that it instead be referred to the Chiefs and Mayors Forum.
- Resolution 24-AT-08: Development of Comprehensive Evacuation Plans in Case of Wildfire
  - This is work in progress. EMO is assisting municipalities in developing, practicing and updating emergency plans and will continue to support community-based evacuation planning and response. This includes work with the City of Whitehorse on evacuation planning and practice, currently in progress.

September 4, 2024

Date approved



### Recommended response:

- Community Services supports municipalities in many respects, including the advancement of key infrastructure projects, land development within municipal boundaries, and emergency management and planning.
- Our Community Advisors are available to discuss all matters of local governance, supporting sustainable local services.
- This support and close collaboration ensure that our government policies and programs are tailored to support staff and leadership in Yukon's municipalities. It also encourages community-led initiatives and local solutions.
- It's a priority for me to meet with my municipal colleagues as often as possible. These meetings occur both formally and informally. These meetings are invaluable. They help me better understand local needs and help to find solutions within each unique municipal context.
- Municipal and local advisory council elections are occurring this fall. I look forward to meeting with the new councils to hear their priorities post-election.

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### Context:

- This may become an issue because there is interest in how the Government of Yukon engages with municipalities on their priorities.

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### Background:

- A resolution by the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) was passed during their May 2023 Annual General Meeting.

- The resolution entitled “Yukon government to Undertake Meaningful Consultation with Municipalities,” was sent to Premier Pillai and resolved for the “Yukon government to ensure meaningful and respectful consultation and advance notification on territorial decisions that may impact municipalities.”
- Minister Mostyn’s response indicated his commitment to “fostering a respectful, inclusive, collaborative working relationship with Yukon municipalities and the Association of Yukon Communities.” It further stated that the government “will continue to ensure that communications with municipalities are timely and respectful of the role local governments provide Yukoners.”
- A few examples of how the Yukon government engages with municipalities and AYC:
  - The department initiated the Community Development Tour - which brings department leaders, experts, and project managers that municipalities work with daily, out to municipalities to engage directly on initiatives and to receive feedback on how to better accomplish shared goals. These tours began in 2023 and continued into 2024.
  - Community Advisors regularly meet with CAOs and attend council meetings, which allows for continuous engagement with community leadership.
  - Community Affairs hosts an annual Local Advisory Council Forum, bringing together representatives from the five local advisory councils to discuss their shared priorities.
  - The department hosts regular lunch and learn sessions with community officials on topics of importance to the group.
  - The department organized and hosted the inaugural Sustainable Communities Forum that brings administrative officials from Yukon municipalities and First Nations together for a two-day period focused on infrastructure development, emergency management, and matters of importance to local governance.
  - The Director of Community Affairs maintains a consistent and close working relationship with the AYC, engaging in weekly meetings with the Executive Director, and attends AYC Executive Meetings and Chief Administrative Officer forums to provide updates on behalf of Yukon Government, ensuring

- effective coordination and alignment of objectives between the AYC and the department.
- o The department provided funding for the Chief and Mayor's forum where strategies to discuss collective community needs and concerns were discussed.

September 3, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting Yukoners from all walks of life, including low-income individuals, vulnerable populations, youth, and seniors.
- The Free Transit Initiative has been launched and we have invited non-profit organizations to participate by distributing tickets and monthly passes to Yukoners who need it most.
- The program is designed to be user-friendly. Organizations who choose to participate can pick up tickets from a designated area and give them to clients they already serve.

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#### Context:

- The 2023 CASA includes a commitment to provide funding to the City of Whitehorse to replace fare-generated revenue and make public transit free in Whitehorse. A working group comprised of one Yukon NDP MLA and one Yukon Liberal MLA was established to work jointly with the City of Whitehorse to meet this commitment.

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#### Background:

- On November 27, 2023, the City of Whitehorse passed a motion directing the mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Community Services and the NDP Caucus. In this letter, the mayor formally requested that the \$1.5 million for free transit be made immediately available as part of a three-year commitment including 2023, 2024, 2025. The letter identified this should be done through transit passes distributed by the Government of Yukon to Non-governmental Organizations, vulnerable groups, and others. The letter also identified this would, in part, meet the commitment of the MMIWG2S+ strategy by providing free transit passes.

- The Department of Community Services has worked with the City of Whitehorse to develop a program to make transit passes and tickets available to NGO's who meet the criteria:
  - hold a compliant registration through Yukon Corporate Online Registry;
  - have a mandate to support Yukoners who are low-income, vulnerable, youth, or seniors;
  - provide Community Services with an estimate of the number of clients to whom they provide services; and
  - provide Community Services with an estimate of monthly passes they plan to distribute.
- This is a time-limited initiative, concluding on November 30, 2025. By removing the financial burden, Yukon government will make transit more accessible.
- Community Services will support this initiative by:
  - Managing an agreement with the City of Whitehorse to ensure tickets are available for NGOs.
  - Tracking the total number of tickets picked up against the total number of tickets distributed to account for the initiative costs.
  - Prepare signage and information sheets for NGOs to help promote the initiative.
  - Request ridership numbers from the City of Whitehorse to determine if this initiative relates to increased ridership.
- Individual transit tickets and a limited number of monthly passes have also been made available at the Whitehorse Public Library and Jim Smith Building inquiry desk.
- Current annual estimates for this program are \$201,000 in 2024-25 and \$230,000 in 2025-26.

September 3, 2024

Date approved

## AYC Commitments (Rural Land Strategy and Accessing Federal Funds)

## Community Services

### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is pleased to work with the Association of Yukon Communities on many important initiatives, including collaboration and support to access funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other sources.
- We have successfully collaborated over the past year to access upwards of \$45,000 in Federation of Canadian Municipalities funding for infrastructure asset management related initiatives, including for the Sustainable Communities Forum held in November 2023 and virtual sessions that occurred through April – August 2024.
- We have also hosted information sessions with Federation of Canadian Municipalities representatives and municipal Chief Administrative Officers to discuss ways in which municipalities can further leverage the Green Municipal Fund. We have also organized sessions bringing federal representatives together with Chief Administrative Officers to discuss federal funding opportunities.
- Additional sessions are being planned with federal counterparts to discuss new federal funding opportunities like the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.

### Additional response:

- Work towards a rural land development strategy continues. Representatives from across government responsible for land and housing will monitor, track, and report on progress related to lot delivery and process improvements aimed at removing barriers to development, Yukon-wide.

## AYC Commitments (Rural Land Strategy and Accessing Federal Funds)

## Community Services

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- The Government of Yukon will work with the Association of Yukon Communities to create a mechanism that addresses land development opportunities and challenges, aligns with municipal long-term growth strategies, and adapts to changing federal and territorial regulations.
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### Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) has identified support to access federal funding and rural land development opportunities as priorities.
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### Background:

- The Government of Canada has announced a new intake for the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Fund. Community Services staff are collaborating closely with federal counterparts to secure access for Yukon communities. A targeted Yukon-specific session with federal representatives was delivered to municipalities and First Nation governments in August 2024.
- The Federal government has recently announced the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund. Community Services plans to host a Yukon-specific session on this fund, with Federal participation, once more information about the fund is known.
- Deputy Ministers met in August 2024 to discuss AYC's rural land development priority. Subsequently, officials from Community Services and Energy, Mines and Resources have met in August and September 2024 to discuss and refine their mandate. This work is ongoing, and the draft Terms of Reference will be presented to Deputy Ministers for their approval. Yukon Housing Corporation will be invited to participate in future meetings. The Committee intends to operate under the following objectives:
  - Compile and present information on current and planned land development projects undertaken by YG.

#### **AYC Commitments (Rural Land Strategy and Accessing Federal Funds)**

#### Community Services

- Clarify the land development process and clarify roles, responsibilities, and timelines.
  - Identify and implement cross-departmental process improvements.
- In 2023/24, Community Services officials initiated the first Community Development Tours. Community Development Tours focus on bringing department leaders, experts, and project managers that municipalities work with to municipalities to provide updates on ongoing initiatives and receive feedback on how to better accomplish shared goals. These tours began in 2023 and are expected to continue on an annual basis.

September 6, 2024

Date approved



## **Solid Waste Systems Improvements**

## Community Services

### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is working toward a sustainable model for solid waste management in the Yukon. We continue to invest in waste management services that reflect modern and sustainable practices that benefit the environment and the economy.
- Community Operations manages 12 solid waste facilities across the Yukon and provides base operating funds to 13 recycling depots. We also transport recyclables from these facilities into Whitehorse.
- Regional agreements have been signed with six municipalities outside Whitehorse- Carmacks, Dawson, Haines Junction, Mayo, Teslin, and Watson Lake to operate as regional waste facilities. These agreements ensure that all facilities in the Yukon operate under the same high standard of service and care for the environment.
- The agreements ensure that all public waste management facilities in the Yukon have gates, operating hours, consistent tipping fees, and on-site staff to monitor and manage waste streams. This will reduce environmental risk and help to extend the life of landfills, and costs associated with liabilities.
- We thank the Association of Yukon Communities for their assistance and leadership in developing the regional agreements and for their support as we continue to implement the recommendations from the 2018 report: Recommendations for Action towards a Sustainable Solid Waste Management System for Yukon.

### **Solid Waste Systems Improvements**

### Community Services

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#### Additional response:

- As we continue implementation of these recommendations, we remain committed to working with affected communities on solutions for managing solid waste.

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#### Context:

- Solid waste system improvements have been ongoing for several years.

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#### Background:

- Whitehorse currently acts as a regional facility through a Memorandum of Agreement with Community Operations branch where Yukon government (YG) ships household waste from rural Yukon to Whitehorse and pays the agreed upon tipping fees.
- A Ministerial Committee made recommendations for actions related to solid waste management in Yukon in April 2018. The Committee was co-chaired by the Association of Yukon Communities and YG. Membership included municipal representatives and YG staff. They produced a report on their recommendations that was provided to the Minister of Community Services at that time.
- The recommendations involved regionalization of landfills, shifting toward a user-pay model that involves standardized tipping fees, and small transfer station facility closures. The recommendations are being implemented in three phases with phase 2 implementation occurring through 2024/25 and phase 3 by 2026.
- Asset retirement obligation (landfill liability) sharing between YG and municipalities where YG operated their landfill is being finalized to ensure the burden of historic landfill closure is shared in a fair and consistent manner.
- Illegal dumping did not increase as result of tipping fees introduced in the Southern Lakes / Deep Creek area. Fines for illegal dumping were increased to improve enforcement mechanisms if needed.

# Session Briefing Note

**TAB# CO-01**

**Fall 2024**

## **Solid Waste Systems Improvements**

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Community Services

September 5, 2024

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2024**

### **Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation**

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Environment

**Recommended response:**

- At the start of this year, the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation came into force to help the Yukon develop a stable and successful waste diversion system.
- While every province in Canada has established an Extended Producer Responsibility framework, the Yukon is the first territory to adopt Extended Producer Responsibility.
- Extended Producer Responsibility will provide a long-lasting solution to the underlying structural issues facing the Yukon's recycling system and will shift the cost of recycling from Yukon taxpayers and municipalities to product manufacturers and producers.
- The Yukon government has been working with partners to fully establish the Extended Producer Responsibility programs in the Yukon by the end of 2025.

**Additional response:**

- The Government of Yukon is working with national producers, local businesses, municipalities, and industry representatives to establish the details of an Extended Producer Responsibility framework and implement the programs.
- The first step in the implementation process is producer-led stakeholder consultations to inform the development of stewardship plans. Some of these engagements have been completed as of August 2024, and one is anticipated to start soon.
- These stewardship plans will be reviewed and approved by the Government of Yukon. It is anticipated that these producer-led waste diversion programs will begin operation in 2025.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

### Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation

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Environment

- The stewardship plan review and approval stage will allow our government to ensure that the final plans align with service level expectations, recovery targets and our waste diversion objectives.
- The Government of Yukon has maintained an ongoing dialogue with Yukon businesses and recycling stakeholders to address concerns and inform the development and implementation of the framework.
- We are committed to continuing this dialogue throughout the implementation of an Extended Producer Responsibility framework in the Yukon.

#### Third response:

- The Government of Yukon acknowledges the importance of recycling to Yukoners and is working to ensure that Yukoners can continue to do their part to reduce waste and protect the environment.
- We are aware that Raven ReCentre announced on April 10th that they will not be accepting, processing or shipping most non-refundable recyclables including paper and packaging as of September 15 this year.
- The Government of Yukon is pleased to see the City of Whitehorse take steps to implement a fee-for-service recycling depot to be set at the Whitehorse landfill to ensure that Yukoners can continue to recycle following the closure of Raven ReCentre's free public drop-off for paper and packaging at the end of this year.
- On April 11, a letter was sent to Mayor Cabott reiterating our support for the City of Whitehorse as we move forward with Extended Producer Responsibility implementation.
- The Government of Yukon is therefore also pleased to see the City take steps to implement a residential curbside recycling program. It is the

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

### Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation

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Environment

hope of the Government of Yukon that implementing curbside recycling collection prior to Extended Producer Responsibility will take some of the financial burden off producers and allow for a smoother transition into the new recycling system.

- The Government of Yukon is committed to continuing to work with the City of Whitehorse and community partners to find solutions and ensure Yukoners have an option to recycle in Whitehorse.

#### Fourth response:

- Over the next year and a half, the Government of Yukon will transition the responsibility for managing non-refundable recyclables and a range of hazardous and special products to the producers of those materials.
- Once implemented, large producers and manufacturers of residential packaging and household hazardous waste will be tasked with funding and managing the collection, handling and recovery of those materials.
- While the specific details of the Yukon's new waste management approach will be determined during the stewardship plan development, review and approval period, Yukoners can expect the same or better access to waste collection and recovery services as they do now.
- As the Department of Community Services works towards regionalization of waste service delivery across the Yukon, we know that some community transfer stations may be closed.
- Where possible, waste and recycling services should align to support an overall efficient system.
- So far in the draft stewardship plans released, proposed service levels align with existing services and have considered any changes planned to happen during the transition period.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

### Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation

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Environment

- This is why it is important for the local governments and communities to participate in the remaining producer-led engagements that will take place over the coming months.

#### Fifth response (cost):

- We understand from recent conversations with the Producers Responsibility Organizations that the proposed stewardship plans under Extended Producer Responsibility may be more expensive than those in other jurisdictions.
- This is mainly due to the longer transportation distances for staging materials and the high levels of service expected in the Yukon.
- Costs for consumer products under EPR in other jurisdictions range from fractions of a single cent for individual grocery store items, to a couple dollars for items that are hazardous in nature.
- The specific cost per product is dependent on the entire system cost. Until consultation has been completed and the Producers have worked with businesses to build the system, the government cannot influence cost structures.
- As the system is being developed, there has been open dialogue with producer responsibility organizations to determine how best to keep these costs as low as possible.
- Assigning responsibility for waste management to the highest available producer in the supply chain reduces the impact on smaller Yukon businesses.
- The small business exemption for packaging and paper producers with revenues of under \$1M a year will also help reduce costs associated with products for small, local businesses.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

### Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation

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Environment

- EPR programs for printed paper and packaging materials are not expected to increase costs of groceries and other consumer goods in the Yukon that generate such waste materials.
  - Most large producers in the Yukon are national companies that have already incorporated some collection and diversion costs into their product costs because many southern jurisdictions already have Extended Producer Responsibility programs in place.
  - For other materials, costs may be passed down to consumers via fees charged at point of sale or incorporated into the product cost. This supports the “user-pay” and “user-responsibility” principles of waste management.
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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon public and Yukon businesses may have questions about how the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility framework will impact the Yukon’s waste management system and Yukon businesses.
  - Producer Responsibility Organizations have indicated to Yukon government and stakeholders that costs to operate these programs will be higher in the territory than seen in other jurisdictions.
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#### Background:

- From January to May 2022, the Department of Environment worked with Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Committee to collect preliminary input on Extended Producer Responsibility. Public engagement on Extended Producer Responsibility was held from November 1, 2022, to February 17, 2023.
  - In the fall 2023, the amendments to the *Environment Act* were passed allowing Yukon to place Extended Producer Responsibility obligations on national brands rather than Yukon municipalities and taxpayers.
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## Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2024**

### Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation

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Environment

- Department of Community Services is planning to close several rural transfer stations over the next several years at Johnson's Crossing, Silver City, Braeburn and Stewart Crossing.
- On January 25, 2024, the *Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation* was passed.
- Producer responsibility organizations submit stewardship plans on behalf of producers. As of September 2024, four out of five producer responsibility organizations have completed producer-led engagement for stakeholders.

**Approved by:****Dennis Berry****October 15, 2024**\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister of Environment\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved

### Recommended response:

- The Community Operations branch operates 10 water treatment plants and 8 wastewater treatment lagoons across the Yukon. The branch also manages drinking water delivery to homes in Old Crow, Carcross and Ross River.
- The team has focused on recruiting local people to provide these critical services. We invest in training and capacity building and have partnered with community operators and First Nation partners to ensure sustainable, local, water services.
- This year, the team offered water treatment and delivery training targeted at residents of Old Crow and Carcross through Yukon University's Water and Wastewater Operators Program.
- So far in 2024, nine people have completed the training and five have received their Bulk Water Delivery Operator certification. We congratulate those who have taken this opportunity, and your communities appreciate your service.

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### Context:

- There is a high demand for water delivery services, with high turnover in rural areas. At times, it has been challenging to recruit individuals for this important work.

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### Background:

- The Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality establish drinking water quality requirements. All Canadian jurisdictions have adopted these guidelines. In the Yukon, all public water supply and distribution systems meet or exceed these guidelines.

#### Community Water Delivery

#### Community Services

- Water delivery services are provided in Old Crow, Carcross and Ross River through Orders in Council passed in 1983-1985, which established water delivery rates between \$8.88 to \$16.65 per month depending on tank volume. Extra deliveries were set at \$5.00 each. These Order in Councils are still in effect.
- For the most part, these services are contracted to private companies to service their communities. The Community Operations branch manages contracts and builds rosters of trained operators. In Old Crow, Community Operations works closely with Vuntut Gwitchin Government, which employs water delivery drivers.
- This past year, the collaboration with Vuntut Gwitchin Government has successfully built capacity within the community to provide water and sewer services. The Bulk Water course and small water system course were offered at Yukon University campuses throughout Yukon in 2024.
- The demand in Carcross increased significantly in Summer 2023 as visitation numbers returned following the pandemic. Changes to the delivery contract were made in 2023 to adjust, resulting in improvements.

September 3, 2024

Date approved

## Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits

Community Services

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### Recommended response:

- We are pleased to partner with municipalities in many ways to help reduce the cost to recycle, from capital projects to funding for recycling depots, to the hauling and processing of non-refundable.
- A sustainable recycling system is so important for the Yukon, for our environment, and to reduce the cost to operate and eventually decommission landfills.
- As the territory transitions toward an Extended Producer Responsibility regime, we want to set the conditions to see even higher volumes of recyclables being processed in the territory and kept out of our landfills.

### Additional response:

- The Yukon government will support the City of Whitehorse with up to \$2.4 million over two years, through 2024 and 2025, for a curbside collection program. The City is setting this up and expects to be operational by the end of 2024. Yukon government's support will offset approximately 50% of the cost Whitehorse households.
- Support for recycling outside Whitehorse is provided by Yukon government through recycling depot Operating Allowances, as well as a recycling collection program that ships non-refundable recyclable materials to Whitehorse from all around the Yukon. Depot Operating Allowances provided in 2024/25 are projected at approximately \$300,000, with another \$100,000 invested by Yukon government to support rural municipalities with collection of non-refundables.

## Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits

## Community Services

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- This support is in addition to nearly \$4 million in direct investment over three years to municipalities for Regional Landfills to support improvements like weigh scales and other upgrades.
- An additional \$1.65 million is budgeted to support diversion of non-refundable recycling for the benefit of all municipalities.

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### Context:

- Raven Recycling announced the closure of the free public drop off at their facilities by summer 2024, in anticipation of a City of Whitehorse collection system.

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### Background:

- Processing of non-refundable recycling is done in Yukon by P&M Recycling now that Raven has ceased non-refundable recycling operations. P&M ensures that materials such as cardboard, paper, plastic and tin are sorted, baled and shipped to markets out of the Yukon for recycling. Diversion credits support the responsible management and shipment to recycling centers rather than the landfill.
- The cost of diversion credits has increased in recent years, from approximately \$500,000 in 2018, to approximately \$1 million in 2022/23, and a projected \$1.6 million in 2024/25.
- The City of Whitehorse provides \$150,000 in diversion credits to Raven Recycling and P&M each year. Dawson and Watson Lake contribute about \$200,000 and \$180,000 respectively each year and other municipalities contribute to local recycling through staff time, direct contributions, or both.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a waste management policy that shifts the responsibility for end-of-life management of product and packaging waste from municipalities, government, and taxpayers to the producers and consumers. EPR regulations have now been adopted by all provinces in Canada. Alberta, the

## Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits

## Community Services

last province to adopt the EPR system, anticipates having the program up and running by April 2025.

- EPR will take over the recycling of non-refundable paper and packaging products in Yukon starting in October of 2025.
- Some of Yukon's recycling is refundable through legislated fees:
  - The Beverage Container Regulation (BCR) sets the surcharges collected on ready to drink beverages at the time of purchase, and the amount that is returned (refunded) when an item is taken to a licensed recycling depot in the Yukon. The difference between surcharge and refund is deposited into the Recycling Fund.
  - The Designated Materials Regulation (DMR) sets the amount of surcharge collected on tires and electronic waste at time of purchase, where the full amount is deposited into the Recycling Fund in order to help pay for the item to be sent for recycling.
  - In late 2025, the EPR system will replace Diversion Credits for non-refundable recycling.

September 4, 2024

Date approved

## Community Transfer Stations Consultations

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## Community Services

### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is taking steps to ensure that waste management in the Yukon is sustainable from both a cost and environmental perspective. We are pleased with the progress so far and are pleased to support community-focused solutions for household waste management.
- As committed to under the Confidence and Supply Agreement, we have consulted with Yukoners who may be affected by planned closures of transfer stations in Keno, Silver City, Johnson's Crossing and Braeburn. The latter three of these locations closed on October 1, 2024, and new services were offered to assist in the transition.
- A What We Heard report was released in summer 2024 which summarizes feedback and options that were discussed. Some of these options were implemented in October of 2024.

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### Context:

- In the Confidence and Supply Agreement, the Government of Yukon committed to consult with affected residents on household waste disposal options.

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### Background:

- Service changes in the communities of Braeburn, Johnson's Crossing and Silver City were implemented on October 1, 2024. This includes:
  - bear resistant waste bins to store household waste until they head to a nearby full-service facility;
  - funding to establish recycling options in their community;
  - annual free cleanup days for residents to deal with large items and yard waste; and,

## Community Transfer Stations Consultations

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## Community Services

- adjust operating hours at Yukon government regional facilities to better serve residents in region.
- Yukoners have access to 12 full service solid waste facilities across the Yukon, regional municipal facilities, and 13 funded recycling depots. All serve regional populations.
- Hauling waste to Whitehorse will be phased out. Instead, YG waste management facilities will move toward organics separation and composting, improved landfill covering, and landfilling of residual household waste. The landfilling of household waste is only contemplated at sites currently landfilling construction and demolition waste and only if organics diversion is successful. Once organics are removed, and adequate cover material is applied over buried waste, landfilled household waste does not pose a significant risk to the environment.
- Outside of Whitehorse, Dawson, Mayo, Watson Lake, Carmacks, Haines Junction and Teslin operate regional facilities. These municipalities now have access to additional funding to upgrade and staff their facilities and introduce tipping fees for those who use their facilities. We continue to work on an agreement with Faro. These agreements are in fulfillment of a commitment with the Association of Yukon Communities to help municipalities deal with solid waste.
- The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board regional offices have reviewed municipal and unincorporated community 10-year waste management plans and operating permits have been renewed.

September 20, 2024

Date approved



#### **Recommended response:**

- Extensive repairs and upgrades of the gasifier in Old Crow were completed this winter. These repairs included replacing the secondary burner, upgrading, and replacing control systems, repairing refractory burn chamber liners, repairing the hydraulic system, sea-can “building” upgrades, and fuel system repairs.
- The unit is now functional, and officials are commissioning the unit and carrying out site safety and operator training.
- Our Operations team is implementing a simplified and updated Operations and Maintenance Plan to ensure all necessary maintenance is carried out on a scheduled basis to minimize future downtime.
- Communications and education materials are being prepared to inform the community about the importance of sorting waste, in particular removing dangerous materials to prevent damage to the gasifier system.

#### **Additional response for open burning:**

- In Old Crow, construction and demolition waste is landfilled on site. Some materials – like metals - are stored for eventual transport out of the community.
- The gasifier is in place to deal with household solid waste. While the gasifier was out of commission, household waste was open-burned as an emergency measure. We work closely with the regulator to understand our options in the event of the gasifier being unavailable.

#### Context:

- This may become an issue because questions have arisen with respect to the gasifier.
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#### Background:

- A waste gasifier system was installed in Old Crow in 2011/12 by Waste to Energy Canada (WEC). The system operated from 2012 to 2017 with some success. During that time, several “blowback” events occurred, likely due to explosive material being placed in the household waste causing burners to fail and damage to the system.
- The subcontractors involved in building the Old Crow system were involved in early repairs to the system to keep it operational. The company has since ceased operating and after many attempts at getting assistance from WEC, Community Services has reached out to other contractors directly for assistance.
- In 2017, the household waste gasifier in Old Crow was severely damaged by several small explosions that occurred inside the gasifier. These caused significant damage to the refractory cement lining and controls system.
- In 2021, electrical power and communication lines from the Old Crow distribution networks were run to the gasifier more reliably.
- The primary contractor involved in building the system resides in Washington State and repairs were not possible due to travel restrictions during the COVID pandemic.
- Vuntut Gwitchin Government supplies an attendant through our Transfer Payment Agreement at a cost of \$80,000 annually. Fuel for the gasifier is estimated at \$300,000 - \$350,000 annually in 2024/25.

September 4, 2024

Date approved

#### **Recommended response:**

- Criminals sometimes exploit corporations to conceal their identity while engaging in money laundering, tax evasion, and other illegal activities. To combat this, we have introduced amendments to the *Business Corporations Act* to adopt corporate ownership transparency.
- The amendment would mandate that corporations maintain an up-to-date record of individuals with significant ownership or control. This information would be accessible to enforcement agencies upon request, aiding in the investigation of illegal activities within the Yukon, across Canada, and internationally.
- The amendments align closely with existing laws in most Canadian jurisdictions, similar legislation in many countries, and international anti-money laundering standards. These changes are designed to strengthen enforcement, protect market integrity, and promote sustainable economic growth.

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

- A Bill will be introduced to amend the *Business Corporations Act*.
- Ten jurisdictions in Canada enacted the transparency rules as all Finance Ministers agreed in 2017. Three adopted additional rules for expanded transparency and the federal government are encouraging others to do likewise.
- A letter will be sent to private corporations after the statute amendments have been approved to notify them of their obligations under the new provisions.

#### **Background:**

- Information leaks starting with the Panama Papers in 2016 raised international concern with corporations being used to conceal the true owner of businesses and property for illegal purposes.
- The Financial Action Task Force is an international body that sets standards for owner transparency and anti-money laundering. After 2016, the standards were updated and many countries enacted harmonized owner transparency rules.
- In 2016, the Task Force supported a mutual assessment of Canada's regime. They identified risks and recommended ways to improve the collection and verification of beneficial ownership information and to prevent the misuse of bearer shares. The next mutual assessment in Canada is expected in the fall of 2025.
- In 2017, all 14 Canadian Finance Ministers agreed to pursue amendments to business corporation statutes for ownership transparency. Officials collaborate on an intergovernmental working group to promote a harmonized approach. So far, the agreed rules are in effect in the federal and nine provincial statutes.
- In the last couple of years, the federal, British Columbia and Quebec statutes were amended to expand transparency beyond international standards. Corporations under those statutes will submit their transparency record to the registrar who will make some information publicly available online.
- In a letter on June 5, 2023, two federal Ministers thanked colleagues for continuing to engage on this, offered support and asked all to pursue the second phase of changes for a pan-Canadian, publicly searchable ownership transparency registry.
- The Minister of Community Services' reply confirmed the Yukon government is pursuing the agreed changes and indicated our officials will continue to engage with the working group as we assess potential further changes.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

## Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness

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Community Services

### Recommended response:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization works with our emergency management partners in municipalities and First Nations to develop emergency management capacity and build emergency resilient Yukon communities.
- We appreciate the efforts of municipal and First Nation governments to plan for emergencies and the leadership of these government in managing the challenges that recent emergency situations have presented.
- Preparing for emergencies starts with personal preparedness. We encourage all Yukoners to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for emergency events. Resources are available through [Yukon.ca/emergencies](https://Yukon.ca/emergencies).

### Additional response:

- While each municipality and First Nation government may take a slightly different approach, the Yukon government is committed to supporting and collaborating in community emergency planning.
- Government of Yukon emergency management planners visit communities year-round to coordinate planning, provide training, and help implement after-action review findings.

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### Context:

- Territorial flooding in recent years along with wildfire evacuations have raised public interest in Yukon's emergency preparedness.

## Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness

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Community Services

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### Background:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) coordinates Yukon government departments and agencies involved in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- EMO facilitates emergency management capacity development, training and exercises for all Yukon communities, including municipalities and First Nations. This ensures a coordinated response to emergencies.
- EMO is providing emergency management training internally to expand the capacity of Yukon government employees through a variety of online courses and tabletop exercises. These courses are available through YG Learn and in person tabletop exercises in the Emergency Coordination Centre will be held to allow employees to practice their skills. These tabletop exercises will be coordinated with tabletop exercises being provided in communities, and with external response partners.
- EMO continues to co-ordinate the City of Whitehorse Emergency Management Working Group. This includes first responders, critical infrastructure providers, and local governments such as Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- Like in previous years, the Government of Yukon prepositioned sandbags, superbags and flood mitigation products throughout the territory to be ready for potential flooding. This planning in fall 2023 and spring 2024 allowed the Yukon government, in coordination with our First Nation and municipal government partners, to respond more efficiently to flooding within communities.
- In alignment with Our Clean Futures strategy, EMO is working with communities to support the update of emergency coordination plans and support with carrying out Hazard Risk Assessments.
- The Critical Infrastructure Team serves as Yukon government's response to possible shortages of critical infrastructure goods and services. This team works with our private industry partners to identify and mitigate risks to critical infrastructure in the Yukon.

# Session Briefing Note

**TAB# EMO-01**

**Fall 2024**

## **Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness**

Community Services

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### ***Civil Emergency Measures Act and Public Health and Safety Act Review***

Community Services

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#### **Recommended response:**

- The Emergency Measures Organization and Health and Social Services department are currently reviewing the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Public Health and Safety Act* to identify challenges in existing legislation and options for further action regarding pandemic/epidemic management.
- This work will inform the Yukon government about how to ensure the legislative framework supports an efficient and effective approach to health emergency management.

#### **Further Response – specifically about project scope:**

- This review is focused on identifying challenges in the *Civil Emergency Measure Act* and the *Public Health and Safety Act* as they relate to pandemic and epidemic management.
- The scope of this work is specifically focused on pandemic and epidemic management, though the review may touch on broader aspects.
- Broader aspects identified through the review would be considered for possible future legislative work.

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#### **Context:**

- A review of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Public Health & Safety Act* was a commitment in the 2021 Mandate letters.



## ***Civil Emergency Measures Act and Public Health and Safety Act Review***

Community Services

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### Background:

- Concurrent to the state of emergency in response to COVID-19, a state of emergency for flooding in 2021 was also declared. These events brought public attention to the challenges to the existing *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Public Health and Safety Act*.
- The review will:
  - Reflect on the experience gained through the management of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Yukon and other Canadian jurisdictions.
  - Where warranted, consider the alignment of the Acts with similar legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions.
  - Consider emerging issues and best practices in pandemic/epidemic legislation in Canada and internationally.
  - Clarify the legislated and non-legislated roles and authorities of territorial, First Nations, and municipal governments in a pandemic or epidemic.
- Review milestones:
  - Engagement materials will be sent to Cabinet for direction prior to engagement launch.

<p><u>August 30, 2024</u></p>
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<p>Date approved</p>
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### Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program: Our Clean Future

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Community Services

#### Recommended response:

- The cost of climate change, both financial and personal, is apparent in the Yukon. This summer, much of Canada experienced unprecedented natural disasters, and our thoughts go out to everyone impacted by wildfire and flood events.
- I want to thank the residents, volunteers, contractors, and dedicated emergency responders for their efforts to protect people and properties throughout these events.
- A territorial disaster financial assistance program was put in place in Spring 2024 to support recovery from natural disasters. The program outlines how the Yukon government provides financial support for emergency disaster recovery. This will ensure that resources get to Yukoners when they need it most.

#### Additional Response:

- Work is now underway to update the Yukon's program, which is planned for 2025.

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#### Context:

- This may become an issue because a territorial disaster financial assistance policy is a commitment under Our Clean Futures.

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#### Background:

- Status of Disaster Financial Assistance policy (C13):
  - The initial goal of 2022 for the completion of a territorial disaster financial assistance program was not met due to staff resources diverted to focus on Covid and flood emergency recovery.

## Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program: Our Clean Future

### Community Services

- Work is now underway to update the existing Yukon program, an updated program is planned for 2025.
- Emergency Measures Organization is coordinating with departments and the Climate Change Secretariate to develop an updated program for the Yukon and align it with relevant action items where possible
- Like the Yukon's current program, the updated program will likely align with the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) program and will also provide transparency and awareness for Yukoners and communities to help them prepare for emergencies.
- A Yukon program, aligned with the federal DFAA program, would streamline the process for individuals, business, and communities to receive funding for disaster-related costs from the Yukon government. The Yukon government would, in turn, apply for financial assistance from the federal DFAA program.
- In spring 2023, the Association of Yukon Communities passed a resolution that government create a Disaster Financial Assistance program to help municipalities respond to natural disasters and work with Yukon municipalities on undertaking long-term mitigation projects to protect community infrastructure from natural disasters.

#### Financial Implications:

- Federal recoveries are available under the DFAA.
- Eligible expenses for the DFAA may be reimbursed to the territory under a cost-sharing formula that is based upon rates determined by the Government of Canada and prorated to the territorial population.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### 2024 Spring and Summer Emergency Events

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Community Services

#### Recommended response:

- This spring and summer, the Government of Yukon responded to flooding events in the Klondike and Old Crow, extensive wildfire activity in Stewart Crossing and Mayo, and landslides impacting our highways. In addition to these natural events, we also faced a large-scale telecommunications outage.
- The Emergency Measures Organization activated the Emergency Coordination Centre for 46 days in total over two periods between May and August. During these activations, the Emergency Coordination Centre supported emergency responders and evacuees, coordinated resources, provided information and communications expertise, and issued advisories, alerts and orders as required.
- Preparing for emergencies starts with personal preparedness. We encourage all Yukoners to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for emergency events. Resources are available through [Yukon.ca/emergencies](https://Yukon.ca/emergencies).

#### Additional response:

- We appreciate the efforts of municipal and First Nation governments to plan for emergencies and the leadership of these governments in managing the challenges that recent emergency situations have presented.

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#### Context:

- The increasing frequency and impacts of flooding, wildfires and landslides in recent years has raised public interest in Yukon's emergency preparedness and response.

## 2024 Spring and Summer Emergency Events

## Community Services

### Background:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) coordinates Yukon government departments and agencies involved in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- EMO has a duty officer on call 24/7, 365 days a year. During an emergency they are in regular contact with external agencies and emergency management partners, including municipal and First Nation governments, monitoring the situation and coordinating the response as needed.
- In spring 2024, above average snow load and freeze up conditions lead to a high risk of flooding on the Klondike and Porcupine Rivers. EMO worked collaboratively with our response partners to ensure plans were in place for at risk communities.
- The response to flooding in the Klondike Valley was a coordinated effort between all levels of governments including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon government and critical infrastructure partners. All governments worked together in the Dawson City Control Group to coordinate the response efforts.
- The response to flooding in Old Crow was a coordinated effort between all levels of governments including Vuntut Gwitchin, Yukon government and critical infrastructure partners. All governments worked together and established an Incident Management Team with a Unified Command structure to coordinate the response efforts.
- In the summer of 2024, Mayo and Stewart Crossing were placed on evacuation alert due to wildfire threats, and guests at a wilderness lodge were tactically evacuated.
- The Emergency Coordination Centre was also activated to support government response to telecommunications outages and highway closures.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization works with our emergency management partners in municipalities and First Nations to develop emergency management capacity and build emergency resilient Yukon communities.
- These efforts include work with First Nations governments and community partners to improve the Yukon's flood resiliency.
- Across a number of departments, Yukon government is working to gain a better understanding of territorial flood risks through mapping of flood impacted areas.
- A key part of preparing for flooding starts with personal preparedness. We encourage all Yukoners to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for flooding events. Resources are available through [Yukon.ca/emergencies](https://Yukon.ca/emergencies).

#### Additional response:

- Multiple studies were commissioned for the McConnell Lake area in search of an effective risk mitigation option. Results of these studies were shared with residents in April 2024.
- The McConnell Lake studies revealed extremely high costs for large scale projects without any certainty of success for the projects to address the groundwater situation. With this information, Yukon government has now shifted focus in McConnell Lake mitigation to a property-specific approach.
- Yukon government will continue to engage with residents of McConnell Lake in determining the best, property-specific mitigation option for each resident.

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

- Recent flooding events in the Yukon have increased public concern about flood mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.
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#### Background:

- A cross-government Flood Committee, led by Emergency Measures Organization, has been engaging several Yukon government resources toward flood mitigations, preparedness, response, and recovery since 2021.
- Several collaborative studies have come from the Flood Committee including the high-level Jurisdictional Scan, all of Yukon flood mitigation study, and flood mapping.
- Flood mitigation and preparedness is the responsibility of First Nations, municipalities, and several Yukon government branches.

September 17, 2024

Date approved

#### **Recommended response:**

- Access to emergency services can mean the difference between life or death and should be inclusive and accessible to everyone.
- Yukon government is continuing our efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents with tools like 911, including those deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, and speech-impaired (DHHSI) communities living in the Yukon.
- Members of the deaf, deafened, hard of hearing and speech-impaired community in the Yukon have been updated on the progress of the work to make 911 accessible. Yukon government officials have encouraged Yukon deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, and speech-impaired community members to register for the national service so they will be ready when it does come into full operation.

#### **Additional response:**

- The Government of Yukon has been part of a proof of concept that will allow the Basic 911 system to incorporate Text to 911 for the deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, and speech impaired community.
- The testing has been successful, and the hardware and software have been installed in the Yukon 911 centre.
- Currently, the Yukon government is in negotiations with Bell and Northwestel to determine the appropriate funding for the Text Blue (text to 911), Impresario (a registry of users), the required database as well as a hardened (resilient) communications link to the south.



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

- Canada is committed to transitioning to a Next Generation 911.
  - Northwestel and Yukon government are moving forward towards Next Generation 911. Text to 911 is a part of moving to Next Generation 911.
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#### Background:

- Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Newfoundland and Labrador are still operating Basic 9-1-1 and will transition to Basic 9-1-1 plus, then to Next Generation 9-1-1
- Most of Canada operates Enhanced 9-1-1 systems, while some regions, like Strathcona County, Alberta, have already completely transitioned to Next Generation 9-1-1.
- The transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 is complex. It requires both technical software and hardware upgrades to the 911 call handling system and to the public telecommunications network; modernized civic addressing (so 911 calls can be pinned to a location); changes to equipment and operating procedures at secondary dispatch services (ambulance, fire etc); plus new operating procedures for all emergency responders. When implemented, a public education campaign will also be required.
- Costs for 911 service are generally covered by small surcharges on monthly phone bills.
- The deadline for the transition to Next Generation 911 is anticipated to occur in 2027 – this timeline prescribed by the regulator, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.
- One requirement of Next Generation 9-1-1 is the provision of service to the deaf and hard of hearing through the ability to text to 9-1-1.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

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

- A part of the emergency management cycle is to review emergency responses and use the lessons learned to improve future actions.
- After-action reviews capture what went well, but also what governments and partners learned throughout an incident response – with a particular focus on areas of improvement.
- The Yukon government is integrating the lessons learned from emergency responses into our procedures and planning and will be considering the findings and recommendations of these reports going forward.
- We continue to work closely with First Nation and municipal governments on emergency planning and response across the territory.

##### **Additional response:**

- As part of our commitment to collaboration in emergency management – Yukon government is open and transparent in sharing the lessons from past emergency events.
- Past after action reviews, along with details and information on large response events are posted on Yukon.ca.
- Preparing for emergencies starts with personal preparedness. We encourage all Yukoners to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for emergency events. Resources are available through Yukon.ca/emergencies.

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

- With increasing frequency of flooding and wildfires in Yukon there is new public interest in emergency planning and response.
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#### Background:

- Emergency Measures Organization has reached out to all Yukon communities and First Nation governments to support their updates to emergency planning and collaborate on exercise and training opportunities.
  - After-action reviews are an important way to capture lessons learned and improve emergency response efforts.
  - Stakeholders, affected organizations and governments, residents and responders all have the opportunity to participate in the after-action reviews of large emergency response events. Large event after-action reviews are generally done by a third party.
  - Incorporating lessons from past events can have a meaningful impact. One aspect of feedback from the 2023 evacuation in Old Crow was the need to activate the Emergency Coordination Centre early and utilize a local Incident Management Team. VGFN and the Yukon government took that direction in the 2024 response to the Porcupine River flooding – leading to a strong, effective and coordinated response.
  - Similarly, lessons were learned in the response to the 2023 Klondike River flooding, that were incorporated into the spring 2024 planning and the Emergency Measures Organization's work with the Dawson Emergency Control Group during breakup.
  - Past after-action reviews identified the need for increased communications with leaders during emergency events. Between May 14 and August 27, 2024, the Minister of Community Services hosted weekly briefings with municipal and First Nation leaders. A total of 16 briefing meetings were held. Each call provided a briefing from Wildland Fire Management and Emergency Measures Organization
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– along with an opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of wildfire activity and emergency response.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### ***Residential Landlord Tenant Act*** **Review**

Community Services

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#### **Recommended response**

- Public engagement on the review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* concluded earlier this year, garnering more than 1,600 responses. The summary of all the feedback received was released in August.
- Following the public engagement period, Community Services evaluated policy options to draft new legislation that incorporates best practices and public input on key issues such as ending a tenancy, rent control, roommates, deposits, mobiles homes, and several administrative changes to improve clarity. The policy directions aim to balance the needs of tenants and landlords, enhance security and stability in the rental market, ensure a viable rental market, and adopt effective practices from other jurisdictions.
- Initial drafting of the legislation is underway, with the goal of tabling amended legislation in spring 2025.

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#### **Context:**

- Under the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement, the governing party committed to initiating a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* in June 2023.
- A What We Heard document summarizing the engagement feedback was released in August 2024.

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#### **Background:**

- Community Services launched a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* in June 2023. The review began with an initial stakeholder engagement, followed by broader public engagement. At the same time, and continuing after

### ***Residential Landlord Tenant Act*** **Review**

### Community Services

the engagement period, officials at Community Services were researching policy options. Information from each of these sources is helping to shape the new Act.

- The engagement was led by independent contractors who began by inviting a broad range of stakeholder and interest groups to participate. A group of 11 individuals were able to participate in an engagement process called a “Solutions Lab”. Participants met 17 times over two months. These individuals brought their perspectives and experience from landlord and tenant affiliated groups, including:
  - the Safe at Home Society;
  - the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition;
  - the Yukon Tenants Association;
  - the Yukon Council on Aging;
  - the Residential Landlords Association;
  - the Chamber of Commerce Housing Committee;
  - Da Daghay Development Corporation;
  - Gray Management Services;
  - the Yukon Real Estate Association; and
  - the Association of Yukon Communities.
- Public engagement began on February 1, 2024, to solicit feedback from tenants and landlords across the territory. As part of the public engagement, Community Services partnered with Yukon Bureau of Statistics to launch a survey that was available online and in paper form in locations across the territory. 1,420 Yukoners completed the survey.
- Public engagement included online and in-person meetings. Community Services held nine public engagement events throughout February. These were conducted online and in person in Whitehorse, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Dawson City. These meetings offered the public different formats including providing information and background, a town hall format to provide input, sit- down workshops, and direct sit-down meetings with the policy makers involved with the project. 120 Yukoners participated in these events.
- February also included more targeted engagement with municipal governments, First Nation Governments, the Yukon Residential Landlord Association, NGOs, the

## ***Residential Landlord Tenant Act*** **Review**

Community Services

business community, and fire departments and protective services. For example, Community Services met with NGO representatives for:

- Yukon Anti Poverty Coalition;
- Safe At Home;
- Blood Ties Four Directions;
- Yukon Aboriginal Women's circle;
- Women's Coalition;
- Council of Yukon First Nations; and
- Betty's Haven;

Policy makers also met with the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights, a national housing advocacy group. Over 12 stakeholder meetings, we heard from approximately 100 individuals.

- These events were broadly advertised, starting in late January and continuing throughout the month of February with posters, paid radio ads, public service announcements, print ads in newspapers, news media interviews, social media and paid Facebook ads.
- More detailed feedback from the engagement can be found in the engagement summary document on the Engage Yukon webpage on Yukon.ca.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- Mobile home parks provide an essential housing option for many Yukoners. The *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* governs the rental of both pads in these parks, and the mobile homes themselves. If conflicts arise, the Residential Tenancies Office offers valuable resources and information for both tenants and landlords.
- In our ongoing review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, we have closely examined the sections related to mobile home site tenancies. With the new legislation, we intend to clarify existing rules, introduce new provisions for added protection, and better define the rights and responsibilities of both tenants and landlords in these rental agreements. We plan to table the amended legislation in spring of 2025.
- In the meantime, the Residential Tenancies Office continues to provide specialized resources for mobile home tenancies. These resources help ensure that both tenants and landlords understand their obligations under the current law.

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#### Context:

- Concerns related to the risk of mobile homeownership in the context of landlord and tenant relationships is often highlighted.
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#### Background:

- Mobile homeowners who are tenants at a mobile home park should contact the Residential Tenancies Office if a dispute arises with their landlord. There are several protections in place, including but not limited to, prohibitions against



landlords unreasonably interfering with the sale or lease of a mobile home that occupies one of their sites.

- Under the current Act, if a mobile home park landlord wishes to end a tenancy because they, or an immediate family member, will occupy the mobile home site, they must provide at least 12 months' notice, and cannot have the tenancy end in December, January or February.
- If a landlord wishes to change the use of the mobile home park (i.e., for condo development or a non-residential use), the landlord must give the tenant at least 18 months' notice, and cannot have the tenancy end in December, January or February.
- If a landlord wishes to end a tenancy with cause or for non-payment of rent, the normal rules apply. The landlord must use the approved form, serve it in one of the prescribed ways, and give the tenant at least 14 days' notice.
- The Residential Tenancies Office has internal processes to encourage mediation and settlement and to render fair decisions that follow the law in cases where settlement cannot be reached. Their processes are confidential and include statutory mechanisms for review if a party takes issue with their decision.
- The Government of Yukon began a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* in June 2023. We were fortunate to receive many responses through the various means of participation offered. With this review, we are looking for opportunities to clarify the existing rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants, and to introduce new provisions to better balance the legislation for both tenants and landlords in mobile home site tenancies.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

## Minimum Wage and Living Wage

## Community Services

### Recommended response:

- By order of the Employment Standards Board, the minimum wage in the Yukon increases on April 1 of each year by the previous year's Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse.
- The current minimum wage as of April 1, 2024, is \$17.59 per hour, after a 4.9% increase from the previous year, based on the 2023 annual Consumer Price Index.
- The Yukon has the second highest minimum wage rate in the country, second only to Nunavut.
- Most Canadian jurisdictions base their minimum wage increases on the Consumer Price Index. A minimum wage tied to inflation, as with other social supports, aims to reduce poverty and increase affordability for the Yukon's wage earners.

### Additional response:

- I want to acknowledge the important work done by the Anti-Poverty Coalition to calculate the Yukon's living wage. Poverty reduction is a highly complex and multi-faceted issue.
- All input is welcome, including from members of the business, non-profit, and advocacy community, to help inform our strategies to improve the lives and livelihoods of Yukoners.

### Context:

- The Yukon has the second highest minimum wage rate in Canada. The local business community has raised concern that the minimum wage rate is unaffordable, while many workers in the territory state that the minimum wage is too low and should more closely reflect the living wage rate.

## Minimum Wage and Living Wage

## Community Services

### Background:

- The 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement included provisions to increase the minimum wage. The Employment Standards Board was engaged to review the matter, and it ordered that the minimum wage increase to \$15.20 per hour effective August 1, 2021, and to be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse on April 1 of each year.
- The minimum wage is not a living wage. The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition released a report in July 2024 called “Living Wage for a Single Person” which stated that the living wage for a single person in Whitehorse in 2024 is \$28.39 per hour, while the living wage for a household with two adults and two children is \$22.72 per hour. This is an increase from their finding of a general living wage rate of \$21.04 per hour in 2023. The higher rate for single people is attributed in part to government benefits for households with children.
- Yukon is one of many jurisdictions that use the Consumer Price Index for minimum wage increases. Others include Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories, as well as the federal minimum wage rate.

Jurisdiction	Wage, Oct 1 2024	Notes
NU	\$19.00	Effective as of January 1, 2024. The minimum wage in NU is reviewed annually on April 1.
Yukon	\$17.59	Effective as of April 1, 2024. The minimum wage is adjusted on April 1 of each year by the Consumer Price Index.
BC	\$17.40	Effective as of June 1, 2024. Will increase every June 1 by the percentage change in the CPI.
Federal	\$17.30	Effective as of April 1, 2024. The minimum wage will increase every April 1 based on CPI.
ON	\$17.20	Effective as of October 1, 2024, and adjusted annually on October 1 of each year based on CPI.
NWT	\$16.70	Effective as of Sept 1, 2024, adjusted annually on CPI and the average hourly wage for the preceding calendar year

# Session Briefing Note

TAB# ESRT-03

Fall 2024

## Minimum Wage and Living Wage

Community Services

Jurisdiction	Wage, Oct 1 2024	Notes
PEI	\$16.00	Effective as of Oct 1, 2024.
MB	\$15.80	Effective as of October 1, 2024. The minimum wage is adjusted annually on October 1st based on CPI.
QC	\$15.75	Effective as of May 1, 2024.
NFLD+L	\$15.60	Effective as of April 1, 2024.
NB	\$15.30	Effective as of April 1, 2024. The minimum wage will increase every April 1, based on CPI.
NS	\$15.20	Effective as of April 1, 2024. The minimum wage will increase every April 1, by previous years' CPI + 1%.
AB	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2018.
SK	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2024. The minimum wage generally increased by CPI and Average Hourly Wage, but alternative adjustments can be made.

### Yukon's Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Year	Yukon	Year	Yukon
2023	4.9%	2016	1.0%
2022	6.8%	2015	-2.0%
2021	3.3%	2014	1.3%
2020	1.0%	2013	1.7%
2019	2.0%	2012	2.3%
2018	2.4%	2011	3.0%
2017	1.7%	2010	0.8%

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Recommended response:

- The closure of the Eagle Gold mine owned by Victoria Gold has affected many Yukoners and others across the country. Several employees were laid off following the heap leach failure in June of 2024. Those who were not recalled to work are likely now deemed to have been terminated from their position.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. was appointed as the receiver for Victoria Gold. PricewaterhouseCoopers is required to identify the former employees who are owed wages, determine the amount they are owed, and inform them of the amounts and conditions of payment.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers will contact former employees of Victoria Gold and will facilitate their applications through the federal Wage Earner Protection Program.
- The deadline for former Victoria Gold employees to apply for the Wage Earner Protection Program is December 26, 2024.
- The Employment Standards Office is in contact with PricewaterhouseCoopers and is collecting records to determine if there are outstanding amounts to be addressed. Former Victoria Gold employees can contact the Employment Standards Office to learn more about this process.
- The Employment Standards Office upholds and enforces the *Employment Standards Act* and will issue orders for wages owed to current or past employees.

- Before the receivership, the Employment Standards Office was in regular contact with Victoria Gold representatives to monitor the status of employee layoffs.
- Former Victoria Gold employees who believe they are owed wages should contact the Employment Standards Office for more information. Wage complaints can be filed up to six months after the date the wages were due. For example, for employees laid off in late June, their wages did not become due until late September. In this case, the deadline to submit a wage complaint to the Employment Standards Office would be late March 2025.

#### **Additional response:**

- The Employment Standards Office assists employees in recovering wages from their current or former employer by issuing Certificates which can be enforced through the Supreme Court.
- Employees with questions about their rights under the *Employment Standards Act* are encouraged to contact the Employment Standards Office for further assistance.

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

- The closure of the Eagle Gold Mine and receivership of Victoria Gold has affected the livelihoods of many Yukoners. The Employment Standards Office wants to ensure that former employees are aware of the resources available.

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#### **Background:**

- After a serious incident involving the heap leach facility at the Eagle Gold Mine in June 2024, approximately 270 Victoria Gold employees were placed on temporary layoff.

- Over the following weeks, more employees were laid off, while others were recalled to work or resigned. After the receivership, other employees were recalled to work while others resigned.
- A layoff is temporary and typically cannot exceed 13 weeks. If employees are not recalled within this time, they may be entitled to termination pay.
- On August 14, 2024, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. as the receiver administering the assets and liabilities of Victoria Gold.
- The Federal Wage Earner Protection Program (WEPP) provides payment up to \$8,507.66 of outstanding wages to former employees of an employer subject to receivership. Former Victoria Gold employees have until December 26, 2024 to apply to WEPP. PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. has a duty to facilitate former employees through this process.
- The Employment Standards Office also conducts investigations to determine whether wages are owed and issues certificates ordering the payment of outstanding wages. The Employment Standards Office may be able to address amounts owed exceeding the \$8,507.66 limit through WEPP. The office is currently obtaining records from PricewaterhouseCoopers to investigate and determine the next steps.
- In 2023, we saw the closure of the Minto mine which also affected many Yukoners. Even though Minto Metals Corporation entered into receivership, through a combination of the Federal Wage Earner Protection Program and Certificates issued by the Employment Standards Office, former Minto employees who brought claims were able to recover the wages they were owed.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Recommended response:

- While the gig economy in the Yukon has not yet grown as rapidly as in other regions, we see significant potential for this industry to expand
- We are actively participating in Federal-Provincial-Territorial working groups to explore how best to ensure that gig workers receive protections comparable to other employees in the Yukon.
- Determining whether a gig worker in the Yukon is classified as an independent contractor or an employee under the *Employment Standards Act* depends on the specific nature of their work. Each case is reviewed individually, and protections may vary.
- As this is a rapidly evolving area with diverse approaches across jurisdictions, we will continue to monitor developments and assess necessary changes to safeguard gig workers' rights in the Yukon.

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### Context:

- This may become an issue because gig work is becoming increasingly common in jurisdictions across Canada and people may be concerned about protections for Yukoners who work for these companies.

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### Background:

- Gig work refers to digital platform work. For example, app-based ride-hail and food delivery services.
- It is not entirely clear whether a gig worker in the Yukon would be considered an independent contractor (exempt from the *Employment Standards Act*) or an employee or contract worker (covered by the *Employment Standards Act*). When the Employment Standards Office receives a complaint, they investigate the nature of the employment relationship. This involves a contextual analysis of all



the conditions of employment for the individual. For that reason, it is not possible to say with certainty that across the board, all people working for online platform companies will or will not have protections under the legislation.

- Some platform companies consider workers to be independent contractors, disentitling them to the protections under Employment Standards legislation (for example, a minimum wage rate).
- Although they follow a different structure, in the context of taxi drivers, the Yukon Supreme Court confirmed in 2016 the conclusion of the Employment Standards Office that taxi drivers are contract workers and are covered by the *Employment Standards Act*.
- BC introduced new regulations to clarify that gig workers are to be considered employees for the purpose of Employment Standards legislation and Workers Compensation legislation. The regulations set a minimum wage rate and mileage rates for gig workers, as well as occupational health and safety requirements.
- Ontario has a *Digital Platform Workers' Rights Act* which creates certain rights and protections for gig workers in Ontario.
- Other jurisdictions have not yet introduced any bills to directly address gig workers.
  - MB: The Workers Compensation Board in Manitoba released information online indicating that they consider gig workers to be contract workers (covered by their legislation).
  - SK: in August 2023 the Government of Saskatchewan announced that it would be reviewing the *Employment Act* and regulations.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- The Fire Marshal's Office provides oversight, training, honoraria and equipment for community fire departments and programs. Fire departments and programs rely on a core of volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to train and be available.
- The Fire Marshal's Office works hard to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters in the Yukon. Their efforts include hosting community meetings as well as working with the Yukon First Nations and local governments.
- The Fire Marshal's Office has developed a levels of service model. In this model, one person in a community can build fire resilience through prevention and education as a Fire Safety Champion. Four people can support a Scene Safety Response Unit program, and eight people can support a fire department.
- I want to thank all emergency responders, especially the volunteers in the communities, who keep our citizens safe.

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#### Context:

- Many rural Yukon communities struggle to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters.

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#### Background:

- Throughout the territory, the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) operates unincorporated community fire halls, maintains firefighting equipment and vehicles, provides training that meets national standards, presents public education campaigns for life-safety and fire prevention, and supports municipalities with training and resources.

- The FMO provides oversight, training, honoraria and equipment for community fire departments and programs, but are only able to do so with a core of volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to train and be available.
- Declining volunteer levels is an issue across Canada. Small communities often struggle with volunteer membership and recruitment. They may achieve positive retention for a few years, but due to limitations within the community, volunteer levels sometimes decrease to the point that a fire hall becomes functionally inactive. The FMO has implemented a levels of service model to address this and is actively evaluating further options including enhanced community outreach and increased honoraria for volunteer firefighters.
- Occupational Health and Safety requirements for firefighters must be met to prevent responder injury or loss of life.
- In the 17 unincorporated communities, volunteer departments require interested community members and assistance to recruit and retain a minimum number of volunteer firefighters. The fire services that are provided by the FMO include the provision of all fire response equipment and vehicles, training and logistics, as well as the administration of the community volunteer fire halls (training records, honoraria and standard operational procedures).
- The eight municipal departments require interested community members and assistance from the municipality to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters to provide fire services. The Yukon government supports municipalities by providing funding and provisioning resources on an 'as needed' basis, and as capacity allows. This includes training for staff and volunteers as well as equipment on a case-by-case basis to cover areas not easily reachable by unincorporated halls.

COMMUNITY	INCIDENT VOLUME (in 2023)	# OF ACTIVE FIRE VOLUNTEERS (2023)	COMMUNITY POP. (2023)
BEAVER CREEK	0	1 (FSC)	107
BURWASH LANDING	1	4	104
CARCROSS	12	5	488

# Session Briefing Note

TAB# FMO-01

Fall 2024

## Volunteer Fire Departments

Community Services

COMMUNITY	INCIDENT VOLUME (in 2023)	# OF ACTIVE FIRE VOLUNTEERS (2023)	COMMUNITY POP. (2023)
DESTRUCTION BAY	0	4 (SSRU)	63
GOLDEN HORN	23	21	609
HOOTALINQUA	35	23	1,599
IBEX	21	15	547
KLONDIKE VALLEY	38	4	No data
KENO	0	6 (SSRU)	24 (from 2020)
MARSH LAKE	22	15	734
MT. LORNE	12	20	479
MENDENHALL	0	0	328 (from 2020)
OLD CROW	0	7 (SSRU)	255
PELLY CROSSING	1	5 (SSRU)	373
ROSS RIVER	2	9 (SSRU)	407
TAGISH	4	9	390
(SHOT) YUKON	12	(22) In VFD's	45,169
UPPER LIARD	0	1 (FSC)	130
TOTAL	183	157 ***	N/A

\*FSC = Fire Safety Champion

\*\*SSRU = Scene Safety Response Unit

\*\*\* Each volunteer is counted once, even if individuals serve in more than one hall (for example, SHOT members)

### Financial Implications:

- Approximately \$1.1 million is budgeted for the Fire Marshal's Office activities for 2024-25. This includes the operation of community fire halls, honoraria and travel for volunteers, as well as program administration costs.

# Session Briefing Note

**TAB# FMO-01**

**Fall 2024**

**Volunteer Fire Departments**

Community Services

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August 30, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- An independent review of fire services in rural Yukon was released in 2021. The Fire Marshal's Office is making good progress on implementing those recommendations to ensure safe and sustainable fire services across the territory.
- The Fire Marshal's Office has acted on this feedback by developing a levels of service response model, formalizing mutual aid agreements and implementing a Fire Safety Champion program that focuses on fire prevention and education.
- The Fire Marshal's Office has visited every unincorporated community to discuss the different levels of service that can be established. Many of these visits have resulted in a Scene Safety Response Unit in previously unserved areas. This includes working with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to support a Scene Safety Response, which became active in July 2024.

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#### Context:

- The fire services review continues to guide changes in approach at the Fire Marshal's Office to improve fire services generally in the territory.

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#### Background:

- With 104 recommendations included in the review, work is ongoing. The recommendations have helped to guide the Fire Marshal's Office work plans.
- Yukon government took immediate action on several of the short-term recommendations identified in the review, particularly as they pertain to firefighter safety and Occupational Health and Safety compliance.
- Since the release of the review in December 2021, the Fire Marshal's Office presented the report and met with communities and fire service stakeholders.

- A Scene Safety Response Unit has been implemented in Champagne, Keno, Ross River, Pelly, Old Crow and Destruction Bay. Work is being done to establish programs in other unincorporated communities that do not have the capacity to maintain a traditional volunteer fire department such as Mendenhall and Beaver Creek.
- Implementation of the Levels of Service Model will help unincorporated communities deliver safe fire related programs that can be adjusted according to volunteer capacity and community participation. It consists of three types: Fire Safety Champion, Scene Safety Response Unit and a Fire Department.
- The development of the model was informed by a national cross jurisdictional scan along with engagement with key stakeholders, community organizations, and First Nation leaders.
- The Fire Marshal supports training of volunteers so that fire departments can meet Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and national standards to ensure the health and safety of firefighters.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Recommended response:

- Municipalities play a vital role in public safety and the Fire Marshal's Office provides support by helping to build capacity and develop fire and life safety programs and initiatives.
- The Fire Marshal's Office offers training to municipal fire service members and employees so that they can perform life safety inspections and fire investigations. In municipalities where this training has not been taken, the Fire Marshal's Office works with municipalities to provide these services.
- I want to thank all the municipal and volunteer firefighters, and those at the Fire Marshals Office for their extraordinary efforts and collaboration to protect our communities during floods and this extreme wildfire season.

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### Context:

- This may become an issue as recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters can be challenging in some communities.

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### Background:

- Municipalities are responsible for administering Fire and Life Safety programs under the *Municipal Act*.
- The Fire Marshal's Office provides municipalities with equipment, apparatus and recruitment support. The Fire Marshal's Office supports large scale incidents in municipalities by providing mutual aid to supplement local fire resources. During the Mayo fires, Deputy Fire Marshals and volunteer fire service members assisted with structure protection and evacuation efforts.



- The Fire Marshal's Office works with Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and municipal Fire Chiefs to offer training and bolster internal capacity.
- In 2023, the Fire Marshal's Office assisted with multiple fire investigations and Fire & Life Safety inspections in the municipalities at the request of the local area Fire Chiefs or CAOs.
- The Fire Marshal's Office supports municipalities with recruitment drives and continues to work with municipalities to provide fire prevention and education messaging.
- The Fire Marshal's Office supports Fire Prevention and Education in municipalities by providing information resources and giving presentations at the schools when requested.
- Currently, the Fire Marshal's Office has the following equipment in municipalities:
  - 5 Fire Apparatus (large trucks/pumpers)
  - 2 rescue trucks

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Recommended response:

- One of the most effective methods of preventing fire and life safety incidents is through public education and effective community outreach.
- To help reach communities, the Fire Marshal's Office has implemented a Fire Safety Champion program. Fire Safety Champions help organize community events that promote fire and life safety initiatives. The program is supported by a designated Deputy Fire Marshal, who serves as a public outreach and prevention coordinator.
- I want to acknowledge and thank these community-minded champions who work with the Fire Marshal's Office to raise awareness about fire safety and prevention.

### Additional response:

- Fire Safety Champions play a valuable role in their communities. They provide fire extinguisher training, public education, and work to ensure individuals have escape plans in the event of a house fire.
- The Fire Marshal's Office will continue to work with municipalities and unincorporated communities to support the implementation of the Fire Safety Champion programs throughout the territory.

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### Context:

- The program is a result of the 2021 Fire Services Review, which recommended more emphasis on public education.

#### Background:

- Several unincorporated communities do not have the capacity to support a response-based fire service. It is especially important in these communities that the focus be on prevention and education.
- Prevention and education are proven to decrease property damage and loss of life secondary to fire.
- This fulfills Recommendation A from the 2021 independent "Review of the Yukon Fire Marshal's Office fire suppression and rescue resources distribution"

August 30, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- Fire investigations play a key role in fire prevention and public safety. By identifying the cause of fires, investigators can help prevent future incidents, save lives and reduce property damage.
- In 2023 and 2024 the Fire Marshal's Office conducted 13 Fire investigations. These include investigations in Teslin, Mayo, Whitehorse, Watson Lake as well as unincorporated Whitehorse area communities.
- The Fire Marshal's Office provides fire investigations for unincorporated Yukon communities as well as municipalities when requested. Deputy Fire Marshals have training and education in fire investigation.

#### Additional response:

- There are no further updates on the Bates Crescent investigation. The Fire Marshal's Office has completed its cause and origin investigation into the house explosion but will not release the findings until the RCMP concludes its investigation.

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#### Context:

- This may become an issue because the Bates Street explosion was highly visible in the media and there is interest in the outcome of the investigation

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#### Background:

- The explosion that occurred on Bates Crescent in Riverdale on November 14, 2023, has generated a lot of questions and concern from the public about the cause of the explosion.

# Session Briefing Note

**TAB# FMO-05**

**Fall 2024**

## Fire Investigations

Community Services

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- The media has inquired about the results of the investigation multiple times. Nothing has been released. The matter is still under investigation. The Yukon RCMP will provide further information if charges are laid or when their investigation is concluded.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

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### Community Services

#### Recommended response

- The Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs is an important partner in our collective efforts to support community fire services, and they have an important role in supporting volunteer fire services across the territory.
- We respect and value the perspective of our volunteers. We will continue to engage with the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs and work together on the challenges we face.
- Priority has been placed on addressing recruitment for the Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal positions, along with reallocating internal staff to provide administrative support – all positions within the Fire Marshal's Office are now filled.
- The honorarium for volunteer firefighters in unincorporated communities increased significantly to \$30.74 per hour, up from \$22 per hour, as of October 1, 2024. This adjustment was the first since 2009 and applies to both emergency responses and training sessions.
- Ember Fire Academy remains a valued program with numerous benefits to the Yukon fire service. Despite prior uncertainty caused by staffing challenges, the program successfully ran in September 2024, marking its 10-year anniversary. To date, 120 women have participated, with 23% retained as volunteer firefighters.

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#### Context

- In Spring and Fall 2024 the AYFC (Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs) raised concerns through letters to the minister and in the media.

## Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

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## Community Services

### Background:

- In spring 2024 AYFC raised the following concerns to the minister and in the media:
  - Volunteer honoraria – no increase in many years (included in the minister's mandate letter but no budget was allocated).
  - Frequent changes in the staffing of the Fire Marshal role and long-standing vacancies in administrative and deputy positions; causing operational difficulties.
  - Lack of transparency and competition in the previous recruitment process for the Fire Marshals. Given the importance and specialized nature of the role the association requested to be involved in the appointment of the Fire Marshal.
  - Uncertainty surrounding the Ember Fire Academy program.
- To address the concerns identified by the AYFC in the spring 2024, the following has been done:
  - The honoraria increase for volunteer firefighters was prioritized and implemented as of October 1, 2024.
  - The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) now has a full complement of staff. The roles of the Deputy Fire Marshals have been restructured to provide more regional and operational support for fire departments.
  - The Fire Marshal position was publicly posted, and a municipal fire chief was included in the hiring process to ensure transparency and collaboration.
  - Ember Fire Academy ran in September 2024, celebrating its 10th anniversary.
  - Significant investments are being made in 2024 to support Yukon's fire services, including new pumper and tender trucks, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment upgrades, and turnout gear replacement.

# Session Briefing Note

TAB# FMO-06

Fall 2024

## Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

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Community Services

- o The Chiefs Advisor Group was established to enhance decision-making and collaboration across fire services.

August 30, 2024

Date approved



## Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

## Community Services

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### Recommended response:

- We continue to advocate for more federal investments in infrastructure for the North. Stable, predictable, base plus funding benefits Yukon communities and helps municipal and First Nation governments address the historical infrastructure gap that the Yukon faces.
- We are very pleased to have recently announced a 10-year agreement on the Canada Community-Building Fund. This historic agreement will see \$94.5 million over the first five years for local infrastructure priorities.
- Department and staff are now in discussions with the federal government around the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund, the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, and the Canada Public Transit Fund. We are anticipating that these discussions will yield important infrastructure projects in the Yukon in the coming years.
- We all look forward to the further details of Canada's renewal of federal investment in infrastructure. In the meantime, we are maximizing the benefit of past and current federal investment in infrastructure for Yukoners.

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### Context:

- This may become an issue because the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding is fully subscribed, and more federal investment is required to support infrastructure in the Yukon.

### Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

### Community Services

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#### Background:

- Since the signing of the Small Communities Fund and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, the Yukon, with the support of the Government of Canada, has committed over \$950 million on 130 infrastructure projects.
- Community Services, Infrastructure Development Branch, manages the following federal funding agreements - Small Communities Fund (SCF), Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).
- Infrastructure Development Branch also supports municipalities and First Nations on Infrastructure Canada application-based funding.

#### INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (ICIP):

- The Yukon signed the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for ICIP May 2018. Through this program the Yukon will see \$454.7 million in federal funding that will support projects before the funding ends in 2032/33.
- Deadline for final list of projects for the ICIP program – thus a finalization of priorities by the Government of Yukon – is March 31, 2025.
- To date, under ICIP, Yukon has advanced 69 projects totaling \$600M of combined federal and Yukon contributions.

#### SMALL COMMUNITIES FUND (SCF):

- The Yukon signed the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the SCF in February 2015, with all spending to be completed by 2027.
- Under SCF, the Yukon has 61 projects totaling \$341.7M of combined federal and Yukon contributions.

## Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

## Community Services

### CANADA COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND (CCBF):

- The CCBF, formerly Gas Tax Fund, is a permanent, stable and indexed source of infrastructure funding that flows through the Government of Yukon to Municipalities and First Nations to plan for their current and future needs and build or improve their infrastructure. Unincorporated communities access funding through the Government of Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon administers the fund on behalf of Canada, and 14 First Nations and 8 municipal governments benefit from funding agreements as recipients of Canada Community-Building Fund. New, simplified agreements will improve how the program is delivered, allow recipients greater certainty in accessing their funding and allow them to undertake long-term capital planning.
- Yukon and Canada have entered into a new administrative agreement for CCBF enabling the territorial government to continue to receive funding for a 10-year term: 2024-25 through 2033-34.
- The previous agreement saw \$196 million dollars to Yukon during the last 10 years.
- Allocation of this funding is provided on a formula basis but held in trust by the Government of Yukon until projects are approved and reporting submitted.
- The 2024-25 total funding from Canada is \$18 million.
- In 2023-24 there were more than 30 projects completed for a total of \$9 million.

### ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- This past summer, Canada launched the **Canada Public Transit Funding (CPTF)**, committing an average disbursement of \$3 billion annually, commencing in 2026-27. This funding aims to enhance access to public transit and active transportation. This fund is using a three-pronged approach to delivery:
  - (Not applicable to Yukon) Metro Region Agreements (ex. Toronto Transit Commission) - \$2 Billion annually

### Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

### Community Services

- Baseline Funding - \$500 Million annually – only applicable to Whitehorse. Baseline will provide predictable, long-term funding to communities with existing transit systems to support routine capital investments, expansion and state of good repair projects. It will be delivered with a Contribution Agreement between the City of Whitehorse and Canada.
- Direct Delivery - \$500 million annually. This funding is intended to target specific federal priorities. Current priorities are:
  - Active Transportation Fund (ATF)
  - Rural Transit Solutions Fund (RTSF)
  - Zero Emission Transit Fund (ZETF)
- Budget 2024 added \$500 million to **Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program (GIBC)** - supports green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings and the construction of new publicly accessible community buildings.
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> intake closes or closed on October 16, 2024.
  - Yukon has been working hard to support Municipalities and First Nations in advancing projects in Yukon. On August 29, CS facilitated a Yukon specific webinar with Housing, Infrastructure, Communities Canada (HICC).
- Budget 2024 also announced the \$6 billion **Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF)**. This fund is using a two-pronged approach to delivery:
  - \$1 billion, over 8 years, available directly to municipalities to support urgent infrastructure needs that will directly create more housing. Applications intake expected this fall.
  - \$5 billion for agreements with provinces and territories to support long-term priorities. Provinces and territories can only access this funding if they commit to key actions, identified by the federal government, that increase housing supply.
    - Territories have until April 1, 2025, to secure an agreement (provinces have until January 1, 2025).

### Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

### Community Services

- CS is leading these conversations for the Government of Yukon.
- **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)** – supports investment in structural and natural infrastructure projects to increase the resilience of communities that are impacted by natural disasters triggered by climate change. Yukon applications were submitted to Canada in the July 2023 intake, including Carmacks flood mitigation, Wildlife Hazard Mitigation in Southern Yukon, City of Whitehorse for Robert Service Way landslides, and Village of Teslin for flood mitigation
  - In May 2024, Canada announced that the City of Whitehorse was successful in their application. The federal government is investing more than \$45 million to this project.
  - Two YG led projects have approval in principle - Carmacks flood mitigation, Wildlife Hazard Mitigation in Southern Yukon - they are at different stages within the contribution agreement process.
  - It is expected that other Yukon announcements will be made in the future.

September 5, 2024

Date approved

### **Mt. Lorne Water Treatment Plant** Community Services

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#### **Recommended response:**

- A public water supply has been a long-standing priority for the Hamlet of Mount Lorne, and for this government.
- Community Services is constructing a new water treatment plant to supply the residents of Mount Lorne with clean potable water.
- The team is also working closely with residents to design a piped water supply to the Community Center.
- The conceptual design report was presented to the community in June of 2024, and a tender for construction is planned for spring 2025.

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#### **Context:**

- This may become a concern because this project is of interest to local residents.

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#### **Background:**

- Mount Lorne has requested a Water Treatment Plant as early as 2015. In 2018, a feasibility study was conducted and in 2020, a commitment was made by the Minister of Community Services that Yukon government will conduct planning and design work and will work to secure funding.
- In spring 2022, an engineering consultant was engaged to determine project requirements, oversee conceptual design, hydrogeological assessment, and oversee the test well-drilling. Well-drilling was delayed by more than a year until 2023 due to unanticipated permitting requirements. Conceptual design is now underway.
- The proposed Water Treatment Plant will be constructed on an existing Sport & Recreation reserve on the Annie Lake Road adjacent to the Lorne Mountain Community Centre. It will be operated by Community Operations branch.

### **Mt. Lorne Water Treatment Plant** Community Services

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- The project is planned under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program with an estimated budget of approximately \$3 million.

September 5, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- The construction of a new recreation center is a long-standing priority for the City of Dawson, and for the Government of Yukon.
- The recreation center project team has designed a new project management and procurement approach to build the recreation center within the total \$65 million budget envelope. The Progressive Design Build methodology is one innovative way that this government is building community infrastructure that will meet the needs of current and future generations.
- The project team has presented a conceptual design to the community that describes the floor plan and identifies the areas available for recreational and community programming. We look forward to seeing some site preparations getting underway this winter, and facility construction beginning next spring.

#### Additional Response:

- This progressive design build approach has allowed this project to progress rapidly in close collaboration between the City of Dawson, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government, the Design team, and the Contractor because all parties are at the table for collaboration and decision making.
- This collaboration allows real-time changes and has allowed the team to advance the schedule with considerably less risk to the project. It also gives the design team and contractor the ability to budget correctly because they are designing to a target budget.

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#### Context:

- This is an important project for the City of Dawson.



#### Background:

- The Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre had been in use for a short period of time before structural and foundational issues became apparent in 2009. In response to these issues, the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon entered into a funding agreement for \$4 million.
- Funding over the years helped repair specific aspects of the facility. However, the ongoing permafrost has resulted in a situation where repairs are no longer possible or recommended, as public safety has become an issue. Past news releases have announced repairs to the existing facility.
- Dawson City council voted in 2018 to build a new facility, rather than spend \$19.5 million to repair the old one because of structural issues.
- Public Engagement took place in the spring of 2021 to seek community feedback as part of the Feasibility Study for a new recreation facility.
- Commitment to manage the project was announced in the 2022/23 Spring Budget speech. The Yukon government has identified a budget up to \$65.6 million for the project and will seek to fund this under federal infrastructure programs. It is in the current Five-Year Yukon government capital plan.

September 5, 2024

Date approved

### Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)

### Community Services

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#### Recommended response:

- This summer, the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada signed a new 10-year agreement for the Canada Community-Building Fund. This funding supports the creation of vibrant, healthy communities by supporting critical infrastructure in Yukon communities until 2034.
  - Over the first five years of the agreement, Yukon is expected to receive \$94.5 million, and in 2024/2025, Yukon will receive a total amount of \$18 million from Canada.
  - During the renewal, the Yukon government took the opportunity to connect with our recipients and stakeholders to discuss the program delivery and challenges they face.
  - Using recipients feedback, we have made significant improvements to the administration process to simplify how the program is delivered and allow recipients greater certainty in accessing their funding and allowing them to undertake long-term capital planning.
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#### Context:

- Yukon was able to make many changes that were advocated by the Association of Yukon Communities. Unfortunately, Yukon was unable to triple the funds or increase and improve index formula as those were not in the agreement but a part of federal legislation.
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#### Background:

- The Canada Community Building Fund, formerly Gas Tax Fund, is a permanent, stable and indexed source of infrastructure funding that flows through the Government of Yukon to Municipalities and First Nations to plan for their current
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### Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)

### Community Services

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and future needs and build or improve their infrastructure. Unincorporated communities access funding through the Community Operations branch.

- Allocation of this funding is provided on a formula basis but held in trust by the Government of Yukon until projects are approved and reporting submitted.
- The previous agreement saw \$196 million dollars to Yukon during the last 10 years.
- In Fiscal 2023/24 there were over 30 projects completed for a total of \$9 million.
- The trust's 2023/24 fiscal year-end closing balance was \$148 million.
- Changes made to the agreement include more reporting, communications and the addition of a housing initiative.
- The original agreement had reference to Housing Needs Assessments for recipients with a population over 30,000. Yukon has taken on the responsibility to develop a Territorial Housing Needs Assessment on behalf of municipalities and First Nations. Our advocacy has yielded results: all language about the 30,000-population threshold have been removed. Community Services (CS) is working with Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) to develop a high-level report. Additionally, CS will be creating a section highlighting housing adjacent infrastructure, like water and wastewater infrastructure, and whether that infrastructure is in place for expected growth.
- Engagement with recipients and stakeholders has included:
  - Sustainable Communities Forum (SCF) In November, as part of our engagement with ultimate recipients, CS hosted a 1.5-day Sustainable Communities Forum (SCF) with participation from municipalities, First Nations, and the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) for a half day facilitated session to gather feedback on CCBF.
  - In January and February, CS hosted a series of information sessions for ultimate recipients and AYC. In January, the focus was updating recipients on the renewal process and changes in the agreement. In February, CS presented the new reporting requirements and communication protocols.

### Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)

### Community Services

Each session was provided at two separate times and dates to ensure all recipients could attend. These sessions were well attended, and the feedback was positive.

- o At the end of February, CS presented at an AYC meeting for Chief Administrative Officers to discuss internal process changes.
- o In May, CS attended the AYC Annual General Meeting in Dawson City and provided a booth at the tradeshow to discuss the CCBF renewal and solicit feedback on the new draft documents.
- o In June and August, CS hosted more virtual renewal information updates for all CCBF recipients and to discuss their upcoming Annual Expenditure Reports.
- o Once the federal agreement was signed, CS pivoted to one-on-one sessions. Individual meetings were scheduled upon request to assist with their annual expenditure reporting.
- o On September 7, 2024, officials presented to the AYC Board of Directors.

September 5, 2024

Date approved

### Gymnastics Facility – Construction Update

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Community Services

#### Recommended response:

- We are pleased to report that construction is well underway, and this facility will be an amazing addition to the sport and recreation infrastructure in this territory.
- We look forward to the planned completion in the spring of 2025 and having the Polarettes Gymnastics Club and Climb Yukon take over their new facility.
- We are proud of the opportunities that this investment will bring. We understand that the Polarettes Gymnastics Club are hosting two major upcoming events, the Arctic Winter Games in March 2026, and the Western Canadian Championships in April 2026.

#### Additional response:

- Large scale construction projects can be disruptive to a community, and we work hard to minimize any concerns regarding noise and other impacts from the construction.
- We are in constant communication with the contractor to ensure compliance with the prescribed City of Whitehorse working hours and noise control bylaws.

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#### Context:

- This may become an issue because this project is of interest to residents.
- There is also a letter from Minister Mostyn to MLA Clarke about concerns by residents regarding noise, garbage and vibrations.

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#### Background:

- Construction of the Whitehorse Gymnastics and Climbing Facility began in June 2023.

### Gymnastics Facility – Construction Update

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### Community Services

- This facility is being built with approved funding from Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- The facility will be owned by the Yukon government and will be leased to Polarettes Gymnastics Club and Climb Yukon.

#### Financial Implications:

- Johnston Builders Ltd. was awarded the construction contract of \$27,372,900.00.
- The projected operational cost is \$700,000 annually.

September 5, 2024

Date approved

## Marsh Lake Flood Mitigation - Engagement

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Community Services

### Recommended response:

- We know that flooding hazards and climate-related emergencies have become more frequent in recent years. These impacts on the territory's infrastructure and the well-being of its residents are challenging.
- In recent years, the South McClintock and Army Beach community have been impacted by historic flooding that required emergency measures.
- Effective solutions require collaboration between various government departments, organizations and communities. The Yukon government recognizes the value of the work done by South McClintock Water Committee to bring local knowledge into a mitigation strategy to prevent flood damage.

### Additional response:

- We are collaborating with the Water Committee on identifying engineered solutions for drainage issues in the community, and the design and policy work around a continuous berm to support the efforts that homeowners have already made in the area.
- We will continue to meet with the water committee to collaborate and provide updates on these important projects.

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

- Studies and flood mapping have been completed and work is ongoing.
- The Water Committee is asking for funding to help property owners.

## Marsh Lake Flood Mitigation - Engagement

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Community Services

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### Background:

#### 2021

- In July, the Yukon government (YG) declared a state of emergency due to flooding and requested assistance from the federal government. Canadian Armed Forces, and YG Protective Services assisted residents of Marsh Lake in the largest emergency response in Yukon history. Flood water levels were 20 cm higher than in 2007 and were exacerbated by wind and wave events.
- During the summer of 2021, the marsh behind Army Beach saw a rise in water levels. Standing water submerged the base of the trees and neighbourhood trails.

#### 2022

- In February, YG drilled 6 groundwater wells to understand the relationship between surface water and groundwater in the nearshore environment of Army Beach.
- In April, YG hired Stantec to provide high-level mitigation options for flooding in Marsh Lake.

#### 2023

- In January, Stantec's mitigations report was released. It provided 8 possible flood mitigation options with costs ranging from \$10 million to \$70 million.
- A Water Committee made up of Marsh Lake residents was established to examine the Stantec report, consult with residents, and to make recommendations on their preferred options.

#### 2024

- In February, the South McClintock Army Beach Water Committee shared with the Minister the *Flood Mitigation Options: What We Heard and Recommendations*, including responses to Stantec's mitigations report.
- On May 3, in a letter to the South McClintock Army Beach Water Committee, the Minister responded to the *Flood Mitigation Options: What We Heard and Recommendations*, with answers to the Water Committee's four recommendations:



### Marsh Lake Flood Mitigation - Engagement

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### Community Services

- Recommendation 1: Yukon Government should complete and fully utilize flood mapping for Army Beach and South McClintock to be better prepared for future high-water events.
- Recommendation 2: Yukon Government should require a strong policy statement from Yukon Energy recognizing the impact of climate change on the southern lakes watershed and should undertake to develop an integrated flood risk mitigation strategy for the purpose of proactive management of the Lewes River control structure and Schwatka Lake water levels and their effect.
- Recommendation 3: Yukon Government should provide Army Beach and South McClintock property owners with flood mitigation funding with an intent to establish a permanent continuous berm built to a consistent minimum flood design standard, engineered, and developed in consultation with property owners, to enable easy access to add demountable flood defenses to the berm in the occurrence of future extreme high-water events.
- Recommendation 4: Yukon Government and its Department of Community Services should support the May 2023 request of the Marsh Lake Local Advisory Council to prioritize the engineered drainage infrastructure project to address water drainage on South McClintock and Army Beach.
- In May, Community Services, Infrastructure Development Branch (IDB) assigned a project manager and budgets to recommendation 3 and 4. IDB hired two consultants to conduct a feasibility assessment and develop mitigation solutions to drain water ponding on the peninsula north of Army Beach Rd as well as possible solutions to help residents build a continuous berm around this area.

September 23, 2024

Date approved

#### **Recommended Response:**

- Whitehorse is a growing community, and we expect long-term demand for housing to continue. The Land Development branch (LDB) continues to work with the City of Whitehorse as the main developer for Whistle Bend to meet this demand, by creating this beautiful and vibrant neighbourhood.
- This construction season saw continued work in the next phases of Whistle Bend. Phases 9A, 9B, 12, and 13 along with two lift stations and the associated landscaping of these areas. This year's work will result in another 108 lots being ready for release in 2025 that could provide over 500 housing units.
- When complete, Whistle Bend will provide a full-service, sustainable neighborhood of about 2,000 lots providing homes for 10,000 people to accommodate our growing population.

#### **Additional response:**

- We continue to work with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation to support their land development objectives, like Range Point Road.
- Detailed design and tendering of the Yukon government - Kwanlin Dun First Nation Range Point Project is underway with construction start up in 2025.

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#### **Context:**

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

### Background:

#### *Whistle Bend Subdivision*

- Construction of Phases 9A, 9B and the Midnight Sun lift station (commissioning in Spring 2025) is expected to be finalized this construction season. Phases 12 and 13 and the Evelyn lift station will continue for completion in 2025. Together these phases will provide 108 lots - 81 single/duplex, 8 townhouse, 17 multi-family and 2 commercial lots.
- Detailed design and tendering of Phase 10 and 11 (~225 lots) and stormwater outfalls are planned for 2025.

#### *Copper Ridge Parcels 519/520*

- Whitehorse City Council approved the master plan for this site in Spring 2024. City approval to transfer Lot 520 to Yukon government (YG) is underway. Energy, Mines and Resources will lead the release of this parcel to target private sector developers.

#### *Joint YG- Kwanlin Dun First Nation Range Point Road*

- The Land Development branch (LDB) and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN) have worked in partnership to complete the master plan, along with Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board and zoning for this medium to high density development. This partnership will continue through detailed design and construction, clearing, and spring 2025 construction start up.
- This unique partnership will provide 73 lots (65 single/duplex, 8 multi) and up to 400 units of housing.

#### *Whistle Bend South Bench*

- This site, located between Whistle Bend Way and Range Road, is identified as a future development site in the City's Official Community Plan (OCP).
- LDB completed feasibility work (geotechnical, noise and dust studies, heritage).
- The project could be brought forward for high-level master plan process including public engagement if the City of Whitehorse chooses to proceed.

#### North/South Future Growth Areas

- These two areas – Long Lake and Maclean Lake – are identified in the City's OCP as future development areas in Whitehorse.
- LDB is coordinating feasibility studies, building on initial feasibility reports completed in 2017. The work is being carried out under a Joint-KDFN-Ta'an Kwäch'än Council -City-YG Memorandum of Understanding, through a joint work plan and working group.
- Completion of feasibility work is targeted for winter 2025 to enable high-level master plan process and public engagement to potentially start later in 2025.

#### Valleyview South Master Plan (including Tank Farm)

- The City-led multi-owner master plan was approved by the City in 2024.
- The site is identified in the OCP to provide a significant source of housing units up until 2040. The City is advancing infrastructure cost-sharing and development guidelines to facilitate the project next steps.
- To date, YG has participated in the planning as a minor landowner within the plan area. YG's contribution has been land (in the plan area) for common infrastructure such as storm water bioswale and lift stations sites.

September 6, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- Yukon's vibrant and growing communities require a supply of available buildings so families and businesses can grow and thrive. We collaborate with municipalities, First Nations, and the private sector to help meet this need.
- This season more than 60 lots outside of Whitehorse were released, including the Carmacks Prospector extension, various Faro, Haines Junction and Mayo infill lots, the Lone Tree subdivision near Teslin, and the last phase of Grizzly Valley.
- Community Services is advancing projects in every municipality in the Yukon, helping to guide the land development process from feasibility, to planning, to construction, and final lot preparation.
- Construction highlights this summer include the 43-lot Francis Avenue Extension in Watson Lake, and the 44 lots in the first phase of the Dahl-Gahy Mountain Ridge subdivision in Haines Junction.

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#### Context:

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

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#### Background:

- Community Service's Land Development Branch (LDB) works with municipal, First Nation and private sector partners to determine site suitability, plan, design, and construct subdivisions. Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch (LMB) takes the lots to market for sale.

#### Community Summaries

##### Carmacks

- Six (6) serviced (part) Prospector Extension lots were released in Summer 2024.
- Feasibility and planning work is advancing for 2 country residential sites.

##### Dawson

- Dredge Pond II (~40 lots) YESAA, regulatory approvals and detailed design is advancing to begin construction in 2025.
- Feasibility and planning are underway for Callison East Industrial and infill lots.

##### Faro

- Six (6) serviced Ladue South infill lots were released in Summer 2024.
- Mitchell Industrial planning is underway, and Rose & Ladue (~17 lots) serviced residential YESAA and detailed design is beginning.

##### Haines Junction

- Two (2) urban lots were released in Summer 2024. One (1) lot is currently available over the counter.
- The serviced Dahl Gahy-Mountain Ridge subdivision (Willow Acres) is underway (44 lots).
- The master plan for the Area 3 country residential (~63 lot) subdivision is underway.

##### Mayo

- Five (5) infill lots were released in Summer 2024. There are currently two (2) lots available over the counter.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Ave North urban expansion YESAA and detailed design advancing.
- Exploring means to advance planning for Upper Bench with or ahead of First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun.

##### Teslin

- Twenty-one (21) Lone Tree and 2 large Airport industrial lots were released in Summer 2024.

# Session Briefing Note

**TAB# LD-02**

**Fall 2024**

## Rural Land Development

Community Services

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### Watson Lake

- One (1) vacant infill lot was released in Summer 2024. There is currently one (1) lot available over the counter.
- Francis Avenue 43 lot extension and lift station construction is targeted for completion in Fall 2024. Under the agreement, 18 lots will be transferred to Liard First Nation.

### Whitehorse Periphery

- Twenty lots (16 Grizzly Valley, 2 Golden Horn, 2 Mendenhall) were released in summer 2024.

September 4, 2024

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note**  
**Lot Sales and Support for**  
**Housing and Development**  
**INTERDEPARTMENTAL**

Ref # 77  
**LD-03 #71**  
**Fall 2024**

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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**Lots released for sale this year:**

- On September 17, we released six residential lots in Haines Junction and Mayo and one country residential lot in Watson Lake by lottery. We also released three industrial lots in Haines Junction and Teslin by tender.
- On August 21, we released 21 country residential lots in Lone Tree subdivision and 12 residential lots in Carmacks and Faro through lottery.
- On July 16, we released 20 country residential lots in Grizzly Valley, Golden Horn and Mendenhall through lottery. Of those, 19 were newly developed lots.
- On April 17 we released 130 new lots through lottery and tender in Phase 7 of Whistle Bend.
- As of mid September, there have been lots available for over-the-counter sale in Haines Junction, Watson Lake, the Silver Trail subdivision north of Mayo, Destruction Bay, Faro, Carmacks, Mendenhall, and Lone Tree Subdivision north of Teslin.

**Support for housing and development:**

- 5th and Rogers, now known as Kèjān and Rogers, is in a contract for sale to West End Developments. Site planning has been ongoing through permitting with the City of Whitehorse.



**Session Briefing Note**  
**Lot Sales and Support for**  
**Housing and Development**  
**INTERDEPARTMENTAL**

Ref # 77  
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**Fall 2024**

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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- The Agreement for Sale was signed with Northern Community Land Trust Society for the start of construction for over 30 units as affordable home ownership. The development agreement has been completed in preparation to transfer title.
- The tender for the former Macaulay Lodge closed on April 4, 2024. The site is now in an Agreement for Sale with PCR Construction. The lot is rezoned for mixed-use residential and commercial development with supportive housing as a secondary use.
- Several significant projects in the City of Whitehorse are in the planning, design or construction stage which will help address housing pressures. With our colleagues at Community Services, we are supporting the rezoning of Lots 519 and 520 in Copper Ridge for future residential development and working through subdivision for Range Point.
- We continue to work towards our CASA 2023 commitment on the lottery reform. Public engagement wrapped up in August and work continues to determine how to modify the lottery process. (See BN # 77)

**Lots released for sale last year:**

- In spring 2023, we released 117 Whistle Bend lots. Of those, 82 lots were for single-family homes, 33 lots for townhouse development and two newly developed lots for multi-residential development.

# Session Briefing Note

## Lot Sales and Support for Housing and Development

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref # 77  
**LD-03 #71**  
**Fall 2024**

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

- In spring we released 28 residential, country residential, and industrial lots in the communities. Of those, 17 were newly developed lots.

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

- There continues to be high demand for building lots within Whitehorse and across the territory for residential, commercial, and industrial developments.

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### Background:

#### Development and sale process

- Energy, Mines and Resources continues to work in partnership with Community Services, municipalities and First Nations on land development projects to meet lot supply needs.
- Energy, Mines and Resources releases new lots for sale across the territory that have been developed by Community Services' Land Development Branch.
- The sale of developed lots occurs once development work is complete. Before lots can be sold, legal requirements such as registering the legal survey and titling the lot must be met.
- Working with the City of Whitehorse's Housing and Land Development Advisory Committee, we revised requirements for title transfer under Agreements for Sale. This provides title transfer at an earlier stage in the building process while still ensuring Agreements for Sale building commitments are linked to building safety.

#### Additional work to support housing

- In July 2022, Lot 335 in Whistle Bend was sold to Council of Yukon First Nations for a nominal amount to build a shelter for Indigenous women and children fleeing violence. Construction is ongoing on this project.

**Session Briefing Note**  
**Lot Sales and Support for**  
**Housing and Development**  
**INTERDEPARTMENTAL**

Ref # 77  
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**Fall 2024**

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Resources

- The Government of Yukon and Da Daghay Development Corporation completed the Agreement for Sale for Lot 120 in Whistle Bend in February 2024. This sale includes the requirement to develop affordable rental housing units on the lot in exchange for a reduced lot sale price.

**Approved by:**

**Paul Moore**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister,  
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

**September 25, 2024**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- Green streets are an innovative concept in Whistle Bend, where neighbours can gather, play, and connect to a multi-use trail system free from vehicle traffic.
- Phase 4 and 5 Green Street projects are substantially complete. A recent review confirms that drainage swales have been installed. Landscaping will be maintained by the Yukon government until Fall 2025, at which time it will transition to the City of Whitehorse for ongoing maintenance.
- Phase 6 Green Street construction and landscaping will advance in 2025 as houses along the street are built out.

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

- There is a potential issue due to the limited availability of landscaping contractors in Whitehorse to handle the volume of work. The contractor initially hired has taken on several contracts, resulting in delays in completing the green street and boulevard projects this year. Given the lack of alternative contractors, extensions were granted to facilitate the completion of the work within 2024.

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#### Background:

- Green Streets were marketed as three-metre-wide green spaces that would support and add a unique character to the neighbourhood, encourage active transportation and support strong social interaction to nurture a sense of community.
- Green Streets information included in the land lottery documents for Phases 4 and 5 referenced a three-metre-wide hard surface. Green Streets lots were already sold when the City of Whitehorse (City) expanded the green street width to six metres in its detailed design process to allow for emergency vehicle access. Land

Development Branch (LDB) tendered the construction of the green streets in Phase 4 and 5 based on this new direction.

- Construction on the green streets was put on hold in 2022 to hear from residents who were concerned about some design features, including the widening of the pavement from three metres to six metres to allow for emergency vehicle access. LDB worked with our partners at the City to engage residents and understand their ideas about the final design of the streets.
- In the spring of 2023, the City approved a design that incorporated resident feedback, allowed for emergency vehicle winter access, and adhered to the original intention of the green street concept.
- LDB completed green street construction and subsequent modifications, including grading, trail paving, gates, hydrants and drainage controls in summer 2023. Landscaping of streets and pocket parks was tendered and awarded in summer 2023.
- Guidelines or regulations controlling activities or development such as path access from residences to the green street, laneway parking controls, and winter snow clearing are being completed by the City.

October 31, 2024

Date Approved

## Health Professions Modernization

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## Community Services

### Recommended response:

- Yukon's *Health Professions Act* regulates healthcare service professionals. This helps protect Yukoners by ensuring that health professionals are competent and safe to practice, as well as providing clear processes for dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues.
- Work is underway to revise the *Health Professions Act* and improve how these professions are regulated. This multi-year project will ensure a high standard of regulation that responds to Yukon's unique needs and context.
- Modernizing health professions regulation is in keeping with initiatives across Canada. This will make Yukon an even more attractive place for health professionals to work and allow us to provide Yukoners with access to new and innovative ways of accessing health care.

### Additional response:

- Community Services is reviewing policy options and will be engaging with the currently regulated health professionals and the public in the fall and winter of 2024.

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### Context:

- This may become an issue because revising the *Health Professionals Act* is a mandate commitment.
- Initial information meetings with health professions were held in June, 2024 to ensure they are aware that this modernization work is underway.

## Health Professions Modernization

## Community Services

### Background:

- The Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch manages and supports registrants for 12 health professions and an additional 11 non-health professions totaling approximately 5,700 registrants a year.
- Only 5 of the 15 health professions are regulated under the Health Professions Act, while the others have stand-alone acts.
- The number of registrants varies. For example, denturists, optometrists, chiropractors and midwives each have under 10 registrants, requiring the same support and resource as a larger profession like licensed practical nurses which has 225 registrants.
- Moving professionals to the Health Profession framework is expected to bring more consistency to licensing and related process, improving services to professionals and bringing efficiencies for the regulator.
- Policy and the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch worked with consultants to establish the gaps in the current legislation for regulated health professionals. The report was finalized in the summer of 2022.
- Policy and the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs are beginning the in-depth policy work and implementing engagement plans to determine options for addressing the gaps and improving the regulation of health professionals in the Yukon.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

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

- Some Yukoners are facing increasing costs and reduced availability of insurance. The Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch is working with licensed insurers and the Insurance Bureau of Canada to advocate for better options and affordability. The branch also promotes improved consumer awareness of insurance products available in the Yukon.
- Yukon's Superintendent of Insurance is continuing to develop public education materials to advise Yukoners about additional insurance protections they should seek for their residential properties for perils such as fire, flood, and earthquake. The materials will also educate about how to reduce risks, mitigate damage, and prevent unnecessary insurance claims.
- Yukon's Superintendent of Insurance is also working on outreach efforts to coincide with the rollout of the Disaster Financial Assistance Plan and other planning and mitigation efforts across government.

##### **Additional response:**

- Yukon's Superintendent of Insurance has prohibited the sale of insurance products that are sold on best terms pricing. Best term pricing allows a number of insurers to cover a portion of a product, and the customer is charged the rate of the highest assessed risk. These initiatives are expected to improve the quality and pricing of insurance policies.



##### Context:

- Recent environmental events, such as floods and forest fires, highlight the need for adequate insurance coverage.
- 

##### Background:

- The *Insurance Act* and Regulations outlines what is required of a professional or a company including qualifications to practice as well as requirements for conduct and prevention of deceptive or unfair practices. The *Insurance Act* (Act) also ensures that insurers are financially sound to operate within the territory and standards are in place when issuing insurance policies.
- Under the authority of the Act, the Superintendent of Insurance, through the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch, issues licenses to insurers (insurance companies) and to intermediaries (insurance agents, brokers, salespeople, etc.) authorizing them to sell insurance in the Yukon.
- As the regulator, the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch can address contraventions of the Act. However, insurance companies, as independent businesses, can decide which products to sell and to whom. As the regulator, the branch has no authority to specify the type or cost of the products that an insurer may offer.
- The Act and Regulations define and prescribe the classes of insurance that can be sold to customers in the Yukon and general provisions when issuing policies.
- Condominium insurance rate increases are consistent across Canada and not unique to the Yukon. In December 2020, the British Columbia Financial Services Authority released a report on Strata Property Insurance with the following non-exhaustive list of contributing factors associated to this increase: catastrophe exposure, risk model changes, increasing insured value, building construction, lack of premium increases, persistent low-interest rate environment.
- The Insurance Bureau of Canada released a Condominium/Strata Action Plan which supports condo corporations by providing access to a risk manager to

increase awareness around how insurers view risks, evaluate properties and how claims history, building materials and location can affect insurance rates.

- Flood insurance is optional coverage, and a policy holder can opt to carry this insurance. Most residential properties are insured for flooding due to sewer backup or burst lines but not for overland flooding due to rising water levels. Areas deemed a 'high risk' by insurers, which are regions that have a historic record of flooding, are not eligible to apply for this additional coverage and pose a challenge to those living there.
- Residential property insurance covers all fire related damage, including forest fires. Unlike flood insurance, fire insurance is typically not an optional coverage and is included in most residential policies.
- The Insurance Bureau of Canada conducted research regarding flood insurance in the Yukon. The findings demonstrated that in general the Yukon is well within the average for premium costs, coverage and availability. The research determined that while costs in the Yukon are on average with the rest of Canada, Yukoners are less likely to purchase additional flood endorsements. Flood plain mapping is underway across the Yukon.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Recommended response:

- The Yukon is developing a regulation for psychologists under the *Health Professions Act*. All individuals providing psychology services and wanting to use the title Psychologist can reach out to the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch for information about this regulation.
- We want to thank all the psychologists who provided feedback on the policy work and standards. We appreciate their willingness to work with us and their ongoing support as we develop this new regulation.
- The regulation of health professionals touches on many concerns common to Yukoners, including the importance of access to quality mental health services. This regulation is a step to ensuring that psychological services are provided by experienced, qualified, credentialed practitioners.

### Additional response:

- Longer-term, the department is leading a comprehensive review of the *Health Professions Act*. The intent is to enhance standards and safety of health care for Yukoners and improve the overall efficiency for the regulatory system.

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### Context:

- Yukon is the last jurisdiction to regulate psychologists, and the government committed to regulating the profession in the Speech from the Throne, May 2021.
- Psychologists are the fifth profession to come under the *Health Professions Act*.

### Background:

- The Government of Yukon committed to regulating psychologists before modernization of the Health Professions Act is complete.
- The regulations will be completed in the fall of 2024.
- Community Services Policy and Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branches engaged with local psychologists and regulators across Canada between July and October of 2023 regarding policy direction for the Regulations.
- Local psychologists were again engaged in July 2024 for feedback on the proposed standards of practice.
- Amendments and more complex considerations regarding the Regulation will be included in the larger Health Professions Act overhaul.
- Improving the way in which health professions are regulated under the *Health Professions Act* is a multi-year project. Regulation of health professions helps Yukoners receive services from competent professionals who practice according to the high standards and ethics of their profession. It also provides Yukoners with clear means and processes for dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues.
- Both Nunavut and Northwest Territories have territorial legislation in place requiring that psychologists be licensed by the territorial government to practice.
- Classes of psychologists vary across Canada, with some having different classes for school psychologists and for masters vs PhD education.
- The majority of psychologists currently practicing in the Yukon hold a master's level education and are licensed in Alberta.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

## **Session Briefing Note**

**TAB 5 Fall 2024**

### **Health Human Resources** **INTERDEPARTMENTAL**

Health and Social  
Services

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#### **Government priority:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to building a healthy, vibrant and sustainable community using a person-centered approach to wellness to help Yukoners thrive.

#### **Key messages:**

- Health Human Resources presents one of the greatest challenges facing Canadian health care systems today.
- Domestically and globally, we are facing unprecedented challenges in retaining, recruiting and training enough health care workers to meet demand.
- These challenges have been further exacerbated by COVID-19, and by our growing and aging population.
- These impacts are being felt here in the Yukon, and we recognize the seriousness of these shortages. A comprehensive Health Human Resource Strategy was released on December 13, 2023.
- This strategy was developed by a Health Human Resources Steering Committee jointly led by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Hospital Corporation and consisting of members from a wide representation of the sector.
- We are also working closely with federal, provincial, and territorial government partners to respond to these pressures being felt across jurisdictions.

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Fall 2024**

### **Health Human Resources**

Health and Social  
Services

#### **Addressing Housing Barriers in Health Human Resource Recruitment:**

##### **Key facts:**

- One of the key challenges in attracting health professionals to the Yukon is the limited availability of affordable housing, particularly in rural communities. This is a critical barrier to both recruitment and retention efforts.
- The Department of Health and Social Services provides housing for nurses and other critical workers in rural communities.
- When available, the Yukon Hospital Corporation has dedicated short-term staff accommodation units in Whitehorse, Watson Lake and Dawson. It is available for short locum staff, agencies and staff from the Department of National Defense under the MOU to advance their work experience.
- Meeting housing demands is an ongoing challenge. The Department of National Defense staff are scheduled at times when the organization can support them, including housing availability.
  - In seasons of peak housing demand to support itinerant staff, the Yukon Hospital Corporation may choose to not have the Department of National Defense staff on-site.

#### **Bursaries:**

##### **Key facts:**

- Our government provides funding for the Medical Education Bursary, the Nursing Education Bursary, and the Health and Social Profession Education Bursary programs.
- Consistent with the Health Human Resource strategy, these programs are under review to ensure that they meet current needs and objectives.

## Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

### Health Human Resources

Health and Social  
Services

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- During the 2024– 25 fiscal year, the Department of Health and Social Services has budgeted \$89,000 through the Medical Education Bursary, the Nursing Education Bursary, and the Health Profession Education Bursary programs to provide financial supports for up to 16 new recipients each year.
  - In 2023– 24, a total of 46 Yukoners received bursaries for studies in health care fields:
    - \$82,500 went into 14 medical bursaries;
    - \$65,000 went to 16 students pursuing nursing education, and
    - \$50,000 went to 16 students pursuing other health care professions.
  - Currently, our bursary programs do not include a Return of Service Agreement that requires graduates to return to the Yukon to deliver care.
  - Our government is working to expand our programs to create greater incentives for students to return to work in the Yukon.
  - Yukon residents studying medicine or intending to study medicine can apply to other funding programs administered by the Canadian Medical Foundation, the First Nations Health Program at Whitehorse General Hospital, and the Yukon Foundation.
  - The Government of Canada is offering a student loan forgiveness program for doctors and nurses who reside in a community with a population of 50,000 or less to entice more doctors and nurses to rural communities. It is expected to expand to other health professionals in the future.

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### Health Human Resources

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#### Department of National Defence's Canadian Forces health services:

##### Key facts:

- This program welcomes health professionals from the Department of National Defence's Canadian Forces Health Services Group to work in Yukon health care settings to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills between their deployments.
- Through this partnership, Canadian Forces Health Services nurses and other regulated health professionals have been working in the Yukon to learn, advance and share their expertise while enhancing our health care service across the territory.
- Department of National Defence nurses have been working in the Watson Lake and Dawson community hospitals since May 2024.
- A medical radiation technologist has joined the diagnostic imaging team at the Whitehorse General Hospital under the memorandum of understanding.
- The program has been successful for both the communities and the visiting nurses and has supported workplaces.
- Length of visits depend upon placements and can be for a few weeks to months at a time. The number of health professionals participating will depend on availability and interest.

#### Foreign Credential Recognition Program:

##### Key facts:

- The Government of Yukon has entered into a **\$3.6M** funding agreement with the Government of Canada to deliver a four-year pilot project called the Foreign Credential Recognition Program.



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- The program aims to strengthen and streamline pathways for internationally educated health professionals to enter Yukon's health and social services workforce.
    - This project is expected to run until January 2028.
    - This program is jointly led by Health and Social Services and Economic Development and includes the Internationally Educated Health Professionals navigator program.

**Health Human Resources Strategy:****Key facts:**

- The Yukon Health Human Resources Strategy was released in December 2023.
- The strategy provides a systemic, coordinated and informed roadmap towards a health and social services system that will meet Yukoners' current and future needs.
  - The strategy builds on existing progress in the Yukon's health and social service sectors and includes key metrics to track progress and success, which will be reported publicly.
- The strategy is built on five key pillars, which aim to boost the delivery of quality care and services and attract more health professionals to live and work in the Yukon.
  - Retain: Build and support skilled, passionate, healthy, diverse and inclusive teams.
  - Recruit: Grow and attract a passionate, engaged and qualified workforce reflective of the needs of Yukoners.
  - Plan: Collect the right data to support long-term workforce planning, identify gaps and make evidence-based decisions.

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- Innovate: Promote and implement new ways of working and learning.
  - Learn: Create more growth, training and educational opportunities for Yukoners to learn locally.
- Within these pillars are 25 actions to be implemented jointly over the next three years by the Government of Yukon, the Yukon Hospital Corporation and our partners on the Health Human Resources Steering Committee.
- We are working with our partners to strengthen our collective recruitment efforts by building a centralized recruitment website, increasing and focusing our marketing and attending more recruitment events.
- In December 2023, we conducted surveys and focus groups with health and social professionals to gather ideas and input on potential retention initiatives as part of the Health Human Resources strategy.
  - The reports from these activities are now in the final editing stage and staff have provided many achievable solutions, some of which have been implemented or are being planned.

#### **Background:**

- The Health Human Resources budget includes funding to support the following initial initiatives:
  - \$559K for staffing.
  - \$224K (\$224,050) for consulting including a physician recruiter for the Yukon Medical Association.
  - \$584K (\$584,000) for university programming, including the Social Worker Degree Program and the MOA Diploma Program and Yukon University, and funding for a licensed practical

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nurses-registered nurses bridging program through the University of New Brunswick.

- **\$280K (\$280,000)** for recruitment efforts, with a focus on Canadian recruitment and partnerships in India, Ireland and the United Kingdom.
- **\$244K (\$244,048)** for administrative costs associated with strategy implementation.
- Additional funding for long-term initiatives will be made available through future budgetary processes as the strategy is implemented.
- Employees wishing to pursue a higher level of education (outside of the bridging program) can access funding through the Learning Development Fund, financially supported by Health and Social Services and Organizational Development Branch.

**Health Human Resource Steering Committee:****Key facts:**

- The Health Human Resources Steering Committee comprises representatives from Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Registered Nurses Association, the Yukon Employees Union, the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, Yukon University, First Nations, L'Afy, Yukon Hospital Corporation and several government departments.
- The Committee is looking at all aspects of Health Human Resources including retention, recruitment, planning, learning and innovation. They provide overall direction and oversight to the implementation work stemming from the strategy.

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- The work of this committee aligns with the ongoing collaborative efforts of Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments, which are supported by recent federal investments that identify health human resources as a shared priority.

**India internationally educated health professional recruitment:****Key facts:**

- We are working on an arrangement with the University of New Brunswick to add up to 15 nursing seats a year to their dual degree program with a university in India.
- Students in this program would do practicum work in the Yukon and graduate with full accreditation with a dual Indian and Canadian degree and practical and cultural experience to work in the Yukon afterward.
- The Department of Health and Social Services has engaged in positive meetings with Apollo Hospitals, which is the largest private health care provider in India.
- Apollo presents many promising opportunities for recruitment, education and technology support for the Yukon.
- Our primary focus is piloting a recruitment pathway for nurses, initially with the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

**Internationally educated health professionals:****Key facts:**

- Internationally educated health professionals have historically played an important role in the delivery of health care in Canada. We recognize that leveraging their expertise is a priority for all Governments across Canada.

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- We are working with regulators and our federal, provincial and territorial partners to discuss pathways to licensing physicians, including internationally educated physicians.
- The Government of Yukon and the Yukon Registered Nurses Associations are working to evolve regulations to improve entry pathways for nurses both nationally and internationally.
  - Amendments will allow registered nurses and nurse practitioners to apply directly for licenses in the Yukon, reducing system barriers and expanding prescribing abilities to enhance health support and broaden essential health care roles.
- We are establishing a navigator program for Internationally Educated Health Professionals already living in the Yukon. We have a list of self-identified individuals, and the navigators will be reaching out to them imminently.
- Continuing Care has provided educational reimbursement funds to Internationally Educated Nurses to help them meet the educational requirements for obtaining their Canadian license and have been offering extra mentoring once they are hired.
- Internationally educated health professionals who are underemployed and living in the Yukon can contact [HHR@yukon.ca](mailto:HHR@yukon.ca) to connect with a team collecting information on how best to support them.
- From January 31, 2023 to August 26, 2024, we hired 24 internationally educated professionals into nursing home attendant positions.

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#### Letter of Intent with Nova Scotia:

##### Key facts:

- On July 26, 2023, our government signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of Nova Scotia to work collaboratively on Health Human Resources.
- Nova Scotia has adopted innovative strategies to create new opportunities to address recruitment and retention.
- Officials from both jurisdictions have developed a comprehensive set of issues and have partnered and shared information on several of these topics. Collaboration continues at the working level.
- Three officials from Health and Social Services attended the Healthcare Recruitment & Retention Community Conference in Truro, Nova Scotia on April 23– 24, 2024, which was primarily related to recruitment of health sector workers and integration of internationally educated professionals. These learnings are being applied to a framework for transitions to practice for Internationally Educated Nurses and new Canadian nursing graduates. It will be adapted to other professions in the future.
- We are also in contact with officials in the province to explore options for a more efficient physician licensing arrangement for Yukon-bound doctors.

#### Licensing:

##### Key facts:

- As of November 3, 2024, newly graduated registered nurses and nurse practitioners, as well as student nurses can register directly to practice in the Yukon. Pathways for nurses to work in the Yukon have

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opened with the proclamation of the *Amendment to the Registered Nurses Profession Act*, which was assented to last fall.

- Internationally educated nurses can also apply directly to register to practice in the Yukon. This includes those who may already be or live here but are working in other fields.
  - Under the old legislation, nurses and nurse practitioners were required to be registered in another Canadian jurisdiction before they could apply to work in the Yukon. With the amendment to the *Registered Nurses Profession Regulation* this extra step is no longer required.
- The Registrar of Medical Practitioners actively participates in national and cross-jurisdictional organizations and initiatives aimed at harmonizing and streamlining licensing pathways.
- We recognize that nurses are fundamental to a high-functioning health care system. We are working with the Yukon Registered Nurses Association to find ways to streamline licensing for registered nurses.
- Our goal is to minimize any administrative burden that draws resources away from care while ensuring that health professionals are appropriately regulated, and Yukoners have access to safe, high-quality health care.

**LPN-RN bridging****Key facts**

- The Government of Yukon is working to finalize an agreement with the University of New Brunswick for two cohorts of a Yukon “Learn Where You Live” LPN – RN Pathway starting September 2024.

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- 17 Yukon LPNs will start this pathway in the first cohort and up to 20 LPNs can be supported in the second cohort starting fall 2025.
- Through this pathway the first set of LPNs are expected to graduate with their degree in Nursing and be eligible to write their RN licensing exam in summer of 2027. The second group will graduate in summer 2028.
- This program supports existing Yukon LPNs who are already committed to the territory and working in the system to obtain their next level of education without leaving the Yukon.
- The program will incorporate classroom, Virtual Reality clinical simulation and in-person clinical learnings throughout.
- The University of New Brunswick program is cutting edge in the country using technology to support virtual learning.
- Yukon U is exploring options for a Yukon based nursing degree program while these classes commence.

**Manager nursing bonuses:****Key facts:**

- Nurse retention and recruitment incentives were provided to union and manager positions requiring a nursing designation.
- The manager's incentives mirror that of the Letter of Agreement signed by the union on November 30, 2022, for the immediate and annual retention bonus portion.
- The Letter of Agreement that outlined these bonuses covered the period from Dec 1, 2022, to March 31, 2024.
- 23 manager positions received:
  - o immediate retention payment of \$8,000 for licensed practical nurses and \$15,000 for registered nurses; and



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- o an annual retention payment of \$8,000 for licensed practical nurses and \$15,000 for registered nurses.

**Nursing recruitment and retention:****Key facts:**

- Collaboration between Health and Social Services Human Resources professionals and the Yukon Hospital Corporation for recruitment is ongoing. Both groups have attended multiple recruitment events across the country, with more events scheduled for fall 2024.
- Community Nursing currently has a 19 per cent vacancy rate for Primary Health Care Nurse positions as of August 2024. This has been reduced from 32.5 per cent reported in July of 2023 and 39 per cent reported in December 2022.
- Between January 2023 and August 2024, the department of Health and Social Services has completed 230 nursing staffing actions, these include;
  - o transitions between positions (e.g., casual to auxiliary, term to permanent) and are not limited to new hires.
  - o These staffing actions may also reflect internal movements and offers extended for various nursing roles such as Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses.
- The new collective agreement with separate nursing pays grids for all nurses, and the additions to the bonus structures for the nurses in community health centres have been key in reducing vacancies.
- In Continuing Care, the Care and Community branch: average vacancy rate of 4 per cent this fiscal. Home Care Branch: average vacancy rate

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of 6 per cent this fiscal, with all the regulated nurses' positions currently being filled.

- The Yukon Hospital Corporation hired nine internationally educated nurses this summer. The newly hired nurses will undergo a 12-week orientation and mentorship program and be placed in Medical, Surgical and Operating Room roles.
  - Seven are relocating from Alberta (originally from the Philippines and Cameroon),
  - Two are existing Yukon internationally educated nurses (two from India and one from the Philippines) transitioning from non-nursing roles.

**Partnership with Canadian educational institutions:****Key facts:**

- We are working with Yukon University to expand programming to support Yukoners to pursue health-related careers.
- The Government of Yukon funds Yukon University to offer a Practical Nurse Diploma.
- Yukon University offers, in partnership with the University of Regina, a Bachelor of Social Work degree. We are supporting Yukon University to enhance this program to better meet the needs of Yukoners and deliver a more locally based program as a Yukon U degree program.
- Yukon University offers a Health Care Assistant program which provides Yukoners with the skills needed to be front-line caregivers.

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- Since the beginning of 2023, Continuing Care has supported more than 10 staff in moving from Nursing Home Attendants into Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse positions. Additionally, 10 staff members are currently preparing for the National Council Licensure Examination this year.
- We are supporting Yukon University to offer a Medical Office Assistant program in 2025 with the intent to lower the administrative burden on all health professionals in the long term.
- Yukon University's Board of Governors approved the University to pursue a nursing degree program.

**Physician recruitment and retention:****Key facts:**

- The Government of Yukon has provided the Yukon Medical Association with \$20,000 to explore the viability of establishing a family medicine residency program in the Yukon.
- Our government has also invested \$120,000 to support the Yukon Medical Association in enhancing physician recruitment for locum physicians. This investment has resulted in;
  - o 32 hospitalists have been secured since January 2024.
  - o 107 locums have been booked to cover leave for physicians in Whitehorse in 2024.
  - o Additional support for extensive onboarding of locums including support to obtain licensing, hospital privileges etc.

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#### Retention bonuses:

##### Key facts:

- Bonuses are provided to Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Licensed Practical Nurses who need a nursing designation and performing nursing duties for the Government of Yukon alongside Allied Health Professionals.
- The Government of Yukon and the Public Service Alliance of Canada/Yukon Employees' Union ratified a new collective agreement on June 6, 2023, that is in effect until December 31, 2024.
- The new collective agreement contains new nurse pay grids and a new retention allowance. Effective April 1, 2024, the bonus for a Primary Health Care Nurse is \$8,000 and Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge is \$18,000.
- The Government of Yukon committed \$3.1 million for retention bonuses in 2023–24 and \$2.4 million in 2024–25.
- As of December 8, 2023, Yukon Hospital Corporation began issuing retention and recruitment bonuses to their nursing staff. These bonus packages mimic those offered by the Government of Yukon.
- Additional bonuses for health care professionals include:
  - Extending the Letter of Agreement to continue offering signing bonuses and exam fee reimbursement for newly hired Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses until March 31, 2025.
  - The collective agreement includes retention allowances for Regional social workers (including mobile) and supervisors,

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Regional Services are eligible for a retention allowance of up to \$5,000 per annum.

- Regional social workers and supervisors headquartered outside of Whitehorse receive an additional retention allowance of \$3,000 or \$4,000 based on years of service per annum.
- Regular and auxiliary occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech language pathologists may receive an annual retention allowance of up to \$1,000.

**Approved by:**

Matt King

October 1, 2024

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

## Registered Nurses Profession Regulations

## Community Services

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### Recommended response:

- The health human resources crisis has underscored the need for efficient and effective professional licensing processes. This is a fast-changing landscape and to attract the best talent, we need modern, nimble legislation. This will provide for better access to care, as well as support recruitment and retention of nurses in the territory.
- In the fall of 2023, we amended the *Registered Nurses Profession Act* to enable changes to the regulations regarding licensing and removed the concept of a temporary permit. Amendments to the *Medical Profession Act* and *Licensed Practical Nurses Act* are required to align with the removal of temporary permits. These amendments were included in the Miscellaneous Statute in spring of 2024.
- The new Registered Nurse Profession Regulation amendments are now complete and come into force on November 3, 2024. The regulations focus on the pathways to licensure, the classes of registration and expanding the prescribing powers of Nurse Practitioners. Importantly, they allow for interim licensing for internationally educated nurses.
- We continue to work towards revising the *Health Professions Act* to improve how we regulate all healthcare professionals in the Yukon.

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### Context:

- This may become an issue because the Health Human Resource crisis has identified the need for new licensing pathways and classes of licence for nurses. Specifically, there is a need for nurses to be able to apply directly to the Yukon and not through another jurisdiction.

## Registered Nurses Profession Regulations

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## Community Services

### Background:

- The Yukon Registered Nurses Association (YRNA) regulates Registered Nurses (RNs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in the Yukon, under the authority of the *Registered Nurses Profession Act* and *Registered Nurses Profession Regulation*.
- In accordance with the Act, the YRNA Board has the authority to make regulations that are not inconsistent with the Act, subject to Cabinet approval.
- YRNA has identified issues with its regulatory framework for RNs and NPs and requested changes to regulate these professions more effectively and worked with Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the policy group to address as many of the changes as possible.
- The amendments approved to the *Registered Nurses Profession Act* during the Fall 2023 session provide increased flexibility regarding the length of a licence, the ability to enter into multijurisdictional agreements, clarity regarding information on the public register, and transitional provisions.
- The amendments to the Regulation are now complete and will come into force on November 3, 2024.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

## Property Assessment in Municipalities 2023

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Community Services

### Recommended response:

- Yukon properties are reassessed on a two-year cycle, alternating between municipalities and rural Yukon. Municipal properties were reassessed in 2023 for the 2024 tax year and most municipal properties received assessment increases for 2023.
- Conducting reassessments every two years helps avoid larger assessment changes that could occur if these were done less frequently.
- The Property Assessment and Taxation Branch is committed to a system that keeps values current, accurate and equitable for Yukon property owners and municipalities.
- Their work supports fair and transparent avenues for Yukoners to raise concerns about their own property assessment. There is a review process available to any property owner who does not agree with the value determined by the assessor.

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### Context:

- Property owners, including First Nations, may be concerned about the impact of 2023 municipal reassessment.

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### Background:

- As part of the reassessment cycle, the fair value of land is reviewed and any changes in value noted from market evidence may lead to a change in land value.
- The replacement cost (cost to build) of improvements is also reviewed and any changes noted in building costs from the time of the last reassessment may necessitate a change in improvement (building assessment) value. This is why in some instances, while a property owner may not have done anything to improve or change their property, they may still realize a change in assessed value.



# Session Briefing Note

**TAB# PAT-01**

**Fall 2024**

## **Property Assessment in Municipalities 2023**

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Community Services

- The real estate market and new construction in and around Whitehorse continues to be active, which means that property values often increase. Property values vary depending on type and location of property.
- The Property Assessment & Taxation Branch is responsible for keeping values current, accurate and equitable for property tax purposes. A reassessment is an updating of land and improvement (buildings) values. Land value (fair market value) + Improvement value (replacement cost less depreciation) = Assessed value.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Recommended response:

- The amendments to the *Assessment and Taxation Act* and Regulations for the Better Buildings Program were proclaimed on October 20, 2022.
- The Better Buildings Program offers low-cost funding to eligible property owners to complete energy-efficiency retrofits. This means more property owners will have the means to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint. The funding is repayable by a local improvement charge attached to the property.
- The program has received 64 applications of clients interested in participating. There are 10 projects currently underway and 4 have been completed.
- We have worked closely with municipal governments as partners in this program and have developed administrative processes to ensure its successful delivery. All municipalities have signed agreements indicating their participation in this program.

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### Context:

- This may become an issue because there is interest in the amount of uptake in the program.

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### Background:

- Eligible properties include property that is subject to a land and improvement tax, is located within a participating municipality or outside of a municipal boundary, has an existing home five years or older, has a mobile home situated on titled land permanently or for a minimum of one year.
- Participating in the Better Buildings Programs also allows for property owners to apply for available energy efficiency grant and rebate programs offered through

Yukon government and the federal government after making energy-efficiency retrofits to their properties.

- This loan program makes funding available to eligible residential and commercial property owners at low-interest rates, and is currently administered by the Energy Branch and the Property Assessment and Taxation Branch. The funding is recouped through local improvement taxes paid by the participant on an annual basis.
- The program was announced in the Speech from the Throne in October 2019 and the Minister made a Ministerial Statement on the home retrofit loan program on October 23, 2019.
- This loan program is in addition to current programs at the Yukon Housing Corporation that include the Home Repair Program, and the First Nations Energy Efficiency Program, which is funded through the federal Low Carbon Economy Fund. The Yukon Housing Corporation is also working on energy retrofits to government-owned housing throughout the territory, also funded by the Low Carbon Economy Fund.
- As of January 26th, 2023, Municipal Agreements were completed with all municipalities.
- Since the program launch on October 25, 2022, the Energy Branch has received applications from 64 clients wishing to participate.
- The rapid rise in interest rates has meant a decrease in Property Assessment and Taxation's programs generally. For example, applications for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program applications are the lowest since the 2019/2020 fiscal year. This is consistent with the interest rate increases from 0.75% in March 2022 to 5.25% in July 2023. The current interest rate has since decreased to 4.5%.
- In addition, inflation has increased the cost of materials and services. The Property Assessment and Taxation branch completes a cost study every two years to determine the replacement cost on improvements. It is based on the consumer price index, recent sale price of homes, cost of materials and other factors. Between 2021 and 2023 there was a marked increase in the results of

the cost study, meaning it is more expensive to build a new home or improve an existing home.

- Budget was reduced in 2023/24 for the Better Buildings Program to reflect updated forecast of applications and projects anticipated for the current fiscal year.
- All applications received have been reviewed and approved by the Property Assessment and Taxation branch. Most approved applications are sitting pending, waiting for the client to decide whether they are going to commit to the project or not. The following are our pending numbers by community:
  - 46 Whitehorse
  - 3 Dawson
  - 2 Faro
  - 5 Haines Junction
  - 8 rural Yukon not in a municipality
- Seven new clients joined the program between January 1, 2024, and August 1, 2024.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

## Unincorporated Property Tax Rates

## Community Services

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### Recommended response:

- The Yukon government has set the 2024 rural tax rates at the same level as previous years maintaining past practice, which reflects the level of services and amenities offered in unincorporated areas as compared to municipalities servicing denser populations.
- Rural residents have access to essential services like Emergency Medical Services, Wildland Fire, highway maintenance, access to regional landfills and expanding recycling services, regionally based fire halls and drinking water fill points. Yukoners have access to a full range of other public services from health care to education, environment to community services, and so much more.
- The revenue from unincorporated property tax rates offsets only a small portion of the cost of services, with additional government investments directed to ensure Yukoners are well served by a wide array of public services.
- Municipalities typically have higher property tax rates as they rely more heavily on property tax revenues to offer municipal services like water and wastewater, solid waste and recycling. This is also supplemented by federal and territorial funding in the form of capital infrastructure dollars, grants in lieu of taxes, and operating grants to help offset the cost of municipal services.

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### Context:

- The Association of Yukon Communities passed a resolution in 2023 to request Yukon government to review current property taxes in areas peripheral to Yukon municipalities and increase those taxes appropriately.

## Unincorporated Property Tax Rates

## Community Services

### Background:

- All properties in Yukon are reassessed by assessors through the Property Assessment & Taxation Branch every two years. The branch is responsible for keeping values current, accurate and equitable for property tax purposes.
- Yukon municipalities are responsible for the collection of property taxes within their boundaries and set their own tax rates. The Property Assessment & Taxation Branch acts as the tax collector for individuals who own property outside of a municipality and sets the tax rates for those residents.
- Property tax rates for rural Yukon have remained stable and predictable since 1988.

September 5, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- Yukon Public Libraries remains dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment where all patrons feel welcome and respected, through our resources, displays, and programs. While the library does not endorse the viewpoints of specific books, we firmly support the right to read and access a wide variety of materials.
- The selection of books for the "Staff Picks" section is intended to reflect a diverse range of viewpoints and interests, aligning with the library's unwavering commitment to intellectual freedom.
- We are prioritizing values such as respect, equality, and the prevention of harm alongside intellectual freedom. To this end, we are developing a comprehensive plan to ensure the perspectives of equity-deserving groups are consistently and thoughtfully integrated into all aspects of the library, including staff training procedures, staff pick guidelines, collection development policies, displays, and programming.
- With the new Staff Picks guideline staff understand that while upholding intellectual freedom, staff must focus on promoting inclusivity and avoiding potential polarization. Staff are urged to stay informed about current trends and community discussions to anticipate sensitivities and concerns.

#### Additional response:

- The library has implemented new mechanisms for users to share concerns and feedback. The updated library website and catalog now allow users across the Yukon to provide input on programs, services,

and materials. Library staff actively monitor this feedback and are prepared to adapt processes based on community input.

- Yukon Public Libraries remains committed to addressing community concerns about controversial books in a timely, professional manner, using a structured review process that prioritizes respectful dialogue and understanding. We are actively researching and evaluating how to best balance intellectual freedom with community standards, while being mindful of the potential for misuse.

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#### Context:

- There may be interest in how issues relating to Yukon Public Libraries collection are resolved.

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#### Background:

- In spring 2023, a social media post criticizing Yukon Public Libraries (YPL) for carrying Abigail Shrier's "Irreversible Damage" at its Whitehorse Library sparked community concern. The post labeled the book as transphobic and questioned its appropriateness in a public library, particularly given its "Staff Pick" designation.
- Throughout April and May 2023, YPL received requests to remove the book, triggering a formal review conducted by the Whitehorse Public Library Board and the Library Director. The committee determined that the book did not violate YPL's standards and remained in circulation. The decision letters and a public statement were released on June 16, 2023, well within the expected timeframe.
- YPL actively engaged with Queer Yukon and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance of Porter Creek Secondary School to discuss the matter. This incident also prompted a reevaluation of the "Staff Pick" practice, leading to the development of new guidelines. These guidelines emphasize considering the community's diverse values and sensitivities.



# Session Briefing Note

TAB# PL-01

Fall 2024

## Book Reviews and Staff Picks

Community Services

- YPL temporarily suspended the "staff picks" practice to evaluate and determine the best path forward. The library sought input from various organizations and staff to develop new guidelines. These guidelines are considered a living document and will be regularly evaluated to ensure they remain relevant to the community's evolving needs.

### Financial Implications:

- Yukon Public Libraries spends \$160,000 on collection development for physical materials annually.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

#### Recommended response:

- The library outreach worker started at the Whitehorse Library in June 2024. This position, in collaboration with library staff, focuses on supporting individuals, crisis intervention, and referrals to community resources, directly addressing the mental health and well-being needs of library patrons and staff.
- The Whitehorse Public Library serves as an ideal location for the library outreach worker to connect with a wide range of individuals. The individual's presence has enhanced the library's welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, fostering a safe space where individuals feel comfortable seeking help and connecting with others, in turn, strengthening community bonds.
- The Outreach Worker is trained in Indigenous history, culture, and trauma-informed care, ensuring that services are respectful and responsive to the needs of Indigenous people.

#### Additional response:

- The Outreach Worker, in partnership with the library, is offering programs that empower the public to build stronger community connections and develop practical skills such as financial literacy. These efforts contribute to healthy living and preventative care within the community. Additionally, the Outreach Worker helps individuals overcome barriers to employment and social participation, indirectly promoting a more stable and productive economy.

#### Context:

- This may become an issue because there has been growing media attention on the role of public spaces in supporting vulnerable community members.
  - Opposition parties have previously criticized the lack of support services available in public libraries.
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#### Background:

- While the Whitehorse Public Library serves diverse community needs, some situations exceed librarians' expertise. With the library increasingly becoming a safe haven for individuals facing social challenges, a rise in substance-related incidents has necessitated more frequent staff intervention, either for medical assistance or de-escalation.
- This situation highlighted an opportunity to address public safety concerns in downtown Whitehorse. The need for dedicated social support services within the library became evident, prompting the government to launch a pilot program in April 2024, in partnership with Health and Social Services and the Library. This program placed the first outreach support worker at the main public library in Whitehorse.
- Key goals for this program are:
  - Providing navigation and social support to patrons with complex needs, including referrals to other services;
  - De-escalating situations safely and recognizing when further intervention, such as police assistance is required;
  - Establishing partnerships with local organizations, agencies, and the federal government; and
  - Implementing training and support programs for library staff.
- This position is funded through the support of Health and Social Services.

# Session Briefing Note

**TAB# PL-02**

**Fall 2024**

**Library Outreach Worker**

Community Services

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August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Arctic Winter Games 2026

### Community Services

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#### Recommended response:

- It is very exciting that the Arctic Winter Games are returning to the City of Whitehorse. The Yukon government is pleased to be supporting the 2026 Arctic Winter Games Host Society with financial and in-kind contributions of up to \$4.4 million.
- The Sport and Recreation branch continues to work closely with our partner, the City of Whitehorse, the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, the 2026 Arctic Winter Games Host Society, and territorial sport organizations to ensure a successful and memorable event that showcases the beauty and culture of our territory.
- The Games will bring immediate benefits for the Yukon and create positive economic and social impacts for the host territory. In addition to the boost to our economy, the Arctic Winter Games strengthen sport development, promote fair play and healthy lifestyles, build partnerships, and promote cultural diversity, awareness and understanding.

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#### Context:

- This may become an issue because the public could question the decision to host another major event from a cost priority perspective.

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#### Background:

- The Arctic Winter Games (AWG) is a high-profile circumpolar sport competition for northern and arctic athletes, and a multi-cultural exposition for the circumpolar world.
- Since their inception in 1970 and occurring every two years on a rotational basis, the AWG celebrate sport, social exchange, and culture while providing an opportunity for the developing athlete to compete in friendly competition and share cultural values of northern regions of the world.

### Arctic Winter Games 2026

### Community Services

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- The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) is made up of representatives from each of the permanent partners (Alberta, Alaska, Greenland, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon) and is responsible for implementing policies and providing leadership to the Games.
- Yukon is pleased to be the host jurisdiction and our capital city, Whitehorse, is the host city. The AWG sought a host jurisdiction for the 2026 Games because of Russia's (Yamal) suspension. The AWGIC sent a formal request to Premier Pillai on May 28, 2023, for the Yukon government (YG), in collaboration with municipal partners, to consider hosting the AWG in 2026.
- While the Yukon was not scheduled to host again until 2032, with the cancellation of the 2020 Arctic Winter Games due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the withdrawal of the 2027 Canada Winter Games Bid, both the City of Whitehorse and sport community have indicated unanimous support to hosting the AWG in 2026.
- A letter of support to host the 2026 Arctic Winter Games was received from Sport Yukon. The letter also indicated unanimous support from the 20 relevant sport governing bodies. Letters of support have also been received from Yukon University, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, the Yukon Convention Bureau, and the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon.
- A host society, comprised of strong leaders in our community will oversee the management of the Games, engaging with key partners and stakeholders throughout the process.
- The pandemic prevented us from hosting the 2020 Arctic Winter Games, but they were projected to contribute approximately \$6.1 million to Canada's GDP, a figure that includes a \$5.7 million boost to the Yukon's GDP and a \$4.4 million increase in local Whitehorse GDP.

### Financial Implications:

- The Government of Yukon has financially committed to the following:
  - \$4.4 million through a transfer payment agreement with the Host Society;
  - \$350,000 in estimated in-kind supports; and,
  - To work with the City of Whitehorse to secure federal funding for the games.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Community Pools

### Community Services

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#### Recommended response:

- Six Yukon community pools opened for the 2024 season, including the new pool in Pelly Crossing, which celebrated its grand opening in the summer of 2023.
- The Sport and Recreation Branch coordinates with communities and local First Nations on the recruitment and training of seasonal staff. Local governments hire specialized pool managers to run their aquatics programs.
- The Sport and Recreation Branch, in partnership with the Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon hosted a Spring Aquatics Workshop in May 2024, to develop knowledge and skills around safe pool operations, lifesaving certification and aquatics programming.
- Due to structural safety issues associated with the Ross River pool's foundation and structure, additional assessments were completed this summer. The findings from these assessments will be reviewed this fall to determine the next steps.

#### Additional response:

- The Sport and Recreation Branch, in partnership with the Ross River Recreation Society created opportunities for Ross River community members to access the Faro pool over the summer. Additionally, an outdoor swim camp was held in Ross River from July 16-18, 2024, to engage youth in active swimming opportunities.

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#### Context:

- This may become an issue because the pools in Ross River and Beaver Creek have not opened for several years due to required repairs and staffing shortages.



#### Background:

- Municipal pools in Dawson City, Watson Lake, Faro and Mayo are owned and operated by the municipality. Pools in Haines Junction and Carmacks are permanently closed, and the municipalities are considering their options.
- Pools in Pelly Crossing, Carcross, Ross River, and Beaver Creek are owned by the Government of Yukon.
- Pelly's pool was funded through the Government of Canada's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (\$5.25M) and the Government of Yukon (\$4.566M).
- The operation and maintenance of each Yukon government pool is a joint responsibility between Community Services, Property Management Division and the Local Authority for Recreation.
- Pool closures due to COVID-19 impacted long-term availability of lifeguards and pool managers across Canada.

#### Pool condition challenges

- It is a challenge to recruit qualified operators and lifeguards given our operating season and a national lifeguard shortage.
- Structural issues with the Government of Yukon seasonal pools were first identified in 2017.
- In July 2019, a study undertaken by Environmental Health Services identified design deficiencies in the facilities when compared to current standards of construction and design. Based on this report, the designated health officer issued an order to keep pools closed pending required repairs.
- The Beaver Creek pool was last opened in 2018. Water has been accumulating under the pool liner, necessitating a hydrogeological assessment of the soil to identify the source of the water and its potential impact on the septic system. This assessment was conducted over the summer of 2024, and we are currently awaiting the results to determine the next steps. Once this is completed, an evaluation of the circulation systems will be required, followed by addressing the repairs identified in the 2018 Stantec report.
- The Ross River pool was last operational in the 2017 season. Constructed in 1999, the facility has significant foundation issues that could affect its continued operation.

### Community Pools

### Community Services

- Ross River pool was anticipated to open in 2023 following completion of critical repairs to the pool systems; however, additional areas of concerns were identified in the repair process preventing its opening.
- Highways & Public Works conducted additional assessments of the building's superstructure and subgrade conditions this summer to confirm whether the pool can be repaired to safely open and operate. A final report is expected in December 2024. Once reviewed, officials will determine the next steps and timelines.
- Critical repairs were completed at the pool in Carcross in 2021, and the community experienced another successful aquatic season in 2024.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Safe Sport

### Community Services

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#### Recommended response:

- Safety in sport has an impact on everyone. We are committed to creating a positive culture that prioritizes respectful sport experiences that are safe for everyone.
- We recognize the importance of implementing safe sport policies and procedures and are currently working on developing a Safe Sport Framework for the Yukon.
- Safety in sport is a key priority across Canada and all jurisdictions are working towards ensuring processes are in place for reporting incidents of maltreatment in sport. We are committed to working with our sport and recreation organizations to protect athletes from all forms of maltreatment.

#### Additional response:

- The Yukon engaged with the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada to use the complaint management services of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commission for the 2022 Canada Summer Games, 2023 Canada Winter Games and the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.
- Team Yukon participants attending the 2024 Arctic Winter Games were required to take the Safe Sport training module offered through the Coaching Association of Canada.

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#### Context:

- There may be interest in knowing what the Yukon government is doing to address maltreatment in sport.

#### Background:

- At the 2019 Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Ministers Conference, Ministers endorsed the Red Deer Declaration for the Prevention of Harassment, Abuse, and Discrimination in Sport, committing to implementing a collaborative intergovernmental approach, with better harmonized commitments, mechanisms, principles, and actions to address harassment, abuse and discrimination in sport in the areas of awareness, policy, prevention, reporting, management, and monitoring. Ministers also agreed to a series of actions being implemented by 2021.
- In 2019, Sport Canada supported the development of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent, and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). It includes general principles, definitions of maltreatment, prohibited behaviours, and an approach to sanctions.
- The Government of Canada requires that federally funded national-level sport organizations adopt or integrate the UCCMS into their organizational policies and procedures as a condition of funding.
- In February 2023, F-P/T Ministers responsible for sport, physical activity, and recreation agreed to work together to have all athletes and participants in Canada protected by an independent third-party mechanism. Yukon and other jurisdictions are working toward this and are currently considering the cost, procurement methods and legislative framework.
- A F-P/T Maltreatment in Sport Working Group was established to identify guiding principles and /or develop recommendations to support jurisdictions in the establishment of independent third-party mechanisms, to remain informed of ongoing work of other sector initiatives and to provide a forum for the sharing of best practices and key learnings from safe sport efforts across the country.

#### Safe Sport

#### Community Services

##### Financial Implications:

- The Government of Yukon is planning to issue a Request for Proposal for the development and implementation of a Safe Sport Framework for the Yukon in 2025.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

## Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory

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Community Services

### Recommended response:

- The Sport and Recreation branch ensures Yukoners have access to the facilities and opportunities they need to live healthy, active lifestyles.
- The branch has compiled an initial list of community sport and recreation infrastructure for the Territory and is actively engaging with communities to validate their findings. This engagement involves identifying previously unrecorded infrastructure and gathering new data on features such as trails and parks.
- The list will provide an updated inventory and general condition of sport and recreation infrastructure assets owned by the various levels of government, First Nation organizations, and communities.
- The information will help develop sport and recreation opportunities in the Yukon and will help us understand sport infrastructure needs and opportunities to partner as our population continues to grow.

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### Context:

- This may become an issue because this was identified as a priority in the March 2, 2023, mandate letter.

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### Background:

- Mandate (March 2023) - Work with all levels of government, including First Nations and municipalities, to understand future sport infrastructure needs and look at opportunities to partner as our population continues to grow.
- The Sport & Recreation Branch has an inventory of sport and recreation infrastructure in the Yukon however, it is out of date.

### **Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory**

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### Community Services

- The data gathered will provide insights into the quantity and current state of sport and recreation facilities in the Yukon. This information will empower all levels of government and organizations to inform their asset management plans and guide future investments in sport infrastructure.
- As a next step, Community Services will consider recreation service level standards for communities. The outcome of the sport and recreation infrastructure inventory will provide important consideration for creating and updating these standards.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

### Recommended response:

- The First Nations Initial Attack firefighting is a key component of the Wildland Fire Management program. The Government of Yukon and First Nations crews work side by side on the fire line and all Initial Attack crew members are provided with the same level of training and type of equipment including personal protective equipment.
- The Government of Yukon has renewed agreements with all 14 First Nations for the Wildland Fire Management Initial Attack Program. This includes six government-to-government agreements and eight agreements administered by Yukon First Nation Wildfire Limited Partnership.
- I want to thank Yukon First Nation Wildfire who also provides a unit crew for the program. Our collective efforts are helping to safeguard our communities and build resilience.

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### Context:

- There is a lot of public interest in fire management, and partnerships with Yukon First Nations in wildland fire management.

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### Background:

- In 2024, the program consists of 14 Yukon government crews and 14 First Nations crews located in six fire centers across the territory.
- In 2024, eight of 14 First Nations or their Development Corporations assigned the administration of their initial attack crew contracts to Yukon First Nations Wildfire Limited Partnership. This supports local employment, capacity building and economic development. The remaining five contracts are bilateral with the Wildland Fire Management Branch.



**Financial Implications:**

- In 2024, the Yukon government provided \$50,000 to Yukon First Nations Wildfire Limited Partnership for the Beat the Heat boot camp, and in-kind contributions to the program in staff time and training resources.
- As of September 2024, Yukon government provided \$1.6 million in contracts and \$125,000 in transfer payment agreements under the Unit Crew Services Agreement.
- In 2024, up to \$525,000 was available to Yukon First Nations Wildfire for the guaranteed work portion of the Unit Crew Services Agreement.

September 4, 2024

Date approved

## Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

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## Community Services

### Recommended response:

- Wildland Fire Management is taking proactive measures to limit the impact of wildfires by managing fuel through forest thinning, conversion of coniferous stands to deciduous stands, and prescribed burning.
- The branch also promotes wildland fire prevention through education campaigns to reduce human-caused fire ignition and help property owners protect their homes from wildfire risk.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans offer a road map for reducing community fire risk through forest fuel treatments and community-based FireSmart projects.

### Additional response:

- Wildland Fire Management works to develop strategic landscape-scale projects such as the Whitehorse South Fuel Break.
- The Whitehorse South Fuel Break is a partnership with the City of Whitehorse for fuel management in 780 hectares of forest.
- To date, 335 hectares have been worked. Wildland Fire Management expects to finish the Copper Haul Road Fuel Break in fall 2024 and the Mary Lake Shaded Fuel Break portion in fall 2026.

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### Context:

- The public remains concerned about the threat of wildfire to their communities.

## Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

## Community Services

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### Background:

- Draft Community Wildfire Protection Plans are nearing completion for the Village of Mayo, Dawson City, Old Crow, Beaver Creek, as well as the communities of Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay together. These plans will be presented for engagement with the community and First Nations in 2024. Teslin, Haines Junction, Faro and Whitehorse have completed Community Wildfire Protection Plans or equivalent.
- Through the FireSmart funding program, community groups can receive funding for local wildfire hazard reduction projects. In 2024/25, the Yukon government in partnership with the Government of Canada is investing a total of \$1.14 million in 48 projects.
- This total includes providing \$850,000 for FireSmart projects, with an additional \$293,000 to First Nation communities, following a contribution from Indigenous Services Canada's Emergency Management Assistance Program.
- The Whitehorse South Fuel Break is a 780-hectare piece of strategic wildfire-resistant infrastructure. It is partially funded by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The Copper Haul Road and Mary Lake components of the fuel break are expected to be completed in 2026 and includes manual treatments, mechanical treatments, prescribed burns and planting of aspen trees. 170,000 aspen seedlings have been planted in fuel treatment areas around Whitehorse and Haines Junction to further improve the resilience of our forests and communities.
- The Copper Haul Road North Fuel Break project was successfully screened through Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board in 2022. This 200-hectare project will create defensible space for firefighters to work safely and effectively along the Copper Haul Road from the Mt. Sima Bridge in the south to the McLean Lake Quarries in the north.
- The South Klondike Fuel Break project was submitted to Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board this June and is now in the adequacy

## Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

## Community Services

review process. This 190-hectare project will connect the existing Whitehorse South Fuel Break east to the South Klondike Highway. This project will significantly reduce the risk of negative impacts to Whitehorse from wildfires in the Carcross Valley.

- Wildland Fire Management is leading Yukon government's participation in Canada's 2 Billion Trees program, which will provide \$747,000 in federal funding between 2023-24 and 2025-26. Planning is currently underway to plant up to 400,000 aspen seedlings in strategic fuel breaks around Whitehorse and Haines Junction by 2026.
- Wildland Fire Management works with the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Highways and Public Works, Economic Development and Environment to make the best use of wood salvaged from forest fuel treatment areas.

### Financial Implications:

- In 2024-25, the Yukon government in partnership with the Government of Canada is investing \$1.14 million for FireSmart projects (\$850,000 for territorial FireSmart projects, with an additional \$293,000 specifically for First Nation communities)
- This year Wildland Fire Management budgeted a further \$1.3 million for landscape-level fuel treatments and supporting activities such as road maintenance, consultants etc.

September 4, 2024

Date approved

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

- Nationally, 2024 was another busy fire season. Wildland Fire Management is actively preparing for the upcoming 2025 season.
- Recruitment begins in the Fall and continues into the new year to have crews on strength by fire season, which begins in April. New staff undergo a rigorous training and certification process before becoming qualified crew members or crew leaders.
- In 2024, when fully staffed, there were 28 wildfire crews, composed of 14 Yukon government and 14 Yukon First Nations crews. We look forward to working with our First Nation partners again in the upcoming season.
- Wildland Fire Management also used a 20-person, sustained action unit crew contracted from Yukon First Nations Wildfire to complete fuel abatement projects and support fire suppression.
- In addition to hiring personnel, Wildland Fire Management prepares for the coming season by restocking and refurbishing equipment. This includes procurement of consumable goods, wildfire fighting equipment and replacement or maintenance of specialized vehicles.

##### **Additional response:**

- Innovative recruitment campaigns are helping to ensure that the number and quality of candidates provides the best possible outcome for preparedness and response.
- Newly hired crew members must pass a fitness test and complete two weeks of intensive training prior to being able to attend a wildfire incident.

- Crew Leaders have spent multiple years and considerable hours on the fireline. They direct crews once they reach the required number of hours, types of training and experience level to adequately supervise this dangerous, stressful and physically demanding work.
- 

#### Context:

- The public may have interest in Wildland Fire Management (WFM) activities in 2024.
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#### Background:

- Yukon has 75 initial attack firefighters in regional bases across the Yukon and another 40 staff managing crews and aircraft, leading prevention programs, and providing logistical support.
  - When fully staffed, there is a maximum of 28 wildfire crews, which is comprised of 14 Yukon government and 14 Yukon First Nations crews. The 2024 season saw 4 of these contracts unfilled and single resources were joined together to maximize response capacity.
  - Communications during 2024 were supported by an improved Wildfire Hup that would text updates and support low bandwidth users.
  - Weekly Leaders' briefings were held throughout the summer, inviting community leaders to meet with the Minister, Wildland Fire Management and Emergency Measures Organization officials to ask questions and for updates on emergency response operations.
  - Wildland Fire Management prepares for the fire season by ensuring resources are in place, ready to respond to incidents as required. During the season, Wildland Fire Management's meteorologist and fire behavior specialists actively monitor current and short-term weather forecasts to ensure appropriate response to fires.
  - In addition to hiring personnel, Wildland Fire Management prepares for the coming season by restocking and refurbishing equipment over the winter months.
-

This includes procurement of consumable goods, wildfire fighting equipment and replacement or maintenance of specialized vehicles.

#### Financial Implications:

- Over the past five years, total Wildland Fire Management expenditure has ranged from \$18 million (2020/21) to \$41 million (2019/20) and is typically updated through Supplementary Budgets where required.

September 4, 2024

Date approved

## Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness

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Community Services

### Recommended response:

- After several intense wildfire seasons across Canada, Wildland Fire Management has been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming fire season by increasing response capacity and incorporating lessons learned from previous summers.
- We have allocated additional funding to increase initial attack capacity across the territory. Working with our First Nation partners, Yukon will have 14 First Nation and 14 Yukon government Initial Attack crews ready to respond this season.
- A number of Initial Attack crews will have a fourth crew member added. This will bolster resiliency and provide valuable mentorship experience ensuring we can meet personnel requirements in the years to come.
- In addition to the increased Initial Attack resources, we will continue to work with Yukon First Nation Wildfire to support training, certification and deployment of their 20-person Unit Crew.

### Additional response:

- Additional funding has also extended the operational season for Yukon First Nation Initial Attack crews from 85 to 95 days reflecting the trend of longer wildfire seasons.
- Wildland Fire Management also has relationships with other agencies through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, as well as the Northwest Compact, that will ensure adequate resources are available when needed.



## Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness

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## Community Services

- Yukoners are encouraged to think about your personal preparedness and actions you can take to prepare your families and your property for wildfires.
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### Context:

- The public remains concerned about the threat of wildfire to their communities.
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### Background:

- Yukon has 85 initial attack firefighters in regional bases across the Yukon and another 40 staff managing crews and aircraft, leading prevention programs, and providing logistical support.
  - Through the Our Clean Futures initiative, Yukon government will be adding a meteorologist and data scientist to Wildland Fire Management for improved forecasting services that will support effective pre planning and fire suppression efforts.
  - In 2024, there were 28 wildfire crews, which is comprised of 14 Yukon government and 14 Yukon First Nations crews.
  - Communications during the 2024 were supported by an improved Wildfire Hup that would text updates and support low bandwidth users.
  - Weekly leaders briefings (16 in total) were held throughout the summer providing an opportunity for community leaders to meet with the Minister of Community Services and get updated from Wildland Fire Management and Emergency Measures Organization officials on emergency response operations.
  - Wildland Fire Management prepares for the fire season by having resources in place ready to respond to incidents as required. During the season, Wildland Fire Management meteorologist and fire behavior specialists actively monitor current conditions and short-term forecast weather to ensure appropriate response to fires.
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# Session Briefing Note

**TAB# WFM-04**

**Fall 2024**

## **Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness**

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Community Services

September 4, 2024

Date approved

#### 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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25-09-24  
**Date approved**

**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 our 2022 Our Clean Future Annual Report and on the Our Clean Future website. The 2023 Our Clean Future Annual Report will be published in fall 2024.
- Since releasing Our Clean Future in 2020, the Government of Yukon has completed 45 Our Clean Future actions, 129 are in progress or ongoing and 4 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.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Our Clean Future Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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- 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)
- This year, we:
  - Completed flood maps for the Southern Lakes region and Carmacks. Draft flood maps for Teslin are available and will be finalized later this year. Flood hazard mapping for Old Crow and the City of Dawson and the Klondike Valley are expected to be completed in 2025.
  - Worked with municipalities and First Nations governments to finalize the Community Wildfire Protection Plans in Faro, Haines Junction and Teslin. We also published draft plans for the City of Dawson and Mayo.
  - 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.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Our Clean Future Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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- 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 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. (See EMR BN #30)
- Since 2020, we have provided rebates for 518 energy efficient new homes, exceeding our 2030 target of 500.
- In collaboration with the Yukon's public utilities, 9.7 megawatts of renewable electricity has been installed through the Micro-Generation program, exceeding our target of seven megawatts by 2030. (See EMR BN #10)

#### **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.
- We are bringing forward 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 December 19, 2023 (capturing 2022 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**

Deputy Minister, Environment

**September 25, 2024**

Date approved

**Paul Moore**

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

**September 24, 2024**

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

## **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

## Carbon Pricing (Corporate Note)

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- 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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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 - 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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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]

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October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

[Date approved]

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October 9, 2024

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