



# **Economic Development Briefing Notes**

## **2024 Fall Sitting**

Premier and Minister of Economic Development

Honourable Ranj Pillai



# The DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## 2024 Fall Session Briefing Notes

	Branch	Tab	Related Tabs
<b>Hot Topics</b>			
Port of Skagway	PPC	1	10
Yukon Nominee Program Intake Pause	IMM	2	
Temporary Measure to Support Prospective Nominees	IMM	3	
Yukon Business Nominee Program	IMM	4	10
<b>General</b>			
Economic Development Accomplishments	PPC	10	1,4,15,16,18,19,20,211,24,25,30,31,35,37,40,41,42,45,46,49,50,56,57
Economic Overview	PPC	11	40,41,42
Mandate Commitments	PPC	12	
<b>Innovation, Industry &amp; Business Support</b>			
Supports for Entrepreneurship & Innovation	IIBD	15	10
Economic Development Fund	RED	16	10,36
Business Incentive Program	IIBD	17	
Paid Sick Leave Rebate	IIBD	18	10
Investment Attraction	IIBD	19	10
Japan Trade Mission	IIBD	20	10
Mining Sector Supports	IIBD	21	10
Panache Ventures	PPC	22	
Red Tape Reduction	PPC	23	
Temporary Landlord Assistance Program (expired)	RED	24	10
<b>First Nation Collaborations</b>			
First Nations Collaborative Initiatives	RED	25	10
<b>Media and Music Industry Development</b>			
Performing Musicians Fund	YMD	30	10,36
Screen Media Funding Programs	YMD	31	10,36
<b>Community Development</b>			
Community Development Fund	RED	35	10,36
Regional Accomplishments	PPC	36	16,30,31,35
Disaster Financial Assistance Program- SME	RED	37	10
<b>Labour Market Development</b>			
Labour Market Overview	LMD	40	10,11
Labour Market Programs	LMD	41	10,11

# The DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## 2024 Fall Session Briefing Notes

Foreign Credential Recognition Project	LMD	42	10,11
Labour Market Strategy- Public Engagement	LMD	43	
<b>Immigration Programs</b>			
Government of Yukon Immigration Programs	IMM	45	10
Immigration Branch Operations	IMM	46	10
Settlement Services	IMM	47	
Francophone Immigration	IMM	48	
Immigration Strategy	IMM	49	10
Immigration MOUs	IMM	50	10
Humanitarian Initiatives	IMM	51	
<b>Trade Files</b>			
Canada-United States Trade	PPC	55	
Canadian Free Trade Agreement	PPC	56	10
International Trade and Agreements	PPC	57	10
Northern Food Working Group	PPC	58	
<b>Corporate Briefing Notes</b>			
Housing Issues	YHC	60	
Our Clean Future Implementation <b>UPDATED</b>	ENV/EMR	61	
Supplementary Overview	FIN	62	
TRC- Update on Calls to Action	ECO	63	
Inflation and Affordability	FIN	64	
Carbon Pricing	ENV/FIN	65	
Eagle Gold Mine- Impacts	ECO/FIN/ EMR	66	
<b>Other Departments Briefing Notes of Interest</b>			
USA and Alaska Relations	ECO	70	
International Relations	ECO	71	
Creative Potential	TC	72	
Critical Minerals	EMR	73	
Dawson Regional Land Use Plan <b>UPDATED</b>	EMR	74	
Mineral Sector Status and Supports	EMR	75	
Regional Economic Development Exceptions	HPW	76	
Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy	HPW	77	
Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Project)	HPW	78	
Yukon Nominee Program	PSC	79	

**Recommended response:**

- We are working towards finalizing the Export Cooperation Agreement, under which Yukon would fund the construction of a marine services platform in exchange for preferential access and fee discounts for Yukon mining companies using a future ore terminal.
- Government of Yukon officials last met with their counterparts in Skagway on November 1, 2024, to share Yukon's draft for the Export Cooperation Agreement. Skagway is reviewing the proposed text.
- We have regularly engaged industry, including both specific companies and the Joint Transportation and Infrastructure Committee throughout the process. Industry stakeholders view access to the port as critical to the future of Yukon's mining industry.
- Reliable access to Skagway's port helps attract investment, supports mine development and encourages mineral exploration in the Yukon.
- We are continuing to negotiate with the Municipality of Skagway to determine the best pathway forward for a marine services platform.
- Port redevelopment in Skagway eliminated its ore export capability.
- Our objective is to secure waterfront space to ensure that Skagway remains an export option for Yukon industry in the future.
- Yukon is proposing that Yukon and Skagway collaborate to build a 227-foot, T-shaped concrete marine services platform able to support multiple methods of ore export.
- Yukon has funded the platform design, totaling \$739,266 (CDN).
- A non-binding terms sheet was signed on September 7, 2023.
- Negotiations toward the binding agreement have not yet concluded.
- The Government of Yukon remains committed to securing tidewater access to support the territory's mining industry.



**Additional response:**

- The department considered bundling Skagway's port redevelopment with the marine services platform. This option would have required that a binding agreement be finalized in fall 2023.
- That pathway would have incurred significant mobilization and procurement costs in 2023-24. A \$21 million (CDN) appropriation was sought in fall 2023 to support this pathway.
- As an agreement was not finalized, Skagway's main redevelopment project proceeded without the MSP.
- Yukon and Skagway continue to work to identify the best path forward.
- \$44.7 million (CDN) is included in the Capital Plan between 2025-26 and 2027-28 for the project.
- We recognize Skagway will need more information on this project, including with regard to loading method and traffic:
  - The selection of loading method will be best determined by future conversations between Skagway and specific users; and
  - We welcome recent engagement by industry representatives with Skagway, including Western Copper and Gold.

---

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

- Skagway's port redevelopment eliminated its ore export capability in fall 2023.
- Skagway was a major issue of discussion during the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Sessions, in part due to the appropriation of \$21.36 million in anticipation of a bundling pathway that did not materialize.

---

**Background:**

- The Port of Skagway is the closest ice-free, deep-water port to most of the Yukon. Skagway demolished its existing ore loader as part of a port redevelopment project in fall 2023, eliminating its ore export capability.

# Session Briefing Note

## Port of Skagway

# TAB 1

## Fall 2024

### Economic Development

- A non-binding terms sheet was signed by Yukon and Skagway on September 7, 2023, but the binding Export Cooperation Agreement has not yet been finalized. Consequently, funding for the project has moved to the capital plan over three years between 2024-25 and 2027-28.
- On November 1, 2024, Yukon officials visited Skagway to share draft text for the Export Cooperation Agreement. Skagway is conducting its legal and policy review for the document.
- Skagway has expressed that it will need to better understand the project's potential impacts on the community, particularly of loading method and traffic.
  - In October 2023 Skagway passed an ordinance requiring ore travelling through the port to be containerized and is interested in limiting the impact of ore shipment traffic during the summer cruise season;
  - Skagway has been in touch with DP World to learn more about its retainer system and other shipment methods; and
  - Western Copper & Gold has proposed and is in discussion with the Municipality of Skagway about a joint concentrate handling and shipping study for the Casino mine as part of its community engagement.
- **Hecla Yukon Exports.** Hecla's Keno Hill project exports containerized silver-lead and zinc concentrate through the Port of Skagway, with the former shipped to Washington state for re-export to smelters in Asia, and the latter to Hecla's Greens Creek to be combined with the zinc concentrate produced at that mine.
- According to Hecla Yukon's January 2023 Operations Plan, it ships 690 dry metric tonnes (DMT) of silver-lead concentrate and 220 DMT of zinc concentrate through Skagway each month.
- Yukon's exports of lead concentrate to the US totaled \$39.7 million, and its exports of zinc concentrate totaled \$7.4 million in 2023.
- Hecla's exports through Skagway are containerized and use existing container export infrastructure. To the Department's knowledge, Hecla's future operations would be unlikely to require the marine services platform.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 5, 2024  
Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## Yukon Nominee Program

### Intake Pause

**Tab 2**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

---

#### Recommended response:

- On May 16, 2024, the Government of Yukon temporarily paused application intake for the Yukon Nominee Program from Whitehorse-based employers due to exceeding the allocation limit.
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) allocates nominations for each province and territory. For 2024, the Yukon's allocation is 430 nominees.
- We recognize the unique challenges that rural Yukon employers face when hiring workers and determined that keeping applications open for communities was important for addressing their labour needs.

#### Additional response:

- We wanted to clearly communicate program status to users, so they were better able to adjust and implement their recruitment efforts. This allows for more realistic planning by employers to address their labour needs.
- This temporary intake pause also helped avoid a continuously growing backlog, allowing for more effective processing in 2025.
- Given current trends across Canada, we do not anticipate receiving any additional allocations during the fall redistribution this year.
- As of **October 31**, 2024, **333** applications have been approved with **97** nominations left to be made in 2024.
- We anticipate the remaining applications to be carried over for nomination in 2025.
- Since the intake pause, 34 applications have been received from the communities: Carmacks (1); Rural Whitehorse (7); Watson Lake (6); Dawson City (7); Haines Junction (8); Teslin (2); Pelly Crossing (1); Carcross (2).
- We are confident that we will use this year's full allocation to nominate workers for permanent residency in the Yukon.
- We expect to resume application intake from Whitehorse employers at the beginning of 2025.

# Session Briefing Note

## Yukon Nominee Program

### Intake Pause

# Tab 2

## Fall 2024

### Economic Development

- We are actively working with IRCC on an interim mechanism to help support businesses in meeting their labour needs during the temporary intake pause and help workers who are seeking nomination.

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

- Due to unprecedented application volumes, a temporary pause on application intake for the Yukon Nominee Program for Whitehorse-based employers was implemented on May 16, 2024.
- Some foreign nationals currently working in the Yukon were anticipating that their employers would apply to the program in the second half of 2024 to maintain their legal status in Canada.

#### Background:

- In 2023, the Yukon received 430 nominations, with an additional 150 received during the fall redistribution. We used all of these to nominate individuals.
- Interest in the Yukon Nominee Program has steadily grown over the past few years, with applications more than doubling. Between 2019 and 2023, approved principal applicants for the Yukon Nominee Program increased by over 2.8 times, on an annual basis, from 202 to 580.
- Due to our advocacy with IRCC, the Yukon saw an 82 per cent increase in base allocations from 2021 to 2023 (220 in 2021, 270 in 2022, to 400 in 2023).
- Temporary or seasonal positions are not supported through the YNP.
- This pause will not substantially affect tourism or construction businesses seeking to hire year-round employees starting in the busy summer season, as approval timelines for Yukon and Canadian government programs would not have allowed for hiring of foreign nationals for these positions for 2024.
- There are no penalties or repercussions for accepting applications above the allocation, though we cannot nominate more individuals than IRCC has allocated. Doing so would contravene our Agreement with Canada. This means that surplus applications are held for potential nomination in the next calendar year.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 5, 2024  
Date approved



### Temporary Measure to Support Prospective Nominees

### Economic Development

---

#### Recommended response:

- On May 16, 2024, the Government of Yukon temporarily paused application intake for the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP) from Whitehorse-based employers due to exceeding this year's federal allocation limit.
- This left some foreign nationals with work permits expiring this year who were not able to apply to the YNP before their authorization ended.
- We have been actively working with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to deliver an interim measure to support these individuals and their employers with longer term solutions and we are happy to have launched this initiative on October 1, 2024.

#### Additional response:

- Potential YNP candidates will be able to seek a Letter of Support from the Government of Yukon to facilitate the issuance of a new Yukon-specific work permit which will be valid for up to two years. The foreign national will need to be nominated by their employer during that time for permanent residency through the YNP.
- This initiative will be available to those foreign nationals who were living and working in the Yukon as of May 16, 2024, the day the application intake pause was implemented.
- If the foreign national held valid work authority on May 16, 2024, but it has since lapsed, they may also be eligible to apply.
- Chambers of commerce provided valuable feedback and information to support the development of this initiative. We will continue to work with these organizations to support Yukon's labour market.

### Temporary Measure to Support Prospective Nominees

### Economic Development

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

- Due to unprecedented application volumes, a temporary pause on application intake for the Yukon Nominee Program for Whitehorse-based employers was implemented on May 16, 2024.
- Some foreign nationals currently working in the Yukon were anticipating that their employers would apply to the program in the second half of 2024 to maintain their legal status in Canada.

#### Background:

- A Letter of Intent between the Yukon and IRCC was signed on September 16, 2024 to enable the use of Canada's *Temporary Public Policy to Facilitate Work Permits for Prospective Provincial Nominee Program Candidates*.
- The Department of Economic Development will accept requests for a Letter of Support from foreign nationals between October 1 and October 15, 2024.
- All Letters of Support will be issued no later than December 6, 2024, in order to allow foreign nationals to submit an application for the new work permit to IRCC by December 31, 2024.
- To be eligible, candidates must:
  - Have been residing and working full-time equivalent hours in the Yukon as of May 16, 2024;
  - Have secured accommodations within 150 km of their work location;
  - Have had a valid work authorization as of May 16, 2024, that has expired or will expire before December 31, 2024; and
  - Have a letter of employment from a current Yukon employer.
- This temporary measure is available to potential candidates for all YNP streams, including Skilled Worker, Critical Impact Worker, Express Entry and Yukon Community Program (pilot).
- The Yukon is able to issue up to 215 letters of support.
- Nominations for these individuals must occur from within existing Yukon Nominee Program allocations during 2025 or 2026.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 1, 2024  
Date approved

### **Yukon Business Nominee Program**

### Economic Development

---

#### **Recommended response:**

- The Department of Economic Development administers two immigration programs in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC): the Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP) and the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- The YBNP is designed to attract and retain skilled international entrepreneurs, to add diversity and innovation to the Yukon's economy while ensuring that opportunities are safeguarded for Yukoners and other Canadians.
- The YBNP has successfully attracted and retained skilled international entrepreneurs to Dawson City, Mayo, Faro, Haines Junction and Whitehorse, creating jobs and enhancing economic diversification.

#### **Additional response:**

- Between January 1 and September 27, 2024, two business concepts were assessed under the YBNP. In 2023, there were nine.
- The Yukon welcomes foreign nationals who have business ideas that will add diversity, innovation, job creation or economic benefits to our communities.
- Criteria are stringent to ensure that new businesses are sustainable, meaningfully contribute to development of the Yukon's economy, and target specific strategic sectors.
- Applicants must submit a thorough business plan before arriving in the territory. They must also provide specific documentation over the first two years of business establishment, showing investments that have been made, that the business is operational, and that the applicant and their family have made the Yukon their year-round residence.
- Once these requirements have been met, the applicant can be nominated for permanent residency in the Yukon.

# Session Briefing Note

**Tab 4**  
**Fall 2024**

## Yukon Business Nominee Program

## Economic Development

- An applicant whose application is denied can request an administrative review of the decision and receive a response within 14 business days.

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

- There has been a noted interest in the process for foreign nationals to obtain permanent residency through the YBNP and the responsibility and requirements for participation in this program.

### Background:

- Since 2001, 52 candidates have been nominated for permanent residence through the YBNP, investing \$25.3 million in 32 businesses.
- Applicants must make a minimum capital investment of \$300,000 in the business in the first two years and have a personal net worth of at least \$500,000.
- Businesses must belong to one of the identified strategic sectors; exceptions may be considered if the proposed business is deemed to offer diversity, innovation, job creation or economic benefits to the community.
- Applications may be denied if the applicant or proposed business does not meet the stated criteria, or if the applicant has misrepresented themselves during the application process.
- Support may be withdrawn if the candidate no longer meets program requirements or has misrepresented themselves during the application process.
- Of the 11 business concepts assessed under the YBNP since 2023, none were approved.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 1, 2024  
Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## Economic Development Accomplishments

---

**TAB 10**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Recommended response:

- We aim to be a dynamic partner to First Nations, municipalities and the private sector, with responsive resources that have measurable impacts on economic growth and diversification.
- **Mining Supports.** We provide funding to promote the Yukon as an attractive jurisdiction for responsible mining, working with industry and First Nations partners.
- **Investment Attraction.** In 2024, we continued to attend major industry conferences to promote responsible investment in the territory.
- The Premier's 2023 Asia Trade Mission focused on attracting foreign direct investment, and we sent a Deputy Minister-led delegation on the 2023 Team Canada Trade Mission to Japan.
- **Port of Skagway.** We are working to finalize an Export Cooperation Agreement with Skagway to construct a marine services platform capable of supporting ore loading equipment in the Port of Skagway.
- **Labour Market Development.** We distributed over \$6.8 million in 2023-24 to help individuals meet their labour goals and help employers recruit, train and retain the staff they need to thrive.
- We secured \$3.6 million in federal funding for a Foreign Credential Recognition Project to support international health care recruitment.
- **Immigration.** We nominated 581 applicants under the Yukon Nominee Program in 2023, after working with Canada to raise our allocation. We continue to advocate for allocations that meet the Yukon's needs.
- Since 2001, 52 Yukon Business Nominee Program applicants were nominated, resulting in investment of \$25.3 million in 32 businesses.
- We are finalizing Implementation Guidelines for the Philippines MOU.
- In 2020, the department launched a new pilot stream, the Yukon Community Program (YCP), to support rural employers and nominees.



## Session Briefing Note

### Economic Development Accomplishments

---

## Economic Development

- **Technology and Innovation.** We released our new Innovation Strategy in November 2023, to support Yukoners' business ideas to thrive.
- We partner with governments and industry to support the innovation ecosystem with programs like the Canada Digital Adoption Program, First Nations coding training, and innovation programs and funding with Yukon University, Yukonstruct, and TechYukon.
- **Media Development.** In 2023-24, we approved \$1.72 million for 24 film projects, with \$5.5 million in anticipated in-Yukon spending.
- The Performing Musicians Fund approved 25 applications in 2023-24, totaling \$211,908 for seven established and 18 emerging musicians.
- **Trade.** We work with federal, provincial and territorial partners to advance our internal and international trade priorities.
- As of January 2024, cannabis is covered under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, and at the September 2024 Committee on Internal Trade, jurisdictions approved a 2024-27 Internal Trade Action Plan.
- **First Nations Collaboration.** We support First Nations governments and development corporations through funding and other initiatives.

### Funding Supports:

- **Paid Sick Leave Rebate.** We introduced the PSLR in 2023, covering 40 hours leave every 12 months for eligible workers.
- In 2024-25, as of August 27, 2024, 498 people from 85 businesses have been approved for \$227,096 in rebates.
- **Economic Development Fund.** During the 2023-24 fiscal year, 65 projects were approved through EDF with a total contribution commitment of \$2,672,420.
- From April 1, 2024 to August 13, 2024, 37 projects were approved under the EDF, for a total of \$1,543,355 in funding.
- **Community Development Fund.** During the 2023-24 fiscal year, 68 CDF projects were approved for a total of \$3,304,856.

# Session Briefing Note

## Economic Development

### Accomplishments

---

- From April 1, 2024 to August 22, 2024, 36 projects have been supported through the CDF, with a total contribution commitment of \$2,340,712.
- **Disaster Financial Assistance Program.** In May 2024 we launched support for disaster recovery, succeeding the 2023 Flood Program. It has three streams: housing, agriculture and small business. Economic Development administers the small business stream.
- The department received five applications and has disbursed \$27,072 in assistance so far under the previous Flood Recovery Funding Program.
- **Temporary Landlord Assistance Program.** We introduced a one-time \$338 per-unit subsidy in October 2023 to bridge the gap for landlords adjusting to the new rent increase cap of 5% that year.
- The department received 520 applications. As of August 29, 2024, 2,497 units were processed, representing \$843,986.

---

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

- There may be interest in the tangible outcomes resulting from the work of the department across its various branches.

---

#### Background:

- Economic Development's current Strategic Plan (2022-23 to 2024-25) identifies a vision of:  
*The Department of Economic Development aims to be a dynamic partner to First Nations, municipalities and the private sector with responsive resources for targeted opportunities that have measurable impacts on economic growth and diversification.*

<b>Approved by:</b>	
<u>Samantha Paterson</u>	<u>October 1, 2024</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon's economy continues to perform well with positive indicators in many areas, but the abrupt closure of the Minto mine in May 2023 and the heap leach failure at Victoria Gold in June 2024 will have negative economic impacts.
  - The Yukon's revised real GDP growth rate was a very solid 5.8% in 2022, and preliminary numbers show continued growth of 1.6% for 2023.
  - In 2023 and the first half of 2024, the Yukon's labour market (labour force participation, job vacancies and average pay) continued to outpace Canadian averages, and we continue to have among the lowest (and often the lowest) unemployment rates in Canada.
    - In August 2024, the Yukon's unemployment rate ticked up to 4.2%, still significantly below the Canadian average of 6.6%.
    - In Q2 2024, there were 1,150 job vacancies with an average offered wage of \$29.45 per hour.
    - Average weekly earnings by employees rose by 4.7% year-over-year in July 2024, well above the 1.4% rate of inflation.
  - The Yukon's population continues to grow, hitting 46,259 in Q1 of 2024.
  - Retail sales continue to be strong and rising:
    - 2023 sales were up by 7.1% over 2022 numbers.
    - To the end of July 2024 year-to-date sales are up 4.9% over 2023.
    - There are increased sales across all types of retailers:

- Motor vehicle and parts dealers +9.1%;
  - Furniture, electronics and appliances +6.6%;
  - Health and personal care retailers +7.5%;
  - General merchandise retailers +5.0%; and
  - Sporting goods, hobby, music and books +4.1%.
- The Yukon's retail sales growth has been far outpacing Canada's year-to-date pace of 1.0% and is the fourth highest jurisdiction in the country.
- The latest year-over-year monthly inflation number for Whitehorse is 1.4% for August 2024, continuing its downward trend, and lower than the 2.0% Canadian CPI:
    - Increases in mortgage interest costs, food purchased from restaurants and rent are the biggest current drivers of the Yukon's inflation; and
    - Telephone services, traveler accommodation and fuel oil have seen price decreases.
  - For all of 2023, inflation averaged 4.9% in Whitehorse, down from 6.8% in 2022.
  - Tourism, in the Yukon as in the rest of Canada, has been rebounding strongly but Yukon border-crossing data shows visitor numbers have not yet fully returned to pre-pandemic levels.
    - For 2023, crossings are up by 166% over 2022 to just over 454,000. This is approximately 90% of crossings in 2019.
  - Preliminary numbers to the end of July 2024 show crossings continue to rise, up by 10.2% over the same period in 2023. Particularly encouraging is the growth in the numbers of US residents (+14.5%) and other foreign residents (+11.1%) arriving in the Yukon.

# Session Briefing Note

## Economic Overview

**TAB 11**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

- Air arrivals in 2024 have also been strong, with 128,625 arrivals in the first seven months above the previous high of 120,347 for the same period of 2019, a year that saw a record number of air arrivals at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

---

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

- There is always a high degree of interest in the state of the economy.
- The issue has been raised in the legislature that more should be done to help mitigate inflationary pressure for individuals.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 1, 2024  
Date approved



**Recommended response:**

- The Department of Economic Development is advancing its mandate commitments to support local jobs and diversify our economy.
- Priorities include supporting community and economic development initiatives and addressing the Yukon's workforce needs through immigration and labour market development programs.
- We anticipate releasing our new Immigration strategy in the near term to guide policy and program development over the next decade.
- We will continue to align the department's work with the needs of the business community and help address labour challenges facing the territory. This includes the development of a Yukon labour market strategy and support for immigration.
- On November 9, 2023, we released our Innovation Strategy, *Innovation Yukon: Bringing Northern Ingenuity to the World*, to support and drive innovation forward.
- These commitments focus on supporting local entrepreneurs and innovators and providing Yukon businesses with the assistance they need now and into the future.

**Additional response:**

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

---

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

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

---

**Background:**

**Key mandate commitments:**

- Complete an **Innovation Strategy** that will guide our work in creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs:
  - The five-year strategy that was announced on November 9, 2023.

# Session Briefing Note

## Mandate Commitments

# TAB 12

## Fall 2024

### Economic Development

- Introduce a new Immigration strategy to address labour challenges facing the private sector and our healthcare and education systems:
  - We anticipate releasing this strategy in 2024, and it will guide policy and program development over the next decade to be responsive to the needs of employers.

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

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

Begin consultation on a **Labour Market Strategy**:

- The department began public engagement in spring/summer 2024.

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

- Government of Yukon signed a \$3.6 million funding agreement with Canada in February 2024 to deliver a four-year pilot initiative.
- Economic Development is working with our partners and other departments to identify ways to streamline licensing processes, create opportunities and provide employment services.

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

- The department is working with partners, including the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway, to evaluate the feasibility of bringing back commercial and passenger rail to the Yukon.

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

- A non-binding terms sheet was signed by Yukon and Skagway on September 7, 2023, but the binding Export Cooperation Agreement has not yet been finalized.
- The department is continuing negotiations toward a final agreement and is working with Skagway to determine the best path forward.

**Approved by:**

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## Supports for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

---

**TAB 15**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic  
Development

### Recommended response:

- We are collaborating with business, industry, and First Nations partners to make strategic investments and promote an entrepreneurial culture that attracts and supports startups.
- We released our five-year Innovation Strategy in November 2023 to support businesses and entrepreneurs, strengthen connections, grow the domestic technology sector and attract local talent.
- We have valued partnerships with TechYukon, Yukonstruct and Yukon University to deliver the physical spaces, educational programming and networking opportunities that foster an innovative environment.
- We partnered with Canada to support the implementation of the Canada Digital Adoption Program for Yukon businesses to go online.
- In collaboration with Tech Yukon, we supported five early-stage tech companies from the Yukon to participate in the Collision Tech conference in Toronto in 2024.
- We participated at the Juneau Innovation Summit in February 2024 to share experiences and develop connections with Alaskan organizations in the startup and innovation sectors.
- We worked with Panache Ventures to host activities in May 2024 in coordination with the Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference. A program for a CEO Summit in the Spring of 2025 is being developed.
- We hosted the CEO of Mitacs at Yukon University to promote our partnership and to explore partnership opportunities in other sectors.
- A core funding agreement for Yukon Venture Angels has been established as they aim to support business growth by attracting private capital to the Yukon.
- We continue to partner with the innovation ecosystem to deliver on programs such as:
  - Yukonstruct's Startup Bootcamp, Pathfinding services, Yukon Innovation Week, and the Hall of Innovators;

# Session Briefing Note

## Supports for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

**TAB 15**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic  
Development

- Investment workshops for entrepreneurs and angel investors;
- YukonU Innovation & Entrepreneurship's innovation grant;
- Sponsoring the Mitacs Accelerate Research and Business Strategy Internship Program;
- ElevateIP [intellectual property] program;
- Continued support for Yukon University's IncubateNorth; and
- In partnership with Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship, access to the National Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs Ecosystem (NIWEE).

---

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

- The technology and innovation sector is a key area for diversification in the Yukon's economy.

---

### Background:

- The department provides financial support to the following organizations:
  - Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship – \$835,000 in 2023-24 and our 2024-25 contribution is being finalized;
  - Yukonstruct – \$250,000 in 2024-25;
  - TechYukon – \$300,000 in 2024-25; and
  - Yukon Venture Angels - \$82,000 in 2024-25.
- Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship is focused on areas of innovation that will contribute to the social and economic prosperity of the Yukon, including technology development, social justice, climate action, community development and sustainable resource development.
- TechYukon is the technology industry association for the Yukon, representing 27 Yukon technology companies.
- Yukonstruct is a non-profit society for innovators, freelancers, startups, developers, students, inventors and creatives. Workshops and shared workspace are available at its Northlight Innovation hub.

# Session Briefing Note

## Supports for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

**TAB 15**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic  
Development

- The Canada Digital Adoption Program will not be accepting new applications after September 2024. However, businesses currently enrolled in the program will be able to complete their projects. A replacement program has not yet been identified by ISED. Yukon businesses seeking resources or support to develop e-commerce strategies and applications can continue to work with Tech Yukon and partner organizations at Northlight to achieve their objectives. Funding may also be available via Yukon University I&E or the Economic Development Fund.
- Economic Development has renewed our funding agreement with Mitacs for 2024-25 with \$80,000 being provided this year. In 2023-24, Mitacs delivered 31 internship units in the Yukon with the same amount of funding. Organizations like the Mastercard Foundation, Balance Biogas, and Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon have recently accessed the program.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 1, 2024  
Date approved



### Recommended response:

- The Economic Development Fund (EDF) is intended to support economic growth and diversification by providing funding for the broadest possible range of initiatives.
- From April 1, 2024, to August 13, 2024, 37 projects were approved under the EDF, for a total of \$1,543,355 in funding. Several projects are multi-year initiatives.
- These projects are located throughout the Yukon and include, among others:
  - \$112,490 to Ross River Dena Council to support them to partner with Alkan Air to address the need for improved aviation training and services in remote Indigenous communities; and
  - \$81,982 to Northern Cultural Expressions Society to develop a marketing strategy, branding, web platform and social media marketing strategy.
- Annual Reports for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are available on Yukon.ca.

### Additional response:

- During the 2023-24 fiscal year, 65 projects were approved through EDF with a total contribution commitment of \$2,672,420.
- Eligible projects under the EDF include those that:
  - support business innovation, sustainability and planning;
  - encourage economic diversification through market support; and
  - increase business competitiveness through capacity and capital development.
- All EDF applications are reviewed and assessed to ensure they meet fund eligibility and evaluation criteria.

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

- The EDF is a competitive program that is often oversubscribed.

### Background:

- The fund provides support to Yukon businesses, First Nations governments, First Nations development entities, municipalities, community societies or industry associations and non-profits. It invests in projects focused on local or regional economic and business development, job creation, or economic planning.
- The total allocation for the fund is \$1.96 million in 2024-25. Funding intakes occur for the following tiers:
  - Tier 1 – A rolling intake for applications up to \$30,000;
  - Tier 2 – Applications between \$30,001 and \$100,000 with intakes on April 15 and September 15; and
  - Tier 3 – Applications over \$100,000 with a \$500,000 per project cap, with an intake on January 15.
- Contributions from all Government of Yukon sources for a project may be up to 75% of the total costs, and EDF contributions may not exceed 50% of eligible capital expenditures.
- Examples of Supported Projects in 2023-24:
  - **Business innovation, sustainability and planning.** Rodan Air Maintenance was supported to hire a contractor to develop a business plan to address growth and expansion opportunities in the aviation sector;
  - **Market support and diversification.** Yukon Plastics was supported to purchase equipment, increase their product line and distribute the products at local markets in Vancouver; and
  - **Capacity and Capital Development.** Arctic Terrain Transport was funded to purchase a specialized loading crane for an overland transport machine for the development and maintenance of the Old Crow Winter Road, as well as the reclamation of old contaminated sites in the region.

### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- The Business Incentive Program (BIP) supports local economic activity by providing rebates to businesses working on eligible Government of Yukon contracts.
- Rebates are available for hiring Yukon youth, apprentices and adults and for using Yukon-made goods and services.
- Since April 1, 2024, BIP has processed three applications totaling \$190,388 in rebates.
- The department is currently reviewing additional applications representing up to \$10,000 in rebates.

**Additional response:**

- BIP must comply with the procurement thresholds specified in the Yukon's domestic and Canada's international trade agreements.
- The department is looking to modernize BIP in response to changing labour market conditions and low unemployment. This policy work is ongoing.
- BIP paid \$90,433 in rebates in the 2023-24 fiscal year. This does not include applications under assessment for multi-year projects.

---

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

- Not all contractors are aware of the free trade threshold limitations for BIP which were introduced in 2017 with the signing of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

---

**Background:**

- BIP provides two types of rebates for Yukon government procurements:
  - Construction rebates for labour and apprentice costs, youth employment, and Yukon materials; and
  - Goods and Services rebates for items produced locally and purchased by the Government of Yukon.

# Session Briefing Note

## Business Incentive Program

**TAB 17**  
**Fall 2024**

Economic Development

### BIP and Trade Agreements:

- BIP's preference for local content discriminates against other Canadian and international jurisdictions.
- The Yukon has an exception for BIP in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement as it relates to procurement obligations.
- There are no specific exceptions for BIP in Canada's international trade agreements, but the Yukon has access to 10 regional economic development exclusions per year for contracts up to \$1 million.
- The Yukon cannot apply BIP to contracts exceeding \$229,000 for goods and services and \$8.8 million for construction.
  - This value changes annually, as they are based on procurement thresholds in Canada's international trade agreements, which are measured in special drawing rights (SDR).
  - SDR is an international reserve asset created by the International Monetary Fund. The value of the Canadian dollar to SDR fluctuates over time. Treasury Board updates the dollar value of thresholds per calendar year through its contracting policy.

### Indigenous Peoples Exceptions in Trade Agreements:

- Canada maintains exceptions and reservations with respect to Indigenous peoples and businesses in all its major trade agreements to meet its constitutional and statutory obligations. BIP can be applied to favour Yukon First Nations over other Yukon, Canadian or foreign businesses without contravening trade obligations.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate (PSLR) program supports eligible Yukon workers (employees and self-employed) who earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94<sup>1</sup> per hour.
- The program provides 40 hours of leave per 12-month period and includes all illnesses (and injuries not covered by any other Act, benefit, or program).
- PSLR started on April 1, 2023, and will run until March 31, 2025.
- As of October 18, 2024 in the 2024-25 fiscal year:
  - 591 people from 96 businesses have been approved for \$288,185 in rebates.
  - Employees earned an average of \$22.96/hr and received an average paid sick leave of \$487.62 through the program. The average sick leave per employee was \$20.67 hours.
- Since the start of the program in April 2023, it has provided rebates to over 160 employers, who in turn provided paid sick leave to more than 1,100 unique employees.
- Approximately 3.75 per cent of applications were deemed ineligible.

**Additional response:**

- Employees must use all paid sick leave available to them annually through their employer before they are eligible for PSLR.
- The program focuses on Yukoners making less than the average private sector wage because that demographic may otherwise choose to work while sick to avoid financial hardship.
  - That demographic also tends to interact directly with the public, which increases the risk of spreading illness.
- The program is seeing increased demand in 2024-25, and the department continues to evaluate its performance.

---

<sup>1</sup> 2022 figure calculated at start of program

# Session Briefing Note

## Paid Sick Leave Rebate

**Tab 18**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

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

- There may be public interest in the program's performance and whether it will be extended.

### Background:

- The program's budget is \$750,000 in 2024-25, totaling \$1.5 million over two years.
- In the first year of the program:
  - A total of \$542,928 was rebated to 146 businesses, enabling them to provide paid sick leave to 929 employees for a total of 23,880 hours of paid sick leave.
  - Employees earned an average hourly wage of \$22.02 and, on average, claimed 25.7 hours of paid sick leave, resulting in an average rebate of \$584.54 per employee.
  - Approximately 50% of employees worked in Retail Trade, 19% in Accommodation and Food Services, and 13% in the Healthcare and Social Assistance sector.
  - Around 49% of employees earned an hourly wage between the minimum wage and the living wage of \$21.04<sup>2</sup> in 2023.
  - On average, from April 2023 to March 2024, the PSLR program provided \$45,244 in total rebates each month, supporting approximately 41 businesses in providing paid sick leave to 155 employees.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 21, 2024  
Date approved

<sup>2</sup> Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition

**Recommended response:**

- The Department of Economic Development's investment attraction efforts support the growth of Yukon businesses and can lead to opportunities for employment, diversification and market expansion.
- Department officials regularly attend trade shows and investment conferences to support the Yukon's potential for investors, particularly as a world-class mining jurisdiction.
- In 2024, the department has continued to promote investment in the territory to national and international audiences. This year, we attended:
  - AME Round Up in January 2024;
  - Vancouver Resource Investment Conference in January 2024;
  - Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) annual conference in March 2024;
  - Dawson City International Gold Show in May 2024;
  - Collision Tech Conference in June 2024;
  - Property Tours and the Yukon Mining Investment Conference in June 2024; and
  - Precious Metals Summit in Beaver Creek, CO in September 2024.
- The department supports initiatives aimed at broadening Yukon's economic base and increasing competitiveness through two investment attraction funding programs: the Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Program and the Yukon Business Investment Tax Credit.
- In addition, the department works to attract domestic and foreign direct investment through its mining investment attraction strategy and the Yukon Business Nominee Program.



---

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

- The department's investment attraction efforts face scrutiny regarding the rate of return for the Yukon.
- 

### Background:

- The department operates two principal investment attraction programs, in addition to its regular work on investment attraction.
  - **Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Program (YVLGP):** A partnership between the Government of Yukon and participating financial institutions that guarantees 65 per cent of the principal for venture loans up to \$100,000 for eligible businesses.
    - Eligibility is limited to new business start-ups and small businesses (less than \$5 million in revenue, under 100 employees) in the Yukon.
    - From January 1, 2024, to August 14, 2024, one application was received for YVLGP support.
  - **Yukon Business Investment Tax Credit (YBITC):** A 25 per cent individual tax credit for Yukon investors that allows Yukon-based businesses to issue shares in exchange for an agreed upon return and the tax credit.
    - Air North Charter and Training Limited was approved for \$4 million in the 2024 Tax Year by utilizing the YBITC program, which gives Yukon investors access to \$1 million in Yukon tax credits.
    - Eligible entities must be a private, incorporated corporation with a permanent establishment in the Yukon and pay at least 25 per cent of its salaries to Yukon residents. Entities with more than \$100M of assets are ineligible.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to attracting responsible mining investment that incorporates the views of local communities.
- The department's mining investment attraction work includes:
  - relationship-oriented approaches that emphasize face-to-face attendance at mining trade shows and investment conferences;
  - supporting the Yukon Mining Alliance to promote the Yukon;
  - supporting the Yukon Chamber of Mines at events and conferences; and
  - expanding joint initiatives with federal partners such as Invest in Canada to attract foreign direct investment.

- The development and promotion of a pan-territorial marketing initiative with NWT and Nunavut to promote mineral development in the North.
- In addition, the Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP) helps attract further investment into the Yukon.
  - Since 2001, 52 candidates have been nominated for Permanent Residence under YBNP, with 32 businesses established worth \$25.3 million in investment. No new businesses were nominated under the YBNP in 2024.

**Approved by:**

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 1, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon sent a trade delegation to participate in the October 2023 Team Canada mission in Japan.
- The delegation, led by Economic Development, included four Chambers representing the business interests of their members. The Chambers were:
  - Yukon Chamber of Commerce (YCC);
  - Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce (WCC);
  - Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce (YFNCC); and
  - Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM).
- The Yukon delegation partially participated in the Team Canada program and engaged with additional organizations.
- Yukon's Chambers indicated that they had many productive engagements with chamber colleagues, Japanese companies and Team Canada Trade Mission participants, and exchanged valuable information to bring back to their members.

**Additional response:**

- The mission equipped the chambers with knowledge to support their members in terms of enhancing the chambers' familiarity with the Japanese market and establishing valuable connections.
- It provided insights into how relationships with Japanese organizations can be effectively maintained.
- Topics of interest for the Yukon delegation included mineral development, renewable energy, clean technology, agriculture and agri-foods, export development, immigration and labour market issues, and opportunities to advance economic reconciliation.
- Our government will continue to support Yukon businesses and the Yukon Chambers in developing their trade readiness as opportunities present themselves.

# Session Briefing Note

## Japan Trade Mission

**Tab 20**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

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

- The mission may attract public attention.

### Background:

- The Yukon delegation participated in the general program of the Team Canada Trade Mission, including the Team Canada Reception on October 31, the Japan-Canada Chambers Council forum on November 1 and other official events.
- In addition to the Team Canada Trade Mission programming, the Yukon delegation met with the following organizations to exchange information about their memberships and to promote the Yukon and its businesses:
  - Marubeni Corporation;
  - Japan Community Power Association;
  - Cambridge Innovation Centre (CIC);
  - Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI);
  - Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ);
  - Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC); and
  - Japan Mining Industry Association, including representatives from DOWA Metals, JX Metals, Mitsubishi Materials, Nittetsu Mining, Sumitomo Metal Mining, and TOHO Zinc.
- The Delegation also met with the Federal partners organizing Canada's Pavilion for the Osaka Expo 2025.
- Each Chamber was provided with a one-time \$10,000 contribution for marketing/promotion/travel.
- This was incorporated into their existing TPAs and could be used towards this mission or potential travel in the future.
- The cost for sending Economic Development staff on the mission was \$8,991.

### Next Steps:

- We continue to collaborate with Japanese organizations and federal partners to foster information exchange and explore opportunities.

### Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

\_\_\_\_\_  
October 1, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- Mining remains an important part of the Yukon's economy. The Government of Yukon continues our work to support its status as an attractive jurisdiction for mining with strong environmental, social and governance standards.
- We are committed to attracting responsible investment in our minerals industry that supports the socially and environmentally sustainable development of our mineral resources.
- It has always been our government's position that a healthy environment and a healthy economy can go hand-in-hand.
- By promoting the Yukon as a stable investment jurisdiction for mineral development, First Nations governments, communities and families will continue to benefit from investments in the industry.

**Additional response:**

- The department continues to showcase Yukon's investment potential at international conferences and events.
- We are developing new minerals legislation and advancing land use planning that will further reduce uncertainties and assist in the Yukon's goal in becoming a global leader in sustainable mining. Funding support under the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program is also helping to bring early-stage mineral projects to maturation.
- We are actively investing in responsible infrastructure development to support the sector, including through:
  - Negotiations with the Municipality of Skagway for secure tidewater access for Yukon's mining industry;
  - The Yukon Resource Gateway Program; and

- We have secured federal funding to support pre-feasibility work for a Yukon-BC grid connection under the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund.
- We look forward to exploring the Yukon-BC grid connection with our partners. This project could help the territory meet increasing energy demand through a secure source of clean electricity. This includes potential future demand by proposed mining projects and supporting the sustainable development of critical mineral resources essential to the global clean energy transition.

---

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

- The mineral sector is a key contributor to the Yukon's economy and there is ongoing interest in the level of government support to the sector.
- The heap leach failure at Eagle Mine will likely raise questions regarding how Yukon government supports the mining industry.

---

**Background:**

**Industry Group Transfer Payment Agreements (TPA):**

- The department holds TPAs with industry groups to support their efforts to market the Yukon as an attractive jurisdiction for responsible mining.
- For 2024-25 fiscal year, the department currently holds a TPA with Yukon Mining Alliance (YMA) for \$315,500, exclusive for Property Tours (July 2024).
- The department also has a three-year TPA with Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM) for \$269,000.

**Pan-Territorial Marketing Initiative:**

- CanNor has approved the three territories for a three-year pan-territorial marketing initiative. Although the focus will be on mining investment and attraction for the North, the territories intend to develop a model that can be applied to other industries.

CanNor approved the project with a contribution of \$420,000, which would be supplemented by territorial contributions totaling \$210,000.

# Session Briefing Note

## Mining Sector Supports

**TAB 21**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Fraser Institute Rankings 2023:

- In 2023, Yukon ranked 6th in Canada and 16th of 88 jurisdictions globally for mining investment attractiveness with a score of 76.57, up 3 points from 2022.
- The Fraser Institute's methodology can result in significant variation in rankings, as different years can include or exclude certain jurisdictions and jurisdiction-specific rankings can reflect broader market conditions.

### Yukon-BC Grid Connection:

- In February 2024, the Government of Yukon made an application to the Critical Mineral Infrastructure Fund. On September 20, 2024, the federal government announced up to \$40 million over the next four years to support pre-feasibility and engagement for this project.
- Work on the feasibility of the grid connection project will require the completion of a new conceptual design with updated costing.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 1, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

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

**Additional response:**

- The value of the Government of Yukon's partnership with the First Nation Investment Corporation is in the capital and mentorship opportunities that it will bring to Yukon businesses. Government does not receive a financial return from its contribution.
- Panache Ventures participated in multiple events during Innovation Week in November 2023 including a workshop on "The Basics of Pitching" and hosting a meeting with members of Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation (YFNIC).
- Panache Ventures hosted activities in May 2024 in coordination with the Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference.
- A program for a CEO Summit in the Spring of 2025 is being developed. The early concept includes participation from CEOs and keynote speakers from investment and business coaching organizations relevant to the Yukon.

**If asked about other deliverables:**

- Three additional Yukon First Nations Development Corporation partnerships have subsequently been created following the model that was established to enable the Panache Ventures agreement:
  - The Yukon First Nations Investment LP builds investment capacity and enables partners to explore larger deals;



- The Yukon First Nation Telco LP, covers telecommunications, and was able to negotiate a \$10 million deal that has provided \$400,000 in cash flow reinvested into the Yukon's economy; and
- The Yukon First Nation Energy LP is exploring investments in energy initiatives, including green energy.

---

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

- At \$2 million, the scale of the Yukon government's contribution is significant.

---

**Background:**

- The Yukon First Nation Investment Limited Partnership is comprised of seven Yukon First Nations development corporations.
- Panache Ventures Investment Fund Limited, 2018, was launched in March 2018 with \$25 million in capital and a commitment to focus on seed-stage companies. This is a 10-year fund. The agreement ends in 2028.

**Panache's commitment towards investment in Yukon:**

- Panache noted that it is targeting to invest a minimum of 3 per cent of \$58 million in the Yukon over the life of the fund, or approximately \$2 million. They also committed to use commercially reasonable efforts to identify and make investments in a minimum of three more Yukon companies over the life of the fund. Panache has invested in one Yukon-based company to date (Proof Data Technology).
- The exact investment amount in Proof Data Technology is confidential and cannot be disclosed. The investment was leveraged to support raising more significant capital from additional investment pools.
- The Department of Economic Development contracted an independent consultant on venture capital to assess the fund. The assessment included the fund, investment strategy, team, investors, financial and economic development benefits for the Yukon, and risks of the investment. The assessment recommended that the department pursue this opportunity for the benefit of Yukoners.

**Approved by:**

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- We continue to focus on improvements that make departmental services easier to access. We know this is key to ensuring that the Yukon remains a competitive place to work and do business.
- The department has continued efforts to improve accessibility through:
  - A new annual Funders Meet and Greet event, connecting individuals, businesses and other organizations with programs.
    - In February 2024, the event involved 37 organizations, enabling the public to connect with numerous Government of Yukon departments and branches, federal government departments, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the City of Whitehorse and Yukon U, along with many NGOs that provide funding for Yukoners.
  - Ongoing delivery and review across department programs to improve clarity and accessibility.
  - Holding two smaller versions of the Funders Meet and Greet in Carmacks and Pelly Crossing to provide information about funding programs tailored to each community.
  - Delivering four information sessions for community organizations to better understand how to access and apply to the Community Development Fund and the Economic Development Fund.

**Additional response:**

- We are working on several new initiatives to further reduce red tape and streamline access to our programs:
  - We are conducting a review of the Economic Development Fund to support clarity and accessibility;

- We are currently undertaking public engagement on a new labour market development strategy, to identify current barriers and align programming with client needs; and
- We have signed an agreement with the Government of Canada to launch a foreign credentials recognition pilot project, which will explore ways to reduce barriers to labour mobility for internationally educated health professionals.

---

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

- Accessibility to economic development programs is an ongoing concern for small businesses, Yukon First Nations, community associations and the public at large.

---

**Background:**

- Economic Development continually reviews its funding programs to ensure they continue to meet the needs of Yukon businesses and communities. For example, the Media Development Branch continues to refine the policies and guidelines for its revamped programs introduced in 2022.
- The Labour Market Development Branch continues to provide extensive hands-on assistance to its clients particularly to ensure that they can and do meet the program reporting requirements.
- The Immigration Branch is implementing an online database to help improve access and reduce administrative burdens to employers who use the Yukon Nominee Program.

**Approved by:**

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

# **Session Briefing Note**

## **Temporary Landlord Assistance Program**

**TAB 24**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

---

### **Recommended response:**

- The Department of Economic Development introduced the Temporary Landlord Assistance Program (TLAP) in November 2023 that provided a one-time, per-unit payment of \$338 to eligible Yukon residential landlords.
- This payment covered the average difference between the expected rental rate rise of 6.8 per cent (2022 inflation rate) and the cap of 5 per cent introduced by regulation change in early 2023 through CASA.
- TLAP was an effort to encourage landlords to remain in the residential market and continue to provide much-needed rentals to Yukoners.

### **Additional response:**

- Inflation in the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index has fallen below the 5 per cent annual limit on the rent cap. As of May 15, 2024, a landlord may increase the rent up to the 2023 CPI, for an increase of 4.9 per cent.
- As of the close of the program, 520 applications were received, which included 2,590 units.
- As of August 29, 2024, 2,497 units were processed, representing \$843,986
  - Whitehorse: 2,426 units.
  - Dawson: 56 units.
  - Other Communities: 15 units.
- Of the 520 total applications:
  - 290 were for one unit;
  - 201 were for 2 to 10 units;
  - 18 were for 11 to 50 units;
  - 8 were for 51 to 100 units; and
  - 3 were for more than 100 units.

# Session Briefing Note

## Temporary Landlord Assistance Program

**TAB 24**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### If asked why the program was not extended in 2024:

- TLAP was not intended to become a recurring or permanent program.
- It was a temporary measure intended to help landlords adapt to the 2023 change in rent cap regulations.
- Inflation in 2023 fell to 4.9 per cent, below the regulated cap of 5 per cent.

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

- Housing and homelessness are high-profile topics. Media coverage has focused on the lack of affordable housing in Whitehorse and communities, and the high average prices for rental units both in the Yukon and across Canada.
- There was a \$1.014 million budget allocation for the program in the 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #1.

### Background:

- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA) included a limit to rent increases that were linked to inflation (based on CPI for Whitehorse) with a minimum of 2 per cent and a maximum of 5 per cent annually for the duration of the CASA.
- In 2023, regulation changes set the rent cap at a maximum of 5 per cent. However, the 2022 CPI was 6.8 per cent.
- Due to this change in regulation being announced after 2023 had already begun, landlords were not able to include it in their planning and it affected their expected income for the year.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## First Nations Collaboration Initiatives

**TAB 25**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

---

### Recommended response:

- Yukon First Nations governments and their respective development corporations play a critical role in growing and diversifying the Yukon's economy.
- Through programs like the Economic Development Fund, Community Development Fund, and Labour Market Development supports, we are supporting First Nations governments and development corporations as they grow their capacity, invest in new ventures, strengthen their communities, and plan for the future.

### Additional response:

- Some of the ways we are supporting Yukon First Nations include:
  - Supporting the Ross River Dena Council to administer a new driver program and a remedial/defensive driving course in Ross River for twelve (12) community members, which would help them gain employment skills and opportunities; and
  - Supporting Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership to undertake a feasibility study to determine an economic concept, business-case, and the market viability for a First Nations-owned regional Cold Storage Distribution Warehouse, located on Kwanlin Dün First Nation's Traditional Territory; and
  - Supporting Ross River Dena Council in partnership with Alkan Air Ltd to address a critical need for improved aviation training and services in remote Yukon communities by training four Kaska Indigenous pilots to fill the regional pilot shortage.

# Session Briefing Note

## First Nations Collaboration Initiatives

**TAB 25**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

---

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

- The Government of Yukon is committed to advancing economic development opportunities for Yukon First Nations and meeting its obligations under Chapter 22 of the Final Agreements.

---

### Background:

- The department provides advisory services and funding support to Yukon First Nations governments and development corporations to enable:
  - Building capacity and governance institutions;
  - Supporting strategic and economic planning efforts;
  - Identifying and supporting projects that will provide lasting benefits to Yukoners;
  - Supporting and developing feasibility studies, and establishing business ventures; and
  - Supporting labour market and workforce development initiatives.
- This support is provided with an eye to pursuing economic reconciliation through projects that bolster Indigenous programs, communities and organizations.

<b>Approved by:</b>	
<u>Samantha Paterson</u>	<u>October 3, 2024</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- Economic Development launched the Performing Musicians Fund (PMF) in 2022. It is a comprehensive funding program for Yukon musicians to foster continued growth in this vibrant creative industry.
- The annual funding for performing musicians is \$300,000.
- Between April 1, 2024, and October 4, 2024, the department approved 25 applications, including three established musicians and 22 emerging musicians, for a total contribution of \$201,452.

**Additional response:**

- Activities eligible under the fund include:
  - Music video content and sound recordings;
  - Marketing activities such as touring and showcasing; and
  - Training and development of Yukon musicians.
- The program increases the funding available to Yukon musicians:
  - Up to \$10,000 for emerging musicians; and
  - Up to \$30,000 for established musicians.
- The music industry creates local jobs and builds capacity, supports Yukon businesses and entrepreneurs and contributes to economic diversification.
- Creators can find information on programs online at Yukon.ca or by contacting our Media Development team at Economic Development.

---

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

- The Minister's 2016-20 mandate included a commitment to review economic funding programs to make programming more responsive with less red tape.
- Yukoners may want to know about the supports available to musicians.



# Session Briefing Note

## Performing Musicians Fund

**TAB 30**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Background:

- The PMF replaced the Yukon Sound Recording Program. Annual funding increased by \$250,000, up from \$50,000 previously available.
- The changes took place following engagement with Yukon stakeholders and consultation with program managers of provincial and territorial funding programs for music.
- The changes to the program are intended to broaden the spectrum of supports offered through the department to better meet the needs of Yukon musicians.
- The application process mirrors that of federal and provincial funding programs for the music industry. Applications are not accepted verbally.
- Eligible activities under the PMF include:
  - Activities that help musicians improve their skills, such as preproduction activities or workshop registration;
  - Professional sound recordings intended for commercial release, applying to showcases and for auditions to secure bookings; and
  - Costs associated with marketing newly-released music and developing opportunities that contribute substantially to their income.

### Eligible transportation expenses include:

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

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 7, 2024  
Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## Screen Media Funding Programs

**TAB 31**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

---

### Recommended response:

- Economic Development's media funding programs help to provide economic benefits and employment opportunities for Yukoners. The funds were launched in 2022 to support the production of professional film, television and digital media projects.
- The programs provide funding for production, development, and training.
- Between April 1, 2024, and **October 3**, 2024, the department approved **15** applications totaling **\$410,891** in support, including:
  - **four** applications for a total of **\$284,534** under the Media Production Fund;
  - **four** applications for a total of **\$61,507** under the Development Fund;
  - four applications for a total of \$55,785 under the Pre-Development Fund; and
  - **three** applications for a total of **\$9,065** under the Training Fund.
- The **15** projects anticipate spending approximately \$1 million in the Yukon, creating local jobs and building capacity while supporting Yukon businesses and contributing to economic diversification.
- Creators can find information on programs online at Yukon.ca or by contacting our Media Development team at Economic Development.

---

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

- Yukoners may want to know about Government of Yukon support for the screen media industry.

# Session Briefing Note

## Screen Media Funding Programs

**TAB 31**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Background:

- The Media funding programs' annual intake dates are announced online. Each program may be closed once funding has been fully subscribed.
  - This is consistent with federal funding programs; and
  - Closing these programs allows the department to allocate resources to the year the activity occurs and manage its budget appropriately.
- The application process mirrors that of federal funding programs for the media industries. Applications are not accepted verbally. The development of the new programs included:
  - Identification of best practices, development of terms of reference and project charter;
  - Public engagement with local stakeholders and industry experts, including Screen Production Yukon Association;
  - Development of recommendations and release to industry stakeholders;
  - Development and release of a What We Heard document; and
  - Public information sessions to review each program and application process with stakeholders.
- The budget to support these programs was increased to \$1,160,000.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 7, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- Projects funded by the Community Development Fund (CDF) support events and initiatives that provide long-term, sustainable economic and social benefits to communities across the Yukon.
- From April 1, 2024 to August 22, 2024, 36 projects were approved under the CDF, for a total of \$2,340,712 in funding.
- These projects are located throughout the Yukon and include, among others:
  - \$14,698 to the Whitehorse Bike Kitchen Task Force to operate a 'Community Bike Space' to provide Whitehorse community members with equitable access to repair, skills, and transportation.
  - \$20,000 to the Humane Society Dawson to hire an animal shelter specialist to complete a comprehensive assessment of the Dawson City animal shelter.
  - \$12,679 to the Alpine Ski Association Yukon to procure timing equipment to support competitive ski races and events in the Yukon.
  - \$20,000 to the Village of Teslin to do major upgrades to the ball diamond. The project includes installing a well, an irrigation system, power and lighting, and an upgraded diamond.

**Additional response:**

- During the 2023-24 fiscal year, 68 projects were approved for a total of \$3,304,856 in funding, with over 50% of that amount going to communities outside of Whitehorse.

---

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

- The CDF has a high profile, and community interest in program funding remains strong.

# Session Briefing Note

## Community Development Fund

**TAB 35**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Background:

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

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon has made significant investments across all communities in the Yukon.
- Communities have benefitted from a variety of funds administered by the department, including the Community Development Fund (CDF) and the Economic Development Fund (EDF).
- From April 1, 2024, to **October 18**, 2024, the department approved CDF and EDF funding for communities outside of Whitehorse totaling **\$2,063,844**, as follows:
  - North region (Dawson City, Eagle Plains, Keno, Mayo, Old Crow): **13** organizations were approved for a combined total contribution of **\$833,284**;
  - West region (Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction): **five** organizations were approved for a combined total contribution of **\$371,827**;
  - Central region (Carmacks, Faro, Pelly Crossing, Ross River): **eight** organizations were approved for a combined total contribution of **\$622,549**; and
  - Southeast region (Carcross, Southern Lakes, Teslin, Watson Lake): **four** organizations were approved for a combined total contribution of **\$236,184**.

**Additional response:**

- Communities also benefit from Media Development funding programs. Many screen-based media projects film in locations throughout the Yukon and spend their budgets in multiple communities.
- The Government of Yukon provides economic immigration programs to help businesses across the territory meet their labour needs.
- In 2020, the department launched a new stream, the Yukon Community Program (YCP), specifically designed to support employers and nominees in rural communities.

# Session Briefing Note

## Regional Accomplishments

**TAB 36**  
**Fall 2024**

Economic Development

- Between its inception on June 1, 2020 and March 31, 2024, 32 candidates have been approved through the program; and
- This pilot project has been extended until June 2025.
- Under Labour Market Development, the Skills for Success program is supporting projects such as:
  - Western Arctic Youth Collective, with a contribution of \$200,000, to provide mentorship programming for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Youth in various communities;
  - First Kaska (owned by Liard First Nation) with a contribution of \$250,000 to provide on-site training and mentoring for Liard First Nation community members in the manufacturing and construction of timber homes; and
  - Champagne and Aishihik First Nations - Shāwthān Nāhzi, with a contribution up to \$150,000, to support land-based healing programs in communities.

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

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

### Background:

- From April 2023 to March 31, 2024 (2023-24 fiscal year), the department approved CDF and EDF funding for communities outside of Whitehorse totaling \$2,381,362, as follows:
  - North region: \$826,279;
  - West region: \$362,772;
  - Central region: \$356,064; and
  - Southeast region: \$836,247.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 23, 2024  
Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Disaster Financial Assistance  
Program – SME Stream**

Economic Development

**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon launched the Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program in May 2024, to provide assistance to Yukoners for uninsured damages to their property and possessions caused by eligible natural disasters.
- The program has three streams: housing, agriculture and small business. The small business stream is administered by the Department of Economic Development.
- Under the small business stream, eligible businesses can reclaim damage costs up to a maximum of \$500,000.
- The Government of Yukon determines whether to activate the Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program after a disaster event. To date it has not been activated, so there have not yet been any applications under this program.

**Additional response:**

- Self-employed fishers, trappers, loggers and other harvesters of natural resources are eligible under the small business stream.
- Other expenses eligible under the program include hiring contractors to repair structural damages, cleanup costs, and replacing eligible business materials and business structures.
- Portions of the Flood Recovery program costs are recoverable from the federal Disaster Financial Assistance program.

**If asked about the 2023-24 Flood Recovery Funding Program:**

- The new Disaster Financial Assistance Program builds on and replaces the previous Flood Recovery Funding Program that was created in response to last year's flooding in the Klondike Valley.
- The deadline for applications under the Flood Recovery Program was October 3, 2023. The department received five applications and has disbursed \$27,072 in assistance.



# Session Briefing Note

## Disaster Financial Assistance Program – SME Stream

## Economic Development

- The deadline to submit all supporting documentation for payment is October 1, 2024. The department continues to work with applicants to process their submissions.

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

- Questions may be posed related to the government's disaster response program and the 2023-24 response to flooding in the Klondike region.

### Background:

#### Small Business Stream Eligibility:

Eligibility under the Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program aligns with the Federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. Under Yukon's program, a small business is eligible if it meets the following requirements:

- The owner or operator owns at least 50 percent of the business;
- The owner or operator works as the day-to-day manager of the business;
- The business was in operation at the time the natural disaster occurred;
- The business has a yearly gross revenue that is at least \$10,000, but less than \$2 million in the year immediately preceding the disaster;
- The business employs no more than 20 full-time employees at any one time; and
- The business is in good standing with Yukon Corporate Registry and Workers' Health and Safety Board Yukon.

#### Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program:

- The Disaster Financial Assistance Program was developed to align funding conditions with the Federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program, allowing some funding to remain recoverable;
- Generally, eligible events have widespread damages, affect a large area or number of residents and are mostly uninsurable; and
- Yukon did not have a standing disaster financial assistance program during the May 2023 Klondike Valley flood, which caused significant and widespread property damage. The Flood Recovery Funding Program was created in response. It has now been replaced by this broader assistance program.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon is experiencing the effects of nationwide labour shortages, resulting in low unemployment rates, coupled with high job vacancies and labour force participation rates in the territory.
- Persistent job vacancies can prevent business expansion, strain existing workforces, impede infrastructure projects and increase business costs.
- In 2024-25, Economic Development plans to distribute over \$4.9 million to support Yukoners and businesses in meeting their labour market needs.

**Additional response:**

- The Staffing Up and Building Up programs address vacancies by helping employers find, train, and retain workers, while connecting job seekers with employment opportunities through coordinated support and training initiatives.
- In addition, initiatives aimed at removing barriers for labour mobility such as the Foreign Credential Recognition Project and immigration programs are important tools to address vacancies.
- Economic Development, through its Labour Market Development Branch, is working on consultations for a new Yukon labour market strategy to guide our future investments in the workforce.
- Data demonstrates that the number of unfilled jobs in the territory is exceeded by the number of working-age Yukoners who are not in the labour force for a variety of reasons.
- Work is underway to determine:
  - Who are those working-age Yukoners who are not participating in the labour market?
  - What are the available skill sets of those Yukoners?
  - What supports and incentives (employer and program) should be employed to engage or re-engage these individuals?

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

- There are unfilled jobs in all sectors across Canada, which is a concern for businesses in the Yukon.
- The Yukon continues to have a higher job vacancy rate than Canada as a whole, indicating continued tightness in the local labour market.

### Background:

- In 2023, annual data show the Yukon's unemployment rate at 3.6%, the lowest in Canada and below the national average of 5.4%. In the same period, the Yukon had the second highest participation rate with 73.2%, behind NWT at 74.3% and well above the national average of 65%.
- Most recently, in September 2024, the Yukon's unemployment rate was 5.6%, third lowest in Canada and below the national average of 6.5%. In the same period, the Yukon had the highest participation rate with 75.9%, well above the national average 64.9%.
- Even with a higher unemployment rate figure in September, the year-to-date average of 3.9 per cent remains the lowest in Canada.
- The Yukon has the second highest job vacancy rate in Canada, averaging 4.6% over the second quarter of 2024, only behind the NWT at 6.2% and well above the national average of 3.3% (adjusted for seasonality).
- In the second quarter of 2024 there were 965 unfilled jobs in the territory (adjusted for seasonality).
- In fall 2023, 42.1% of those working in the Yukon were employed by one of four levels of government in the territory. The proportion of those who were employed by private business or corporation was 48.5%.
- The 2023 Yukon Employment and Skills Survey shows that among 5,702 individuals not in the labour force, 147 are self-employed but not working due to business closure, 3,790 are able to work but not seeking employment, and 1,765 are unable to work.

#### Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emma Sutton  
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

\_\_\_\_\_  
October 15, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- Economic Development supports labour market development initiatives of employers and organizations through Staffing UP and Building UP programs.
- Building UP focuses on services for adult learners, job seekers, and under-represented groups in the Yukon, while Staffing UP assists employers with capacity issues, including recruitment, training and retention.

**Additional response:**

- Based on current estimates, Labour Market Development expects to distribute over \$4.9 million in 2024-25 for programs and services that will help individuals, employers, and organizations meet their labour market goals.
- Within that budget, Labour Market Development will support:
  - six organizations and institutions providing labour market programs for First Nations.
  - 21 service providers and organizations to provide help with employment assistance services and/or foundational skills.
  - 15 employers for training, hiring and retaining employees.
  - An example of this is the three-year SPARK project, led by the Teslin Tlingit Council, which we are supporting with nearly \$600,000. The project focuses on workforce development by providing professional development opportunities for various skill levels, hiring or training staff to strengthen expertise in the First Nation Procurement Policy, and engaging a consultant to offer mentorship, conduct a skills inventory, and perform a gap analysis.

---

**If asked about budget reduction:**

- Labour Market Transfer Agreements across Canada were reduced for 2024. Removal of top-up funding dating back to 2017 **has** resulted in a total reduction of **approximately** \$1.0 million from 2023-24.
- In addition, the federal government acknowledged a miscalculation they had made in funding amounts under the Labour Market Development Agreement since 2014, resulting in a further budget reduction of **\$735,335** from 2023-24.
- The department collaborated with the Government of Canada to identify alternative funding sources and is currently finalizing an extension of Skills for Success funding for 2024-25 fiscal year, valued at \$800,000.
- The department is working with organizations to determine funding levels that are scaled for their operational realities and priority labour market outcomes.

---

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

- Employers in the Yukon continue to have trouble recruiting and retaining staff.
- Yukoners may want to know what support is available. Service providers may raise concerns about potential future cuts, especially as the department works with organizations to align funding levels.

---

**Background:**

- Economic Development is the strategic lead for the Yukon with Canada on the Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTAs), the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM), and for F/P/T strategic engagement.
- Economic Development has responsibility for the Canada – Yukon LMTAs, which include:
  - Canada – Yukon Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA); and
  - Canada – Yukon Workforce Development Agreement (WDA).
- In past years, the federal government has allocated additional “top-up” funding to maintain funding levels. The federal government has confirmed that “top-up” funding will not be provided in 2024-25.

# Session Briefing Note

## Labour Market Programs

# Tab 41

## Fall 2024

### Economic Development

- The Canada-Yukon Skills for Success Program (SFS), a two-year funding agreement, expired on May 31, 2024. This program provided \$2,224,000 in total over a two-year period to the Government of Yukon to strengthen adult literacy and essential skills for individuals furthest removed from employment.
- 2023-24 FY Summary:
  - 16 organizations reported 16,450 points of tracked service contact with Yukon job seekers and employers.
    - This number includes repeat use by unique individuals for many services, such as access to labour market information and computers for job searches, job applications assistance, and resume support.
  - Notable Achievement from LMD programs:
    - 313 individuals received training support through Community Training Funds;
    - 194 individuals received ongoing case-management support to return to or gain employment;
    - 11 organizations/institutions were funded to provide support to 786 Yukon First Nation citizens through multi-year projects, including 350 individuals in 2023-24;
    - 196 apprentices (administered by the Department of Education) were funded via the LMDA;
    - 29 individuals were placed with employers via wage subsidy; and
    - 338 individuals received support to improve their Skills for Success.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 7, 2024  
Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## Foreign Credential Recognition Project

---

### Recommended response:

- The Yukon is experiencing staffing shortages in the healthcare sector, mirroring a nationwide challenge as the sector struggles to find certified professionals to meet growing demand.
- Addressing this shortage is crucial to maintaining a resilient health care system that can provide high-quality care to all Yukoners.
- Streamlining the foreign credential recognition process is one way to increase the labour supply in the Yukon's healthcare sector.

### Additional response:

- The Foreign Credential Recognition Project is an initiative to remove barriers and facilitate the integration of internationally educated health professionals (IEHPs) into the Yukon's healthcare workforce.
- This four-year pilot project, valued at \$3,650,286, is funded by the Government of Canada. The budget in 2024-25 is \$818,000.
- The project aims to simplify credential recognition, improve awareness, explore ways to streamline regulatory processes, enhance access to practice, evaluate the sustainability of support services for IEHPs, and identify long term solutions.
- Economic Development, Community Services, and Health and Social Services oversee issues related to mobility and continue to work together to advance the project's goals.

---

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

- Questions are likely to be raised around labour market shortages in health care and plans to mitigate impacts on services and the territorial economy.
- Foreign Credential Recognition is a high-profile issue, especially as it relates to Health Human Resources.

# Session Briefing Note

## Foreign Credential Recognition Project

**Tab 42**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Background:

- The Department of Economic Development signed a contribution agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada on February 5, 2024.
- The project aims to:
  - Reduce barriers to foreign credential recognition by improving recognition processes, simplifying steps in credential recognition and offering increased access to practice in the field;
  - Provide IEHPs with relevant Canadian work experience in their intended fields, while incorporating wraparound supports such as childcare and transportation costs, as well as mentoring and coaching; and
  - To determine if findings from the pilot project may be expanded to other occupations requiring FCR navigation in the Yukon.
- Deliverables thus far:
  - In April 2024, a project working group was established. It includes representatives from Economic Development, Community Services, and Health and Social Services;
  - In May 2024, the project team initiated a series of consultations with stakeholders from the health sector. They gathered inputs regarding existing FCR recognition pathways, challenges and opportunities in hiring workers with foreign credentials, current workplace integration supports and the scope of navigation services;
  - The department is in the process of establishing a Navigation service to assist IEHPs by providing individualized support and identifying the next steps in their journey; and
  - There are currently 32 individuals that have been engaged by the department.

### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 1, 2024  
Date approved



**Recommended response:**

- Robust public engagement is necessary to gather diverse perspectives from various government and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy that responds to emerging trends and priorities.
- In May 2024, we began public engagement to identify changing priorities and trends in the labour market.
- Ongoing engagement includes conversations with Yukon First Nations governments, individuals, and service provider and employer stakeholders in Whitehorse and the communities.

**Additional response:**

- Engagement will help ensure that future labour market programming is aligned with the objectives of 'Our Clean Future'. Yukon's strategy for climate change envisions transitioning towards a low-carbon, sustainable economy, which will create new green jobs while also requiring a skilled workforce.
- Engagement is underway with Yukon First Nations governments to ensure inclusion of their unique labour market priorities in the broader Yukon strategy. At this time, 10 of 14 First Nations are actively participating.
- A public survey will be available in the fall to help capture Yukoners' diverse views.
- We anticipate releasing the new Yukon labour market strategy in 2025 to guide policy responses and departmental labour market program spending.

---

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

- Vacancy rates **s are among** the highest in the country (estimated 965 unfilled jobs as of May 2024).

# Session Briefing Note

## Labour Market Strategy- Public Engagement

**Tab 43**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

- Persistent job vacancies may burden regional economic development by limiting business expansion, straining existing workforces, and impeding crucial infrastructure projects, while increasing costs for businesses and potentially compromising service quality.

### Background:

- Since the 2020 expiration of the 10-year Yukon Labour Market Framework, government and stakeholder perspectives are likely to have shifted.
- The Premier's 2023 Mandate letter committed to "advance opportunities for innovation, diversification, and growth of a strong, resilient economy by beginning consultation on a new labour market strategy".
- Government-to-government labour market engagement includes representatives from all Yukon First Nations governments willing to participate.
- Key stakeholders being engaged include:
  - Employers including, but not limited to key informants at: Large entities; small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); First Nations development corporations; not-for-profits and NGOs; health care providers; industry organizations and associations (e.g., Chamber of Mines, Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon); chambers of commerce (Whitehorse, Yukon, and Yukon First Nations);
  - Working-age individuals, including those employed, those unemployed and those not currently in the labour market; and
  - Service providers, specifically key informants from organizations involved in the delivery of information, services, or support to Yukoners (employees and job seekers) seeking to strengthen their labour market outcomes.
- In addition to stakeholder engagement, the department is conducting research and planning on conducting program evaluations to further enhance its labour market programming.

#### Approved by:

Emma Sutton  
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 15, 2024  
Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## Government of Yukon

### Immigration Programs

---

**Tab 45**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

#### Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development administers two immigration programs in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC): The Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP) and the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- The YNP allocation for 2024 has been maintained at the same level as 2023, allowing the Yukon to nominate 430 people through the program.

#### Additional response:

- Due to the Yukon's advocacy with IRCC, there was an 82 per cent increase in the Yukon's base allocations from 220 in 2021 to 400 in 2023.

#### If asked about the Yukon Nominee Program:

- The YNP helps employers fill crucial positions with foreign nationals who intend to settle in the Yukon and gain Permanent Residency.
- Between January 1 and **October 31**, 2024, **333** applicants were nominated: **256** Critical Impact Workers, **35** Skilled Workers, **35** Yukon Express Entry and seven within the Yukon Community Program.
- The YNP allocation for 2023 was 430 people (400 Base and 30 Enhanced), with an additional 150 received during the fall exercise.

**For Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP), refer to Tab 4.**

#### If asked about the Yukon Community Program (YCP):

- The YCP is a pilot stream of the YNP until June 2025 that provides flexibility to employers in rural communities where seasonal and part-time work is critical to the local economy and essential for local economic development.

# Session Briefing Note

## Government of Yukon

### Immigration Programs

**Tab 45**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

- Candidates can work in up to three occupations that together equal one full-time position.
- The YCP opens up opportunities for employers to work together to utilize the YNP and meet labour needs.
- Candidates can be nominated to work in one of the participating communities of Dawson City, Carmacks, Carcross, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.
- Between January 1 and **October 31**, 2024, **seven** candidates have been nominated through the program – one in Whitehorse, one in Dawson City, **one in Haines Junction**, two in Carmacks, and **two** in Watson Lake.

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

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

#### Background:

- 581 applicants were nominated in 2023.
- In 2021, the YNP fully utilized its annual allocation for the first time.
- 2023 top three countries of origin were India (219), Philippines (17), China (18).
- 2023 top five occupations filled by nominees were Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers & Related Occupations (154), Light Duty Cleaners (58), Cashiers (52), Grocery Clerks & Store Shelf Stockers (55), Early Childhood Educators (38).
- The YNP has received applications from over 611 employers, approving 2,942 principal nominees and approximately 2,228 dependents.
- Between 2018 and 2023, the number of employers utilizing the YNP more than almost doubled from 94 to 200.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 6, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

**Government of Canada Immigration Levels Plan:**

- On October 24, 2024, the Government of Canada announced its 2025-2027 Immigration Levels Plan with significant reductions in both temporary residents entering Canada and in new permanent residents in 2025 and beyond.
- While the Government of Yukon has requested an increase in allocation for the Yukon Nominee Program for 2025, we recognize this may not be realized and that the announced reductions may impact both the YNP and the overall labour market in the territory.
- We will continue to advocate to Canada for an allocation that meets the needs of the Yukon's labour market while also considering broader territorial objectives.
- The Government of Yukon is actively working on how best to utilize the allocation that it receives for the nominee program in 2025, including how to provide stability and support for the Yukon's employers moving forward.

**Application processing times:**

- After receiving a complete application, the standard processing time by the Government of Yukon is 12-14 weeks. Processing times vary with the volume and the complexity of applications.
- Processing times are also affected by any prioritization criteria that are in place. Applications in priority groups will be processed first.
  - For applications received prior to August 28, 2024, individuals with expiring work permits are being assessed first, followed by visitor visa holders in Canada, individuals with work permits expiring within a year, and finally those individuals currently located outside Canada.
  - As of August 28, 2024, visitors are no longer permitted by Canada to apply for a work permit from within the country.

Therefore, the Yukon Nominee Program is no longer able to accept new applications for foreign nationals on visitor status.

- Following YNP approval, a nominee may need to apply to IRCC for a work permit. As of August 22, 2024:
  - Overseas nominees are subject to the processing times of the local visa office which varies greatly by location, present capacity, and priorities, taking from as little as eight weeks to 39 weeks; and
  - The processing of work permit applications from inside Canada is 128 days.
- Permanent Residence application review by IRCC for provincial/territorial nominees is 11 months (six months for Express Entry).

**Temporary foreign workers:**

- In March 2024, IRCC announced its intent to reduce Canada's temporary resident population from 6.2 per cent in 2023 to 5 per cent over the next three years by: stabilizing international student numbers; planning and assessment of demand for temporary foreign workers; and including temporary residents in the Immigration Levels Plan.
- When necessary, due to the volume of applications received, the Yukon will prioritize applications for visa holders already within Canada and those with current work permits to transition temporary residents to permanent residency.

**Program assessment:**

- In 2020, we engaged with key users and stakeholders. Their feedback was used to help determine the future program direction.
- The department is currently engaged in an evaluation resulting from an August 2022 Ombudsman recommendation to evaluate the YNP policy, operations manual and tri-partite agreement to ensure it is complying with fairness standards.

# Session Briefing Note

## Immigration Branch Operations

- The Auditor General of Canada is currently undertaking a performance audit of the YNP and the YBNP. The department is fully supportive of this review and is providing all information and resources that are requested. While timelines have yet to be finalized, we anticipate final presentation of audit findings will be made to the Legislative Assembly in Fall 2025.
- Economic Development is planning to review the program policies and procedures over the coming three years to increase application and program efficiency to respond to the needs of businesses and nominees and for better protection of newcomers.
- The department takes employer and nominee feedback seriously and we are continually seeking ways to improve the client experience for our immigration programs.

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

- Immigration has made national headlines in the last year, particularly related to the national housing crisis, international students and immigration services.

### Background:

- In fall 2024, Yukon University had approximately 149 international students from the following regions: Latin America (10-15), Asia (120-130), Africa (4) and various other countries. Registration is taking place right now and numbers will change again.
- There are currently four streams under the YNP: Critical Impact Worker, Skilled Worker, Express Entry and the Yukon Community Program (extended to June 2025).

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 5, 2024  
Date approved

---

**Recommended response:**

- Settlement services are an important part of welcoming and integrating newcomers to the Yukon into our communities.
- The Department of Economic Development provides settlement support to Yukon Nominees through information sessions, worksite monitoring and community outreach.
- L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) and the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon (MCY) provide settlement assistance through a range of integration services and programs on behalf of Canada, including linking newcomers with community cultural groups, fostering connections to support their settlement into the Yukon.
- Settlement services include support in finding housing, employment language instruction (tutoring) and referrals to government services such as childcare, education and health care. Canada invested \$1.57 million for settlement services for permanent residents (PR) in the Yukon in 2022-23, and \$1.70 million in 2023-24.
- In May 2024, the Government of Yukon delivered an outreach session in Carmacks.

---

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

- Settlement services and the ability of newcomers to integrate into society remains an area of topical interest.
- Retention is a key interest of many Yukon communities. The Yukon Community Program draws additional focus on settlement and retention in rural Yukon.

---

**Background:**

- Settlement services are generally funded by the federal government to support permanent residents to integrate and establish themselves in the economic, social, political and cultural aspects of their chosen community, whereas Temporary Residents (international students, foreign workers, refugee claimants) are usually supported by the province or territory.



# Session Briefing Note

## Settlement Services

- The Immigration Unit provides the following settlement services directly to its Yukon Nominee Program clients (foreign workers and employers):
  - Review and interpretation of the Nominee Tri-Partite Agreement;
  - Employee and employer worksite monitoring;
  - Mandatory workplace standards information sessions; and
  - Community Outreach visits in Whitehorse, including a weekly drop-in session which is open to foreign workers and international students.
- The Canada-Yukon Local Coordination Working Group is made up of government and non-government organization representatives and meets regularly to promote effective communication and collaboration between Canada and the Yukon on settlement outcomes, pre-arrival services, integration programs and policy issues.

### Settlement Agencies:

- In 2023-24, MCY received \$1.5 million in funding from IRCC through Yukon Tourism Education Council in support of Canada's Settlement Program (ends in 2025) for people who have permanent resident status and refugees.
- MCY offers needs and assets assessment, referral and outreach services, community connections, employment related services, language assessment and training, literacy programs, and Settlement Worker in School program.
- Over the past five years, up until March of 2024, MCY has provided services to 1,161 clients.
- AFY received \$205,872 in total funding for 2023-24.
- AFY has the following agreements with IRCC:
  - Francophone Welcoming Community pilot project (\$102,079/year);
  - Francophone Settlement (\$65,000/year); and
  - Réseau en immigration francophone du Yukon (\$25,000/year).
- AFY offers needs and assets assessment, referral services, community connections, and employment related services.

### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 1, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- Francophone immigration is a valued and important contributor to supporting the needs of Yukon employers and communities.
- The Yukon is the third most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, making us an attractive settlement destination for French-speaking immigrants.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work in partnership with the Government of Canada and L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) to recruit bilingual immigrants and help them integrate into Yukon communities.

**Additional response:**

- In 2024, two francophones (and their households), were approved under the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- Between 2016 and 2021, the Yukon was the only Canadian jurisdiction to increase the number and proportion of those who speak predominantly French at home (up from 2.4 to 2.6 per cent).
  - The number of Yukon residents who identified French as their exclusive first official language grew by more than 200.
  - In 2021, French was the first official language spoken by 4.5 per cent of the Yukon's population.
  - In 2021, the rate of English-French bilingualism in the Yukon was 14.2 per cent.
- Since 2007 when the YNP was established, 131 nominees (including their households) from French-speaking countries have been approved through the program.

---

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

- In January 2024, Canada announced several new initiatives to support Francophone immigration outside of Quebec.
- Canada has released the *Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-28*.

# Session Briefing Note

## Francophone Immigration

**TAB 48**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Background:

- On January 16, 2024, Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced several initiatives to support Francophone immigration outside of Quebec, including:
  - Release of the new "Policy on Francophone Immigration", to replace the 2019 Francophone Immigration Strategy;
  - Renewal and expansion of the Welcoming Communities Initiative; and
  - Development of a Francophone Immigration Support Program.
- Whitehorse was selected as one of 14 communities across Canada under the three-year Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative. Under the initiative, AFY receives \$102,079 per year (2020-24) to create programs and activities to help French-speaking newcomers integrate into the community.
- Increasing francophone immigration is a high priority of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Vision Action Plan (VAP). The VAP outlines shared goals for immigration based on FPT collaboration, consultation, and cooperation.
- The Immigration Unit offers bilingual services for clients and is represented on the "Réseau d'immigration francophone au Yukon".
- AFY receives federal funding to provide settlement services including language instruction, orientation to healthcare, education and information on the employment sector.
- The Yukon's top source francophone countries are France, Belgium, Switzerland and Morocco.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- We look forward to releasing “*Stronger Together: Immigration, Thriving Communities and a Growing Economy*” in the coming months. This strategy will guide us over the next decade, helping us to ensure our immigration programs are responsive to the evolving needs of the Yukon’s economy, employers and communities.
- Economic immigration is an essential tool for attracting workers and developing a labour force that supports investment and economic growth while meeting the needs of Yukon businesses.
- Immigrants contribute to the modernization and diversification of the Yukon’s economy, invest in businesses that create jobs and enrich the culture of the territory.

**Additional response:**

- The department has worked with stakeholders and government partners to ensure the new strategy will meet the territory’s needs now and into the future.
- Public engagement that asked Yukoners for their ideas and experiences with the Yukon Nominee Program and Yukon Business Nominee Program concluded in December 2020.
  - We published the *What We Heard* report in July 2021.
- As with many other Canadian locales, housing supply and affordability is an ongoing challenge faced by current residents and by immigrants seeking to settle in the Yukon. The strategy will include actions to work together to meet the housing needs for our community.

**If asked about timeline:**

- The strategy is taking longer than expected to complete as the department works to:
  - ensure the strategy aligns with other government priorities; and
  - reflects changes to the immigration landscape since the initial engagement occurred in 2020.
- The department regularly collaborates with Yukon stakeholders, including employers, employees and settlement agencies for the delivery of the Yukon Nominee Program, providing officials with insight into their current priorities and concerns.
- The department also engages with its federal counterparts at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada on changes to federal immigration policy, including Francophone immigration measures.

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

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

**Background:**

- The previous 10-year immigration strategy was developed in 2010 by the Immigration Strategy Working Group.

**Approved by:**

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- The Department of Economic Development is working to ensure the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP) effectively meets the territory's labour market needs by exploring potential partnerships with certain jurisdictions.
- On March 18, 2022, the Yukon and the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Employment and Protection of Filipinos under the YNP.
- The department is working to finalize the Implementation Guidelines for the MOU with the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers.
- Work on the guidelines has taken significantly longer than expected. The department is following up with our contacts in the Philippines to finalize the agreement.
- The Yukon also signed a Letter of Intent with the Indian State of Kerala's Department of Non-Resident Keralite Affairs (NORKA-Roots) on September 14, 2023.
- The Letter of Intent was signed to explore potential collaboration on healthcare recruitment. The Government of Yukon is currently considering next steps.
- The Yukon continues to consider whether agreements with other countries could support delivery of the Yukon Nominee Program.

**Additional response:**

- Text for the guidelines is still under draft and has not been finalized and approved by either the Government of Yukon or the Philippines.
- The implementation guidelines will include an Activities Plan for the Government of Yukon and the Philippines, as well as Terms of Reference for a Joint Committee that will monitor and advise on the implementation of the MOU.

# Session Briefing Note

## Immigration MOUs

**TAB 50**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

---

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

- The Implementation Guidelines have taken longer than expected to complete, primarily due to logistical challenges.

---

### Background:

#### Philippines MOU:

- On March 18, 2022, the Yukon and the Philippines signed the MOU.
- The MOU improves coordination between the Yukon and the Philippines on labour mobility and specifically:
  - improves identification and recruitment of Filipinos under the YNP;
  - supports the safety of Filipino nominees under the YNP;
  - waives fees applied by the Philippines to Filipino YNP applicants; and
  - clarifies the role of the Philippines' vetted pool of qualified Filipino workers.
- Implementation Guidelines for the MOU have taken significantly longer than expected to complete, primarily due to logistical challenges. This includes the 2022 creation of the Philippines Department of Migrant Workers, the passing of a Secretary of Migrant Workers, long review times, and difficulty finding a meeting timing that works for the required senior officials.
- The department is continuing to reach out to our contacts with the Philippines government to meet and finalize implementation guidelines for the MOU.

### Other Initiatives:

- The Premier led a business delegation in September 2023 on a mission to Asia, visiting Japan and India.
- During the visit, the Premier signed a Letter of Intent with the Kerala Department of Non-Resident Keralite Affairs (NORKA Roots). NORKA Roots has a mandate for the recruitment of healthcare professionals by international governments.
- The Government of Yukon is considering internally how best to advance the objectives of the Letter of Intent.

<b>Approved by:</b>	
<u>Samantha Paterson</u>	<u>September 3, 2024</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon is committed to supporting global citizens who have been impacted by catastrophic natural disasters and those who are victims of violence in contravention of international law.
- Anyone who needs assistance finding information on support for refugees can contact the Department of Economic Development.

**Additional response:**

- The Government of Yukon launched the Ukrainian Family Support Desk in March 2022, to help Ukrainians seek residency and employment in the Yukon. As of August 28, 2024, the Support Desk has received 468 inquiries.
  - In April 2023, the Support Desk was expanded to support Turkish and Syrian refugees and received 25 inquiries.
- The Yukon will continue to use its Support Desk service to offer information and support to people affected by natural disasters and international crises seeking to arrive in the territory.
- The Government of Yukon provided one-night of accommodation and food vouchers to Ukrainians transiting through Whitehorse via seasonal Condor flights, assisting a total of 58 Ukrainians.
- As of August 28, 2024, the Ukrainian Canadian Association of Yukon (UCAY) estimates that at least 150 Ukrainians have chosen to settle in the Yukon.
  - Eight Ukrainians along with their families, for a total of 20 individuals, were nominated for permanent residence through the Yukon Nominee Program.

---

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

- Natural disasters and international crises have resulted in significant international migration in recent years. Yukoners are interested in knowing how the territory is supporting those impacted.



**Background:**

**Russian Invasion of Ukraine:**

- Russia's unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, created a humanitarian crisis. The following are current United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates, with real figures inside Ukraine, likely much higher.
  - 6.7 million have fled abroad (August 2024);
  - At least 3.7 million are internally displaced (February 2024); and
  - At least 35,160 civilian casualties (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, July 2024)
- Economic Development's Labour Market Development branch supports the "Jobs for Ukraine" program launched in March 2022 by the Government of Canada Job Bank, to support Ukrainians seeking jobs in Canada.

**Türkiye and Syria Earthquake:**

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

**Crisis in Gaza:**

- In October 2023, the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, resulting in more than 1,200 primarily Israeli deaths and taking more than 240 people hostage.
- Israel subsequently declared war, cut electricity, and blocked the entry of food and fuel to the Gaza Strip.
- Three weeks after the initial assault, more than 1.4 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip had become internally displaced.
- On January 3, 2024, South Africa instituted International Court of Justice (ICJ) hearings against Israel alleging the Crime of Genocide. On January 26, the ICJ ordered Israel to undertake provisional measures to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza.

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

\_\_\_\_\_  
September 3, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- We work closely with federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts on supporting trade with the United States that secures Canadian economic interests.
- Yukon's two-way merchandise trade with the US in 2023 was \$150.1 million. Two-way trade with Alaska in that period was \$121.4 million.
- The Yukon continues to promote greater cross-border trade and collaboration that advances and protects Yukoners' interests.
- This September, with support from the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, the US Commercial Service visited Whitehorse with a delegation of American businesses to participate in the CanArctic Industry Days.
- We support the federal commitment to rules-based international trade, which remains the cornerstone of a healthy trading relationship.

**Additional response:**

- Alaska is our most important international trading partner. We work closely with our counterparts there to benefit both our economies.
- We work actively with federal and provincial counterparts on Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) implementation.
- CUSMA preserves key elements of the long-lasting Canada-US trading relationship, with provisions that address modern trade issues.
- We are monitoring trade and commercial relations with the US as Canada, the US and Mexico approach the 2026 Review of CUSMA.

---

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

- Canadian jurisdictions, including the Yukon, are monitoring protectionist trends in the US, such as "Buy American" policies in federal infrastructure projects.

- Canada-US trade disputes periodically relate to issues that impact provinces and territories (PT) or involve PT jurisdiction. PTs participate in implementation efforts that affect areas where they have jurisdiction.

---

**Background:**

- **Yukon-US Trade.** Yukon-US Trade in 2023 stood at \$150.1 million, down from \$240.5 million in 2022.
- In 2022, two-way merchandise trade had increased 11.7 per cent from 2021 and was continuing to recover from a low during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The significant decline in 2023 is mostly attributable to declining mineral exports, particularly copper exports tied to Minto Mine, which closed in May 2023.
- The vast majority of the Yukon's trade with the US is with the State of Alaska, constituting roughly 85 per cent-95 per cent of the Yukon's annual trade with the US. Trade with Alaska fell substantially in 2018-20, to a low of \$56.5 million in 2019. Yukon-Alaska trade stood at \$121.4 million in 2023.
- **CUSMA.** Trade between Canada and the United States is governed by the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement. CUSMA replaced NAFTA and entered into force on July 1, 2020.
- CUSMA applies to the Yukon, except in areas where there is exclusive federal jurisdiction. The Yukon is not a signatory, but as a member of the WTO, Canada takes reasonable measures to ensure observance by provinces and territories.
- The first six-year review of CUSMA will begin by July 1, 2026. At the review, there will be an opportunity either to decide to renew the agreement or the parties may deliberate for up to 10 additional years.
- Under its review and ongoing modernization provision, CUSMA mandates that a review occurs every six years from its entry into force. CUSMA lasts 16 years, with each six-year review providing an opportunity to renew the 16-year term.

**Approved by:**

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## Canadian Free Trade Agreement

**TAB 56**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

---

### Recommended response:

- As a party to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), we are ensuring Yukon businesses have access to markets, investors, and procurement opportunities across Canada.
- We also continue to work with our provincial, territorial and federal colleagues at the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT) to ease the flow of goods, services, investments and labour across our border.
- In September 2024, Prince Edward Island chaired a meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade, where direction was provided to officials to implement the 2024-27 Internal Trade Action Plan (ITAP).

### If asked about the 2024 CFIB Internal Trade Report:

- The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) gave Yukon an overall grade of “D” in its 2024 report card on internal trade, ranking the territory 12<sup>th</sup>, above New Brunswick and Quebec.
- Last year, the Yukon received the same grade and ranking.
- CFIB’s methodology for grading and ranking jurisdictions largely relies on assigning an economic impact score that is directly tied to the number of exceptions that a particular jurisdiction holds.
- CFIB acknowledges the limitations of this approach in comparing exceptions, or in understanding their full economic impact.
- Exceptions for a small jurisdiction like the Yukon are not implicitly bad. They can protect Yukon businesses from unequitable competition from Southern enterprises.

---

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

- Recent publications by industry stakeholders, academia and think tanks are calling for more action on reducing internal trade barriers across Canada.
- In the CFIB’s 2024 State of Internal Trade: Canada’s Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card, the Yukon was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> among 14 jurisdictions.

# Session Briefing Note

## Canadian Free Trade Agreement

**TAB 56**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Background:

- Since 2017, the CFTA has applied to all government measures affecting internal trade unless explicitly excluded. Parties can retain exclusions through general and party-specific exceptions.
- In 2022, the Yukon removed five of its party-specific exceptions from the CFTA to further support the flow of goods and services to and from the territory. The following exceptions were removed:
  - One government procurement exception that has since expired;
  - Three exceptions related to authorizations for agriculture, grazing and forestry; and
  - One exception for recycling services in the territory.
- As of 2024, Yukon holds a total of 29 exceptions in the CFTA, including a new exception that reflects the requirements in the Yukon's cannabis legislation.
- The 2024-27 ITAP aims to guide federal, provincial and territorial collaboration on internal trade over the coming years. The plan covers four priorities, specifically:
  - Developing a better understanding of the internal trade environment;
  - Better communicating the benefits of the CFTA and internal trade opportunities in Canada;
  - Reducing regulatory and administrative burden; and
  - Collaborating to further facilitate labour mobility.
- The RCT is a key element of the CFTA governance structure, tasked with a mandate to reconcile regulatory measures that act as barriers to trade, investment, or labour mobility within Canada. It also works to cooperate in the development of future regulatory measures.
- Since its inception, the RCT and its Working Groups have negotiated 12 reconciliation agreements and finalized four regulatory cooperation items. Yukon has signed all agreements for which it has relevant measures.
- CFTA does not impact territorial legislation or protections related to Indigenous peoples, language, their environment, culture or health care. These areas are exempt from the rules of the agreement.

### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## International Trade & Agreements

---

**TAB 57**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Recommended response:

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

### Additional response:

- We work with Global Affairs Canada and the Trade Commissioner Service to identify opportunities for Yukoners and Yukon companies.
- In September 2023, Yukon conducted a Premier-led delegation to Japan and India, which included a trade component.
- In fall 2023, the department joined a federal Team Canada Trade Mission to Japan, with a delegation of Yukon chambers of commerce.

---

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

- Canada is undertaking a number of international trade initiatives that may impact the Yukon's interest. This includes exploring new agreements with Indonesia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Ecuador.
- In 2023 and 2024, negotiations with India and the UK were suspended.

---

### Background:

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

### Team Canada Trade Missions (TCTMs):

- As part of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy, Canada hosts large, minister-led trade missions to the Indo-Pacific region. These missions are open but include specific agendas to support SME participation and focus on priority sectors.
- To date, TCTMs have targeted: Malaysia and Vietnam (March 2024) and Japan (Sep-Nov 2024). Its next targets Indonesia and the Philippines (December 2024).

# Session Briefing Note

## International Trade & Agreements

**TAB 57**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Trade Initiatives:

- **Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).** Provinces and territories participate in CETA implementation, including the work of the CETA Committee of Wines and Spirits, and a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. As of 2024, 17 of 27 EU member states have ratified CETA.
- **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).** Canada is one of 11 members. The UK signed an accession protocol in July 2023, which will enter force after six members ratify: four have done so.
- **Canada-Indonesia CEPA Negotiations.** Negotiations toward a Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) were launched on June 20, 2021. There have been eight rounds; the most recent took place in June 2024.
- **Canada-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Negotiations.** Canada and ASEAN launched negotiations toward an FTA in November 2021, with rounds beginning in 2022. The Trade Negotiating Committee held eight rounds, with the latest in May 2024.
- **Canada-Ecuador FTA Negotiations.** On November 24, 2022, Canada and Ecuador launched exploratory discussions toward an FTA. Negotiations formally began in April 2024 and two rounds have been held, with the latest in June 2024.
- **Canada-UK Free Trade Agreement (Suspended).** Canada-UK trade is governed by the Trade Continuity Agreement, which bridges CETA provisions. Upon the UK's accession to CPTPP, trade will also be governed by that agreement. The UK suspended negotiations towards a new FTA in January 2024.
- **Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Negotiations (Suspended).** Canada has been in negotiations with India on a CEPA since 2010. However, negotiations have been largely stalled. Negotiations restarted in March 2022, but Canada announced a pause of negotiations in September 2023 amidst rising bilateral tensions.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

- As Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) in 2022, Yukon tabled a recommendation to renew the activities of the Northern Food Working Group (NFWG). The group was established in 2017 under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) to develop the food sector in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
- Throughout 2023 and 2024, the renewed NFWG completed an environmental scan of territorial programs in support of food and agri-food projects. The results were compared against the recommended actions from a 2018 report to identify remaining areas of work.
- The NFWG is currently developing a new work plan that is focused on leveraging the CFTA to further advance the development of food industries across the territories.

**Additional response:**

- The membership of the NFWG consists of trade and agriculture officials from each territory and the federal government. A future iteration of the NFWG will include interested provinces.
- The NFWG's 2018 report identified recommendations for addressing challenges related to four key areas:
  1. access to capital;
  2. innovation and research;
  3. regulatory development; and
  4. local food production.
- Several federal funding programs support the development of the food sector in Canada, including:
  - AgriDiversity Program;
  - Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership;
  - Nutrition North Canada programs; and
  - Northern Isolated Community Initiatives Fund.



# Session Briefing Note

## Northern Food Working Group

**TAB 58**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

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

- Food production and distribution are growing as an economic sector of interest for Yukoners and small businesses.

### Background:

- Under Article 1103 of the CFTA, the Parties agreed to establish two working groups focused on developing the food sector in the Territories.
- The NFWG is the first of the two working groups to be established. Consisting of only the Government of Canada and the three territories, its mandate is to identify economic development opportunities for the respective territorial food sectors.
- The establishment of the second working group is pending a recommendation to do so from the NFWG. This forthcoming working group will include the provinces and prioritize the following:
  - identify ways in which the provinces and the Government of Canada could work with the territories to better direct the innovation strengths of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector to provide for economic benefits and improved access to healthy foods in the territories; and
  - assess and consider the role of supply management, including the quota allocation process, in economic development in the territories.
- The 2021 Census of Agriculture reported a total of 88 farms in the Yukon, representing over 6,000 hectares in farm area. This number only includes farms that reported expenses or revenues to the CRA.
- The top three categories for farm types in the territory are horse and equine, hay, and greenhouse operations.
- Yukon producers of beets, carrots and eggs hold the top three positions for relative market share in the territory, followed by kale, radish, cabbage, spinach and greenhouse vegetables. Local pork and red meat capture less than 10 per cent of the market.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 3, 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.

---

### Context:

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

---

### 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

## Housing Issues

**TAB #66**  
**Fall 2024**

# Yukon Housing Corporation

	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.
--	---

25-09-24  
**Date approved**



**YHC #69/ENV #20/  
EMR #34  
Fall 2024**

**Session Briefing Note  
Our Clean Future  
Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

---

**Recommended response:**

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

**Additional response:**

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

**YHC #69/ENV #20/  
EMR #34  
Fall 2024**

**Session Briefing Note  
Our Clean Future  
Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

---

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

**YHC #69/ENV #20/  
EMR #34  
Fall 2024**

**Session Briefing Note  
Our Clean Future  
Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

---

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

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

**Third response:**

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

## YHC #69/ENV #20/ EMR #34

### Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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

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

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

#### Background:

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

#### Approved by:

Dennis Berry

November 19, 2024

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Paul Moore

November 13, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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

---

**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)**

---

**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)**

---

- 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)**

---

**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.

---

**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

---

Deputy Minister, Finance

---

Date approved



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

---

**Recommended response:**

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in 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.

---

**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)**

---

#### **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)**

---

- 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)**

---

- 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)

---

- 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.

---

#### 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.

---

#### 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)

---

- 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)

---

### 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)**

---

#### 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)**

---

- 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)**

---

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

---

**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

---

- 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.
- 

**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

---

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

**Background:**

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

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

Environment &amp; Finance

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

**Approved by:**

Dennis Berry

October 2, 2024

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

Jessica Schultz

October 1, 2024

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

## **Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts**

---

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

---

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**

---

ECO-FIN-EMR

impacts and inform next steps.

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

### *Economic and labour market impacts:*

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

## Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts

---

ECO-FIN-EMR

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.

---

### 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.

---

### 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

---

ECO-FIN-EMR

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

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

### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Lauren Haney

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

[Date approved]

Jessica Schultz

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Finance

[Date approved]

#### Recommended response:

- The Yukon and Alaska share many common interests and challenges.
- We are working together to advance shared priorities that will improve the prosperity, stability and wellbeing of both jurisdictions.
- Our interests in Arctic security, a healthy environment, critical minerals, robust transportation infrastructure and access to tidewater serve both our jurisdictions as investment and geopolitical focus remain on the North.
- The US and Alaska recognize the Yukon's significance as part of their connectivity, regional security and economic partnerships.
- We were pleased to host Governor Dunleavy and members of the Alaska Cabinet in February.
- We continue to engage regularly with the US Consul General in Vancouver, Jim DeHart, and hosted a visit from Ambassador Cohen in spring 2024.

#### Additional response (Alaska):

- Over the course of the Governor's visit, we had productive conversations on highways and connectivity, fish and wildlife, community safety, wildfire response, regional security, MMIWG2S+ issues, and supporting the private sector's exposure to Alaskan officials.
- The Governor and I signed a new Intergovernmental Relations Accord which sets out a framework for how we will work together on matters of shared interest.

- I travelled to Anchorage in April to strengthen the relationship and develop more areas for collaboration, including partnerships of non-central governments in the North American Arctic.
- The Yukon and Alaska are stronger together as neighbours and friends because of what we've accomplished in the last year, and we will continue to foster this important regional relationship.
- We are maintaining contact with Commissioners in Alaska to keep them advised of any potential downstream impacts from the Eagle Gold Mine.

#### **Additional response (Shakwak/Alcan Highway):**

- During the Governor's visit, we concluded a memorandum of understanding on new funding opportunities for the Shakwak highway.
- This is an important development that will improve road connectivity and safety for both Alaska and the Yukon.
- With that agreement, Alaska was able to help fund reconstruction efforts on parts of the Shakwak that are heavily impacted by degrading permafrost through their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.
- The Alaska /Yukon application for funding from the US government's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant program was successful this year.
- We are working closely with both the Alaska and US governments to ensure we can maximize the use of the funds, while remaining a good partner and friend to Alaska.

- The Alaska Highway is a critical component of highway infrastructure for life in the North and the tourism sector.
- The Shakwak project encompasses the Haines Road and the Alaska Highway north of Haines Junction.
- Supporting the repair and safety of this road advances Canadian and US priorities, including resilience to climate change, economic development, supporting communities and people in the Arctic and maintaining Indigenous connections that span borders.

#### **Additional response (USA relations):**

- It was a pleasure to host Ambassador David Cohen in May.
- His engagement with us built on the regular conversations that our government has with the US Consulate in Vancouver.
- We worked with US counterparts to deliver a trade mission in the Yukon in September.
- I'm happy to see this deep interest in the Yukon and look forward to this mission bearing fruit in the medium-term.
- The US is Canada's largest trading partner, and I hope to see more Yukon companies benefiting from that relationship.
- It is a credit to the efforts of Consul General DeHart in Vancouver that we were able to get the border crossing at Little Gold back to its pre-pandemic operating window.
- That change was a huge win for Dawson and cross-border travelers.
- We look forward to continuing increases in cross-border traffic and seeing more visitors from the US this year, as well as Yukoners visiting our neighbours in Skagway, Haines and beyond.

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

- Governor Dunleavy visited Whitehorse on February 8 and 9, 2024.
  - Ambassador Cohen visited Whitehorse on May 30, 2024.
  - Premier visited Anchorage on April 12, 2024.
  - There may be confusion on the funding structures for the Shakwak highway, and how the two streams of funding will be used to improve the highway.
- 

#### Background:

##### Alaska relations

- Governor Dunleavy and three Commissioners visited Whitehorse on February 8-9, 2024. Two agreements were signed at the conclusion of the visit.
- In addition to the intergovernmental relations accord and MOU on highways, YG and Alaska are working on a MOU to support closer collaboration and information sharing on public safety - particularly MMIWG and human trafficking concerns.
- Topics discussed during the visit included highways, the Port of Skagway, bison and elk, salmon, MMIWG2S+, regional security, energy, forestry, agriculture, wildland fire and airline connections.
- The Eagle Gold Mine heap leach pad failure has attracted media attention in Alaska, and Alaskan leaders and officials have been offered briefings regarding Eagle Gold.

##### Shakwak:

- The new MOU puts our highway in Alaska's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which will give the State more latitude to disperse funds.
- The project in the STIP mirrors the contents of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) application.
- The RAISE award will be brought into the STIP and Alaska is shifting STIP funds to provide us with a budget that will surpass the \$25M USD RAISE award.



### USA and Alaska Relations

### Executive Council Office

- This may mean we are able to add elements of construction that were not in the RAISE application that can now be covered by STIP money.
- Conversations between Yukon HPW, Alaska DOTPF and the US Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) are ongoing.
- FHWA has supplemental information requirements that they need to satisfy before delivering the funds to Alaska and HPW is working to get them all the information they need.
- The project funding is expected to be available for the 2025 construction season. Alaska works on a fiscal year of November to October.

#### USA relations:

- The Canada/US Roadmap announced by Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden in February 2021 is guiding relationships across borders.
- We are seeing more engagement with US officials since the Roadmap was announced.
- Consul General Jim DeHart (Vancouver) has visited the Yukon on four occasions since taking the office.
- Ambassador Cohen made his first visit to the Yukon on May 30, 2024.

**Skagway Port redevelopment: See Note # TAB 17 EcDev**

**Approved by:**

**Justin Ferbey**

**2024 08 20**

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

#### Recommended response:

- The Yukon's international engagement helps meet labour force needs, attract investment across our economy and ensures our voice and values are heard in global discussions about the Arctic.
- Taking the Yukon abroad shows that we are serious about being a productive partner in the global economy, including in critical minerals supply chains. It also demonstrates that the Yukon is a place where people from around the world can find success.
- We regularly host diplomats from other countries here in the Yukon, giving us opportunities to create personal connections and showcase what is exceptional about our territory.
- Throughout the past year, the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations leadership have had strong engagement with a wide variety of international partners, both in the Yukon and outside.

#### Additional response (UK Mission)

- After my visit to London in November 2023, the High Commissioner recommended that a larger Yukon delegation, including Yukon First Nations leaders, would be well-received.
- In June of this year, in addition to supporting the opening of the 'Honouring our Future: Yukon First Nations Graduation Regalia' exhibition at Canada House, the Deputy Premier and seven Yukon First Nations Chiefs and representatives met with government, business, and institutional leaders in the UK. They also participated in a media event with travel and leisure media.
- This was an outstanding opportunity to bring the Yukon to the UK and for friendly and open discussions on further opportunities for cultural exchange, while promoting the Yukon as a travel destination.

### International Relations

### Executive Council Office

---

- The UK is one of the top ten origin markets for Yukon tourism, and the second European origin market.
- UK visitors look for authentic First Nations tourism experiences and products.
- We are grateful for the participation of Yukon First Nations leaders and their willingness to share their culture and stories as part of this trip, showing reconciliation in action.

#### **Additional response (Asia Mission):**

- The mission to Asia last September built on the significant engagement we had with Japan and India through their diplomatic corps in Canada over the last few years.
- Our extensive program of meetings with government and business officials was the next step in strengthening these relationships.
- I am pleased that we were able to bring some Yukon businesses with us, to help them get exposure to new markets and opportunities.
- We have kept the dialogue going with continued engagement from the Japanese diplomatic corps in Canada.
- Despite the challenges at the national level with the Indian government, we continue to look at business and human resources opportunities with India.

#### **Additional response (costs):**

- Government travel is essential to developing our relationships, enhancing the Yukon's profile and promoting new opportunities abroad.
- Travel is managed under a longstanding government policy, the travel directive. The directive sets out the authorities required for travel by government officials, is based on principles of economy and efficiency, and establishes rates for certain costs.

## International Relations

## Executive Council Office

---

- Airfares are booked at the best rate through our travel desk and the travel agents we work with.
- Our choices for hotels are guided by whether those facilities have been vetted by the Global Affairs missions in each country.
- We take their recommendations, and in many cases, we get preferred rates or negotiate group rates.
- Most of the budget for international trips includes travel, hotel and per diems. The remaining budget lines were costs associated with hosting meetings and sponsoring events in each city.
- Ministerial travel expenses will be posted online as soon as they are finalized. This normally takes around 90 days.

---

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

- Questions on the mission to the UK may emerge regarding the amount spent and value for money.
- There may be continued questions on the 2023 mission to Asia given continued coverage of Canada-India diplomatic relations.
- There have been a number of diplomats who have visited the Yukon in the last number of months.

---

### Background:

#### UK Mission 2024

- A Yukon Delegation visited London, England on June 13 and 14, 2024. Engagements included:
  - Profiling Yukon First Nation culture at Canada House and supporting the launch of the regalia exhibit;
  - A business event hosted by the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce, including senior representatives of Yukon businesses;
  - Sharing cultural experiences at Parliament through the House of Lords;

## International Relations

## Executive Council Office

---

- Accessing Yukon cultural artifacts at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford;
  - A dinner with members of the High Commission and notable guests from other civil society organizations, academia, and business; and
  - Supporting the Yukon's tourism sector through the collection of photo and video collateral by Yukon North of Ordinary that can be used for future opportunities.
- The total cost for the London trip was approximately **\$131,162**. This includes:
  - ECO and Cabinet (travel, High Commission charge-backs): \$37,452
  - Tourism and Culture (travel, gifts and hospitality, Yukon North of Ordinary participation): \$31,532.
  - Economic Development (supporting Yukon First Nations and Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce participation, Chamber breakfast event): \$62,178
  -

### UK Mission 2023

- A Yukon delegation visited Frankfurt and London November 24 to 30, 2023.
- Outcomes from Frankfurt included:
  - Profiling the Yukon as a gold mining leader at the German Gold Show;
  - Private conversations with industry; and
  - Media.
- Outcomes from London included:
  - Connecting with UK MPs and Ministers at Critical Minerals Day;
  - Direct conversation with Canada's High Commissioner to the UK, Ralph Goodale;
  - Speaking engagements, private meetings and media at the Mines and Money @ Resourcing Tomorrow conference;
  - Bilateral discussion with Rio Tinto; and
  - Meeting with Canada UK Chamber of Commerce.
- The total cost for the Frankfurt/London trip was approximately **\$35,000**. This figure does not include the Economic Development sponsorships at the conferences.

### Asia Mission

- A Yukon delegation made a visit to Japan and India September 8 to 20, 2023.
- Outcomes and engagements in Tokyo included:
  - Meetings with private companies (Mitsubishi Materials, DOWA Metals) and government (JOGMEC, JOIN) on critical minerals investment;
  - General business development with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan;
  - Meeting with Japanese Arctic interests to discuss clean energy and climate change;
  - Signing a letter of intent to support another special Aurora flight and tourism to the Yukon; and
  - Several tourism engagements with Japanese companies.
- Outcomes and engagements in Trivandrum:
  - Meetings with the Chief Minister and several state Cabinet ministers on health care, training and commerce;
  - A letter of intent from the Yukon government to work with NORKA on a targeted recruitment program; and
  - In-depth tour of Technopark Trivandrum and exposure to many tech companies working there.
- Outcomes and engagements in New Delhi:
  - Meeting with the federal minister of mines;
  - Engagement with Indian business leaders, including in tech; and
  - Exposure to health training institutions.

### International Relations

### Executive Council Office

- The total cost of the Asia trip was **\$170,899.54**, broken down as follows:
  - ECO (travel, gifts and hospitality, charge-backs for embassy services, Canada-India Business Council support): \$111,556.53;
  - Economic Development (travel, hospitality): \$26,542.71;
  - Tourism and Culture (travel, Tokyo event venue): \$16,802.69; and
  - Health and Social Services (travel): \$15,997.61.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

Deputy Minister

Executive Council Office

2029 09 11

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note**  
**Creative Potential (CCIS)**Tourism and Culture

---

**Recommended response:**

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

**Additional response:**

- Approximately \$500,000 was allocated to new initiatives starting in fiscal year 2022/23, and we have implemented or are midstream implementing seven actions, with more underway. A progress report was released in May 2023.
- We launched three new programs which provide an additional \$450,000 to the creative and cultural sectors. These are the: Express Micro-grant, the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant, and the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund. The partnership with Canada Council for the Arts to fund the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant has been extended for two years based on its success to date. (see Tab 17 Funding Programs).
- Over 30 professional development workshops for the creative and cultural sector have been offered by the department since 2022.



**Session Briefing Note**  
**Creative Potential (CCIS)**

Tourism and Culture

- A new policy on Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums was completed and approved in April 2024.

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

- Some members of the public may be interested in the implementation status of the strategy.

**Background:**

- The Yukon's 2022 Culture GDP was \$72.3 million, representing 1.8% of the total territorial economy. Canada's 2022 Culture GDP was \$58.5 billion, representing 2.1% of Canada's total economy.
- The creative and cultural industries sector encompasses the creation, production, promotion, distribution and commercialization of cultural goods, as well as the labour force and institutions required to support it.
- The share of culture jobs accounted for 3.3% of all jobs in Canada. Yukon culture jobs have increased 2.5% from 2021 to 2022 for a total of 802 culture jobs (2022).

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2024**

### Critical Minerals

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

---

**Recommended response:**

- In June 2024, the Government of Canada updated the list of Canada's critical minerals to include 34 minerals.
- Yukon hosts deposits of 14 of these critical minerals, and occurrences of an additional 13.
- In 2023, the Yukon saw exploration activity for the following critical minerals: copper, zinc, tungsten, nickel, cobalt, and platinum group metals.
- We are supporting the development of the Yukon's critical minerals by advancing an electrical grid intertie with British Columbia, looking to secure continued tide water access in Skagway, and making improvements to our road infrastructure through the Yukon Resource Gateway Project. (See BN#107)

**Additional response:**

- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, we updated the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals.
- We are working with Natural Resources Canada on the implementation of Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and looking at other made-in-Yukon solutions for critical minerals opportunities.
- Canada's critical mineral list now includes high purity iron (used for steel), phosphorus (used for fertilizers/food security) and silicon metal (used for semi-conductors).

# Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2024**

## Critical Minerals

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

---

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

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

---

### Background:

- As defined by Canada, critical minerals must meet the following two criteria:
  1. the supply chain is threatened, and
  2. there is a reasonable chance that Canada can produce the mineral.
- Critical minerals must also meet one of the following criteria:
  1. it must be essential to Canada's economic or national security,
  2. it is required to transition to a sustainable low-carbon and digital economy, or
  3. it will position Canada as a strategic partner in the global supply chain.
- Canada's Budget 2022 identified major investments (\$3.8 billion over eight years) to implement Canada's first Critical Minerals Strategy. This includes:
  1. Up to \$1.5 billion over seven years, starting in 2023-24, for infrastructure investments that would support the development of the critical minerals supply chains, with a focus on priority deposits;
  2. \$79.2 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, for Natural Resources Canada to provide public access to integrated data sets to inform critical mineral exploration and development; and
  3. The introduction of a new 30 per cent Critical Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for specified mineral exploration expenses incurred in Canada and renounced to flow-through share investors. This targets nickel, lithium, cobalt, graphite, copper, rare earths elements, vanadium, tellurium, gallium, scandium, titanium, magnesium, zinc, platinum group metals, or uranium.

## Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2024**

### Critical Minerals

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

- In June of 2024, Canada added three new commodities to their critical mineral list: high purity iron (green steel), phosphorus (fertilizers/food security) and silicon metal (chips, semi-conductors), as well as the 31 commodities on the original list.
- In the lead-up to the updated list, the Government of Yukon advocated for the inclusion of silver on the critical minerals list. Silver was not added to the list.
- Of the 34 critical minerals on Canada's list, Yukon has deposits for 14, including significant deposits of copper (electrical transmission), zinc (anode in material batteries), tungsten (strengthening metals), nickel (metal coatings), cobalt (batteries), platinum group metals (catalytic agents), molybdenum (alloy steel), and iron.
- The Yukon's endowment of critical minerals represents both economic opportunities and an opportunity to contribute to the renewable energy/green economy in Canada.
- Yukon Geological Survey has received \$200,000 over three years (2024-2027) from Natural Resources Canada's Critical Minerals Geoscience and Data Program to support the digitization of critical mineral exploration data from assessment files. This will facilitate access to the data and support the assessment of mineral potential for land use planning.

**Approved by:**

Lauren Haney  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

# **Session Briefing Note**

## **Dawson Regional Land Use Planning**

---

**EMR # 4 / ENV #10**  
**Fall 2024**

Energy, Mines and Resources  
and Environment

### **Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon appreciates that the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government has submitted their proposed modifications to the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan.
- The Government of Yukon recognizes how important it is for both Parties to complete the current stage of this significant land planning process in the Dawson region and are investing the time needed to complete a thorough review of the Recommended Plan, including consideration of all pertinent views and information.
- We anticipate submitting our response to accept, reject or modify the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan with written reasons to the Dawson Regional Planning Commission this fall.

### **Additional response:**

- The Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government concluded consultation on the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan in April 2024.
- Upon the conclusion of consultation with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government, the Government of Yukon completed consultation with White River First Nation through the summer of 2024, due to overlapping asserted Traditional Territory in the planning region.
- We remain committed to working with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government and the Commission to achieve a plan that balances diverse land uses in this region, ensuring Yukon First Nation and public priorities are appropriately reflected to best serve the area and all Yukoners.

# **Session Briefing Note**

## **Dawson Regional Land Use Planning**

**EMR # 4 / ENV #10**  
**Fall 2024**

Energy, Mines and Resources  
and Environment

---

- If the Parties reject or request modifications to the Recommended Plan, the Commission will prepare a Final Recommended Plan. We anticipate they could provide a Final Recommended Plan in 2025, at which point there will be another round of public engagement and First Nations consultation.

---

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

- The Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, the Government of Yukon's response to the Recommended Plan, and the future of the interim withdrawals are of high interest to Yukoners.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation has expressed frustration that the Government of Yukon has been slow to respond to the recommended plan.

---

### **Background:**

- The Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government formed the Dawson Regional Planning Commission in December 2018, following a pause from 2012-2018 due to the Peel Watershed court case.
- The *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* Chapter 11 process provides the Commission with the autonomy to develop and recommend a plan to the Parties for their consideration.
- The Commission conducted a public consultation on the Draft Plan from June 15 to November 1, 2021.
- The Government of Yukon's response to the Draft Plan in November 2021 focused on six key topics: designations and Land Management Unit boundaries, cumulative effects, wetlands, culture and heritage, missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people, and implementation.
- Subsequent comments submitted to the Commission by the Government of Yukon pertained to critical minerals, access, rivers and watercourses, cumulative

# Session Briefing Note

## Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR # 4 / ENV #10  
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and Resources  
and Environment

effects and working within the Draft Plan prohibition of entry order (interim and permanent).

- The Commission delivered the Recommended Plan to the Parties (the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government and the Government of Yukon) on June 10, 2022.
- The Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government conducted a public consultation on the Commission's Recommended Plan from September 20 to December 20, 2022.
- Interim withdrawal of land proposed by the Commission was approved by Order-In-Council on June 15, 2021. This Order was amended on September 7, 2022, to reflect the Recommended Plan. The interim withdrawal is in effect until December 1, 2024 and [is anticipated](#) to be extended to allow time to complete a final plan for the region.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government concluded party-to-party discussions to achieve consensus on response to the Recommended Plan and submitted their proposed modifications to the Recommended Plan pursuant to 11.6.4 of the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* on April 30, 2024, to the Commission.
- The Government of Yukon commenced consultation with White River First Nation, pursuant to bilateral Consultation Agreement and legal duty to consult, in May 2024. On August 21, 2024, White River First Nation submitted a written consultation response to the [Government of Yukon](#).

### Approved by:

**Paul Moore**

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

**November 21, 2024**

Date approved

**Dennis Berry**

Deputy Minister of Environment

**November 21, 2024**

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

### Mineral Sector Status and Supports

**Fall 2024**Energy, Mines and  
Resources

---

**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon continues to attract interest from investors, explorers and miners due to the territory's mineral potential, resources and stability as a mining jurisdiction.
- Natural Resources Canada announced in the fall of 2023 that the 2024 spending intentions for mineral exploration in the Yukon is \$147.1 million; their preliminary estimate of 2023 exploration spending in the Yukon is \$164.3 million and will be finalized later this Fall.
- In 2023, the reported placer gold production in the Yukon was 73,823 crude ounces worth \$158 million, down from 80,165 crude ounces in 2022.
- From January to July in 2024, there have been 1,327 placer claims and 5,050 new quartz claims staked. In 2023, the total number of placer and quartz claims staked were 2,016 and 5,743, respectively.

**Additional response:**

- The territory ranked 16th in the world as a desirable mining jurisdiction according to the Fraser Institute's 2023 survey. This is an improvement from when Yukon ranked 20th in 2022.
- We are also working with First Nations partners to develop new minerals legislation. One goal is increased certainty for the industry on rules and processes that better align with Final Agreements and best practices.
- In 2023, there were 82 hard rock exploration projects active in the territory.



# Session Briefing Note

## Mineral Sector Status and Supports

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

---

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

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

---

### Background:

- Indicators of the general health of the quartz and placer mining sectors include exploration expenditures, increases in mineral and metal production, new mineral claims staked, the total number of existing claims, and strong commodity prices.
- Because most mineral discoveries do not progress to advanced stages, and only a small proportion of advanced-stage projects go into production, another indicator of a healthy sector is a high ratio of early-stage projects relative to advanced projects.
- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program provides part of the risk capital to support early-stage exploration for both hard rock and placer exploration projects. (See BN #63)
- The reported placer gold production for 2023 was 73,823 crude ounces worth \$158 million, down from 80,165 crude ounces in 2022.
- Our work to create a modern minerals legislation realizes a 30-year promise made to First Nations and will create an effective and sustainable framework for the mining industry and the territory.

### Placer and Quartz Production

- Natural Resources Canada valued quartz mineral and metal production in 2022 at approximately \$491 million. This is less than \$499 million in 2021 but more than in previous years: \$458 million in 2020, \$157 million in 2019, and \$218 million in 2018.
- In recent years, annual placer production has been approximately 75,000 ounces of gold

# Session Briefing Note

## Mineral Sector Status and Supports

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and Resources

- As of December 31, 2023, the total gold production from the Yukon's placer mines was 73,823 crude ounces. This represents an approximate value of about \$158 million (based on an average gold price of CDN\$2620.27 in 2023).
- In 2023, the total value of metals reported by Yukon hard rock mine operators for was \$513 million. Production included gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper.

### Staking Activity —2023 and 2024 Comparison (January 1 – July 31)

- From January to July 2024, 5,050 quartz claims have been staked, and 170,662 total quartz claims are in good standing. In 2023, 5,743 quartz claims were staked.
- From January to July in 2024, 1,327 placer claims have been staked, and 30,034 total placer claims are in good standing. In 2023, 2016 placer claims were staked.
- Overall, we are seeing an increase in the number of quartz and placer claims that have remained in good standing and have not lapsed.

### Fraser Institute 2023 Survey of Mining Companies

- Yukon ranked 16th (out of 86 jurisdictions) in the 2023 overall Investment Attractiveness Index, an improvement from 20th spot in 2022.
- The Yukon was in the top 10 as a jurisdiction whose geology encourages mineral investment, once again leading the three Northern territories and ranking above our neighbours to the south, British Columbia.
- Yukon ranked 28<sup>th</sup> (out of 86 jurisdictions) in the Policy Perception Index, which examines the attractiveness of mining policies for exploration companies to invest.

#### Approved by:

Lauren Haney

September 3, 2024

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

**Session Briefing Note****FALL 2024****Regional Economic Development  
Exceptions (10x\$1M)**Highways and  
Public Works

---

**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is helping boost economic development across the territory through trade agreement exceptions.
- The exceptions allow us to restrict competition in procurement for up to ten projects per year to invited, qualified Yukon businesses.
- Since 2018, Yukon businesses have competed for and secured 60 Yukon-exclusive government contracts worth \$29 million in manufacturing, construction, and consulting.

**Additional response: This year's projects**

- So far in the 2024-25 fiscal year, we have already awarded one project to a Yukon business for Hidden Valley School – Public Address, Phone & Clock System Upgrades
- Two additional tenders have closed: one for the boat launch upgrades in Teslin and another for the culvert replacement at kilometre 23.2 of the Silver Trail, Highway 11.
- Two more contracts will be tendered in fall 2024.
- The Yukon government strives to maximize its allocation of 10 projects every year.
- We post details of awarded contracts on Yukon.ca.

**Additional response: Evaluating local benefits**

- When selecting Regional Economic Development Exceptions, we consider many factors including the dollar value of economic opportunities created in the Yukon and whether the project supports the territory's industries and suppliers.

**Session Briefing Note****FALL 2024****Regional Economic Development  
Exceptions (10x\$1M)**Highways and  
Public Works

---

- At the end of a project, suppliers are required to report on the total dollar value spent on Yukon labour and materials to help us quantify the positive impact these projects have.
  - Since the new reporting requirement came into effect in fiscal year 2019-20, suppliers have reported on 15 completed contracts. Eight of these projects used 100 per cent Yukon labour and Yukon materials.
  - These reports also confirm that over \$1.1 million was spent on employing Yukoners through those 15 projects.
- 

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

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

**Background:**

- The following contract was awarded for the 2024-25 fiscal year:
    - Hidden Valley School – Public Address, Phone & Clock System Upgrades
  - The total value of the contract is \$256,915.00.
  - Two contracts will be tendered in the fall 2024:
    - Local food procurement project targeting Whitehorse will support the production of high quality, local food products by increasing government procurement opportunities.
    - Access road construction for the Murray Agriculture Subdivision, phase 2, in Ibex Valley.
  - It can be challenging to find tenders to maximize the use of these exceptions. Issues such as inflation, supply chain shortages and a tight labour market can impact the use of exceptions.
-

**Session Briefing Note****FALL 2024****Regional Economic Development  
Exceptions (10x\$1M)**Highways and  
Public Works

---

- In recent years, there have been significant changes to the procurement landscape and fewer projects fall under the \$1 million threshold.
- Highways and Public Works continues to work alongside departments to find projects that are suitable for the exception.

Approved by:

T. Allen

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

August 30, 2024

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****FALL 2024****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and  
Public Works

---

**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy promotes a more inclusive economy by levelling the playing field for Yukon First Nations people and businesses.
- As a leading example of Indigenous procurement, this policy has been widely praised as a model for other jurisdictions to follow.
- This policy represents a positive step toward advancing reconciliation, as it was developed in close collaboration with Yukon First Nations governments as partners.

**Additional response: Current state**

- It has been more than three years since this policy was implemented, and the Yukon continues to lead the way in Indigenous procurement, setting a standard that others strive to meet.
- We are advised that many Yukon First Nation partners remain strong supporters of the policy and to collaboratively achieve its goals.
- Yukon's leadership in this area is being noticed across Canada. Other provinces, territories, and the federal government are looking to the Yukon to understand how they can leverage our experiences.
- For example, the Yukon government will participate in a government panel at the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business Conference in October to share how the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy has been developed and is being implemented in the Yukon.

**Additional response: Bid Value Reductions**

- Bid value reductions play an important role in achieving the objectives of the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy because they are

**Session Briefing Note****FALL 2024****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and  
Public Works

---

accessible to all businesses and help increase the competitiveness of bids that include Yukon First Nation participation and/or ownership.

- We are addressing recommendations from the 2023 two-year review such as improving public communications about how the policy is meeting its outcomes, improving data collection, and increasing accountability for contract delivery.
- Contractors who apply for bid value reductions are held accountable for the commitments made in their proposals to increase participation and partnerships with Yukon First Nation businesses.
- The report and its recommendations have helped us to understand that our approach is reasonable and fair while creating positive change for our Yukon First Nation partners.

**Additional response: Yukon First Nation Business Registry**

- Implementation of a bid value reduction program is a key early step in creating opportunities for more Yukon First Nation businesses.
  - On December 1, 2021, the Yukon First Nation Business registry was launched, and has over 130 verified Yukon First Nation businesses.
  - We are committed to refining the verification process and the business registry in collaboration with our Yukon First Nation partners, and the Monitor and Review Committee.
  - In order to make the verification process for businesses more robust, the Yukon government updated the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy in May 2023, and then released an updated guide for applicants in June 2024.
  - Both improvements have provided more scrutiny in the verification process to prevent shell companies from being listed on the registry
-

**Session Briefing Note****FALL 2024****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and  
Public Works

---

and preventing these companies from accessing the benefits of the Yukon First Nation Procurement Policy.

**Additional response: Enforcement of commitments around YFN involvement**

- The Yukon government is committed to ensuring the benefits from the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy flow to the intended recipients.
- Contractors must understand that when they place bids, they are then responsible for upholding commitments, such as labour levels and Yukon First Nation business participation, outlined within their proposals.
- The Yukon government uses the tools within contracts to motivate the contractor to meet their obligations. When those commitments are not realized, funds are held back from the contract until these issues are rectified.
- To reinforce this, we also require contractors to provide sufficient proof that they met their Yukon First Nation Participation Plan commitments, which includes the submission of a statutory declaration.
- Highways and Public Works has heard concerns raised by industry and Yukon First Nations of misrepresentation in the bidding process, and potential over commitments to gain additional advantages.
- The department continues to engage with Yukon First Nations and industry representatives in a specific working group to develop additional tools and resources to support contractors being held to those commitments made.



**Session Briefing Note****FALL 2024****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and  
Public Works

---

- The Vendor Review Program also provides oversight to those commitments. Contractors who do perform well in meeting their commitments can increase their evaluation scores.

**Additional response: Monitor and Review Committee**

- The Monitor and Review Committee reviews and assesses the progress of the Yukon First Nation Procurement Policy.
- In 2023, the Monitor and Review Committee started receiving more detailed reports through the Performance Measurement Framework.
- Though there is still work for the Monitor and Review Committee and the Yukon government on the data, the framework gives us more insights into the performance of this policy.
- The committee will continue to conduct regular data analysis and to monitor for any market disruption.
- To date the committee has not indicated any recommendations involving market distribution.
- The third report, that details the period between April 2023 to March 2024, will be available in October on Yukon.ca.

**Additional response: Workforce Development**

- Workforce development supports Yukon First Nations to fully participate and benefit from the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy.
- To support this, the Yukon government is providing funding for Yukon First Nations workforce liaisons to strengthen implementation of the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy.

**Session Briefing Note****FALL 2024****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- For example, Highways and Public Works and Canada funds Teslin Tlingit Council to facilitate the delivery of benefits available through the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy.
  - The funding is used to connect Citizens to employment opportunities, contribute to job readiness and provides supports.
  - Highways and Public Works approved Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's proposal for one Workforce Development Liaison position for two years commencing April 1, 2025.
- 

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

- This is an important policy shift in the Yukon government's procurement system. It demonstrates a tangible commitment to reconciliation.
- 

**Background:****History of Policy**

- The policy was developed through partnership with Yukon First Nation Governments. All 14 Yukon First Nations were invited to contribute, and most collaborated on its development. This level of collaboration on a policy was a first for our government and has been a key feature of implementing the policy as well.
- The Yukon government listened to the public and took a phased approach to the implementation of this important policy to ensure that Yukon businesses, Yukon First Nations and Yukon government employees had adequate time to prepare for and understand the policy.
- The Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy was approved on December 9, 2020, and endorsed through a joint announcement with Yukon First Nation leaders at the Yukon Forum on December 11, 2020. The policy came into effect on February 22, 2021, with added measures being implemented on April 26, 2021, and October 4, 2021, with the latest revisions made May 1, 2023.

**Session Briefing Note****FALL 2024****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and  
Public Works

---

- Yukon government won a national prize “Ten to Watch” in 2021 because of YFNPP from the Indigenomics Institute.

**Bid Value Reductions**

- As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, an independent contractor conducted a two-year review of the bid value reduction measure that was completed in October 2023. The consultant produced a report that is available on [Yukon.ca/growing-together](https://Yukon.ca/growing-together). The report found that:
  - bid value reductions have led to an increase in the number of contracts awarded to Yukon First Nation businesses and an increase in bids from Yukon First Nation businesses;
  - there is no evidence of unintended negative consequences for bid value reductions such as large market disruptions;
  - while some perceive that loopholes might be exploited to benefit from the policy; very few specific examples of potentially problematic procurements were identified;
  - socio-economic and cultural changes are long-term endeavors that require ongoing relationship building, education and communication. The Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce administers the registry.
- Feedback from Yukon First Nation partners and industry has focused on ensuring that Yukon First Nation businesses are properly designated, and that the definition of a Yukon First Nation business aligns with the policy's intent.

**Monitor and Review Committee**

- The Monitor and Review Committee is made up of representatives from Yukon First Nations governments, industry and Yukon government. It provides data and recommendations through reports, with the first report released in March 2023 and the third issued in October 2024.
- Some of the recommendations from the first annual report included advancing workforce development, improving data collection, raising awareness about the policy, strengthening relationships, confidence and buy-in among First Nations

**Session Briefing Note****FALL 2024****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and  
Public Works

and industry. Progress has been made on each of these items since the recommendations were brought forward.

- Vendors will also be evaluated on how well they fulfilled their Yukon First Nation commitments through the Vendor Performance Review program.
- With funding from Highways and Public Works, the Council of Yukon First Nations has hired a consultant to design the workforce development program with direct engagement with Yukon First Nation governments.
- With funding from Highways and Public Works, the Yukon Contractors Association has hired a consultant to work with Yukon First Nations and Yukon government on policy issues and implementation.

**Fast Facts**

- Between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024;
  - 659 tenders closed.
  - 224 of these tenders included submissions where bid value reductions were applied encompassing:
    - 57 goods tenders;
    - 115 tenders for services; and
    - 52 construction tenders.
  - 26 tenders with bid value reductions applied resulted in re-ranking.
  - \$55.6 million has been awarded through contracts to Yukon First Nation businesses.

**Approved by:**

T. Allen

October 1, 2024

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program supports infrastructure upgrades for up to 650 kilometres of existing roads in areas with high mineral potential and active mining in the Yukon.
- Jointly funded by the Government of Canada, the Government of Yukon and the mining industry, the program aims to improve safety, reliability and accessibility of the Yukon's road network.
- These upgrades will create short and long-term employment, training opportunities and benefits for Yukon First Nations, Yukoners, local communities, and industry.
- In August 2024 we awarded a contract to replace a culvert at kilometre 23.2 on the Silver Trail to a First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun business.
- A Regional Economic Development exemption was used for this procurement as agreed in the Project Agreement signed with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- The existing culvert at this location was failing and putting the road at risk.
- The department plans to fully spend the \$4.2 million budget on the Yukon Resource Gateway Program this year.
- This year's budget has also funded Silver Trail heritage studies, fish studies, and an engineering assessment of the Mayo River Bridge.

**Additional response:**

- In 2025, efforts will be focused on preparing for construction on the Silver Trail and advancing construction of a section of the Robert Campbell Highway between Ross River and Faro.

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

---

- In addition, preparation is underway to support the environmental assessment of the Robert Campbell Highway component, which runs just past the Tuchitua River Bridge to the Frances Lake campground, from kilometre 114 to kilometre 171.
- This preparation work is focused on collecting environmental information in the project area to ensure responsible and informed decision making.

**Third response:**

- For each component identified, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources negotiates a project agreement with the affected Yukon First Nation in whose Traditional Territory the project resides.
- These agreements provide a process by which the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments will work collaboratively.
- They also outline how we will structure procurements to align with the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy and to ensure there are benefits for each community.
- Once an agreement is signed, the Department of Highways and Public Works starts implementing the agreement.
- This process involves continued planning and collaboration with the affected Yukon First Nation. It encompasses key steps like project planning and design, YESAB assessment, regulatory review and permitting.
- Implementation work is crucial. Once the foundational work is complete, project procurement and construction can begin.

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

---

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

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders and First Nations involvement.
  - The Victoria Gold Eagle Gold Mine failure might negatively impact the perception of road improvements undertaken through this Program.
- 

**Background:****Silver Trail km 0 to km 110 (Stewart Crossing to Keno City)**

- A Project Agreement for the Silver Trail component was signed with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun in February 2021.
- The Silver Trail component includes the rehabilitation of the Mayo River bridge as well as road reconstruction and spot repairs from kilometre 0 to kilometre 110 between Stewart Crossing and Keno City.
- Officials from the Department of Highways and Public Works are working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun through a committee and are meeting monthly to collaboratively develop an implementation plan.

**Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 (Ross River to Faro) and the North Canol Road**

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement was signed for two projects within the traditional territory of the Ross River Dena Council: highway reconstruction between Ross River and Faro on the Robert Campbell Highway, and bridge upgrades and safety improvements on the North Canol Highway.
- In September 2024, The Yukon government signed a Letter of Intent with Ross River Dena Council with respect to governance, community health and safety, land and resource management, and economic opportunities.
- A priority within this agreement is the implementation of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program components within the Ross River Dena Council Traditional Territory. This will ensure that local needs and priorities are integrated into these projects.

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

---

- Officials from the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources, and the Department Highways and Public Works have been working with the Ross River Dena Council to determine the next steps of the Robert Campbell Highway project over the summer months.
- Currently a 4-kilometre section of this project is designed and permitted. The aim is to tender this piece of work for construction to start next year.

**Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171**

- In June 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Liard First Nation for this section of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- In July 2024 we awarded two contracts to a Liard First Nation business for vegetation control and clearing work along Robert Campbell Highway.

**Freegold Road Phase II**

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

**Nahanni Range Road Phase 1**

- In January 2020, a Project Agreement with Liard First Nation was signed for the first phase of the Nahanni Range Road component.
- In July 2023 we awarded a contract to a Liard First Nation business to replace the timber deck for the bridge located at kilometre 143 on the Nahanni Range Road.

**Yukon First Nations involvement**

- The Government of Yukon is working in collaboration with Yukon First Nation governments to seek input and finalize Project Agreements for components of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program within their respective Traditional Territories.



# Session Briefing Note

**FALL 2024**

## Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and Public Works

- Six Project Agreements have been signed with Yukon First Nations for seven components to date.
- The program will provide opportunities to Yukon First Nations through short and long-term employment opportunities, training, and benefit agreements.

### Funding

- A Contribution Agreement between the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada resulted in the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's completion date being extended from 2025 to March 2031.
- The program budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is approximately \$4.2 million and as project agreements are implemented, spending is expected to increase in 2025-26 to \$14.5 million and continue to grow in following years as construction advances.

### Carmacks Bypass

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

### Approved by:

T. Allen

September 27, 2024

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

# Session Briefing Note

## Yukon Nominee Program

**TAB #31**  
**Fall 2024**  
Public Service  
Commission

---

### Recommended response:

- The Yukon Nominee Program is an employer-driven initiative that could be used by the Government of Yukon to recruit hard-to-fill positions that would benefit the territory when no qualified Canadian or permanent resident is available for the position.

### Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon currently does not use the Yukon Nominee Program for recruiting government positions, as in recent years, it has been fully subscribed to by Yukon businesses.
- The Public Service Commission is working to create a pathway for the government to expand its recruitment options through this program with input from the Department of Economic Development.
- The Government of Yukon remains committed to assisting businesses across the territory meet their labour needs as immigration stands as a crucial tool for attracting workers when local Yukon workers are unavailable, supporting investment, economic growth, and the needs of Yukon businesses.

---

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

- The opposition has expressed interest in the utilization of the Yukon Nominee Program and has raised concerns about the territory's health care system.
- 

### Background:

- The Yukon Nominee Program is available for municipal, First Nations and territorial government use though traditionally these employers have rarely used it.
  - The Department of Economic Development administers the Yukon Nominee Program and the Yukon Business Nominee Program in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
-

# Session Briefing Note

## Yukon Nominee Program

**TAB #31**  
**Fall 2024**  
Public Service  
Commission

- The Government of Yukon receives allocations from IRCC under the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP), determining the number of applications it can approve annually.
- Historically, the Yukon Nominee Program has been used by the private sector to address labour market needs in a low unemployment climate. However, in 2021, the Yukon Nominee Program utilized its full annual allocation for the first time since its inception in 2007.
- In 2023, the program received a significant increase in applications. The annual allocation of 430 was fully utilized, and when a subsequent 150 nominations were allocated during the fall redistribution exercise, those nominations were also used by the territory, resulting in 581 nominations for the year.
- On May 16, 2024, the Government of Yukon paused the application intake from Whitehorse-based employers for the Yukon Nominee Program after reaching the program's nomination cap for the year. Additionally, the government requested an increased nomination allocation from IRCC for 2025.
- Efforts are also underway to transition internationally educated health professionals already residing in the Yukon but lack Canadian licensing into more advanced healthcare positions through the Foreign Credential Recognition project.

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
A/Public Service Commissioner

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