



**Legislative Assembly**  
**Briefing Binder**  
Spring 2024

**French Language**  
**Services Directorate**



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#### Key Messages:

- We are committed to supporting departments in broadening the availability of services in French to the public.
- We are working to develop a new range of solutions that will empower employees to provide specific services and information in French to the public.
- We are continuing to support access to bilingual healthcare services.
- We are deploying a live video interpretation service. This service supports immediate and seamless French-language services when bilingual employees are unavailable.

#### Additional response:

- We have equipped all Yukon Hospitals with the video interpretation service
- We have provided Whitehorse-based ambulances with the same service.

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

- Expectations from French-speaking Yukoners have increased with the signature of a \$28M agreement with the Government of Canada to fund French-language services in Yukon from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

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#### Background:

- In the last two years, FLSD focused on streamlining its processes with departments and redesigning its programs and services to better fulfill its mandate and support departments in complying with the Yukon Languages Act:

- A total of 73 Designated Bilingual Positions (DBP) are strategically located across departments\* to provide a wide range of services in French to the public.
- We have improved the effectiveness of DBP by identifying public-facing positions for designation and reallocating designations to ensure these positions are prioritized for designation in alignment with FLSD's mandate.
- FLSD commits \$350,000 annually to the Yukon Hospital Corporation to support French-language services. There are designated bilingual staff (22) working in both the Whitehorse General and Dawson City Community hospitals.
- We are working with departments to identify, develop plans for piloting and maintain designated points of service (DPS) to provide consistent services in French (e.g., reception desks and transactional services).
- We refocused our French language training and linguistic support services exclusively to Government of Yukon employees to empower them in providing wide-ranging services and information in French to the public.
- We introduced a new French-language skills assessment model to better support departments' staffing efforts. The new model is more flexible and rooted in the practical needs of employees serving the public bilingually.

\*Excluding FLSD (25) and Whitehorse General Hospital (22)

#### Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sierra van der Meer, FLSD

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February 2, 2024

[Date approved]

### Improved bilingual communications

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FLSD

#### Key Messages:

- We are committed to keeping people informed so they can take appropriate actions to stay safe.
- We continue to increase our bilingual emergency communications responsiveness by publishing time-sensitive information in French in near real-time, even on weekends and evenings.
- Yukoners can access our latest news and information about our program and services in French faster than ever on our social media channels @LeYukonFr.

#### Additional response:

- We almost doubled the number of French-language public safety and emergency communications publications last summer compared to 2022.
- One-third of our emergency publications in 2023 were made outside regular business hours.

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

- Keeping people safe and increasing our bilingual emergency responsiveness is one of the priorities identified during the public engagement about French-language services and communications held in December 2022. It is one of the strategies of the 2023-25 Strategic Framework on French-language services released in November 2023.

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#### Background:

Improved bilingual communications

FLSD

- In the last few years, FLSD has worked on streamlining its processes with departments and redesigning its programs and services to better support departments in complying with the Yukon Languages Act.
- To improve access to government information in French, we prioritized:
  - modernizing our translation software and workflows;
  - streamlining French-language translation into existing processes related to emergency communications;
  - proactively working with departments to plan the translation, design and proofing of bilingual large-scale projects and campaigns; and
  - seizing every opportunity to publish information simultaneously in English and French.

Public safety and emergency publications	Summer 2022	Summer 2023
During business hours	99	181
Outside business hours	27	63
Total	126	244

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer, FLSD

February 2, 2024

[Date approved]

### Leveraging technologies to increase access to healthcare services in French

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FLSD

#### Key Messages:

- The French Language Services Directorate (FLSD) and Health and Social Services (HSS) have identified the need to develop and implement a strategy to strengthen the delivery of timely healthcare services in French across the territory. This will be done through a 5-year research project.
- FLSD has entered into a five-year agreement with Health Canada and increased its commitment by \$1.5 million under the current Canada-Yukon agreement on French-language services.

#### Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon has one of Canada's most compelling language regimes.
- Complying with the Yukon Languages Act and increasing access to French-language services requires thoughtful and comprehensive planning and delivery of services rooted in language policy.

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

- Expectations from the French-speaking Yukoners have increased with the signature of a \$28M agreement with the Government of Canada to fund French-language services in Yukon from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
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### Leveraging technologies to increase access to healthcare services in French

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FLSD

#### Background:

- This project supports the recommendations of the *Putting People First* report and vision to build a system that is inclusive, cooperative, and promotes equality.
- It also supports one of the priorities of the 2023-2025 Strategic framework for French-language services, “Strengthen our health infrastructure capacity to deliver timely primary care services in French.”
- This initiative can most likely position YG as a trailblazer in the Canadian francophone landscape regarding language policy and French-language services planning and delivery. It may receive significant attention from local and national stakeholders and the media toward the end of the project.
- FLSD engaged with the French-speaking public and organizations in December 2022 and released the What We’ve Heard report “French-Language Services: Exploring the Next Steps” on June 14, 2023. Access to timely health care services has been, and remains, a high priority for French-speaking Yukoners for over a decade.

#### Approved by:

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Sierra van der Meer, FLSD

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[Date approved]



## **Access to post-secondary education in French**

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FLSD

### **Recommended response**

- Access to post-secondary education in either official language is important.
- There are no institutions offering post-secondary programming to students wishing to pursue their studies in French in the Yukon.
- We are aware of discussions taking place between French-speaking organizations in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to increase the offering by creating a pan-territorial governance structure that is independent of existing post-secondary institutions.

### **Additional response:**

- The Collège Nordique francophone in Yellowknife is the only institution offering post-secondary education in French in the North. Programming focuses mostly on early childhood education, languages and administration.
- Yukon Government wants to make the best use of resources in the territory.

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

- The issue was raised on several occasions in the two French-speaking territorial media, *Aurore boréale* and *ICI Grand Nord*.

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### **Background:**

- In March 2022, the Government of Canada introduced a bill to modernize the *Official Languages Act*. The goal was to, among other things, respond to the decline of French in the country and support official-language minority communities.

### Access to post-secondary education in French

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FLSD

- In July 2022, the federal government announced a 3-years 4,2 million dollar funding to the Collège Nordique francophone to help increase access to French-language post-secondary education by offering programs aimed at meeting the labor market in the Northwest Territories.
- Last June, l'AFY commissioned a study to gauge the value of offering post-secondary education in French in the Yukon.
- L'AFY has received funding from the Government of Canada to study the creation of a pan-territorial governance structure for post-secondary education in the North.

Approved by:

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Sierra van der Meer, FLSD

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February 2, 2024

[Date approved]

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Clinics**Health and Social  
Services

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**Government priority:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to improving health care for all Yukoners and expanding access to primary health care services in the territory.

**Key Messages:**

- We are working with our partners to expand access to both primary care services and mental health services across the territory.
- In December 2023, we opened the Whitehorse Walk-in clinic to provide Yukoners with greater access to primary care providers and same-day services.
- In November 2022, we opened the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre to increase the number of Yukoners connected with a primary care provider and to provide Francophone Yukoners with better access to French-speaking providers.
- We continue to work to connect every Yukoner to a primary care provider as per recommendation 2.2 of Putting People First.

**Key facts:**

- In 2023-24, we budgeted **\$2.34M** (\$2,341,913) for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre.
- As of March 12, 2024, there have been a total of 2,515 eligible applications for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre.
  - 1,223 patients received their first appointment and have been connected with a primary care provider.
  - 93 others have been offered access to the clinic but have not yet completed their intake form and/or signed their service agreement.
  - 155 individuals have either declined services or discontinued services because of relocation.

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**Spring 2024**

## Clinics

Health and Social  
Services

- At present, the clinic is prepared to take on 2,250 patients but is taking a triaged approach to ensure that those requiring immediate access receive it.
  - Patients who are not being given immediate access to the clinic are notified of their waitlist status and will be called as soon as possible.
- Once fully staffed, the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre staff complement will include, 1 Clinic Manager, 5 Nurse Practitioners, 1 Registered Nurse, 1 Licensed Practical Nurse, 2 Medical Office Assistants, 1 Social Worker and 1 full-time equivalent contract Physician.
- As of March 2024, the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre is currently staffed by 3 Nurse Practitioners, 2 Medical Office Assistants, 1 Licensed Practical Nurse, 1 Registered Nurse, 1 Social Worker, 1 Administrative Assistant and 1 Clinic Manager.
  - The clinic is supported by 1 part-time contract Physician who provides consultation services and patient care.
  - Recruitment for 2 additional Nurse Practitioners and the equivalent of 1 FTE Physician (expected to be split between multiple physicians) is underway.
  - There are currently 6 bilingual staff members with recruitment underway for additional bilingual full-time and AOC staff.
- In 2024-25 we budgeted **\$1.43M** (\$1,426,000) to support the operations of the Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic.
- Once fully staffed, the Walk-in Clinic staff complement will include, 1 clinic manager, 2 nurse practitioners, 2 licensed practical nurses, 3 medical office assistants, 1 social worker and 1 full-time equivalent contract physician.

# Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2024**

## Clinics

Health and Social  
Services

### Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre:

- The current and target staff complements for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre are:

Position	March 2024	Target
Clinic Manager	1	1
Nurse Practitioners	3	5
Registered Nurse	1	1
Licensed Practical Nurse	1	1
Medical Office Assistants	2	2
Social Worker and	1	1
Contract Physician	1 part time	1 full time

- The Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre first opened its doors on November 7, 2022. The clinic is located at 9010 Quartz Road.
- In addition to delivering high quality health and wellness services in both French and English, the clinic provides an additional access point for primary health care services.
- Registered patients can access primary health care services by booking an appointment in advance, or by accessing same-day appointments that will be set aside for urgent or emerging primary health care needs.
- An application process was set up for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre to ensure that all Yukoners wanting the opportunity to obtain primary health care services have the chance to provide relevant information and give their informed consent.
- Applications are reviewed and prioritized by a team of healthcare professionals at the clinic. Acceptance or waitlist status are determined by the capacity of the clinic's primary care providers, as well as pre-established population health determinants.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Clinics**Health and Social  
Services

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- The population health determinants include several considerations such as current attachment to a primary care provider, complexity of care needs, and their primary language and need for services in French or interpretation support, among others.
  - If someone is not initially accepted, they will be added to the waitlist and notified when the opportunity for an intake is available.
- Work continues with physician partners to identify primary care providers to deliver contracted services at the Clinic.

**Old Crow Health and Wellness Centre**

- Old Crow Health Centre is staffed with 2 Primary Health Care Nurses via rotation.
- Old Crow Health Centre did not have any closures or reductions in service in 2023.
  - Due to the remoteness of the community, the department works to maintain a full staffing complement at all times.
  - There are no anticipated closures or reductions in service for 2024.
- Despite delays due to the community evacuation in August 2023 and construction product delivery delays, the completion of the new Health and Wellness Centre is anticipated for April 2024.
- The development of the new Health and Wellness Centre in Old Crow is being completed in partnership with the Vuntut Gwitchin Government, which helps ensure that health and social services meet community needs via an integrated poly clinic approach that is culturally safe and inviting.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Clinics**Health and Social  
Services

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**Vaccine Clinic Contract:**

- Throughout the COVID-19 response, the Whitehorse Vaccine Clinic was based at the Yukon Convention Centre.
- As of September 27, 2023, the vaccine clinic has relocated to its new location on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Ogilvie at the NVD Place Mall.
- This move supports our ongoing efforts to integrate COVID-19 vaccinations into our ongoing health service operations while supporting our immunization team to offer vaccines through a location that best meets our programming needs.
- The clinic is a satellite location for the Whitehorse Health Centre and is operating as the Whitehorse Health Centre – NVD Place.
  - The Whitehorse Health Centre – NVD Place is offering COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccinations, as well as offer appointments for publicly funded vaccines for people over the age of five.
  - Routine publicly funded vaccines and programming continue to be offered at the Whitehorse Health Centre (9010 Quartz Road), with a focus on patients under five years of age.
  - Yukoners are encouraged to contact a pharmacy, which have COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccination appointments available.
- The lease for the space at NVD Place runs from March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2026 at a reduced lease rate during renovations and was valued at \$49,682.
  - Once renovations were completed and the space occupied on October 1, 2023, the full rental rate of \$324,730 annually came into effect, for a total value of \$374,412.50.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Clinics**Health and Social  
Services

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**Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic:**

- In January 2023, as part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement, we committed to improving the delivery of and access to health care across the territory.
- The Department of Health and Social Services opened the Walk-in Clinic on December 18, 2023.
- Opening the new walk-in clinic in Whitehorse offers Yukoners a new access point for primary care and decreases pressures on the hospital emergency department for non-urgent medical needs.
- While renovations are completed at the Walk-in Clinic's permanent location at Mah's Point, the clinic is open at its temporary location at 9010 Quartz Road.
  - This temporary location is in the same building as the Whitehorse Health Centre, the Yukon's Midwifery Program, and the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre, but is operating as an independent clinic.
- The clinic is expected to open in its permanent location **by the end of April 2024.**
- The clinic is serviced by physicians on contract hours and currently employs nurse practitioners.
- We continue to work with three consultant physicians and the Yukon Medical Association to identify and recruit physicians to provide primary care at the walk-in clinic.
- The clinic is open Mondays-Wednesdays and care will be provided by the interdisciplinary team, including physicians and nurse practitioners.
- Yukoners seeking an appointment are encouraged to call 867-471-0035 to check wait times and book a same day appointment.
- **As of March 8, 2024, the clinic has provided care to over 600 patients.**



# Session Briefing Note

## Clinics

**TAB 4**  
**Spring 2024**  
Health and Social  
Services

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Approved by:

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Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
March 18, 2024

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[Date approved]

## Session Briefing Note

### Francophone Immigration

Spring 2024

Economic  
Development

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#### Recommended response:

- Francophone immigration is a priority for the Yukon and we recognize the economic, social, cultural and demographic opportunities that French-speaking immigrants represent for the territory.
- The department has been working on a new immigration strategy and will continue to recognize and prioritize francophone immigration as a valued and important contributor to supporting the needs of Yukon employers and communities.
- The Yukon is the third most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, making us an attractive settlement destination for 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.
- AFY was an active participant in our stakeholder engagement for the new Immigration Strategy and provided meaningful feedback.

#### Additional response:

- In 2022, 20 francophones (and their households), were approved under the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- Between 2016 and 2021, the Yukon was the only Canadian jurisdiction to increase the number and proportion of those who speak predominantly French at home (up from 2.4% to 2.6%).
  - The number of Yukon residents who identified French as their exclusive first official language grew by more than 200.
  - In 2021, French was the first official language spoken by 4.5% of the Yukon's population.

## Session Briefing Note

### Francophone Immigration

Spring 2024

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Development

- In 2021, the rate of English-French bilingualism in the Yukon was 14.2%.
- Since 2007 when the YNP was established, 131 nominees (including their households) from French-speaking countries have been approved through the program.
- As part of the 2024-26 Immigration Levels Plan, Canada announced an increase to French-speaking permanent resident targets outside Quebec to: 6% in 2024, 7% in 2025 and 8% in 2026, building on the achievement of a 4.4% target in 2022.
  - To date, the Yukon has exceeded the 4.4% target by welcoming francophones making up approximately 5.8% of the total number of people settling in the Yukon through the YNP.
  - We will continue to support businesses using the YNP to bring French-speaking newcomers to our territory to fill labour gaps and recognize the importance of francophones to our communities and our economy.
- AFY attended Paris and Rabat at the Destination Canada recruitment event in fall 2023 and Department staff attended virtually.

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

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

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#### Background:

- On March 6, 2024, as part of the new Francophone Immigration Policy, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada announced the Francophone Community Immigration Pilot, planned to start, Fall 2024. The pilot will support an

## Session Briefing Note

### Francophone Immigration

Spring 2024

Economic  
Development

increasing number of French-speaking newcomers and help ensure the economic development of Francophone minority communities.

- On January 16, 2024, Marc Miller, 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 feel welcomed and 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.
- Provinces and Territories met with IRCC on August 22, 2022, for consultations on the Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-28.
- The Immigration Unit has attended Destination Canada, an annual francophone recruitment fair in Paris and Brussels, since 2017, to fill labour market needs in the Yukon. Program staff participated in a virtual booth in partnership with AFY in 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- The Immigration Unit offers bilingual services for clients and is represented on the "Réseau d'immigration francophone au Yukon".
- AFY receives federal funding to provide settlement services including language instruction, orientation to healthcare, education and information on the employment sector.

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## Francophone Immigration

**Spring 2024**

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- The Yukon's top source francophone countries are France, Belgium, Switzerland and Morocco.
- In addition to the YNP, some skilled francophone workers arrive through the federally administered Mobilité Francophone stream, while young francophones may arrive with federal, temporary working holiday permits.

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved  
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

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March 19, 2024  
Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

## Spring 2024

### Settlement Services

Economic  
Development

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#### Recommended response:

- Settlement services are an important part of welcoming and integrating newcomers to the Yukon into our communities.
- The Department of Economic Development provides settlement support to Yukon Nominees in the form of information sessions, worksite monitoring and community outreach.
- L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) and the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon (MCY) provide settlement assistance through a wide range of integration services and programs on behalf of the Government of Canada.
- Settlement services include support in finding housing, employment language instruction (tutoring) and referrals to government services such as early childcare, education and health care. The Government of Canada invested \$1.57 million for settlement services for permanent residents (PR) in the Yukon in 2022-23, and \$1.70 million dollars in 2023-24.
- In 2023, the Government of Yukon delivered six information sessions and seven monitoring sessions in Whitehorse, Dawson City, Watson Lake, Tagish, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction and Carmacks. A total of 214 nominees and 61 employers participated.

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#### 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.
- Limited affordable housing options can be a challenge for some newcomers settling in the Yukon.

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## Spring 2024

### Settlement Services

Economic  
Development

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#### 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.
- In spring 2023, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) assessed national settlement services with the B.C.-Yukon region reporting improved Indigenous-newcomer relationships and improved supports in settlement with the employment of subject matter experts, such as services for mental health.
- The Immigration Unit provides the following settlement services directly to its Yukon Nominee Program clients (foreign workers and employers):
  - Review and interpretation of the Nominee Tri-Partite Agreement;
  - Employee and employer worksite monitoring;
  - Mandatory workplace standards information sessions; and
  - Community Outreach visits, including a weekly drop-in session **which is open to foreign workers and international students.**
- The Canada-Yukon Local Coordination Working Group, a group made up of government and non-government organization representatives, meets regularly to oversee settlement within the Yukon and 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 the following services and programs:
  - Needs and Assets Assessment and Referral Services;
  - Information and Orientation;

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**Spring 2024**

## Settlement Services

Economic  
Development

- Community Connections;
- Employment Related Services;
- Language Assessment;
- Language Training;
- Literacy Programs;
- Settlement Worker in School program and support services;
- Local Immigration Partnership; and
- Outreach services.
- Over the past five years, MCY has provided services to 1161 clients.
- AFY received \$205,872 in 2023-24.
- AFY offers the following services and programs:
  - Needs and Assets Assessment and Referral Services;
  - Information and Orientation;
  - Community Connections; and
  - Employment Related Services.
- Agreements AFY has with IRCC:
  - Francophone Welcoming Community (pilot project), 2020-24 \$102,079/year:
    - Indirect (resource development);
    - Promo and publications (raise awareness, inform);
    - Community connections (community dinners, film presentations, cultural activities, networking opportunities);
    - Information sessions; and
    - Employers' connections.
  - Francophone Settlement, 2020-25 \$65,000/year:
    - Information sessions and orientation;
    - Employment and settlement services;
    - Community connections (community dinners, film presentation, cultural activities, networking opportunities); and
    - Indirect (meet with employers, tournée de liaison nationale de l'IRCC, participate in virtual job fair organized by RDÉE Canada).



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## Settlement Services

**Spring 2024**

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- Réseau en immigration francophone du Yukon (RIFY), 2020-25  
\$25,000/year:
  - Mobilize, share, discuss and work on immigration issues;
  - Meet and lead a group of Francophone partners (organizations);
  - Educate RIFY members and raise awareness in the community;
  - Implement the group strategic and action plans; and
  - Conduct research.
- In fall 2023, Yukon University had 114 international students from the following countries: India (55), Philippines (24), Japan (4), Mexico (4) and various other countries.
- Yukon University and Yukon Cares sponsor refugees.
  - Yukon University sponsored five refugees in 2021-22;
  - Yukon University has formed an Intercultural Services team and are point of contact for support for international students and sponsored refugees; and
  - Yukon Cares sponsored two families from Sierra Leone through the Family Reunification Program.
- Since 2014, refugees have arrived in the Yukon from the following countries:
  - Syria – 11;
  - Sudan – 8;
  - Liberia – 2;
  - Eritrea – 6;
  - Iraq – 4;
  - Congo – 4; and
  - Pakistan – 2.

**Approved by:**

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Approved  
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

\_\_\_\_\_  
March 6, 2024  
Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

### Immigration Strategy

Spring 2024

Economic  
Development

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#### 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.
  - The Government of Yukon published the *What We Heard* report in July 2021.
- The feedback from engagement is helping the Government of Yukon position the territory as a northern leader with immigration programs that reflect the values and priorities of Yukoners.

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## Spring 2024

### Immigration Strategy

Economic  
Development

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- 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 Department hopes to release the strategy in 2024.
- The strategy is taking longer than expected to complete as:
  - the Department works to ensure the strategy aligns with other government priorities;
  - serves the interests of all Yukoners; 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 regularly with its federal counterparts at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada on changes to federal immigration policy, including Francophone immigration measures.

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#### **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.

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## Immigration Strategy

**Spring 2024**

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### Background:

- The engagement ran from October 20 to December 4, 2020, and included an online survey and discussion document, phone interview and virtual meetings.
- The engaged stakeholders included nominee program users (employers and nominees), municipalities, chambers of commerce, settlement agencies (Association franco-yukonnaise, the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon) and other cultural associations.
- The previous 10-year immigration strategy was developed in 2010 by the Immigration Strategy Working Group.

### Approved by:

<u>Approved</u>	<u>February 1, 2024</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

## **French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing**

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Education

### **Value:**

- The Department of Education offers excellent French second language programs to students, and we work with our partners and school communities to address the long-term needs of these programs.

### **Recommended response:**

#### Programming

- Currently, the overall student demand for French Immersion programming is being met.
- The Government of Yukon plans to continue École Selkirk Elementary School as a ‘dual track’ English program/French Immersion school.
- We have committed to long-term planning for French as a second language programs.
- In Spring 2023, I approved a vision statement created in collaboration with the French Second Language Advisory Committee that will enable graduates to be inspired, proud and confident to live, learn and work in French.
- The French Second Language Advisory Committee includes representation from the Department of Education, School Councils, Canadian Parents for French, school administrators and teachers.

#### Early French Immersion (Kindergarten):

- Early French Immersion is a popular program in Whitehorse, offered at Whitehorse Elementary school and Selkirk Elementary school.

## **French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing**

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Education

- For the 2024-25 school year we committed to offer 18 Kindergarten seats at Selkirk Elementary school and 54 seats at Whitehorse Elementary school, for a total of 72 seats.
- For the current school year, 2023-24, we have capacity to accept additional applications if needed.

### French Immersion teacher recruitment:

- We continue to monitor and plan for enrolment in French Immersion including the recruitment of qualified French language teachers. French language teachers are in high demand across Canada. Recruiting for these positions remains a challenge.
- We continue to attend job fairs both in person and virtually at post-secondary institutes where we know there are qualified French language teachers, to help with targeting our recruitment efforts.
- We are pleased to be a partner with L'Association Franco-Yukonnaise (AFY) and Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY) on a recruitment initiative, and we thank AFY for its initiative in applying for this funding.
- We have also increased advertising on job boards in post-secondary institutions that offer French language education programming.
- We have continued with pooled competitions and early posting for teaching positions in French Immersion Elementary schools for the 2023-24 school year, thanks to the dedication of our school administrators and superintendents.

## **French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing**

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Education

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

- There is considerable interest in French second language programming.
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### **Background:**

#### Programming

- All Yukon schools under all school authorities, including those offering French Immersion, are expected to follow BC curriculum and graduation programs.
  - French Immersion Elementary schools have different philosophies for reading, however, they are both expected to follow BC Curriculum.
  - The balance of instructional time between the two languages may differ at Selkirk versus Whitehorse Elementary, but the long-term outcomes are the same.
  - The additional funding for French as a Second Language reflected in the Fall 2023 Legislative Assembly was provided by the Government of Canada through the Canada-Yukon Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction for the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. This \$899,000 funding is 100% recoverable.
  - The Explore program is an intensive, immersion program for 13-18 year olds, offered during the spring and summer in locations across Canada. The sessions are taught at Universities/Colleges, and students live on campus or with local host families. This \$28,000 funding is 100% recoverable.
  - The total French Language Programs funding debated in the Legislative Assembly in Fall 2023, including for the French Immersion program and the increase in the Explore program was \$927,000.
  - French Immersion is a popular program in Whitehorse, and is offered at Whitehorse Elementary School, Selkirk Elementary School and F. H. Collins Secondary School.
  - Whitehorse Elementary School is a 'single track' school offering only French Immersion programs. Selkirk Elementary School and F. H. Collins Secondary
-

### French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing

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Education

Schools are 'dual track' schools meaning that both French Immersion and English language programs are available.

#### Early French Immersion (Kindergarten) registration for 24-25 school year:

- The Kindergarten registration information night was held virtually on January 24, 2024 for the 24-25 school year.
- Kindergarten French Immersion registration was open from February 1st to February 18, 2024.
- A lottery system was held on February 20, 2024, because the demand for Early French Immersion (Kindergarten) registration exceeded capacity.
- As of April 12, 2024, there are 5 students on the waitlist for the Kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year.

#### Early French Immersion 23-24 school year:

- For the 23-24 school year, French Immersion seats are still available to families wishing to enroll their child at the Kindergarten or Grade 1 levels.
  - As of April 12, 2024:
    - Whitehorse Elementary School has 3 seats available in Kindergarten and 3 seats in Grade 1.
    - Selkirk Elementary School has 5 seats available in Kindergarten and 4 seats in Grade 1.
- Since 2015-16, when the demand for Early French Immersion registration exceeded capacity, the department has used a lottery system for admission to these programs, run with Canadian Parents for French, a national network of parents, volunteers, and advocates dedicated to the promotion and creation of French-second-language learning opportunities for young Canadians.
- Every year since the lottery process has been in place, all students have been able to enroll in French Immersion in Kindergarten or Grade 1.



## **French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing**

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Education

### French Immersion teacher recruitment

- Part of the hiring process includes language testing by the French Language Services Directorate. They work closely with the Department of Education to ensure this testing is prioritized.
- As of February 22, 2024, we have 1.0 French Immersion teacher vacancy at F. H. Collins Secondary School. This teaching assignment is being covered by other staff on a temporary basis.
- Retention in French Immersion drops in high school, so the demand for French Immersion is currently forecasted to be met by the program at F.H. Collins Secondary.

### French Second Language Advisory Committee:

- The French Second Language Advisory Committee was formed in 2010 to strengthen French as a Second Language education in Yukon.
- This advisory body includes representation from the Department of Education, School Councils, Canadian Parents for French, school administrators and teachers.
- Education has committed to long-term planning for French as a second language programs and a vision statement has been created in Spring 2023 in collaboration with the French Second Language Advisory Committee.

#### **Approved by:**

**Mary Cameron**

**2024-04-17**

Deputy Minister, Education

[Date approved]

**Value:**

- We work collaboratively with the commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY) to support the learning needs of French First Language students and the path for the administration of French First Language education in the territory.

**Recommended response:**

- I am happy to report that this school year, French First Language students have access to an in-person French-language program of instruction in Dawson.
- This was a priority for the Francophone school board and Francophone parents in Dawson.
- We are continuing to work with the CSFY and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, as the CSFY moves forward with their implementation of the French First Language program in Dawson.

**Additional response:**

- The CSFY, the Department of Education, and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have established an effective working relationship and officials will continue to navigate and approach the work ahead in a good way.

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

- There is currently an in-person French First Language program of instruction being offered in Dawson.

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**Background:**

- The name of the program is Programme francophone de Dawson.
- The CSFY is currently renting space located at 486 King Street in Dawson City for the Programme francophone de Dawson. The parties are currently reviewing the possibility of moving the program into Robert Service School in the future.

- As of February 22, 2024, 7 students were enrolled in the program; pre-K to grade 6.
- Under the terms of the agreement, the CSFY will provide an in-person French First Language instruction program in Dawson City for the period 2023-2024 to 2025-2026.
- As it is a program rather than a school, it is a scaled down model including two teachers and 2 EAs.
- The program is funded as part of a Transfer Payment Agreement with the CSFY in the amount of \$763,000 for the 2023-24 fiscal year.
  - This amount includes \$367,008 in personnel costs, \$375,992 in operating costs and \$20,000 for Francophone Recognition.
- The government is not constructing a school facility for the CSFY in Dawson City as part of the agreement.
- This program will run for a minimum of three years, during which time an assessment will be undertaken of the ongoing need and suitability of the program.
- Department officials continue to meet with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and CSFY officials regularly.

## History

- On February 28, 2022, CSFY requested the establishment of a French First Language School in Dawson for the 2022-2023 school year.
- In May 2023, the Department of Education and CSFY engaged in a mediation process regarding the establishment of an in-person French language program of instruction in Dawson for the 2023-24 school year.
- On May 8, 2023, Dawson francophone parents filed an injunction to the Supreme Court of Yukon to approve and fund the establishment of a full-time, in-person French as a first language program in Dawson for the 2023-2024 school year.
- On July 10, 2023, a mediation agreement was reached and the Dawson's parents' injunction has been formally discontinued.

# Session Briefing Note

**TAB#EP02**  
**Spring 2024**  
Education

**CSFY**

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Approved by:

Mary Cameron

2024-02-27

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Date approved]

Spring 2024

Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

FLSD works in partnership with YG departments and other public bodies to support the delivery of publicly accessible services and information in French. Our accomplishments are shared accomplishments with them.

Accomplishment	Significance
January 2024 In partnership with HSS FLSD entered a new 5-years funding agreement with the federal government for a digital health project	FLSD and HSS are developing a research project aiming at leveraging technology to strengthen the delivery of healthcare services in French across the territory.  This project is part of a much larger initiative aiming at increasing our budget under the Canada-Yukon agreement on French-language services.
November 2023 New Strategic framework for French-language services	The 2023–25 framework will help guide the government’s actions and investments to keep current with the evolving priorities of the growing Yukon French-speaking community.  The four priorities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• leveraging technology;</li><li>• keeping people safe;</li><li>• recruiting and supporting bilingual employees; and</li><li>• supporting a thriving French-speaking community.</li></ul> The framework echoes the feedback gathered from Yukoners and stakeholders regarding areas of success, potential improvements and future actions to enhance access to French-language services and information.
October 2023 In partnership with CS	The Whitehorse Public Library offers songs, stories, play and movement in French for children aged 2 to 4 and

## Spring 2024

### Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

L'heure du conte, a new activity for Whitehorse library clients	their families through the new weekly L'heure du conte (Story time).
October 2023 In partnership with HSS Bilingual services available through the Health Promotion Unit	Students in schools have access to bilingual sexual health prevention sessions. All Yukoners have access to bilingual smoking cessation services.
June 2023 In partnership with HSS and CS Increased access to Emergency and Primary healthcare in French	We have equipped all Yukon Hospitals and Whitehorse-based ambulances with interpretation services.
May 2023 In partnership with Environment Bilingual services available in Tombstone Territorial Park	The Tombstone Interpretive Centre staff delivers services and information in French to visitors.
April 2023 Funding to help strengthen Les Essentielles and the Yukon French-speaking community	We partnered with the Government of Canada and financially supported Les Essentielles to buy the building that houses their organization. The Government of Yukon's contribution of \$300,000 reflects our commitment to support organizations working to ensure gender equity and the vitality of our growing Yukon French-speaking community.

Spring 2024

Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

November 2022 In partnership with HSS Opening of the Centre de sant� Constellation Health centre.	The Centre is a pivotal milestone towards improving access to services and communications for both French- speaking and non-French-speaking Yukoners.  The new collaborative care clinic is a recommendation of the <i>Putting People First</i> report.
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Approved by:

February 2, 2024

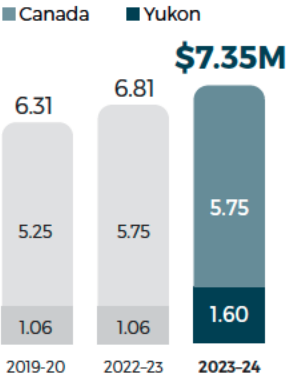
Sierra van der Meer, FLSD

[Date approved]

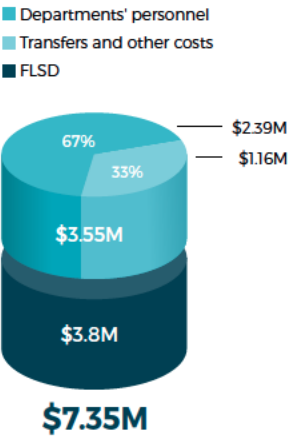
# FLSD AT A GLANCE

(JANUARY 2024)

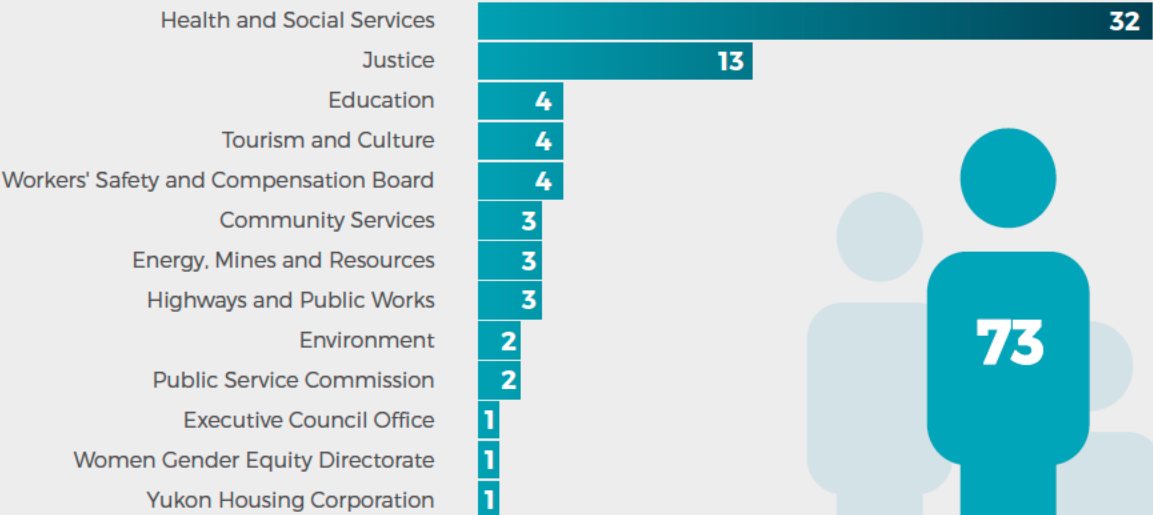
## Funding for French-language services



## Allocation of funding (2023-24)

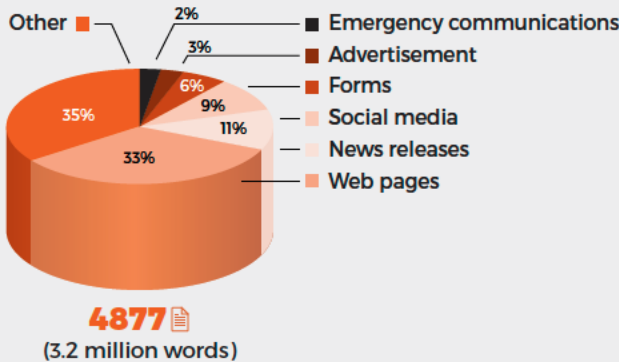


## Designated bilingual positions (DBP)

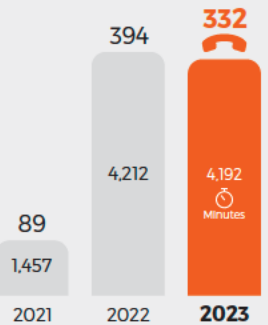


## Translation and interpretation

### Document types (2023)



### Interpretation services (video + over-the-phone)



### Top five languages (2023)

- Cantonese
- American Sign Language
- French
- Spanish
- Mandarin

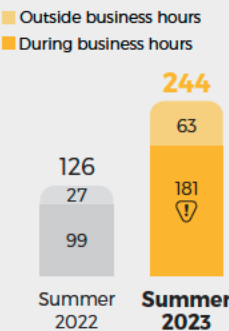


## Training and language support (2023)



## Communications

### Public safety + emergency publications



### Social media @LeYukonFr



**We are restructuring** our programs and central services to better support departments and public bodies in serving and informing Yukoners in French under the following new divisions.

### Language Policy and Planning

We work with departments to support their service delivery in French and provide advice rooted in a language management approach. We also offer personalized language support, ensuring employees can confidently provide services in French.

**The Chronic Conditions Support Program team** (Health and Social Services) has gained the communication skills and self-confidence to offer its whole range of services in French.

### Bilingual Communications

We offer centralized translation services and support departments in achieving their communication goals. We also oversee the government's French-language social media channels @LeYukonFr and web presence.

**We increased our bilingual emergency communications responsiveness** by publishing public safety and emergency communications in French in near real-time, even on weekends and evenings.

The new structure has been implemented successfully. It has already led to increased services and information in French for the public.



# CONFIDENTIAL

## Information Note

### Strategic Framework on French-language services and communications 2023-25

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FLSD

#### Topic:

- Our government released a new Strategic framework for French-language services on November 14, 2023.
- Thanks to the work accomplished over the last years, we are in a strong position to build on our successes and expand the delivery of bilingual services and information to all Yukoners. The new framework will help direct our efforts to better meet the evolving needs of the growing numbers of French-speaking Yukoners.
- Our new roadmap focuses on the following four priorities:
  1. Leveraging technology to overcome language barriers.
  2. Keeping people safe by increasing access to timely emergency, primary care, and legal services in French.
  3. Recruiting and supporting bilingual employees who are experts in their fields.
  4. Supporting a thriving French-speaking population in the Yukon and to foster its vitality for generations to come.

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#### Background:

- Guided by continuous engagement with the public and various stakeholders, FLSD has produced a series of strategic frameworks.
- The first strategic framework was released in 2013 and helped us set the direction and work toward providing more services in French in the Yukon.
- Following the second strategic framework released in 2018:
  - We improved our bilingual emergency communications responsiveness.
  - We revamped our policy and guidelines on French-language services and communications.
  - We significantly bolstered the delivery of online and in-person services.
- The public engagement in the fall of 2022 helped us map the needs of French-speaking Yukoners and align them with the government's priorities and the funding allocated by the Government of Canada. We published a *What We Heard* report, June 2023.

# CONFIDENTIAL

## Information Note

### Supporting Francophone immigration outside Quebec

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FLSD

#### Current situation

- In January, the federal government announced a series of initiatives to support Francophone immigration outside Quebec and strengthen the presence of French in Canada.
  - These measures include:
    - a new Francophone immigration policy;
    - the renewal and expansion of the Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative, of which Whitehorse is a participant.
    - a new program to support Francophone immigration; and
    - the implementation of the Action Plan for Official Languages.
  - FLSD is working with the Department of Economic Development in the context of Yukon's immigration strategy.
- 

#### Background

- The Yukon, like many other provinces and territories, is facing a labour shortage in various sectors such as health, childcare or construction. French-speaking newcomers contribute not only to filling the overall gaps in the job market but are also the beneficiaries and providers of French-language services.
  - The Yukon Government is working to reduce barriers to foreign credential recognition and to streamline regulatory processes for healthcare professionals. This could mean more French-speakers in these positions throughout the territory.
  - In November 2023, Ottawa announced new admissions targets for French-speaking immigrants outside Quebec, after the country achieved its previous target of 4.4%. These new targets will be going from 6% in 2020 to 7% in 2025 and 8% in 2026.
  - In 2023, more than 19,600 French-speaking immigrants settled in Francophone communities outside Quebec.
  - Between 2016 and 2021, the proportion of Canadians who spoke predominantly French at home decreased in all the provinces and territories, except the Yukon.
-

# CONFIDENTIAL

## Information Note

### Supporting Francophone immigration outside Quebec

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FLSD

- Whitehorse, one of the 14 Welcoming Francophone Communities in Canada, is receiving funding from Ottawa to foster the integration of French-speaking newcomers.

# Session Briefing Note

## Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

**TAB# 27**  
**Spring 2024**  
Finance

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### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting Yukoners and communities while delivering strong, sustainable fiscal management.
- The Yukon's economy is returning to normal with inflation falling, tourism rebounding, and growth in wages leading to higher consumer spending.
- This budget will benefit all Yukoners by providing significant investments in health care, education, and housing, and will ensure that Yukoners have opportunities to thrive in a vibrant and sustainable economy:
  - An additional \$15.3 million in funding is included to support the operations of the Yukon Hospital Corporation and another \$30 million is directed towards our Insured Health services system.
  - \$4.4 million will help increase the number of educational support staff and wellness professionals in our schools and create a learning environment that is inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of our students.
  - \$101 million in capital is dedicated for land development, housing, education and health care.
  - This year's budget also delivers on our commitment to environmental stewardship, demonstrated through more than \$55 million allocated to support existing and new actions identified in *Our Clean Future*.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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- Through Budget 2024-25, the government will continue to lay the foundation for the territory's new health authority. We will also provide funding to implement the *Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy* in coordination with our partners.
- This budget includes strategic investments in infrastructure, particularly in housing for the most vulnerable. Investments in housing include projects in Watson Lake, Mayo, Faro and Dawson City and funding support for various affordable and community housing projects.
- Like in previous budgets, Budget 2024-25 continues to build relationships and further reconciliation with Yukon First Nations.
- Revenue growth continues to accelerate alongside record levels of recoveries. The Yukon's strong financial position continues to improve as we look towards the future.

**Additional response:**

- The Yukon government is delivering on its commitment to grow a strong and resilient economy while ensuring robust, sustainable fiscal management.
- A strong surplus will serve as a prudent fiscal management tool and demonstrates the ability of the government to address unforeseen events without going into a deficit.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

### Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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- The fiscal summary includes a \$50 million contingency for unforeseen pressures and emergencies. Including a contingency has been a proven method to offset the cost of expected but undefined expenditures that arise throughout the fiscal year while limiting their impact on the territory's fiscal position.

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

- The 2024-25 Main Estimates will be debated during the March 2024 legislative session.
- 

#### Background:

- The 2024-25 Main Estimates include a projected surplus of \$119 million and net debt of \$488.8 million.
- Total revenue is expected to be \$1.69 billion in 2024-25. This is an increase of \$115.8 million, or 7.4 per cent, from the 2023-24 Main Estimates.
- Gross O&M spending is forecast at \$1.6 billion, reflecting a \$141.4 million or 9.7 per cent increase over 2023–24 Main Estimates. Approximately 12 per cent is recoverable from Canada and other partners, making the net impact \$88.6 million, or a 6.7 per cent net increase over 2023–24 Mains.
- Forecast capital expenditures total \$484.0 million with recoveries of \$171.3 million. Although gross capital expenditures are consistent with the previous year (\$483.8 million in 2023-24) increased recoveries result in a 2.1 per cent decrease in net capital expenditures from the 2023-24 Main Estimates.

# Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2024**

## Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

- There are 5,484.5 FTEs in the 2024-25 budget, which is an increase of 152.8 FTEs from 2023-24. Growth primarily for CASA Education commitments (61.0) and Health Human Resources commitments (11.5) as well as Putting People First (28.5).

**Approved by:**

February 28, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Finance

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

## Session Briefing Note

### Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2023-24 Supplementary Overview

**HPW TAB#1**

**FIN TAB#28**

**Spring 2024**

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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#### Recommended response:

- The changes outlined in the Supplementary Estimates No. 2 highlight the government's commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of Yukoners and communities. The government will continue to make important investments to support our healthcare system, enhance public safety, and provide needed infrastructure across the territory.
- The 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 forecasts an overall net increase of \$32.1 million in spending. This includes:
  - A \$61.0 million increase in gross O&M spending, with an offsetting increase of \$29.4 million in recoveries, and
  - Other than a small transfer of \$143,000 in the Yukon Legislative Assembly, there is no change in overall gross capital spending, and a small decrease of \$397,000 in recoveries.
- Changes in the Supplementary Estimates result in a revised forecast surplus of \$1.7 million and year-end net debt of \$444.5 million.
- The ability to remain in a surplus position despite an increase in spending is largely owed to significant infrastructure investments:
  - Infrastructure investments, which are mostly tangible capital assets, impact net debt when they are realized. However, as they are anticipated to provide benefits over many years, their



## Session Briefing Note

### Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2023-24 Supplementary Overview

**HPW TAB#1**

**FIN TAB#28**

**Spring 2024**

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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impact on the surplus/deficit position is recognized over their expected life.

#### O&M

- In O&M, the most significant increases are for programs and initiatives in the Department of Health and Social Services:
  - \$25.6 million is required for Insured Health Services for physician claims, hospital claims, pharmacare and medical travel.
  - More than \$12 million in O&M spending will increase funding for the Yukon Hospital Corporation for unanticipated costs, which are partially a result of a global shortage of health care providers and work done to retain our valuable nurses.
- Some other significant items in the supplementary estimates include:
  - \$6.7 million to sustain initiatives aimed at strengthening justice and community safety within our territory.
  - \$4.1 million to cover costs for new teachers, educational assistants, learning assistant teachers and mental health and wellness counsellors, as well as Yukon University and Governance increases.
- The 29.4 million increases in O&M recoveries are mostly comprised of a \$25 million recovery expected to be received for work completed and underway at the Minto Mine, this year.

## Session Briefing Note

### Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2023-24 Supplementary Overview

**HPW TAB#1**

**FIN TAB#28**

**Spring 2024**

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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#### Capital

- In Capital, there is no significant change in overall expenditures, but there are increases in several projects which are offset by decreases in other areas:
  - Most of the increases are for the Dempster Fibre project, which will receive an additional \$18.4 million to support faster than anticipated progress during the year. This project will provide Yukoners with more reliable access to the internet as well as necessary redundancy.
  - There is also a \$14.6 million increase for the Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement project and a \$7.9 million increase for the Whitehorse airport taxiway improvements and runway replacement.
  - Finally, there will be an \$5.8 million increase is required for the Old Crow Health and Wellness Centre replacement and the Old Crow 10-unit mixed-use housing project.
- These increases are offset by a number of decreases in other capital projects to reflect revised timelines:
  - The most notable decrease is a \$21.3 million reduction for the Skagway Marine Service Platform project, which has been moved to 2025-26.

## Session Briefing Note

### Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2023-24 Supplementary Overview

**HPW TAB#1**

**FIN TAB#28**

**Spring 2024**

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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- There is also an \$8 million decrease in Northern Carve Out funding, which is being deferred to 2024-25.
- Delays in some of the community projects under the infrastructure development funding will also see an additional \$7.7 million decrease in capital.

#### Additional Response:

- Revenues for 2023-24 are expected to decrease by \$14.9 million, mainly to reflect lower forecasts for tobacco and corporate income tax revenues and quartz mining royalties.

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

- The 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #2 is tabled in the spring session and will be the subject of debate.

#### Approved

Signature on file	February 29, 2024
_____ Deputy Minister, Finance	_____ 
Signature on file	February 28, 2024
_____ Deputy Minister, HPW	_____ Approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- Since its introduction in 2019, the Government of Yukon has been supportive of carbon pricing as a policy to help us reduce emissions and move toward our ambitious climate targets.
- The Department of Environment and the Department of Finance work closely to ensure that 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.
- Our two departments 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.
- It also includes excluding carbon price from electricity generation or aviation, in recognition of the unique constraints of our northern jurisdiction.

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

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**Additional 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
- Our government continues to stand by carbon pricing as sound, evidence-based policy on climate change, but we share concerns about equity; specifically, for those Yukoners who do not use heating oil for their homes.
- The policies in Our Clean Future, as well as carbon pricing, are intended to incentivize Yukoners to make the switch to low carbon energy sources, like electric heating or heat pumps. Despite this change to the federal carbon levy, Yukoners continue to lead the way to support this low carbon transition.

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

Environment &amp; Finance

- 
- 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.

**Third response:**

- 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, and businesses 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 four rebate groups who receive more, on average, than they pay in carbon pricing levies.

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

- 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).

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Prepared for Premier Pillai, Ministers Clarke and Silver  
Departments of Environment and Finance

Date prepared: January 8, 2024  
Last Updated: February 22, 2024  
Page 3 of 4

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

Environment &amp; Finance

- 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).

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Prochazka, Deputy Minister of  
Environment

March 1, 2024

Date approved

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

February 26, 2024

Date approved

Prepared for Premier Pillai, Ministers Clarke and Silver  
Departments of Environment and Finance

Date prepared: January 8, 2024

Last Updated: February 22, 2024

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## Session Briefing Note

### Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Spring 2024

Finance

**Recommended:**

- Inflation has continued to improve in recent months, but all 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 track 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:**

- This year's Budget continues to support Yukoners by making sure they can access essential services at prices they can afford.
  - o The Budget includes massive investments to advance affordable housing projects across the Yukon. From the Housing First Project in Watson Lake, the Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse, and the Korbo Multiplex in Dawson, the Yukon government will be taking action to build more affordable homes for Yukoners, especially those in vulnerable situations.
  - o There is also over \$42 million in continued funding for early learning and child care in this Budget. This includes funding for the universal child care program, which has reduced child care fees to less than \$10 per day on average.



## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inflation and Affordability**

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

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**Spring 2024**

Finance

- o We are also making life more affordable and leading the nation with our Yukon-wide dental program, which will see \$5.4 million in continued funding for 2024-25.
  - o To make sure that more people have the option of staying home when they are sick, we have extended the Temporary Paid Sick Leave and included the necessary funding to do so in this Budget. We have also extended the Interim Electrical Rebate, which will provide welcome relief from power bills to Yukoners across the territory.
- These are just a few examples of the many programs and initiatives that will continue to support Yukoners this year.
- The Yukon's minimum wage has also been responsive to price changes, as its annual change is tied to inflation in the year prior. After growing 6.8 per cent in 2023, the minimum wage is scheduled to grow a further 4.9 per cent to \$17.59 per hour as of April 1, 2024. The new minimum wage would represent the second highest wage in Canada, behind only Nunavut's minimum wage of \$19.00 per hour.
- Higher inflation impacts various Government of Yukon programs through indexation, including:
  - o Subsidies for medical travel
  - o The Yukon Child Benefit
  - o Social Assistance Payments
  - o Student Financial Assistance
  - o Seniors' benefits
  - o The Pioneer Utility grant

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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**Spring 2024**  
Finance

- o The Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation
- o The minimum wage
- o Residential rent caps
- o The tobacco tax rate

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

- Inflation has fallen from historical highs but remains elevated in Canada and in the Yukon.
- While improved, energy prices remain elevated, and food and shelter costs continue to be prominent drivers of overall inflation. These are all areas where higher prices are more obvious to consumers.
- Housing affordability has been a concern in the Yukon for several years.
- After more than a year of local inflation being among the highest in Canada, growth in the Whitehorse CPI trended down throughout 2023 and was once again below the national inflation in the last three months of 2023.
- Higher earnings were reported across most industries in 2023, and several industries reported earnings growth more than 2023's average inflation of 4.9 per cent. Even as some industries had earnings gains outpace inflation, earnings growth of 2.8 per cent in the industry total fell short of the overall increase in prices in 2023.

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### Background:

#### Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

- Early in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, some price pressures were slower to materialize in the Yukon than in other parts of the country, as inflation for Whitehorse was amongst the lowest in Canada in the first half of 2022.

## Session Briefing Note

### Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Spring 2024

Finance

- Robust price growth in the CPI components of food, shelter and recreation, education and reading material were key drivers of overall inflation in 2023.
- Actions taken by the Bank of Canada to rein in inflation by cooling the Canadian economy appear to be having the desired effects. The national labour market has softened, consumer spending has slowed, and real GDP has leveled out. Following ten increases in the overnight rate since March 2022, discussion among many analysts has shifted towards the timing of rate cuts.
- The Bank's efforts to tame inflation look to have set the stage for a soft landing for Canada, as inflation is trending down without an accompanying sharp downturn in economic activity. Weaker energy prices and improving supply chains have also helped contribute to a much-improved national inflation picture.
- Prior to the recent period of elevated inflation, prices in the Yukon had generally tracked close to the national trend. After averaging 3.9 per cent in 2023, the Bank expects national inflation to fall to 2.8 per cent in 2024 and 2.2 per cent in 2025. As price pressures continue to recede, a similar story is expected locally with growth of the Whitehorse CPI forecast to fall from 4.9 per cent in 2023 to 3.0 per cent in 2024 and 2.5 per cent in 2025.

#### PROGRAMS AND OTHER MEASURES THAT SUPPORT AFFORDABILITY

Projects under the Five-Year Capital Plan supporting housing affordability (Yukon Housing Corporation)

- The **Old Crow 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing** facility will be completed and will be ready for residents to start moving in by March 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 are scheduled to be complete in early 2024.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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**Spring 2024**  
Finance

- The **Korbo Multiplex in Dawson** is in the design phase. This project will deliver approximately 34 new housing units.
- The old **Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse** was demolished in December 2023 and plans are underway to replace it with a new multi-family affordable housing complex. The project is in the design phase and 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.

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

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Finance

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.

### Yukon Child Benefit (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, starting in the 2023–24 budget year.

### 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 is 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 has been extended to March 2025.

### **Other Government initiatives**

#### Initiatives under Health and Social Services:

- Engagement on the Yukon's Social Assistance rates started in late summer 2023 with clients on Social Assistance.
- While the review is underway, the department is providing a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- To offset inflationary cost of living increases and provide sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of children placed in their care, the department is providing a 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers of children in out of home care, on top of the annual indexed increase.
- During the 2023-24 fiscal year, a 16.46 per cent rate increase for community and extended family caregivers was provided. The rates are as follows:
  - o Whitehorse: \$46.86 per day
  - o Rural Communities: \$50.16 per day
  - o Old Crow: \$86.40 per day

### 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) will increase the grant payments to be provided in April 2024. This will result in a \$2.3 million increase for Yukon municipalities with overall contributions of over \$24.5 million for fiscal year 2024/25.

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

- Our energy programs are successfully encouraging Yukon residents and local businesses to reduce their energy use, save money and choose low carbon options to live and move.
- Energy efficiency rebate programs are available for the transportation sector, renewable heating sector, and the construction sector focusing on high efficiency buildings.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

**Spring 2024**  
Finance

- 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 December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 221 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.

### Support to the forestry industry (Energy, Mines and Resources)

- To help increase the supply of firewood, over the past two years the Yukon government has offered an incentive to timber harvesters. In 2022-23, the Government of Yukon distributed \$315,000 to 33 Yukon businesses. The program has contributed to an increase in timber harvest volumes.
- In fall 2023, the Government of Yukon and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency combined financial contributions to launch the \$200,000 Forestry Support Program. The program is helping to enhance operational safety and resilience by allowing commercial harvesters and retailers to purchase or repair things like harvest equipment, vehicles, trailers, and personal protective equipment.
- We have distributed over \$170,000 through this program and anticipate exhausting the funds by the application deadline of March 31, 2024.

### Temporary Landlord Assistance Program (Economic Development)

- Vacancy rates in the local rental market remain very low. The Government of Yukon is committed to encouraging landlords to remain in the residential market. To help support this, the department of Economic Development introduced a temporary Landlord Assistance Program in November 2023.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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**Spring 2024**  
Finance

- The program is available to all Yukon residential landlords who rent out accommodations to which the Yukon's Residential Landlord and Tenant Act applies and who rented out accommodation in 2023. The program provides a one-time, per-unit payment of \$338 for 2023.

### Government initiatives indexed to inflation

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

### **Covid-19 and other temporary inflation relief measures no longer in place:**

#### **Tourism and Culture:**

##### **COVID-19 Business Relief Programs**

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Yukon acted quickly and decisively by implementing one of the most robust business relief programs in the country. This began with the Yukon Business Relief Program (YBRP) in 2020, which was open to any business from any sector that experienced at least a 30 per cent revenue loss due to the pandemic.



# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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**Spring 2024**

Finance

- In that same year, Tourism and Culture (T&C) also launched the Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan (TRRP), which was reviewed and endorsed by the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) and industry.
- The Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan committed \$15 million over 3 years to support the tourism sector and was focused on 4 key themes:
  - Providing tourism sector leadership;
  - Rebuilding confidence and capabilities for tourism;
  - Supporting the recovery of tourism industry operators; and
  - Refining the brand and inspiring travelers to visit.
- Through the TRRP, various financial support programs were rolled out during the course of the pandemic to sustain the tourism industry and prepare it for the eventual reopening of borders, including:
  - Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS);
  - Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS);
  - Culture and Tourism Non-profit Sector Supplement;
  - Great Yukon Summer (GYS) program;
  - Great Yukon Summer Freeze program;
  - ELEVATE program; and
  - A top-up to the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF).

### **Health and Social Services:**

- a one-time \$150 payment to social assistance recipients;
- a one-time payment of \$150 to Yukon Seniors Income Supplement recipients;
- a one-time 10 per cent additional payment to Pioneer Utility Grant recipients;

**Session Briefing Note**  
**Inflation and Affordability**  
**(Corporate Note)**

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- a 6-month extension of \$500 per month to caregivers of children in out of home care; and
- a commitment of \$100,000 to Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition to continue to support food security across the territory.

**Approved by:**

February 28, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy Minister, Finance

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved

**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 December 2023, we released the third Our Clean Future annual report outlining the progress we made responding to climate change in 2022.
- The report announced the addition of 42 new actions to help us reach our climate goals. 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.
- The 42 new actions implement 15 recommendations from the Yukon Climate Leadership Council and three recommendations from the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change.
- Additionally, several of the new recommendations put forward by the Yukon Climate Leadership Council align with existing Our Clean Future actions.
- We will continue to work together to advance our efforts to reduce emissions as we assess our progress year-to-year, consider new research and the input of others, and increase our resilience to climate change.
- We have also revised 19 existing actions to better align with our efforts to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions and build a climate resilient territory.

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

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

**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.
- We legislated greenhouse gas emissions targets and associated reporting through the Clean Energy Act in 2022.
- We installed electric vehicle chargers in every road-accessible community in the Yukon, enabling zero-emissions travel throughout the territory. (See EMR BN #29)
- We launched the five-year Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership in 2023 which will enhance the agriculture sector's resiliency and adaptation to climate change.
- In collaboration with the Yukon's public utilities, we met our target to install seven megawatts of renewable electricity capacity through the Micro-Generation program by 2030. (See EMR BN #38)
- We launched the Better Buildings Program to offer affordable financing for energy retrofits to Yukoners' homes and buildings in 2022.
- We established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors.
- We advanced emergency preparedness as we progressed the Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Dawson City, Mayo, Watson Lake, Beaver Creek, the Town of Faro and the Kluane Lake Region.
- We have begun work to develop flood hazard maps for all flood-prone Yukon communities. We expect to release flood maps for the Southern Lakes, Carmacks, and Teslin in 2024. Flood hazard mapping

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

**Spring 2024**  
Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

for Old Crow and Dawson and the Klondike Valley will begin in 2024 and 2025.

- In May 2023, we completed the installation of a biomass heating system at Elijah Smith Elementary School in Whitehorse.
- In January 2024, we passed an electric vehicle charging station regulation under the *Public Utilities Act* to allow First Nation governments, private businesses and municipalities to sell electricity through electric vehicle charging stations.

**Third response:**

- Of the original 136 actions released in Our Clean Future in 2020, we have completed 45 actions. Eighty-seven actions are in progress and four are yet to begin.
- The ambitious addition of 42 new actions in 2023 puts us on track to reduce the Yukon's emissions by 30 per cent by 2030; however, there is still significant work required to meet our target reduction of 45 per cent by 2030.
- We are working with industry to establish a path to implement the mining intensity target of a 45 per cent reduction in 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.
- 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:**

## ENV #1 / EMR #33

Spring 2024

# Session Briefing Note

## Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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

### 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 (see Appendix A).
- The Government of Yukon reports annually on progress for the implementation of Our Clean Future. Three Annual Reports have been published to date, with the latest report released on December 20, 2023.
- The Our Clean Future website was launched in December 2023, which shows our commitments and successes towards fighting climate change.
- On February 16, 2024, the Government of Canada released an update on design options being considered for the upcoming Clean Electricity Regulations. This regulation is one of the Government of Canada's central commitments towards transitioning Canada towards a net-zero electricity grid by 2035.
- Yukon will be exempted from the Clean Electricity Regulations as the territory's electricity grid is currently not interconnected with any other region and is therefore not regulated by North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

### Approved by:

March 19, 2024

Deputy Minister  
Department of Environment

Date approved

March 19, 2024

Deputy Minister  
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

## Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

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### Recommended response:

- Many Yukoners continue to face challenges across the housing continuum, including:
  - 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 rising interest rates are creating significant challenges for both Yukon Housing Corporation and its partners.
- The corporation's new strategic plan, Creating Home, will help transform affordable housing service delivery through the adoption of a more client-centred and collaborative approach that integrates supports and leads to better outcomes for Yukoners.

### Additional response:

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

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### Context:

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

#### General housing information in the Yukon

#### Homelessness

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

## Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

### Rental pricing

- As of October 2023, the median rent for units in Whitehorse in all types of buildings \$1,368. This is 5.1% higher than it was in October 2022. For rental units in buildings with three or more units, the median rent was \$1,250, and the vacancy rate was 1.2%. Within the renter population in Whitehorse:
  - 22.7% live in unaffordable housing;
  - 17.9% live in unsuitable housing; and
  - 10.5% live in inadequate housing.

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

	<a href="#">April 2022</a>	<a href="#">October 2022</a>	<a href="#">April 2023</a>	<a href="#">October 2023</a>
Median rent (all types)	\$1,300	\$1,301	\$1,325	\$1,368
Vacancy rate (all types)	1.6%	1.7%	2.2%	1.9%

### Housing Construction

- Residential building construction declined by 19.3% over the same period. There was \$81.9 million in residential building construction in Yukon in 2023. This figure represents a 7.5% decline from 2022.
- Labour shortages contribute to higher construction costs and are leading to lower residential construction output.<sup>1</sup>

### House prices

- Yukon Bureau of Statistics real estate reports show that average prices for single detached and condos have fallen for three consecutive quarters; however, house prices remain high and many Yukoners face affordability challenges due to rising mortgage rates.
- Average House Prices (YBS)

Type	Whitehorse Average House Prices		
	<a href="#">2022 Q3</a>	<a href="#">2023 Q3</a>	Change
Single-detached house	\$701,200	\$664,600	(-5.2%)
Condominium	\$459,400	\$426,600	(-7.1%)

<sup>1</sup> Northern Housing Report, 2023



### Yukon Housing Corporation Accomplishments

#### Creating Home – YHC new strategic plan

- Creating Home is the corporation's new 5-year strategic plan that will transform affordable housing service delivery through the adoption of a more client-centred and collaborative approach that integrates supports and leads to better outcomes for Yukoners and communities.
- The plan 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 experience
    - 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:

- 60 units completed between 21/22 and 22/23 by YHC
- **February 2024** 10 units in Old Crow (with HPW)
- **March 2024** accessible duplex in Faro
- **January 2024** – 3-unit mobile home delivered and prepared for occupancy for RRDC staff to help improve social conditions in the community.
- **August 2023** – two accessible, affordable duplexes in Mayo and Carmacks, YHC
- **July 2023** – a 12-bed men's shelter, Jëje Zho, in Dawson City, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
- **May 2023** – 9-unit Elders' complex, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
- **January 2023** – 87-unit rental development in Whitehorse by Boreal Commons
- **January 2023** – 47-unit build for in Whitehorse YHC
- **December 2022** – 84-unit Seniors' Supportive Housing Facility, Normandy Living.
- **July 2022** – 45-unit multi-use building, Cornerstone: Opportunities Yukon
- **June 2022** – triplex in Whitehorse, YHC
- **Summer 2022** – 20-unit, Whistle Bend: Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
- **March 2022** – triplexes in Mayo and Watson Lake, YHC

## Housing Issues

## Yukon Housing Corporation

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

#### YHC- Underway (12 units)

- 10-unit Watson Lake Housing First building
- 2-unit affordable duplex in Dawson

#### YHC – Upcoming (112+ units) Community housing:

- 34-unit building with 8 accessible units in Dawson
- 45+ unit building with 9 accessible units on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Whitehorse (formerly Ryder Apartments)
- 10 units in Mayo
- 6-plex in Teslin
- 6-plex in Carcross
- 6-plex Haines Junction
- Accessible triplex in Whitehorse
- Accessible duplex in Ross River

#### Staff housing:

- Accessible duplex in Destruction Bay
- Accessible duplex in Pelly Crossing
- Duplex in Burwash Landing

### 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 YHC 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 April 2024, 177 clients are receiving monthly support.

### Support for homeowners:

- March 2024 – CYHB Homeowners stream
- June 2023 the Yukon government launched an \$8.25 million flood recovery program for residents and businesses affected by flooding in the Klondike Valley. (Tab #19)

### Housing Issues

### Yukon Housing Corporation

- April 2023, YHC launched the expanded Yukon Home Ownership Program which provides mortgages for qualified households to build and buy their homes across the territory, including Whitehorse.
  - The program is currently under review and scheduled for revision in the coming year.
- In 2020, YHC 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 2023:

- June 2023, the Government of Yukon partnering with the Government of Canada and the City of Dawson to develop [four new residential lots in Dawson City](#).
- 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 Mayo and the Logan and Whistlebend subdivisions of Whitehorse made available through public lottery.
- November 2022, signed a loan agreement with Kwanlin Dün First Nation's (KDFN) arm's-length development corporation Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership (CNLP) for a new residential land development project at [Copper Ridge West in Whitehorse](#), the first large-scale residential land development on settlement land in the Yukon. An amended loan agreement was signed August 2023 with Chu Níkwän for the same development.

#### Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

April 30, 2024

Date approved

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

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in our society.
- Our government is deeply committed to advancing reconciliation through collaboration and partnership with Indigenous governments.
- While there is still work to do, our efforts are resulting in meaningful change and creating better programs and services for all Yukoners.
- In 2023, on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we shared our progress toward addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action through the release of the Pathways magazine and an accompanying report.
- The magazine and report provide an update on the actions being taken across the Yukon government and in close collaboration with First Nation governments and organizations 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.
- We will continue our collaborative work to implement and report on the Calls to Action, including through work on the Yukon Forum joint priorities and by implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations.

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

- The 2023 mandate letters include a commitment to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action.

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

#### Approved by:

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Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.02.02

Date