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Session Briefing Note

New Convention Centre

Spring 2024Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Following this summer's Request for Proposals, Kwanlin Dun's Chu Níkwän Development Corporation (CNLP) emerged as the highest ranked proponent.
- The new Convention Centre will have a capacity of 750 to 1000 guests and can generate an economic impact of \$800 to \$1000 per guest for three to five days of events.
- CNLP proposed a concept for a building adjacent to the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre along the Whitehorse waterfront.
- Differentiating factors in favour of CNLP included venue size, overall event capacity, cost, location, Yukon First Nation involvement and long-term operational viability.
- Discussions have begun with CNLP to: further develop their design; establish detailed owner requirements and specifications; and explore a 25-year lease.
- A formal announcement with design specifics and further details will be made when negotiations are complete.

Additional response:

- The RFP issued on March 10, 2023 sought proposals from proponents who have access to land in the Whitehorse area suitable for a convention centre with capacity of 750 to 1000 attendees.
- We do not yet have firm, final cost estimates. The federal government has expressed interest in making a capital contribution to this project as well. Construction funding will not be needed until later this fiscal year, at the earliest.
- This project has been identified as a priority item in my 2023 Mandate Letter from the Premier.

Session Briefing Note

New Convention Centre

Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because: There is strong interest in this project within the tourism industry and the general business community. The public will also be curious about what is being planned.

Background:

The decision to proceed with the Convention Centre project was based on:

1. Industry Advocacy and Support
2. Market Research – Availability of Land
3. Economic Spin-Offs
4. Meeting Industry Analysis and Trends

Need for a New Convention Centre:

- Due to a lack of suitable convention space, the Yukon is currently turning down MICE business (Meetings, Incentive travel, Conferences and Events). MICE business is a strong economic driver, contributing to year-round, high-yield tourism visitation. The Yukon's former convention centre was too small to meet demand and is no longer operating.
- A new convention centre will lead to a range of benefits. In addition to being a visitor destination, it will be a gathering place for Yukoners to hold local events and festivals, which are currently constrained by a lack of sufficient venues.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

March 18, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Airport Impacts on Tourism

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Erik Nielsen Whitehorse Int'l Airport is to undergo upgrades from 2023-2026. Upgrades include reconstructing the main runway, expanding apron areas, improving lighting, and building a new maintenance facility.
- The project is essential for improving air travel performance and maintaining safe and reliable jet service to/from Whitehorse, a vital tourism hub.
- Tourism Yukon continues to support Air North in developing interline agreements for international access.

Additional response:

- Whitehorse International Airport classification AGN IV is upgrading its runway, during the construction, larger aircraft, such as Condor's B-767 won't be able to land.
- In 2024, Condor will switch to the Airbus A-330, which requires an AGN V airport.
- Discussions are underway to address this issue, however, Air North believes it can offset the loss of Condor flights through its interline agreement.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The tourism industry will be looking for updates and information on how the changes to the airport will impact them.
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Session Briefing Note

Airport Impacts on Tourism

Spring 2024Tourism and Culture

Background:

- The Yukon and the federal governments are investing up to \$186.2M to upgrade Whitehorse Int'l Airport's infrastructure, safety measures, and operational capacity.
- The project supports the Yukon's mining and tourism sectors and aims to increase the airport's resilience against climate change.
- Condor brings up to 5K passengers annually from German-speaking Europe on direct flights while 15k passengers from Germany arrive via southern airports.
- Tourism and Culture is working with Condor, Air North, and Highways and Public Works to maintain visitation to Yukon.
- The Yukon government will continue to invest in marketing for the German-speaking market and manage the impacts of the construction project while working with Condor and Air North.
- The overall airline seat capacity between Vancouver and Whitehorse increased 18.9% in 2023 vs 2019. Air North's capacity with Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary, all three connection airports for Condor will increase an additional 18% in 2024 over 2023.
- Condor's interline agreement with Air North to April 1, 2024, shows 2,302 direct bookings to date, in addition to approximately 1000 split tickets. This exceed the 2023 direct ticket sales.
- Final sales numbers for Condor were 4793 direct tickets in 2019 and 2680 in 2023.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Erik Nielsen Whitehorse
International Airport
(AGN Classification, Condor, Parallel
Runway, Taxiway G, Leasing)**

Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is making crucial investments in Yukon's infrastructure to enhance safety.
- To support current and future airport operations, a number of improvements to Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport are underway to replace aging infrastructure and keep the airport up to current standards.
- Improvements completed to date include upgrades to:
 - the parallel runway;
 - the taxiways;
 - apron panels; and
 - developing airport land for institutional and commercial uses.
- The main runway replacement project is also well underway and expected to be complete by 2026.
- We will continue making needed upgrades to the Whitehorse airport to meet the needs of travellers now and into the future.

Additional response: Future Airport Development and Service Levels

- Airports are complex systems, designed to accommodate a variety of aircraft with different physical dimensions and operational needs.
- Airport design and operations are built around the Aircraft Group Number, also referred to as an AGN system, a classification scheme that categorizes airports based on the type of aircraft they can support.

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International Airport
(AGN Classification, Condor, Parallel
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Highways and
Public Works

- This system, which considers an aircraft's wingspan, outer main gear wheel span, and approach speed, has significant implications for everything from the size of runway to the design of the terminal buildings.
- There are six AGN classifications, ranging from I to VI, or smallest to largest.
- Airports classified as AGN V in Canada typically support significant metropolitan area populations and have passenger volumes in the millions.
- The Whitehorse Airport supports about 400,000 passengers per year and a relatively small surrounding population, less than 40,000 people.
- The Government of Yukon continues to evaluate the opportunities for the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport to increase its service levels and accommodate larger passenger planes.
- For this service level increase there are a number of program and infrastructure investments that would need to be made.
- These additional investments would include increasing:
 - aircraft rescue firefighting resources;
 - aircraft maneuvering surfaces;
 - space and processing capacity for Canadian Border Services; and,
 - passenger processing and screening facilities.

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International Airport
(AGN Classification, Condor, Parallel
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Highways and
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- While additional investments are required to support moving from a category 4 airport (AGN IV) to a category 5 (AGN V) airport, the length and width of the existing and new main runway does not limit the Whitehorse Airport from supporting larger aircraft.
- Service level increases at Yukon airports and aerodromes require a clear business case to ensure informed investments in our infrastructure.
- The Yukon government will continue to work with industry and the Department of Tourism and Culture to inform future planning for Yukon airports and aerodromes.

Additional response: Condor

- During the reconstruction of the main runway, the parallel runway will be used as the primary runway.
- However, Condor currently operates a widebody aircraft that requires the main runway for service. Condor will be unable to operate a widebody aircraft at Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport during the summer until the main runway replacement construction is complete.
- Of note, this year, Condor has changed aircrafts from the Boeing 767 to an Airbus 330 model, an AGN V aircraft.
- While the new main runway and taxiway dimensions will be able to accommodate larger aircraft such as those found in AGN V, overall, the Whitehorse Airport including the air terminal building, fire hall, etc. is designed to support AGN IV aircraft and would require significant investments to support a larger AGN V aircraft.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Erik Nielsen Whitehorse
International Airport
(AGN Classification, Condor, Parallel
Runway, Taxiway G, Leasing)**

Highways and
Public Works

- To accommodate Condor's aircraft change a service level increase would be required at the Whitehorse airport. The Yukon government will assess the cost, value, feasibility and sustainability of this service level increase.
- In the meantime, Air North has secured interline agreements with Condor that allow travellers to connect to the Yukon through Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.
- The parallel runway will continue to support all other domestic traffic regularly operating at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

Additional response: Parallel runway upgrades

- The construction tender to upgrade the parallel runway was awarded to Terus Construction Ltd and Skookum Asphalt for approximately \$21 million. Construction began in spring 2023 and was substantially completed in late 2023.
- To meet Transport Canada regulations, last summer, we extended the runway safety area of the parallel runway. This required an infill of some of the Puckett's Gulch area, which involved relocating the airport fence line, clearing trees, and removing some vegetation to build a stable slope. This work is expected to be completed in summer 2024.
- The parallel runway was closed in September 2023 to allow the contractor for the main runway replacement to complete site preparation work for the main runway project in the vicinity.
- The work on the parallel runway and upcoming work on the main runway preserve the existing Active Transportation trail owned and

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024**

**Erik Nielsen Whitehorse
International Airport
(AGN Classification, Condor, Parallel
Runway, Taxiway G, Leasing)**

Highways and
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operated by the City of Whitehorse, which is routed around the north end of the airport.

- The Yukon government will continue to engage with the City of Whitehorse as they develop their trail and active transportation links near the airport.

Additional response: Taxiway and Tenant Lease Area Upgrades

- The construction tender for the realignment, paving and lighting of Taxiway G, and associated improvements to lease parcel servicing was awarded in early 2022, and work started in spring 2022.
- This work will extend services to tenants and create new lease lot opportunities at Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.
- These improvements are ongoing and expected to be substantially complete in 2024.

Additional Response: YG v. Norcope Enterprises Ltd. Judgement

- The previous apron replacement project completed in 2014 has been the subject of legal proceedings between the Yukon government and the contractor, Norcope Enterprises Ltd. since 2017.
- On November 14, 2022, the Supreme Court of Yukon released its decision: Norcope was ordered to pay the Yukon government \$2.3 million in damages.
- Norcope Enterprises Ltd. appealed the November 14, 2022, decision. The appeal was argued on November 20 and 21, 2023, and the Court of Appeal has reserved its decision.

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Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport (AGN Classification, Condor, Parallel Runway, Taxiway G, Leasing)

Highways and
Public Works

Additional response: Maintenance Facility

- Planning work is underway for the replacement of the airport maintenance facility, which is critical to the operation of the airport.
 - The new facility is being considered in a location on the east side of the airport to maximize the land available for commercial aviation operators on the west bench of the airport.
 - Construction is taking place this year for utility upgrades needed for development of the east bench of the airport. Timelines for construction and demolition of the maintenance facility will be announced in a future capital budget.
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Context—this may be an issue because:

- There are numerous airside projects happening at the Whitehorse Airport over the coming years.
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Background:

- There are relatively few airports in Canada classified as AGN V, and those airports support significant metro area populations and have passenger volumes in the millions.
 - **Canadian Airports classified as AGN V (Aircraft Group Number):**
 - Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) - Toronto, Ontario
 - Annual average 34.7 million passengers in 2022.
 - Vancouver International Airport (YVR) - Vancouver, British Columbia
 - Annual average passengers 18.6 million passengers in 2022.
 - Montréal–Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport (YUL) - Montreal, Quebec
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Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport (AGN Classification, Condor, Parallel Runway, Taxiway G, Leasing)

Highways and
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- Annual average passengers 15.3 million in 2022.
- Calgary International Airport (YYC) - Calgary, Alberta
 - Annual average passengers 13.9 million passengers in 2022.
- Edmonton International Airport (YEG) - Edmonton, Alberta
 - Annual average passengers 5.85 million passengers in 2022.
- Ottawa Macdonald–Cartier International Airport (YOW) - Ottawa, Ontario
 - Annual average passengers 2.99 million passengers in 2022.
- Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport (YWG) - Winnipeg, Manitoba
 - Annual average passengers 3.03 million passengers in 2022.
- Halifax Stanfield International Airport (YHZ) - Halifax, Nova Scotia
 - Annual average passengers 3.12 million passengers in 2022.
- St. John's International Airport (YYT) - St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
 - Annual average passengers in 1.09 million passengers in 2022.
- More than 400,000 passengers fly in and out of Whitehorse every year.
- There have been inquiries from the tourism industry on the demand and opportunity to increase the service level at Whitehorse Airport to accommodate larger planes.

Approved by:

March 5, 2024

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Whitehorse Airport - Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is making crucial investments to the Yukon's infrastructure to provide Yukoners with safe and reliable aviation infrastructure for years to come.
- The main runway at Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport was last resurfaced in the late 1980s. In order to meet requirements set out by Transport Canada and industry best practices, a reconstruction of the runway surface and lighting system is now required.
- The \$160.7 million contract to reconstruct the main runway was awarded to Flatiron Constructors Canada Limited on May 19, 2023.
- This work is part of a \$258 million program to improve Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.
- The federal government is contributing \$186 million through the National Trade Corridors Fund with the Yukon government funding the remaining \$72 million.
- Work started in the 2023 construction season and will continue in the 2024 and 2025 construction seasons. The project will be completed by 2026.
- Once completed, the new runway and taxiway dimensions will be able to accommodate larger aircraft such as those found in Aircraft Group Number V (AGN V).
- While this is a large project, we expect there to be minimal disruptions overall for the travelling public and we will be working closely with aviation stakeholders to minimize impacts on their operations during the construction period.

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Whitehorse Airport - Main Runway Replacement Project

Highways and
Public Works

- Condor will not be able to offer direct service to Whitehorse while the main runway is closed during the 2024 and 2025 construction seasons. This is because their aircraft is too large to use the secondary runway.
- However, Air North has secured interline agreements with Condor that allow travellers to connect to the Yukon through Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

Additional response – YESAB Assessment

- During the initial planning phase Highways and Public Works reviewed the project scope and determined that the planned activities did not require a water licence or to undergo the YESAB process. As part of this review, Highways and Public Works received advice from the Department of Justice that confirmed that YESAB was not required.
- Most of the work associated with the Main Runway Replacement Project was categorized as falling under the “repair and maintenance of an aerodrome.” As such, the work fell outside of the scope of projects requiring a YESAB assessment as outlined in Schedule 1 of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- After careful project assessment it was also determined that there would also be no interaction with or potential impacts to visible or identifiable watercourses that would trigger a YESAB review or to apply for a water licence.
- However, during preparatory construction work in the Baxter’s Gulch area, an underground stream was encountered near where the existing north approach lighting towers were planned to be replaced.

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Whitehorse Airport - Main Runway Replacement Project

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- The department has removed the replacement of these lighting towers from the contract's current scope of work in order to assess the possible impact of this work on the underground stream. A YESAB submission is expected in the future for this specific work.
- In addition, once the stream was found, existing erosion and sediment controls were increased to avoid any deposit of silt or waste into the stream during construction work.
- No work will happen in the area near the stream until a separate project has been planned and the YESAB process has been completed for it.

Additional response: Drainage work and sediment control

- The Main Runway Reconstruction Project is underway and has the Contractor's Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in place to mitigate environmental concerns.
- The EMP outlines the Contractor's plans for sediment controls, monitoring requirements, and reporting requirements for all planned work on site.
- Highways and Public Works and their Consultant, Associated Engineering, regularly review the implementation of this plan and report any issues to the Contractor.
- The drainage work planned for the airport is simply replacement of existing drainage systems, some of which date back in to the 1950s.
- These revised systems are intended to meet current Transport Canada best practices and do not increase the overall drainage footprint of the site.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Whitehorse Airport - Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works**Additional response: Impacts to Trails**

- Puckett's Gulch is currently undergoing active construction as we work on developing a new airside access road.
- For safety reasons, this has led to a temporary closure of the area.
- We anticipate completing construction in this section by the end of summer 2024, at which time the construction fencing will be replaced with regular airport fencing.
- It is important to note that the footpaths in this area, including those along the escarpment around the airport, fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Whitehorse.
- That being said, Highways and Public Works is working on alternative options for the use of certain footpaths, like the footpath connection up to Puckett's Gulch. At present, we are encouraging cyclists to use the trails on two-mile hill if they wish to avoid the Black Street stairs.
- We are dedicated to continuing an open dialogue with the City of Whitehorse as they continue to develop their trail and active transportation infrastructure near the airport.

Additional response – Impacts to Air Carriers

- The main runway is closed as of April 15, until mid-October, and all aircraft will be using the parallel runway during this time.
- There will be similar closures of the main runway during the 2025 construction season.
- As part of the overall project plan, in 2022 the parallel runway was lengthened and strengthened to allow 737 type aircraft to use the runway. Edge lights were also installed to allow it to be used at night.

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- These improvements mean that most aircraft of a 737 size or smaller will be able to use the airport as normal all year round.
- However, the parallel runway is still shorter than the main runway which means that during the construction seasons, diverted aircraft larger than a 737 will not be able to land.
- In addition, depending on weather and environmental conditions, the shorter runway may impact the total landing and takeoff weight of certain aircraft.
- We have been and will continue to work with air carriers to plan for and minimize any impacts while we reconstruct the main runway.

Additional response: Project Rationale

- As asphalt ages, the ability for the mix to hold together degrades and the surface loses its flexibility. The lower flexibility results in increased cracking and produces foreign object debris, which can be detrimental to aircraft.
- Since 2017, the department has been regularly patching and rehabilitating the runway to extend the runway's life, but it was no longer economical or practical to continue with this approach.
- There are existing concrete panels under the asphalt surface of the runway which were originally installed when the airport was first built in 1943.
- These panels are approximately 20 cm thick and lie under 15 cm of asphalt.
- The panels are cracked throughout due to age and the cracks are reflecting through the asphalt layers causing the top layer of asphalt to also break down.

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- Large cracks on runways are a major source of foreign object debris (FOD) and pose potential dangers to aircraft.
 - These existing layers of concrete will undergo rubblization to be used as base material in the new runway structure.
 - Where poor quality materials are found, below the existing concrete, they will be removed and replaced with new aggregates to ensure there is at minimum 1.5 metres of quality materials under the new asphalt surface.
 - In addition, over the past few years the existing electrical infrastructure, including runway and taxiway edge lights, has required more frequent repairs to keep the lighting system operational. This project will solve these problems.
 - Each end of the current runway has portions that are not usable. The project will lengthen the usable portion of main runway by fixing the 257 metre portion on the north end, and the 427 metre portion at the south end of the main runway.
 - Part of the reconstruction work will allow the use of the full paved surface, which will go from being 2,216 metres of usable runway to 2,900 metres of usable runway.
 - Reclaiming the displacements requires changes be made to existing paint markings, signs, edge lights, approach lighting towers, and NavCanada publications.
 - It also requires a relocation of NavCanada's glide path for the instrument landing system.
 - In addition, part of the reconstruction also includes raising the elevation of the runway in order to install new drainage infrastructure.

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Public Works

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- This will help minimize the impact of frost below the runway and also help keep subbase soils dry and solid to prevent movement and cracking of the asphalt surface.
 - This change in elevation will also allow more structural fill to be used within the base of the runway, further increasing the lifespan of the asphalt on top.

Additional response: Construction Activities

- In 2023, progress to the main runway included:
 - preparation for the main runway reconstruction, including airfield drainage improvements;
 - water and sanitary line extensions;
 - fencing to secure the worksite; and
 - construction of two access roads to the parallel runway in preparation for the 2024 construction season.
- Major reconstruction work will begin on the main runway this upcoming 2024 construction season. Work is expected to include:
 - reconstruction of the north half of the runway surface which will include rubblization of the existing asphalt and concrete surface, placing new base material, and placing new asphalt pavement;
 - installation of new edge lighting;
 - installation of a storm drainage system;
 - construction of a new taxiway F; and,
 - adjustments to the north perimeter service road.

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Public Works

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- Over the coming years, the main runway will be fully replaced with additional features, such as increased lighting and improved drainage.

Additional response: Flatiron Constructors Canada Company Profile

- Flatiron delivers infrastructure projects across the U.S. and Canada. for public and private clients– including highways and bridges; aviation, rail, and transit projects; dams and water treatment facilities; and underground projects.
- Flatiron has recently been involved with the Vancouver Airport North Runway Rehabilitation Project and was also involved in the construction of portions of Anthony Henday Drive in Edmonton.
- Flatiron’s Project Manager, Cody Wiles and his family have relocated to Whitehorse for his work on this project.
- In early March, I met with the Vice President of Operations of Flatiron’s Canadian Division, the main contractor for the airport runway reconstruction project.
- We discussed the project schedule and how Flatiron is building strong relationships with local partners.
- We also talked about how the company is taking steps to fulfill its commitments under the Community Development Agreements with Ta’an Kwäch’än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- I was pleased to learn about some of the successes Flatiron has had with other Indigenous groups with their other projects across Canada and the United States and about the value Flatiron places on economic reconciliation.
- Highways and Public Works will work with Flatiron to enhance the public communication around the construction site so that Yukoners

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SPRING 2024

Whitehorse Airport - Main Runway Replacement Project

Highways and
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can learn more about the project and get information about trail detours.

- I look forward to continuing to engage with the company to see the progress made over the summer this year and into the next construction season.

Additional response: Community Development Agreements

- We have entered into two Community Development Agreements for work on the main runway, one with Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and one with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
- Both agreements are tailored to maximize socioeconomic benefits that are important to each community such as employment, subcontracting, training and workforce and business development.
- An example of the implementation of these agreements is the subcontracting work performed by First Nations businesses.
- Additionally, the contractor held a job fair in August 2023 targeted at employment for First Nations citizens. Another job fair will be held on March 27, 2024, prior to construction season start-up.
- Community Development Agreements are government-to-government agreements, and the content is confidential.
- The framework for these agreements was developed as part of the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy. We are working closely with both First Nation governments to implement these two agreements.

Additional response: Engagement

- The department is working closely with aviation stakeholders to minimize impacts on their operations during the construction period.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Whitehorse Airport - Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

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- On August 3, and September 28, 2023, information sessions were hosted for aviation and tourism stakeholders, respectively, about the project.
 - Both sessions were well attended and provided the opportunity to ask questions about the project.
 - There will also be a public information session this spring informing the public about the planned construction activities they might observe around the airport.
 - Along with this information session, there will be posters at the Whitehorse airport communicating information about the project and upgrades. This information will also be found on Yukon.ca.
 - We continue to work with tourism and industry stakeholders to inform them of the project's progress.
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Context—this may be an issue because:

- This is a major infrastructure project happening in the territory.
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Background:

- A major patching program was undertaken in 2017 for the main runway, which was primarily aimed at reducing potential foreign object debris.
 - A Hot-In-Place asphalt recycling rehabilitation was completed in 2018, which was estimated to extend runway life by an additional five years. This allowed time for the options analysis and planning of a more robust surface treatment, including subsurface drainage and lighting.
 - In summer 2022, pavement friction results for the main runway began to decline to levels which triggered remedial action.
 - In 2022, a surface texturing treatment was performed to restore the main runway to an acceptable condition.
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Whitehorse Airport - Main Runway Replacement Project

Highways and Public Works

- Pavement friction numbers declined again, and the surface texturing treatment was repeated in September 2023.

Fast Facts

- The total quantity of electrical cable required for the project could reach from the airport in Whitehorse to Carcross, and back.
- The total volume of aggregates required for the project could fill 85 Olympic sized swimming pools.
- There are 40 kilometres of paint markings on the main runway alone.
- The project requires 73,000 tonnes of asphalt, that's about the weight of approximately 145,000 moose. This is double the total population of moose in the Yukon, that's a lot of freezer space!

Runway Length Comparison

ENIWA (Parallel runway)	Watson Lake	YVR's (largest)	Canada's largest runway (Calgary)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6600' long • 100' wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5500' long • 150' wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,800' long • 200' wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14000' long • 200' wide

Approved by:

April 24, 2024

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, with support from Yukon government, continues to protect and preserve "Nun Cho Ga", the mammoth calf recovered from the Klondike goldfields on June 21, 2022.
- Communications and research activities involving Nun Cho Ga are being developed and implemented in a collaborative manner between the Yukon government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- Yukon government has been working closely with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in providing expertise and support to TH to care for, study, and preserve this rare discovery. Nun Cho Ga continues to be of international scientific and media interest.
- With direction and support from TH's Elders Nun Cho Ga has been successfully delivered to the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) in Ottawa for conservation treatment.

Additional response:

- YG provided \$125,0000 in funding to TH to support the transportation of Nun Cho Ga and a delegation of TH representatives to CCI in Ottawa.
- TH covered costs related to the transportation of Nun Cho Ga from Dawson to Whitehorse as well as the costs related to cultural activities associated with the delegation.
- TH decided to use a local company (Air North) to charter the flight from Whitehorse to Ottawa because:
 - If Nun Cho Ga was booked on a cargo flight on a commercial airline, Nun Cho Ga could be lost or delayed in transit and be at risk of thawing;

- Ground transportation (driving across the country) would also be at a high risk for thawing and causing permanent damage and time consuming.
- A local, First Nation-majority owned-and-operated airline also ensured that the delegation and cultural protocols associated with the move would be respected.
- YG also provided support of four staff for planning the transportation, caring for Nun Cho Ga during the trip from Dawson to Ottawa, and coordinating logistics on the ground.
- In addition, YG provided a \$20,000 Transfer Payment Agreement with the University of Alberta, Permafrost Research Lab for environmental DNA analyses of frozen sediment cores from Eureka Creek that were collected in association with Nun Cho Ga.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- This find is a very exciting discovery; media and scientists' enquiries have been frequent and continual.

Background:

- This discovery marks the first near-complete and best-preserved mummified woolly mammoth found in North America.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders named the mammoth "Nun cho ga", which means "Big Animal Baby" in the Han language.
- A preliminary examination of the woolly mammoth suggests she is female and was 30 to 35 days old. Based on radiocarbon dating Nun cho ga died and was frozen in permafrost during the ice age over 35,000 years ago.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in purchased and installed a new walk-in freezer for Nun cho ga which provides proper temperature controls until the transportation.

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TAB # 4
Spring 2024

Nun Cho Ga Mammoth Calf

Tourism & Culture

- Tourism and Culture, and Energy, Mines and Resources staff worked closely with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in staff and Elders during summer 2023 sharing cultural and scientific knowledge.
- In December 2023 Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, with the support of Tourism and Culture, hosted a community visioning session for citizens and an information session for Dawson City residents.
- Information from the visioning and information sessions, along with advice from Yukon government scientists and staff, supported Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in determining the next steps for research and interpretation.

Approved by:

April 10, 2024

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- The 125 Prize is a unique opportunity for Yukoners to achieve something extraordinary, to showcase the North, and to highlight the Yukon's spirit of adventure, artistry and innovation.
- The 3 winners, chosen by a committee of prominent Yukoners, were announced at an event on February 5 at the Visitor Information Centre:
 - Kluane Compositions, Matthew Lien and Diyet
 - It's Weird Up Here, Tedd Tucker and Amy Kenny
 - Alpine Climb, John Serjeantson
- Since March 2024, until the completion of all three projects, Yukon 125 Instagram is amplifying 2 posts a week from each of the 3 winners, as well as supporting the projects' other social media platforms (Youtube, Facebook, Twitter).
- Yukoners are encouraged to follow along with these 3 winners on social media; the digital platforms will allow Yukoners to engage with the winners in real time as the projects develop.
- Social media is an important tool in the travel industry to raise awareness of destinations. 92% of consumers trust word of mouth and User Generated Content (UGC) more than other forms of advertising.
- The pictures and videos from the 125 Prize winners can all be used in digital advertising to promote the Yukon.

Additional response:

- The final selection committee, which chose the final 3 winners, was comprised of five Yukoners from diverse backgrounds: Ashley Cummings, Kari Johnston, Danielle Lister, Ramesh Ferris, and MLA

Jeremy Harper. They carefully reviewed the 10 shortlisted projects, and met in person to discuss the merits of each.

- Yukon government will have the use of digital images from all three projects, as well as the song from Kluane Compositions, the stories from the book of “It’s Weird Up Here”, and the video from Yukon Alpine Climbing.
- These digital images and b-roll from the projects can be used by the department, as part of the signed agreements.
- Purchasing visuals and audios for use in advertisements is a normal activity in Marketing.

The 3 projects selected:

- **The Kluane Compositions**

Inspired by Kluane landscapes and Indigenous culture, a proposal to create a hybrid, 3-movement music composition featuring Southern Tutchone Indigenous, MOR and classical music styles. A grand piano will be helicoptered into Kluane National Park to be featured in the compositions' 10-minute music video.

Lead: Matthew Lien

Team members: Diyet van Lieshout, Katherine McCallum, Kirsti Wallace, Melvin Lagersson

- **It’s Weird Up Here: A celebration of small achievements**

Through archival deep-dives, micro-film hunts, museum visits and interviews with seasoned Yukoners, stories will be shared that may not have made front-page news, but should have. Think of the project as a yearbook Frankensteined together with a Pierre Berton anthology.

Lead: Tedd Tucker and Amy Kenny

- **Yukon Alpine Climbing – First Ascent**

A climbing team will attempt to perform the first ascent of an alpine rock route "Radelet Arete" in southern Yukon. If successful, a safe, high-quality alpine rock climb will be established for Yukoners and visitors to enjoy.

Lead: John Serjeantson

Team members: Zach Clanton and Rob Cohen

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Many Yukoners will be interested in the outcome of this novel fund.
-

Background:

- The department received 93 eligible expressions of interest, and a review process resulted in a shortlist of 10 finalists, which was announced in the fall.
- The selection committee, who chose from the 10 finalists to the 3 winners, were comprised of prominent members of the Yukon public.
- The review group (93 to 10) was interdepartmental and comprised of six Yukon government officials from various departments.
- The shortlist of finalists was announced at an event on October 19, and videos by the finalists were available publicly on October 20. Yukoners were able to watch the videos on social media, and the number of views was considered in the final decisions.
- The total amount of this fund was \$250,000, which will deliver a variety of dividends in terms of community support and Yukon destination awareness.
- The fund had very broad guidelines, so we received a large variety of proposals.

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Session Briefing Note

TAB # 5
Spring 2024

125 Prize

Tourism and Culture

- Proposals ranged from extreme adventures, larger-than-life art installations, and unique and bold ways of engaging with Yukoners of all descriptions.
- 92% of consumers trust word of mouth and User Generated Content (UGC) more than other forms of advertising, thus making UGC on social media crucial for any travel marketing campaign.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

April 10, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Tourism Industry Labour Shortage

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government recognizes labour shortages are a significant impact to the tourism sector.
- The department has developed a recruitment brochure using the Yukon Place Brand visual identity, which is available to all government departments and Yukon businesses for use at job fairs and in recruitment campaigns for all Yukon sectors.
- As well, the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon participated in the Premier's Fall 2023 Asia Mission to Japan and India to promote the Yukon as a destination for tourism employment.
- As outlined in TIA Yukon's 2023 Recruitment and Retention Action Plan, reduced tourism labour availability is due in part to a lack of available employee housing (Strategic Goal 3.3).
- The department is making strategic investments in the development of winter tourism to foster sustainable year-round businesses. The new "The Yukon: It's a little bit metal" campaign specifically seeks to attract winter visitors to the territory
- In the interest of expanding tourism employee housing, the department has:
 1. Supported the Klondike Visitors Association (KVA) in developing "The Village off King" seasonal housing project. This project includes ten partially furnished wall tents, washrooms and a cook shack, just off King Street in downtown Dawson City. It will be fully operational at the beginning of May 2024.
 2. Supported Cabin Fever Adventures/ Bistro on Bennet in developing a staff housing facility for tourism sector workers in Carcross. This

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Shortage

Tourism and Culture

facility features accommodations for 24 seasonal employees and will be operational for the 2025 spring tourist season.

3. Supported Bongo Motel & RV Inc in developing staff housing facilities for tourism sector workers in Dawson City. They are building 3 year-round staff accommodation on their property and will be operational for the 2024 summer tourist season.

Additional response:

- The department is also an active participant at the Canadian Council of Tourism Ministers (CCTM), a national table making recommendations, such as: tourism labour force, economic development, and destination access.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Many tourism businesses continue to experience significant challenges with recruiting and retaining employees.

Background:

- Recruiting, training, and retaining staff across all tourism sectors were challenges prior to COVID-19. These were identified as priorities to address in the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy.

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Tourism Industry Labour
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- We are committed to working with industry, the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board, other Yukon government departments, and the federal government to find sustainable solutions.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

April 12, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Carcross Tourism**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Department recognizes the challenges and opportunities for responsible tourism development and management in Carcross and provides support to address issues as they arise.
 - In May and June 2023, there were 3 days the Art House public washroom ran out of water and had to be closed.
 - In June, a door counter was installed by TC and CTLP to track washroom visit data and understand water usage patterns. This helped optimize a water delivery schedule with CS.
 - July and onwards, there were no further issues.
- As part of a pilot project, Tourism and Culture is investing in projects identified by Carcross businesses and organizations that support broader destination and community development. Funding was provided to:
 - Carcross Tagish Limited Partnership (CTLP) to implement improvements to the Carcross Commons to increase visitor capacity and improve experiences.
 - Cabin Fever Adventures to develop a staff housing unit for tourism sector workers in the community (expected opening 2025);
 - Wild Adventure Yukon towards re-branding (from Caribou Crossing) and to develop and implement a marketing strategy to diversify their audience; and
 - Caribou Hotel to rebuild and upgrade their 11 hotel rooms, the kitchen, the restaurant, and the saloon (expected opening fall 2024).

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Carcross Tourism**Tourism and Culture

Additional response:

- The department is working on consolidating tourism-related contracts in Carcross and ensuring we can better respond to tourism-related issues in the community as they are identified.
 - The department also:
 - Worked with Highways and Public Works to improve signage on the public restrooms in the community.
 - Worked with local businesses to improve the route for large buses in the community;
 - Is organizing Tourism Cafés to discuss issues and opportunities with Carcross tourism stakeholders.
 - With the help of Carcross Tagish Limited Partnership, installed an automatic people counter at the public washroom doors to collect data and report on usage patterns to optimize the building's water delivery schedule.
 - Is attending Local Advisory Council meetings semi-regularly to ensure the needs of the community are better understood.
 - Is participating in interdepartmental Carcross meetings with employees from Community Services, Economic Development, and Highways and Public Works to better align and collaborate on services and issues within the community.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The community of Carcross has mixed views on the benefits of tourism. It is important to demonstrate that Tourism and Culture is aware of issues in Carcross and is committed to managing them and supporting the community.

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Carcross Tourism

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Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

Background:

- Our partners in Carcross see tourism as having great potential, but they want it to be better managed – with more direct benefits to local businesses and residents.
- Consistent with the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS), the Yukon government has a key role in supporting tourism sustainably in Carcross.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note
Welcome to Yukon Signs**Spring 2024**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Welcome to Yukon signs are located at key points of entry into the Yukon. The current signs are over 25 years old and are in need of replacement.
- Replacing the Welcome to Yukon signs will address key recommendations in the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy: “improve signage to better support visitor experiences”.
- The new signs incorporate the Yukon Place Brand and provide an opportunity to showcase local artwork into the highway signs.
- The art is intended to promote a sense of place, pride and community and will reflect the theme of “Welcome to the Yukon.”
- To support regional representation for the various sign locations, selection of artwork was made by four subcommittees made up of representatives from the creative and cultural sectors, tourism operators and community members connected to the four regions.
- A Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association and a Yukon Arts Centre representative sat on all four committees to help ensure the 9 chosen artworks are diverse, cohesive and representative of the Yukon.
- Sign fabrication and installation is scheduled to be completed by July 31, 2024. Signs will be at eight highway border locations, and the Whitehorse airport.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The design of new welcome to Yukon signs will be of interest to Yukoners.

Background:

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Welcome to Yukon Signs

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- The new Highway Sign was designed Fathom Studios, based on the Yukon Place brand which was developed by the department's marketing agency of record, Cossette Communications, in partnership with Aasman Brand Communications.
- Fabrication and installation of signs was tendered in early 2024 and awarded to Hvactech Systems Inc of Whitehorse for \$334,100. Signs will be installed in a phased approach beginning in June 2024.
- The signs will incorporate local art that was chosen through a public call for art process. 9 Yukon artists from across Yukon were commissioned to develop artwork.
- Project estimates include:
 - \$70,000 for design
 - \$334,100 fabrication
 - \$54,000 call for art (\$6000/artist as per established professional national rates)
 - \$5,000 honoraria and other costs
- The Design concepts for the 8m and 2m signs were presented to the Place Brand Advisory Committee in August 2023, and were received favourably.
- Yukon First Nations and municipal governments were informed about the design, planned tender and call for art by letter in November 2023.

Installation Schedule (subject to change):

Installation	Start	Finish
Atlin Road	6-3-24	6-6-24
South Klondike	6-10-24	6-14-24
Watson Lake (Ak Hwy)	6-17-24	6-21-24
Stewart-Cassiar	6-17-24	6-21-24
Whitehorse Airport	6-24-24	6-28-24
Beaver Creek (Ak Hwy)	7-2-24	7-5-24
Haines Road	7-8-24	7-12-24

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Tourism and Culture

Date prepared: Jan 23, 2024
Last Updated: April 29 2024

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Welcome to Yukon Signs

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

Top of the World Hwy	7-15-24	7-24-24
Dempster Hwy	7-15-24	7-24-24

Call for Artwork:

- The Call for Artwork Proposals was advertised between January 24, 2024 and February 26, 2024.
- 28 artists submitted artwork proposals, which were reviewed by four regional selections committees and nine different artists have been commissioned to complete artwork for the nine Welcome to the Yukon Signs.
- Selected artists/artwork will be unveiled to the public in June.
- The committees included representatives from the creative and cultural sectors, tourism operators, First Nation, and community representatives. Robin Chambers or Erin Symington, Yukon First Nations Culture & Tourism Association and Mary Bradshaw, Yukon Arts Centre, sat on all four committees along with:
 - Northern Region:
 - Jackie Olsen, Artist and Tourism Operator, Dawson City
 - Mary Jane Moses, Vuntut Gwitchin Elder, Old Crow
 - Joella Hogan, Mayo, Yukon
 - Jean-Pascal Ladroue, TIA Yukon Board Member, Tourism Operator
 - Eastern Region:
 - Tiffany Lund, Town of Watson Lake
 - Larissa Stanley, Kaska Artist
 - Western Region
 - Teresa Vandermeer Chasse, Artist, White River First Nation citizen
 - Pauline Sias, Tourism Operator, Kluane First Nation citizen
 - Karrie Brown, Artist, CAFN citizen
 - Southern Region
 - Rae Mombourquette, Culture and Heritage Steward, KDFN
 - Sean McDougall, Director, Heritage, CTFN
 - Shannon Mallory, Little Atlin Lodge
 - Kalin Pallett, Wilderness Tourism Association

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Welcome to Yukon Signs

TAB # 8
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

April 29, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Forty Mile Historic Site**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Ch'édähdëk (Forty Mile), a significant cultural heritage site located downriver from Dawson City at the confluence of the Forty Mile and Yukon Rivers, was impacted by floods and ice jams during the 2023 spring breakup.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) and Yukon government have completed an initial site assessment and stabilized historic structures where possible. Work planned for 2024 includes developing a post-flood conservation plan, leveling buildings, and brushing.
- The impacts of flooding do not change the cultural significance nor the ancestral legacy that these lands hold for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Forty Mile has a long history of flooding, but events that occurred in spring 2023 well exceed any other documented flooding events.
- High waters inundated the site, which was then further exacerbated when ice jams on the Yukon and Forty Mile Rivers broke free, displacing buildings and infrastructure, and damaging the historic resources, interpretive signage and the work camp.
- Out of respect for the cultural significance of the site, we are limiting photographs of the damage and the site remains closed to the public due to safety concerns.

Context—this may be an issue because:

The public is interested in the impact of climate change on Yukon's historic places and heritage resources and will want to hear about the status of Forty Mile Historic Site. Tenders for work at the site may generate interest.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Forty Mile Historic Site**Tourism and Culture

Background:

- Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is identified under Section 3 of Schedule A of Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement as a co-owned, co-managed heritage site.
- The Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is situated on islands and riverbank terraces comprising approximately 50 ha at the mouth of the Fortymile River where it enters the Yukon River. The site includes a significant material record of late prehistoric use and occupation, overlain by archaeological evidence and collapsed and standing structures from the historic period dating as far back as 1886.
- A management plan for the site was developed in 2006 by a Steering Committee with representatives from Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and included public engagement.
- The Department of Tourism and culture issued a Request for Proposals to develop a conservation plan to guide post-flood conservation work at the site. Engaging with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the public will help inform planning for the site. The RFP closes March 18th, 2024. The conservation plan is expected to be complete by December 2024.
- The Department of Tourism and Culture has an annual O&M budget of \$107,000 for Forty Mile Historic Site, \$95,000 of which is provided to TH through a Transfer Payment Agreement for the conservation and maintenance of Forty Mile Historic Sites. An annual workplan is developed cooperatively to guide work at the site.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Forty Mile Historic Site**Tourism and Culture

- Ch'édähdëk (Forty Mile) is one of eight components sites that make up the Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Site. The Advisory Committee will be required to report on the damage and subsequent work to conserve and repair the site will be required to report on the impacts to the integrity of the site.

Approved by:**February 5, 2024**

Deputy Minister, Department of Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Yukon Place Brand

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- A Yukon Place Brand development was an action of the Yukon Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan (TRRP). YG identified Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce (YFNCC) as an initial partner.
- Place Branding is a strategic tool that supports economic development, tourism, talent attraction, investment attraction, and trade by helping communities create a unique identity. It aligns storytelling and brand management providing Yukon business owners with tools to tell their own stories with a simple framework based on shared values. Successful place brands have been developed by jurisdictions such as Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Iceland.
- A place brand helps all Yukon businesses and stakeholders to answer the question: “why Yukon” when they are exporting products or intellectual property (IP).
- Tourism and Culture led the development of the new Yukon Place Brand. Work on the project began in 2020-21.
- The first stage in the project was the development of a “Master Yukon Story” concept, which was carried out in partnership with the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce. This work involved a series of in-depth one-on-one interviews with more than 80 diverse Yukoners from across the territory.
- The Master Yukon Story formed the basis of the Yukon Place Brand development. Work completed to date includes a comprehensive Brand Assessment (i.e. national research on the Yukon brand), the development of the Brand Strategy and the completion of an online Brand Toolkit (including brand guidelines and a brand video):

Yukon-Brand.ca.

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Yukon Place Brand

Tourism and Culture

- An external (to government) Place Brand informal working group met to discuss how to sustainably manage the place brand over the long term, with strong private sector involvement.

Additional response:

- The Brand Toolkit is available as a free resource to all Yukon businesses and stakeholders, to assist them with their own work talent attraction, export marketing, investment attraction, and tourism. To date, several Yukon government departments and stakeholders have utilized the brand research and the assets including the Public Service Commission and YukonDocs, among others.
- Several “proof of concept” projects using the Master Yukon Story have been implemented by Tourism and Culture. These include marketing support for the Yukon Prize in 2021, the development of a talent attraction brochure now being used by several stakeholders, including Community Services (Community Affairs) and an investment attraction brochure being utilized by Economic Development.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners may not be aware of this free opportunity to access place brand assets and may now be more aware of the project given the recent launch of the Welcome to Yukon signs.
-

Background:

- The total budget for the project in FY 2022-23 was \$175,000.
- Yukon-based Aasman Brand Communications and partners Cossette Inc. (Vancouver) were engaged to manage the project’s deliverables.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Yukon Place Brand**Tourism and Culture

- A critical next step in this project is governance - determining who will be responsible for long-term maintenance of the Yukon Brand, and how this work will be resourced. The practice in other jurisdictions typically involves a dedicated agency run as a public-private partnership, but other options are possible.
- The Yukon Place Brand strategy and graphic elements developed for the Brand Tool kit under the Place Brand project provided the inspiration for the 125 Prize Logo and the new Welcome to Yukon sign concepts.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Mexico Visa changes to Canada and the Yukon**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Tourism and Culture (Tourism Yukon) is working with Destination Canada and key tour operators who target the Mexican market. Together we will assess the impact of the new visa requirements established by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for Mexican travelers to Canada.
 - Tourism Yukon has contacted Yukon tourism businesses on the issue and remains committed to providing updates on the situation as information is received.
 - Tourism Yukon's multi-market strategy enables the territory to better withstand changing conditions that impact outbound visitation from a specific market.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon tourism industry and sector stakeholders seek updates and information on how the changes to the visa will impact them.
 - There are travelers from Mexico visiting the Yukon over the next couple of weeks who may be impacted by the new visa requirements.
 - Some key account tour operators in Mexico have expressed concern over a substantial number of cancellations in March and April.
-

Background:

- Tourism Yukon has participated in Destination Canada's (DC) updates on March 1, 6, and 19, 2024.
 - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) established new visa requirements for Mexican travelers effective Feb. 29, 2024. The new visa requirements come because of concerns from some parts of Canada over the sharp rise in asylum seekers arriving in Canada over the last few years. Asylum seekers from Mexico represent the highest proportion of international asylum seekers to Canada.
-

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Mexico Visa changes to Canada and the Yukon

Tourism and Culture

- All existing electronic travel authorizations (eTAs) held by travellers from Mexico were cancelled by IRCC on Feb. 29. Those travellers who had already received an eTA for an upcoming trip were able re-apply for their eTA, provided they have a valid US visa or have had a Canadian visa in the last 10 years (work or study visas excepted).
- New eTA approvals are anticipated to take from 2 hours to 4 days for travellers who have an existing visa for the US or a visa issued by Canada prior to 2016.
- Travellers from Mexico who do not have a valid US visa or a previously issued visa from Canada will have to apply for a visa before they can apply for their eTA. A visa application from Mexico can take approximately 40 days to process.
- The embassy has hired additional staff to process visa applications and reports visa applications are in progress.
- Destination Canada reports sentiment among travellers from Mexico towards Canada is relatively neutral but they are continuing to monitor these trends.
- Destination Canada has suspended its remaining consumer marketing programming in Mexico and is focussed on educating key account tour operators, travel agents and travel media / influencers to ensure the most accurate information is being provided to assist them when they are working with their customers.
- Destination Canada and some Canadian destination marketing / management organizations (DMO's) are reporting confusion over the eTA and/or visa requirements for Mexican travellers booked on cruises with both Canadian / USA stops on the itinerary this summer, e.g. Vancouver to Anchorage. Destination Canada is building specific information on this in their communication to the travel trade.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

March 19, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Accomplishments

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- This government has been meeting our mandate objectives with respect to tourism and culture.
- Two guiding strategies lead our department's work: the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS) and the Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy (CCIS), and I am pleased to report we have made significant progress in advancing a number of strategic actions.

Additional response:

- In terms of the YTDS, we have seamlessly moved from providing one of the most robust COVID-19 support packages in the country for the tourism sector, to initiating the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund in 2023, which undoubtedly will enhance our incredibly strong tourism product offerings and experiences across the Yukon. As such, we are on track to achieve the YTDS goal of doubling tourism business revenue to \$525 million in 2028.
- With respect to the CCIS, we have made significant progress in a short period of time in implementing Phase 1 of the strategy, which means we are well on our way to growing the Yukon's culture GDP beyond 2% as it was in 2018. Some of our actions to this end include: modernizing existing funding; offering new funding streams; industry branding and promotion; marketing and export strategies; labour market supports; and workshops.

Background:

1. Implementing the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS)

- In October 2022, the department announced a new \$1 million Community Tourism Destination Development Fund to support community projects across the Yukon that focus on sustainable, community-driven tourism projects. The

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Accomplishments

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Tourism and Culture

development of outstanding visitor experiences was identified as a pillar of the YTDS.

- In the fiscal year 2023-2024, the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund funded 7 Tier 1 projects and 12 Tier 2 projects, with \$176,363.42 allocated to Tier 1 projects and \$1,691,550 allocated to Tier 2 projects. 90% of the projects are in communities or regions outside of Whitehorse. Projects range from building new tourism infrastructure to developing new tourism experiences.
- In the fiscal year 2024 – 2025, the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund is funding 13 projects in Tier 1 with \$333,071 allocated and 10 projects in Tier 2 with \$1,128,700 allocated. 90% of the projects are in communities or regions outside of Whitehorse. Projects range from building new tourism infrastructure to developing new tourism experiences. **(see also T7 – Community Destination Development Funding Programs).**
- With support from the department, the Yukon Convention Bureau (YCB) issued an RFP for the development of a new convention centre in Whitehorse. Following the Request for Proposals, Kwanlin Dun's Chu Níkwän Development Corporation (CNLP) emerged as the highest ranked proponent. **(see also HOT1 – New Convention Centre in Whitehorse)**
- The department launched the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Dashboard and published the 2022 Yukon Sustainable Tourism Annual Report to share a diverse set of data that is intended to help measure and monitor the impacts of tourism on the environment.
- In 2022, the department launched the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework (YSTF) and became a member of the United Nation's International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO) in the same year.
- In 2022/23, the department launched another iteration of the Yukon Visitor Exit Survey to learn more about visitors to the territory in order to inform future policy and strategic direction by the department.
- In September 2022, the department launched the inaugural Rugged Apprentices program, in which 33 volunteers from across Canada worked on tourism-related community projects in Dawson City, Watson Lake, or Carmacks. The program

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Tourism and Culture

received over 300 applicants. The program ran again in September 2023, with 51 volunteers from across Canada working on community and infrastructure-related projects in Carmacks, Mayo, Dawson City, Teslin, and Tagish.

- In September 2021, the department extended critical COVID-19 support programs for Yukon's tourism sector, as part of the three-year \$15 million Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan (TRRP) that was initiated in 2020.
- The Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS) and Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS) programs were extended until March 31, 2022, after being initially launched in 2020.
- The department also extended the Great Yukon Summer Travel Rebate program until March 31, 2022 (under Great Yukon Summer Freeze), after being initiated in 2021.
- Tourism and Culture (TC) also established the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) in March 2020 to advise the Minister on the implementation of the YTDS. The department values the input from YTAB and continues to engage the Board regularly. YTAB will be meeting at least four (4) times in 2023 and will be engaging industry as well. YTAB members are recruited through the Yukon government's Boards and Committees process. There are seven (7) voting members on YTAB, of which:
 - Three (3) bring a tourism perspective;
 - Two (2) bring a Yukon First Nation's perspective;
 - One (1) brings the perspective of Yukon's cultural or heritage sectors;
 - One (1) brings the perspective of Yukon's communities; and
 - Of the above voting members, one (1) must also bring a francophone perspective, and ideally, one (1) will bring a youth perspective. (see also T10 – Yukon Tourism Advisory Board)

2. Implementing the Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy (CCIS)

- In May 2023, the department released the first progress report on implementation of Phase One of the 10-year CCIS strategy, which was released in late 2021.
- The primary focus of Phase One is assessing and addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and positioning the sector within Yukon's broader economic

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recovery. A more comprehensive evaluation of Phase One is planned for 2025, which will help shape the priorities for Phase Two.

- Some highlights of progress to date include:
 - A \$750,000 increase to Media Development funding for content creators, including \$250,000 for the Performing Musicians Fund and \$500,000 for Media Funding Programs (EcDev funds);
 - \$300,000 in funding was introduced through the launch of two programs: the Express Micro-grant and the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant;
 - In June 2022, the department co-hosted the Arctic Arts Summit with Canada Council for the Arts, welcoming approximately 300 delegates from across the circumpolar north and raising the global profile of Yukon arts, cultural products and experiences;
 - In December 2022, created and hired Indigenous Outreach Liaison position under MOU with CCA to improve funding program delivery and increase engagement with Indigenous artists and cultural carriers;
 - In April 2023, the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund, with a budget of \$150,000 was launched in response to Action 1.6 of the CCIS;
 - 42 workshops and other outreach initiatives were coordinated and delivered in eight Yukon communities;
 - The budget for new acquisitions to the Yukon Permanent Art Collection was doubled to \$60,000 starting in 2024/25, and was announced in fall 2023; and
 - A new policy for First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums was completed in February 2024.. A funding review is ongoing.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

May 2, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Mandate Letter
Commitments**Tourism and Culture

Recommended Response

- As Minister of Tourism and Culture, the commitments in my mandate letter are key priorities for myself and for the department.
- I am pleased to report that we continue to make significant progress in achieving these public commitments - for the benefit of our local tourism and culture sectors, which play a key role in the continued diversification and growth of the territorial economy and in maintaining a high standard of living in the Yukon.

Background

- The 2023 Mandate Letter puts forward seven (7) commitments to the Minister of Tourism and Culture. Progress to date on these commitments includes the following:
 - 1. Continue working in collaboration with the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) to implement the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS).**
- Tourism and Culture (TC) values the input from YTAB and continues to engage the Board regularly. We have recently reviewed YTAB's Terms of Reference to better position the Board to support the new, post-pandemic realities facing tourism. YTAB will be meeting at least four (4) times in 2023 and 2024 and will be engaging other industry representatives as well.
- The YTDS continues to be the guiding tourism framework for the department. The department has achieved most of the commitments outlined in the Strategy. Some of these include:
 - Launching the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework, becoming a member of the United Nation's International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO) and continuing further developing the framework and participating to INSTO sustainability initiatives;
 - Launching the 2022/23 Yukon Visitor Exit Survey to learn more about visitors to the territory;
 - Launching the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Dashboard and publishing the 2022 Yukon Sustainable Tourism Annual Report to share a diverse set of data to help measure and monitor the impacts of tourism;

Session Briefing Note**Mandate Letter
Commitments**Tourism and Culture

- Providing \$300,000 annually to the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association (YFNCT) to advance Indigenous tourism, a key pillar of the YTDS;
- Offering the Go Digital Yukon program and summit, which provides Yukon tourism stakeholders with training, coaching, funding and networking opportunities to enhance their online presence and use of digital tools;
- Replacing the Welcome to Yukon gateway signs to align with YTDS recommendations to improve signage to better support visitor experiences across the territory. Fabrication and installation of signs will be a phased approach beginning in Fall 2023; and
- Launching the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund to support capital and non-capital projects that focus on sustainable tourism development.

2. Collaborate with industry partners with a focus on:Developing a tourism product inventory

- We need a robust inventory of tourism businesses, and the products and experiences offered. Having this baseline data will help determine destination development priorities and gaps that we need to fill.
- We will work with partners such as the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon (TIAY) on this inventory.

Developing Indigenous tourism products

- This is directly related to pillar 3.0 of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS) which states, “Establish the Yukon as a Premier Destination for Indigenous Tourism Experiences Support new and enhanced visitor experiences and awareness for Yukon First Nations tourism”.
- We have been working collaboratively with the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association (YFNCT) for many years and we will continue to do so.
- We have some upcoming joint strategy sessions, and we will be renewing our three-way Memorandum of Understanding on Indigenous tourism with YFNCT and the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC).
- In addition, we are supporting 10 Indigenous tourism development initiatives in communities across the territory.

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- Our approaches to Indigenous tourism development need to be stress-tested for the post-pandemic environment. Ultimately, we want to work with partners to begin to see tangible developments in this sector of the tourism industry. Indigenous tourism businesses in communities can be a source of pride, of cultural expression, jobs, and entrepreneurship and skill development.

Recruiting and training staff

- While the Department of Economic Development is the lead on labour market programs, Tourism and Culture's Destination Development funding can be targeted to projects, which can help with staff recruitment and training, as well as the construction of staff housing.
- The department has a pilot project underway in Carcross, and we are looking at one in Dawson City as well.

3. Stimulate destination development with an emphasis on expanding visitor infrastructure including:

- The Department of Tourism and Culture is responding to changes in the tourism industry due to the pandemic, and longer-term trends that were becoming evident even before the pandemic, by shifting its priority from market development to destination development.
- This involves building capacity, particularly in communities outside of Whitehorse, to receive visitors in a sustainable and manageable way, so that communities can take advantage of the economic opportunity tourism represents.
- **A new Convention Centre in Whitehorse**
 - The tourism industry is fully supportive of this clear and long-standing need. Indeed, the sector is leading this project through the Yukon Convention Bureau (YCB). We are actively involved and collaborating with the Convention Bureau to move this along.
 - The RFP closed on August 4 with two proposals. An evaluation committee completed the evaluation process and a CNLP was identified as the Highest Ranked Proponent.
 - We are exploring different possibilities for federal funding.

Session Briefing Note**Mandate Letter
Commitments****Tourism and Culture**

- **The establishment of tourism corridors (and) new and improved accommodation and lodge networks.**
 - Destination Canada (DC) is supporting the development of Tourism Corridors nationally.
 - Our proposal for a network of small-scale, authentic indigenous tourism lodges was selected as one of the three first corridors by DC.
 - Destination Canada assigned a group of consultants to develop a feasibility and engagement study for this project.
 - We will be able to provide more information as this project progresses.
 - **Increased tourism capacity in Yukon communities.**
 - This is the key objective of the new Community Tourism Destination Development Fund.
- 4. Support the research, preservation, interpretation, and assessment of our historic places by working closely with Yukon First Nations governments, municipalities, and communities. (See C4 Historic Sites and C3 Heritage, First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums)**
- As part of the Yukon Forum process, the Heritage Working Group (YG/Yukon First Nations) has a workplan which will advance the management of Yukon's heritage and historic resources.
 - Work with First Nations, municipalities and community partners continues to advance projects, such as the preservation and interpretation of historic sites, Ice Patch research, and palaeontological discoveries in the Klondike goldfields.
- 5. Continue to advance the establishment of a heritage resource centre for the conservation and protection of Yukon's archaeological, paleontological, and cultural artifacts. (C6 Arts and Heritage Collection)**
- Tourism and Culture and Highways and Public Works have developed a functional plan and business case for a combined arts and heritage resources collections facility.
 - In the meantime, planning is underway to secure appropriate collections and research space to ensure that collections are properly stored, and research activities can be carried out.

Session Briefing Note**Mandate Letter
Commitments**Tourism and Culture

6. **Finalize and implement the new Cultural Centres and Museums policy to ensure these important facilities are supported into the future. (See C7 Policy on Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums and Funding Review)**
 - Work on the new policy to date includes in-depth sector engagement, a draft engagement report and a draft policy that has been shared with stakeholders.
 - The final version of the Policy was approved February 2024.
 - A funding review is ongoing.

7. **Continue to implement Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries to support the growth and development of the creative and cultural industries in the Yukon. (See C5 Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy)**
 - A final strategy was released in November 2021, and Phase 1 priorities are underway, including modernizing and streamlining existing funding supports, the creation of a micro-grant program, and the development of a Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums Policy.
 - The department launched the Express Micro-grant funding program on September 1, 2022, which addresses action 1.5 of Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries strategy (CCIS). This program supports the creative and cultural sector to respond to unique opportunities and increases access to funding for first-time applicants and equity-deserving communities. **(see also DPT4 – Funding Programs)**
 - A program analysis of arts funding programs, which supports action 1.1 in the strategy has been completed. The program analysis will support the modernization and streamlining of existing funding supports to improve delivery, structure and effectiveness, and to address gaps.
 - In 2022-23, YG began partnering with the Canada Council for the Arts to deliver an initiative to support the Yukon's Indigenous artists, arts workers and cultural carriers, which also addresses CCIS priorities. This initiative includes an Indigenous Outreach Liaison Position and the \$150,000 Indigenous Artists and

Session Briefing Note

Mandate Letter Commitments

TAB #13
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

Cultural Carriers Micro-grant program. The partnership is scheduled to end March 31, 2026. **(see also DPT4 – Funding Programs)**

- In April 2023, the new Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund was announced and launched. This fund will support three individuals with \$50,000 to devote up to a full year developing their practice, with a focus on career growth. The next intake is May 15, 2024. This program addresses Action 1.6 in *Creative Potential*. **(see also DPT4 – Funding Programs)**
- Action 2.2.2 in the strategy is the development of a new Yukon Cultural Centres and Museums Policy. Work on the new policy, which is complete, included in-depth sector engagement and an engagement report, which was shared with stakeholders.
- Action 4.1 in the strategy is focused on building industry understanding of complex issues such as rights, royalties and copyright. An expanded professional development workshop series was offered by the department in 2022-23, and further industry development occurred in 2023/24 to support this action.
- Work to advance Action 2.2.3 Develop tools for better managing Yukon's world-class ancient fossils is also underway. The department is in discussions with partners on how to improve the collaborative management of palaeontological resources, and modernize the heritage legislation. **(see also TAB #4 – Nun cho ga)**

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Budget 2024-25

TAB #14
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Our priority for 2024-25 is to support, promote and enhance the Yukon's tourism, culture, heritage and arts sectors for the benefit of Yukoners and visitors.
- For 2024-25, the Department of Tourism and Culture has a budget of **\$34.2M**. This is a **1.1% decrease** (\$379K) over the 2023-24 Main Estimates. The largest drivers for the reduction in funding is the removal of COVID-19 Response funding as well as the completion of capital projects including the Visitor Exit Survey.

Operations and Maintenance:

- The 2024-25 budget includes **\$32.0M** for operations and maintenance. This is an **increase of \$104K** from the 2023-24 Main Estimates.
- Key O&M investments include:
 - \$1.6M towards Community Tourism Destination Development;
 - \$550,000 in support of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy;
 - \$544,000 towards the implementation of Creative Potential, the creative and cultural industries strategy;
 - \$150,000 for implementation of "Our Clean Future" initiatives;

Capital

- The 2024-25 budget includes **\$2.2M** for capital. This is a **decrease of \$483,000** over the 2023-24 Main Estimates.
- Key capital projects are:
 - \$560,000 in support of our consumer marketing strategy for content acquisition and the Travel Yukon website;

Session Briefing Note

Budget 2024-25

TAB #14

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

- \$550,000 for the Yukon Art Centre lift;
- \$400,000 for the maintenance, restoration and protection of historic properties;
- \$200,000 for the Yukon Signage Modernization project; and
- \$75,000 for wall-mounted digital kiosks.

Background: See attached tables

Department of Tourism & Culture	Operation & Maintenance (in \$k)			FTEs		
	2024-25 Estimates	2023-24 Main Estimates	2022-23 Actuals	FTE change	2024-25	2023-24
COVID-19 Response	-	767	1,544	-	-	-
Covid-19 Pandemic	-	767	1,544	-	-	-
Corporate Services	2,958	2,803	2,735	-	20.17	20.17
Deputy Minister's Office	519	549	340	-	2.15	2.15
Policy & Communications	1,065	973	1,062	-	7.00	7.00
Directorate	228	222	309	-	2.00	2.00
Human Resources	333	305	302	-	2.42	2.42
Finance & Administration	511	467	501	-	4.00	4.00
Information Management	302	287	221	-	2.60	2.60
Cultural Services Branch	15,406	15,040	14,973	(0.50)	54.32	54.82
Directorate	903	1,137	878	-	4.00	4.00
Historic Sites	2,529	2,373	2,195	(0.50)	9.26	9.76
Arts	4,925	4,887	5,120	-	6.30	6.30
Yukon Archives	1,955	1,791	1,748	-	15.30	15.30
Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre	728	657	616	-	5.88	5.88
Heritage	4,366	4,195	4,416	-	13.58	13.58
Tourism Branch	13,624	13,274	13,181	-	38.67	38.67
Directorate	792	808	1,088		2.00	2.00
Marketing Operations	6,429	7,052	7,881		10.00	10.00
Visitor Services	2,549	2,310	2,270		19.67	19.67
Industry Services	3,854	3,104	1,942		7.00	7.00
Total	31,988	31,884	32,433	(0.50)	113.16	113.66

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Tourism and Culture

Date prepared:
Last Updated:

[Return to ToC](#)

Session Briefing Note

Budget 2024-25

TAB #14
Spring 2024
 Tourism and Culture

Department of Tourism & Culture	Capital (in \$k)		
	2024-25 Estimates	2023-24 Main Estimates	2022-23 Actuals
Corporate Services	10	10	52
Finance & Administration	10	10	52
Cultural Services Branch	1,574	1,425	1,806
Historic Sites	765	1,020	595
Arts	610	60	40
Yukon Archives	45	95	677
Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre	144	250	474
Heritage	10	-	20
Tourism Branch	635	1,267	896
Marketing Operations	560	480	584
Visitor Services	75	300	160
Industry Services	-	487	152
Total	2,219	2,702	2,754

Approved by:

February 5, 2024

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Department of Tourism and Culture Funding Programs

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Advanced Artist Award (AAA)

Provides funding for creating, training, and developing the artistic skills of Yukon artists who have attained a senior level of practice. Funding assists with innovative projects, travel or educational pursuits. The award is available for all artistic disciplines, including First Nation traditional arts.

Eligibility: Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada, who have lived in the Yukon for at least one continuous year prior to the award deadline. In addition, an applicant must be considered to be an artist working at an advanced level and have a history of publicly-presented work. 'A' and 'B' level artists should show that their reach or impact extends beyond Yukon, while also contributing to Yukon culture.

Decision-making: A peer jury of other advanced artists review applications for funding. The jury is different every intake.

Intake: Two application deadlines per year – April 1st and October 1st.

Budget: \$150,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Up to \$5,000 for level B and up to \$10,000 for level A. A-level artists generally have a greater and farther reach of presentation than B-level artists.

Administration: Arts Unit

Arts Fund (AF)

Supports group projects that foster creative development and public engagement in the arts in the Yukon. Projects vary, but may include workshops, special initiatives, performances and event production.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include registered Yukon non-profit organizations, artist collectives, community associations, industry associations, First Nations governments, school councils, local advisory councils, and municipal governments planning an activity related to the literary, visual or performing arts.

Decision-making: The Yukon Arts Advisory Council reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minister.

Intake: Four application deadlines per year – the 15th of March, June, September and December.

Budget: \$500,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Applicants may request up to a maximum of 70% of eligible project expenses. The funding requested should be proportionate to the impact of the applicant's project and based on realistic figures.

Administration: Arts Unit

Arts Operating Funds (AOF)

To encourage the development of the arts and to enhance the contribution of the arts to the Yukon. To support arts organizations towards sustainable and effective planning, governance, and allocation of human and financial resources to meet their artistic mandates and activities. The fund consists of an Annual Operating Component and an Annual Project Component.

Eligibility - Operating Component: A Yukon non-profit society with on-going and year-round activities primarily engaged in literary, visual or performing arts activities AND activities of the society have a territorial impact.

OR

A society that is recognized as an umbrella arts organization AND activities of the society have a territorial impact.

Eligibility - Project Component: Yukon non-profit societies, First Nations, school councils, municipal governments, local advisory councils, and industry associations with an arts-focused project that meets the following criteria:

- The project fosters the creative development of the arts in the Yukon and supports the Yukon Arts Policy principles;
- The project is arts-focused, including literary, visual or performing arts; and,
- The project is an established annual activity (at least three years).

Decision-making: The Yukon Arts Advisory Council reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minister.

Intake: One application deadline per year – February 15th .

Budget: \$825,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): There are no maximum funding amounts specified for the Arts Operating Funds; however, funding is competitive. Requests should be realistic and proportionate to the impact of the applicants' activities.

Administration: Arts Unit

Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund (new in 2023/24)

The fund is aimed at individuals active within the creative and cultural sector at various stages of their career to devote up to a full year developing their practice, with a focus on career growth. The intention is to accelerate and amplify their participation in the sector, increase business skills and industry knowledge, remove financial barriers for individuals, and facilitate a sharing and skills transfer component within the sector.

This fund enables three individuals per year to immerse themselves in career growth and development, increase their potential for income generation, and take the steps needed to achieve their career goals.

Eligibility: Individuals active in the creative and cultural industries who are 18 years or older and have lived in the Yukon for at least three years. Considerations may be made for individuals who can clearly demonstrate strong and ongoing connections to the territory.

Decision Making: A peer committee of individuals representing the creative and cultural industries. The committee is different for every intake.

Intake: One intake per year, 15th of May.

Budget: \$150,000 per year.

Applicant limits: Three individuals will be funded \$50,000 each.

Administration: Arts Unit

Cultural Industries Training Funds (CITF)

Funding is intended to help the Yukon's cultural industries address training needs that allow for economic activity (e.g., employment or business opportunities) or to increase productivity and service in the *for-profit* or *labour force* component of the arts or cultural industries sector. This fund is aimed at the economic aspects of the industry, not the development of artistic skills.

Funds provided by the Department of Economic Development.

Eligibility: All persons who have resided in the Yukon for a minimum of one year are eligible for support from the CITF. Commercial and not-for-profit organizations may apply.

Decision-making: A peer review committee comprised of cultural industries sector representatives.

Intake: 15th of January, March, May, September.

Budget: \$75,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Preference is given to projects requiring less than \$5,000 for individual training and less than \$8,000 for group training.

Administration: Arts Unit

Culture Quest (CQ)

Culture Quest is a funding program initially developed in 2004 to address art and culture presentation opportunities at large sporting events, such as the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, Canada Winter Games, and Pan American / ParaPan-American Games.

Objectives are to increase arts presentation capacity, particularly in rural and First Nation communities, support the intersection of arts and cultural practices or heritage, and to prepare and develop work to be showcased nationally or internationally. Culture Quest also supports First Nations cultural gatherings and festivals around the Yukon.

Eligibility: Individuals, not-for-profit organizations, companies, and collectives, living or registered in the Yukon, including representatives from First Nations, culturally diverse, arts, heritage, museums, and archives communities.

Not Eligible: Projects that qualify for other Yukon government grant programs (with the exception of micro-grants): e.g., Arts Fund, Touring Artist Fund, Advanced Artists Award, Cultural Industries Training Fund, etc.

Decision-making: Panel (FN rep, Community reps)

Intake: 15th of January, April, September.

Budget: \$120,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Maximum award is \$10,000.

Administration: Administered by Arts Unit since 2023-2024. Previously administered by Klondike Institute of Art and Culture.

Express Micro-grant (new program launched in 2022/23)

A flexible fund with simple application and reporting requirements, and quick turnaround times for approvals for short-term, economic and growth opportunities for those in the creative and cultural industries sector.

Eligibility: Emerging, established and professional artists, creatives, or people involved in the creative and cultural industries; artist collectives; non-profit societies registered in the Yukon that are in good standing; businesses; First Nation governments; and municipal governments that present activities centered around artists.

More specifically, this new program is aimed at those who have never received funding before, especially those who may find the funding world intimidating. This program prioritizes first-time applicants, and those from equity-deserving communities. This program provides quick responses to allow creatives to take advantage of opportunities.

Decision Making: Internal review by the Arts Section, based on eligibility criteria. Applicants will be notified of the results in writing within 5 working days for Tier 1 and 10 working days for Tier 2.

Intake: Ongoing with a minimum of \$12,500 available each month for distribution.

Budget: \$150,000 available for each fiscal year.

Applicant limits: Tier 1: Up to \$1,500; Tier 2: \$1,501 to \$5,000. Funding can cover 100% of eligible expenses.

Administration: Arts Unit

Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant (new program launched in 2022/23)

A program to support Indigenous artists, arts workers, and cultural carriers who are looking for small amounts of funding for creation, performance, development, and export activities. Will be signing a two-year extension of the two-year partnership with Canada Council for the Arts up to March 31, 2026.

It is similar to the Express Micro-grant, with two tiers of funding available. It is designed as a flexible fund, with simple application and reporting requirements, and quick turnaround times for approvals.

Eligibility: Emerging and established Indigenous Yukon artists, arts workers and cultural carriers who are either (1) from a Yukon First Nation and live in the Yukon; (2) have lived in Yukon for one continuous year at the time of application; or (3) from a Yukon First Nation who have previously lived in the Yukon, are Canadian residents, and maintain ties to the territory. Collectives can apply, provided all members of the group meet the eligibility criteria.

Decision Making: Internal review by the Arts Unit, based on eligibility criteria. Applicants will be notified of the results in writing within 5 working days for Tier 1 and 10 working days for Tier 2.

Intake: Ongoing with a minimum of \$12,500 available each month for distribution.

Budget: This program is funded through an MoU with the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) which has been extended to March 31, 2026. \$150,000 in funding supports is available for fiscal year 2024-25. CCA also provides full funding for the Indigenous Outreach Liaison position.

Applicant limits: Tier 1: Up to \$1,500; Tier 2: \$1,501 to \$5,000. Funding can cover 100% of eligible expenses.

Administration: Arts Unit

New Canadians Event Fund (NCEF)

Provides funding for Yukon events and festivals that celebrate communities of new Canadians and their cultures, and that demonstrate community involvement.

Eligibility: Registered non-profit societies based in the Yukon, who have a primarily cultural or multicultural mandate, or are otherwise significantly engaged in cultural or multicultural activities. Applicants must have an interest in assisting new Canadians with their transition to living in the Yukon.

Decision-making: Internal review by the Arts Unit, based on eligibility criteria.

Intake: There are no deadlines for the fund. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

Budget: \$45,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximum per project): Applicants may request up to 100% of eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$10,000 per Yukon Government fiscal year. Applicants may apply for more funding than one project per year, though previously-funded applicants may not receive additional funding until they have fully accounted for their previous funding.

Administration: Arts Unit

Touring Artist Fund (TAF)

Supports professional artistic tours by individuals or ensembles beyond and within the Yukon (with priority on tours outside the territory). Applicants must be invited to perform or exhibit their work through a professional selection process, which means the work is selected by jury or curated based upon its merit.

Eligibility: Yukon artists (must have lived in the Yukon for one continuous year prior to fund deadline), ensembles, or companies who create, produce or interpret art in theatre, dance, music, visual arts, film, storytelling, or a combination of art forms.

Decision-making: The Yukon Arts Advisory Council reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minister.

Intake: Four application deadlines per year - the 15th of March, June, September and December.

Budget: \$100,000 available each year.

Applicant limits: The percentage of total project costs eligible for funding is not fixed, as the scale, range and potential impact of touring opportunities can vary significantly. Applicants may apply for up to a maximum of \$10,000 per tour.

Administration: Arts Unit

Historic Properties Assistance Program (HPA)

Funding to assist in the preservation of the many privately-owned historic properties in the Yukon. This funding program makes technical and financial assistance available to those individuals, community groups, societies, municipal and First Nations governments, and businesses who wish to undertake preservation, restoration, development and/or interpretation of their historic properties.

Eligibility: Sites that have historic significance and the project is in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

The applicant must be one of the following:

1. The owner; or
2. The long-term lessee. Written permission of the owner to undertake the proposed work is required; or
3. The group or individual generally recognized to have responsibility for, and control of, the site.

Decision-making: Historic Sites Unit staff.

Intake: One application deadline per year – March 1 at 5:00pm Mountain Standard Time.

Budget: \$100,000 available each year.

Applicant limits: \$10,000 for most properties; \$20,000 for properties that are designated as national, territorial, or municipal historic sites. The program provides funding on a matching basis. Applicants may request up to a maximum of 50% of eligible project costs per year, per project. Complete applications will be reviewed first and be given funding priority.

Administration: Historic Sites Unit

Yukon Historic Resources Fund (YHRF)

Funding for projects that promote the study and interpretation of Yukon's historic resources and further the promotion, appreciation, preservation, and development of Yukon's heritage. The types of projects considered include archaeology, palaeontology, community museums, First Nations heritage or cultural centres, historic sites, First Nations language preservation, toponymy, and historical research.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include private citizens, groups (including societies, businesses, etc.), First Nations, and municipalities. Priority will be given to Yukon applicants over those applying from outside the territory.

Decision-making: The Yukon Heritage Resources Board reviews applications and provides funding recommendations to the Minister of Tourism and Culture.

Intake: One application deadline per year – March 15th at 5:00pm Mountain Standard Time.

Budget: \$16,000 available each year.

Applicant limits: Will provide matching funding up to 50% of project costs to a maximum of \$10,000. While the total project value may exceed \$20,000, applications requesting more than \$10,000 will not be considered.

Administration: Historic Sites Unit

Museum Contribution Program (MCP)

Provides operational and maintenance support to eligible museums and First Nation cultural centres.

Eligibility: To apply your institution must be a recognized, eligible museum as defined by the 2005 Museum Strategy.

A museum:

- May be a non-profit institution or an institution governed by a non-profit society incorporated under the Yukon Societies Act, or by a municipal government, or by a Yukon First Nation.
- Is a permanent institution with the space required to carry out museological functions and which is mandated in the service of society and for its development.
- Functions to acquire, conserve, research, interpret, communicate, and exhibit the material evidence of Yukoners and their environment for the purposes of education, enjoyment, and cultural awareness.
- Is open to the public.

A museum must also:

- Be on the Department of Tourism and Culture's museums eligibility list (those museums currently receiving operational funding support from the department).

Decision-making: Museums Unit Application Review Panel assesses applications and makes recommendations on reporting requirements (funding levels established in budget process).

Intake: February 2023 (every three years).

Budget: \$1,642,000 available each year (increased to \$1,896,000 in 2023/24 and 2024-25 with funding from within).

Applicant limits: N/A – operational, not project. Funding levels established in budget process.

Administration: Heritage Resources Unit

Special Projects Capital Assistance Program (SPCAP)

Provides eligible museums and First Nation cultural centres with project funding for exhibit planning/development assistance, small (specialized) capital acquisition or improvement projects, artifact inventory and cataloguing, small conservation projects, cooperative marketing ventures, and revenue-generating enhancement projects.

Eligibility: To apply, your institution must be a recognized, eligible museum as defined by the 2005 Museum Strategy.

A museum:

- May be a non-profit institution or an institution governed by a non-profit society incorporated under the Yukon Societies Act, or by a municipal government, or by a Yukon First Nation.
- Is a permanent institution with the space required to carry out museological functions, and which is mandated in the service of society and for its development.
- Functions to acquire, conserve, research, interpret, communicate, and exhibit the material evidence of Yukoners and their environment for the purposes of education, enjoyment, and cultural awareness.
- Is open to the public.

A museum must also:

- Be on the Department of Tourism and Culture's museums eligibility list (those museums currently receiving operational funding support from the department).

Decision-making: Museums Unit Application Review Panel assesses applications and makes recommendations on funding

Intake: February

Budget: \$348,000 available each year

Applicant limits: Generally, there is a limit of \$20,000 per project. Detailed information explaining the specific circumstances of the project must accompany all funding requests in excess of \$20,000. Recipients in exceptional cases may receive financial assistance up to a maximum contribution of \$40,000 per project. There is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by an institution.

Administration: Heritage Resources Unit

Community Tourism Destination Development Fund (CTDD)

Provides support for community projects across the Yukon that focus on sustainable tourism and improve tourism related services and infrastructure including accommodations, attractions, activities and amenities.

Special consideration will be given to umbrella projects where local organizations and businesses are working together to enhance or create tourism opportunities in their community.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Strengthen tourism capacity in communities across the Yukon as the tourism sector continues to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Grow tourism business revenues;
- Build capacity in the Yukon to provide outstanding visitor experiences; and
- Build and bolster healthy communities.

Eligibility: Yukon businesses, Yukon First Nations governments, Yukon First Nation Development entities, Yukon municipal governments and community societies or associations that are registered under the Yukon Societies Act and are either based in or serve Yukon communities.

Decision-making: Internal review with assessment committee.

Intake:

- Tier 1: January 15 - projects with total budgets up to \$100,000
- Tier 2: November 15 – projects with total budgets between \$100,001 and \$500,000

Budget: \$1,600,000 available each year until March 31st, 2026.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): The program can cover up to 75 per cent of the total costs of non-capital projects and 50 per cent of eligible capital projects to a maximum of \$75,000 for Tier 1 and \$375,000 for Tier 2.

Administration: Destination Development Unit

Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF)

Funding for tourism businesses, Yukon municipalities, non-government organizations and First Nations governments offering tourism experiences and services to assist in the promotion and marketing of Yukon tourism experiences and services to residents and visitors alike. The program provides funding assistance for advertising projects, marketing projects, and travel-based activities.

Eligibility: Funding is available for market or trade-ready tourism businesses, municipalities, destination marketing organizations, and First Nations governments featuring tourism experiences and services.

Decision-making: Internal review with assessment committee.

Intake: Twice a year.

Budget: The TCMF funding budget is \$700,000.

Applicant limit: For 2024-25, 50% of eligible expenses will be covered by TCMF and 50% will be covered by the applicant for traditional and online expenses. There are maximum funding thresholds depending on applicant's category. There are flat funding rates for travel-related activities.

Administration: Destination Development Unit

“Spark” Tourism Micro-grant

The Spark Tourism Microgrant program aims to support the development of new and emerging entrepreneurs offering visitor experiences and services within the Yukon’s tourism sector. The program will act as a catalyst to encourage the development and implementation of innovative visitor experiences and services that have the potential to spark larger future projects and experiences. The program focuses on fostering long-term sustainability, as defined by the United Nations World Tourism Organization¹ (UNWTO) and prioritizes new or emerging entrepreneurs.

Eligibility: Yukon-based individuals, businesses, First Nations governments, First Nation Development entities, and not-for-profit organizations.

Decision-making: Internal review

Intake:

- June 15, October 15, and February 15.

Budget: \$75,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Successful applicants can be awarded between \$1,000 to \$5,000. Funding can cover up to 100% of eligible expenses.

Administration: Destination Development Unit

Funding program	Annual amount \$
Cultural Services	
Advanced Artist Award	150,000
Arts Fund	500,000
Arts Operating Funds	825,000
Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund	150,000
Cultural Industries Training Fund	75,000
Culture Quest	120,000
Express Micro-grant	150,000
Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant	150,000
New Canadians Event Fund	45,000
Touring Artist Fund	100,000
Historic Properties Assistance Program	100,000
Yukon Historic Resources Fund	16,000
Museum Contribution Program	1,896,000
Special Projects Capital Assistance Program	348,000
Sub-total	4,588,000
Tourism	
Community Tourism Destination Development Fund	1,600,000
Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund	700,000
Spark Tourism Micro-grant	\$75,000
Sub-total	2,375,000
Total amount	\$6,963,000

Department of Tourism and Culture

Stakeholder Annual Funding for 2024-25

NOTE: These figures are base funding only and do not include any additional specific project amounts

Tourism:	Amount
Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association	\$300,000
Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon	\$264,000
Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon	\$240,000
Yukon Convention Bureau	\$200,000
Yukon Quest	\$150,000
Sport Yukon	\$115,000
Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous	\$117,000
Air North Charter and Training Ltd.	\$75,000
Association Franco Yukonnaise	\$25,000

Cultural Services:

Council of Yukon First Nations (Heritage Working Group)	\$137,000
Yukon Historical and Museums Association	\$80,000

Historic Sites:

Selkirk First Nation (Fort Selkirk)	\$147,000
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (Rampart House)	\$120,000
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (Forty Mile)	\$95,000
Carcross Tagish First Nation (Conrad)	\$20,000
Yukon Conservation Society (Canyon City)	\$18,000

Heritage:

The Yukon Science Institute	\$20,000
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Archives:

Yukon Council of Archives	\$94,000
Friends of the Yukon Archives Society	\$4,000

Arts:

Yukon Arts Centre	\$946,233
Dawson City Arts Society	\$459,000

Northern Cultural Expressions Society	\$351,900
Friends of Yukon Permanent Art Collection Society (acquisitions)	\$60,000
Yukon Arts Centre (Old Fire Hall/Wharf)	\$175,000
Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association	\$160,000
Guild Society	\$108,000
Yukon Art Society (Artist in the School Program)	\$100,000
The Yukon Film Society	\$89,000
Yukon Art Society	\$82,000
Gwaandak Theatre Society	\$75,100
Nakai Theatre Ensemble	\$65,000
Dawson City Music Festival Association	\$59,400
The Heart of Riverdale Community Centre	\$50,000
Whitehorse Concerts	\$39,300
Jazz Yukon	\$33,700
Junction Arts and Music Society	\$32,600
The Community Choir of Whitehorse Society	\$30,900
All-City Band Society	\$28,000
Northern Lights School of Dance Society	\$28,000
Yukon Bluegrass Music Society	\$28,000
The Blue Feather Musical Society	\$27,500
Association franco-yukonnaise	\$20,000
Longest Night Society	\$18,000
Village of Mayo	\$8,000
Northern Fibres Guild	\$2,500

Museums and Cultural Centres:

MacBride Museum Society *	\$210,144
Carcross/Tagish First Nation (Carcross/Tagish Learning Centre)	\$150,103
Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (Da Kų Cultural Centre)	\$150,103
Kwanlin Dün First Nation (Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre)	\$150,103
Dawson City Museum Society	\$150,103
Teslin Tlingit Council (The Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre)	\$150,103
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre)	\$150,103
The Yukon Transportation Museum Society	\$150,103
Yukon Church Heritage Society (Old Log Church Museum)	\$92,371
Keno Community Club (Keno Mining Museum)	\$57,732
Kluane Museum of History Society	\$57,732

Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (Tagé Cho Hudän Interpretive Centre)	\$57,732
MacBride Museum Society (Copperbelt Railway and Mining Museum)*	\$57,732
Selkirk First Nation (Big Jonathan House)	\$57,732
The Teslin Historical & Museum Society (George Johnston Museum)	\$57,732
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (John Tizya Centre)	\$57,732
Town of Faro (Campbell Regional Interpretive Centre)	\$46,186
Town of Watson Lake (Northern Lights Centre)	\$46,186
Village of Mayo (Binet House)	\$46,186

*Funding allocation for MacBride Museum Society is separated for the Copperbelt Railway and Mining Museum

Updated: April 12, 2024

Recommended response:

- Visitor Services Unit plays a critical role in welcoming visitors and improving their Yukon experience, while encouraging visitors to spend more time and travel more widely in the Yukon.
- The six Visitor Information Centres (VICs), mostly located on highways throughout the Yukon, are open from May 1 to September 30. The Whitehorse VIC is open year-round.
- During October 2023, the Carcross VIC stayed open to pilot an extended fall tourism program and saw 1,000 visitors.
- Due to changes in customer behaviour, visitation at VICs has been trending downwards since 2018. The Visitor Services Unit is adapting to use digital kiosks and online services to meet customers where they are. In 2024, VIC staff will offer video and social media-based travel counselling.

Additional response:

- For those who go to VICs in 2024, their experience will improve with new exhibits, increased community programming, signage changes and the wider use of QR codes for information delivery.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Visitation at VICs have been trending downwards since 2018.
 - VSU is optimizing its programs and re-training staff to use more digital tools.
-

Session Briefing Note

TAB #17
Spring 2024

Visitor Services

Tourism and Culture

Background:

- Although traffic to VICs has recovered post COVID-19 pandemic – 190,000 visitors in 2022 and 218,000 visitors in 2023 – visitation has been trending downwards since the 2018 historical high of 393,000 people.
- VIC staff are hired in each community to provide visitors with information on the travel products and experiences available locally, as well as emergency safety updates.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Marketing

TAB #18
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Overall, 2023 indicators are showing significant increases over 2022, but are still slightly below 2019 figures. It's important to note, however, that 2019 was a record year for visitation to the territory. The demand from our domestic and international markets is strong and we are pleased to see such a swift and promising rebound.
- The tourism sector was greatly impacted by COVID-19 with visitation losses as high as 97% in 2020-21. However, sustained investment in our target markets throughout the pandemic has supported visitation numbers to recover significantly.

Additional response:

- Yukon government is actively marketing the Yukon as a travel destination in 13 countries around the world: Canada, USA, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, UK, Japan, Mexico, France, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Marketing in China was suspended in 2020 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- Tourism Yukon works with in-market sales contractors in German-speaking Europe, the UK, Japan and Australia to assist with the implementation of our tactical plans in these core markets.

Context—this may be an issue because:

Yukoners, Yukon tourism businesses and sector stakeholders are interested in how destination marketing dollars are invested by Yukon government.

Session Briefing Note

Marketing

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

Background:

- In 2019, the Yukon's tourism sector saw \$363 million in revenues attributable to tourism, generated from 491,000 visitors.
- Marketing investments, including the selection of geo-target markets, are made based on both empirical and other available data sources including the Yukon Tourism Exit Survey, Conference Board of Canada research, Destination Canada's Global Tourism Research Program, and other data.
- The Marketing Unit budget in FY 2024-25 includes \$754,000 in annual tourism NGO funding (operational and/or programming) for the following organizations: Wilderness Tourism Association of Yukon (WTAY): 264K, Yukon Convention Bureau (YCB): 200K, Yukon Quest: 150K, Sport Yukon: 180K, and Association Franco-Yukonnaise (AFY): 25K.
- A key action under the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy is Action 4.0: Sharing the Yukon's Story: promote authentic travel experiences in a market-driven, consumer-focused manner that aligns with the values of Yukoners. This action is brought to life under Action 4.1: Market the Yukon as a year-round tourism destination.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

May 2, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Destination Development

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Destination Development unit, formally known as Industry Services, delivers programs and services to the Yukon tourism sector through destination development support, funding, planning, and research.
- The unit established the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework and in 2022 became a member of the United Nations' International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO).

Additional responses:

- The Department administers the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund, the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund, the newly created Spark Tourism Micro Grant, and the Go Digital Yukon Program.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- People will be curious about the work being done to support and develop Tourism Stakeholders in the Yukon.
 - The Destination Development unit continues to modernize and adapt its funding programs to better serve the industry.
-

Background:

Key initiatives by the Destination Development Unit:

- Provides annual funding to the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon and Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association.
- Offers one on one advising services to tourism entrepreneurs, consultants, community development organizations, and NGOs, as well as advice on specific tourism development projects.
- Current research and performance reporting initiatives by the unit includes:
 - Quarterly Yukon Tourism Visitation Reports;

Session Briefing Note

Destination Development

TAB #19
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

- The 2022/23 Yukon Visitor Exit Survey;
- The 2024 Yukon Resident Perceptions of Tourism Survey;
- The 2023 Yukon Business Survey;
- The 2022 Yukon Sustainable Tourism Report; and
- The Sustainable Tourism Dashboard.
- Runs programs and initiatives to help develop tourism in the Yukon, including:
 - Tourism & Culture Startup Bootcamp in collaboration with Yukonstruct
 - Tourism Reconnects, in partnership with Visitor Information Centres
 - The Go Digital Yukon program including the Go Digital Summit
 - Biweekly Industry Advisory newsletters
 - Signage Audit in collaboration with Highways and Public Works
 - Tourism Cafés in communities across the territory
 - Rugged Apprentices

Approved by:

February 5, 2024

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Tourism Visitation and Revenues

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

Overall, 2023 indicators are showing significant increases over 2022.

While results are still below 2019 figures, it's important to note that 2019 was a record year for visitation to the territory, and we are pleased to see such a swift and promising rebound following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here are some key highlights for 2023 (January to December):

- Same-day international border crossings into the Yukon were 485% higher than in 2022 (3% lower than 2019).
- International border crossings into the Yukon were 165% higher than in 2022 (10% lower than 2019).
- Air arrivals were 25% higher than in 2022 (11% lower than 2019).
- International overnight visitation was 19% higher than in 2022 (27% lower than 2019).
- Occupancy rates are almost at full recovery: 8% higher than in 2022 and just 0.2% lower than 2019.
- The tourism sector in the Yukon is exhibiting an impressive recovery, and continues to serve as a vital economic driver, contributing significantly to job creation, revenue generation, and overall economic growth.

Context—this may be an issue because:

People may be curious about the summer 2023 tourism season.

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Tourism Visitation and Revenues

TAB #20
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

Background:

- Quarterly reports are published to offer users the latest insights into tourism performance indicators.
- **Quarterly** reports are available on Yukon.ca under the dedicated section for tourism statistics and reports.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

March 26, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Modernization of the Tourism Sector

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The department recently completed a digital audit providing insights into the industry's digital readiness for future programming and funding decisions. Although results won't be publicly disclosed, businesses can request their individual results.
- Based in part on digital audit results, the Tourism Cooperative Marketing fund is being updated to include digital marketing initiatives like influencer marketing; geofencing; and more in its eligible activities.
- The department is also offering the *Go Digital Yukon* program, which provides tourism stakeholders with:
 - A digital marketing toolkit with templates and tools;
 - Online workshops led by digital marketing experts; and
 - 1-1 coaching with a digital expert to give guidance and provide customized solutions.

Additional response:

- As of this January, 53 Yukon tourism businesses and partners are participating in the *Go Digital Yukon* program.
- The total budget for the program is \$72,000, allocated for online workshops, 1-1 coaching services and custom resources.
- The department is also planning the *Go Digital Tourism Summit* for March 2024, in partnership with Yukonstruct. The Summit will provide a day of digital education catered to the tourism sector.

Context—this may be an issue because:

The tourism sector, in the Yukon and globally, have been facing challenges adapting to the digital economy and the rapid changes in the digital space which were accelerated by COVID-19.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Modernization of the Tourism Sector

Tourism and Culture

Background:

- The global evolution happening in the digital space is impacting the tourism sector. It is difficult for small businesses to keep up with the changes and make the most of digital opportunities.
- In Spring 2022, Destination Canada launched Canada's Tourism Renaissance: Our Strategy for Recovery, which specifically highlighted the need for sector digitization through 2022-2025.
- The Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund has recently gone under review, with findings emphasizing the importance for businesses to prioritize digital marketing in their marketing budgets.
- In addition to programs offered by the department, the federal government, through Tech Yukon, is running the Canada Digital Adoption Program to help businesses become more digitally evolved.
- In 2022/23, the *Go Digital Yukon* program was offered in tandem with up to \$3,000 in funding for Yukon businesses toward digital marketing and content creation.
- The first *Go Digital Tourism Summit* was held in January 2023. The in-person event, in partnership with Yukonstruct and TIA Yukon, had over 70 participants attend representing a range of tourism and tourism-related businesses.
 - Topics at the Summit included tourism-specific digital strategy; online branding; social media; and more.
 - Attendees also had the opportunity to network with Yukon-based digital service providers and funders.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Sustainable Tourism

TAB #22
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework is an important tool in measuring conditions and making progress towards sustainable tourism in the territory.
- Key actions include:
 - Developing the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Dashboard, which will make tourism-related data available online for the public. The dashboard was launched in January 2024.
 - The Yukon Sustainable Tourism 2022 Annual Report was released in January 2024.
 - Establishing the Yukon Sustainable Tourism working group that will oversee the framework and advise on priority issue areas. The group includes 13 representatives from tourism organizations, municipalities, other Government of Yukon departments and Yukon First Nations organizations.

Additional response:

- To support and advance the Framework, the Yukon has become a member of the UN's International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO).

Context—this may be an issue because:

- People may be curious about the initiatives the department has undertaken since the framework was developed.

Session Briefing Note

Sustainable Tourism

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

Background:

- Establishing the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework (YSTF) was a goal of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy, as well as the *Our Clean Future* strategy. It was endorsed by Canada's national tourism authority, Destination Canada, as well as numerous Yukon-based tourism organizations.
- The YSTF measures annual conditions across 17 key elements of tourism, including resource management; governance; economy; environment; and people and culture.
- To support and advance the Framework, the Yukon has become a member of the UN's International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO).
- INSTO is a network of 31 tourism destinations across the globe committed to monitoring the impacts of tourism on destinations. The Yukon is the second Canadian INSTO member, and the first north of 60.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Community Tourism
Development**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The department is providing funds to several businesses, organizations, and individuals in the Yukon to facilitate sustainable and innovative destination development.
- As of this May, the Community Tourism Destination Development (CTDD) Fund is funding twenty-three projects. Ninety percent of the projects are in communities or regions outside of Whitehorse and range from building new tourism infrastructure to developing new tourism experiences.
- The upcoming “Spark” Tourism Microgrant program (to be announced Spring 2024) will support new and emerging entrepreneurs offering visitor experiences in the tourism sector.
- The department conducts multiple visits each year to communities across the Yukon, facilitating discussions with municipalities, businesses, and locals on tourism-related community development.
- In September 2023, 49 volunteers from across Canada participated in the Department’s Rugged Apprentices program, contributing to a tourism-related community infrastructure project in one of five Yukon communities.

Additional response:

- Businesses and organizations can apply for CTDD under Tier 1 for projects with total budgets up to \$100,000 and under Tier 2 for projects with total budgets between \$100,001 and \$500,000.
- Rugged Apprentices volunteers travelled to Carmacks, Dawson, Mayo, Tagish, or Teslin where they helped upgrade local infrastructure and property as identified by each community.

Session Briefing Note

Community Tourism Development

Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because:

- CTDD and “Spark” are new. There may be questions about recipients/projects.
- It's important for individuals to be aware that the department has been actively working to foster tourism development in communities beyond Whitehorse.

Background:

- The development of outstanding visitor experiences, alongside leveraging and expanding existing seasonal and community capacity, was identified as a pillar of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy.
- The department created the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund in November 2022. The fund has budget approval until March 31, 2026.
- Support for destination development offered through CTDD and “Spark” will help communities realize some of the opportunities from increased tourism visitation and rebuild capacity lost during the pandemic, as well as encourage new and emerging tourism businesses across the Yukon.
- The list of recipients is available on Yukon.ca at <https://yukon.ca/en/community-tourism-destination-development-fund-recipients-2023-24>

Approved by:

May 2, 2024

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Digital Kiosks and Visitor Experience

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Visitor Services Unit plays a critical role in welcoming visitors and improving their Yukon experience, while encouraging visitors to spend more time and travel more widely in the Yukon.
- The six Visitor Information Centres (VICs), mostly located on highways throughout the Yukon, are open from May 1 to September 30. The Whitehorse VIC is open year-round.
- Although traffic to VICs has recovered post COVID-19 pandemic – 190,000 visitors in 2022 and 218,000 visitors in 2023 – visitation has been trending downwards since the 2018 historical high of 393,000 people.
- Lower numbers are due to changes in customer behaviour. People increasingly rely on digital tools and online sources to get travel guidance, information and updates, and Visitor Services Unit is expanding to meet them where they are.

Additional response:

- Visitor Services Unit has been installing digital tourism kiosks around the territory and in Alaska. Five kiosks were installed in 2023, with 14 more coming in 2024.
- Kiosks are being used, with over 22,000 interactions since May 2023.
- In 2024, VICs will offer video-based travel counselling and with help from the Marketing Unit, social media-based travel counselling. Together they will also increase in-destination visitor content on the Travel Yukon website.

Session Briefing Note

Digital Kiosks and Visitor Experience

Tourism and Culture

- For those who go to VICs in 2024, their experience will improve with new exhibits, increased community programming, signage changes and the wider use of QR codes for information delivery.
- VIC staff are hired in each community to provide visitors with information on the travel products and experiences available locally, as well as emergency safety updates.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Visitation at VICs have been trending downwards since 2018. Visitor Services Unit is actively adapting to meet the behaviour changes of travelers, who may not visit a VIC but still need information, guidance and updates.

Background:

- Several VICs operate through community partnerships.
 - Haines Junction VIC is housed in Champagne-Aishihik First Nation's Da Ku Cultural Center, along with Parks Canada's Kluane National Park Visitor Centre.
 - Dawson City VIC is shared with the Parks Canada VIC.
 - Watson Lake VIC has been temporarily relocated to the Watson Lake Recreation Centre while options are explored for a permanent location in partnership with the Liard First Nation.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Indigenous Tourism

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Indigenous Tourism products are an identified gap in the Yukon's Tourism offer and a key area of potential growth.
- We have an MOU with YFNCT to collaborate in the development of Indigenous Tourism.
- We are supporting Indigenous Tourism development in the communities through a series of initiatives like CTDD (community tourism destination development fund), Spark Microgrants as well as a close collaboration with Destination Canada.
- I am very pleased that Destination Canada selected a Yukon project for the first phase of its inaugural Tourism Corridor Strategy Program. This pilot project aims to promote destination development through collaboration amongst varying stakeholders and across provincial and territorial boundaries.
- Destination Canada's Yukon project envisions building a network of community-led Indigenous lodges throughout the Yukon, Western Northwest Territories, and Northern British Columbia.
- The Yukon project is one of only three projects selected across Canada. Each project will undergo a feasibility study fully funded by Destination Canada, slated to be completed by the end of this year.

Additional response:

- The feasibility study will provide interested First Nations with key information that can help determine what kind of opportunities may exist in their communities.
- If deemed feasible and First Nations are interested, the First Nation lodge network project will be eligible to receive additional funding from Destination Canada to see the project come to fruition. We will

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Spring 2024

Indigenous Tourism

Tourism and Culture

be sure to inform the public about the status of this project as it unfolds in 2024.

- The Department provides supports Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association with a one-year Transfer Payment Agreement.
- The Department is also funding 4 Indigenous-owned tourism projects through the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund for the 2023-24 fiscal year.
- The Department is funding 5 Indigenous-owned tourism projects through the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Tourism stakeholders, particularly those involved in Indigenous tourism will likely be interested in the status of this project.
- The public might be curious about the progress of Indigenous tourism experience development in the Yukon.

Background:

- Destination Canada received 15 submissions from around the country. The other two successful submissions include:
 1. **Atlantic Canada UNESCO Tourism Corridor:** Aims to bring together the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Fundy Biosphere Region, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador and Parks Canada to convene diverse stakeholders, foster innovation, and identify a common vision for the future where humans and the environment connect and thrive.
 2. **Sustainable Journey from Prairies to Pacific:** Leverages Highway 3, which is a key interprovincial corridor linking the large urban hubs of Southern Alberta and British Columbia's lower mainland. It offers a collection of cities, resort towns, national and provincial parks, small rural communities, Indigenous

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Indigenous Tourism**Tourism and Culture

tourism experiences, outdoor recreation experiences, agritourism, sections of the Trans Canada Trail, wildlife viewing, culture and western heritage.

- Prior to submitting the First Nation Lodge Network proposal, all Yukon First Nations were contacted. While there are varying degrees of readiness within Yukon First Nations to develop their own lodge, no Yukon First Nations were opposed to the concept being studied.
- To broaden the project across provincial and territorial boundaries, the Department of Tourism and Culture reached out to established partners in BC and the NWT. If successful, a network of small-scale, authentic indigenous lodges across northern BC, Yukon and western NWT could be an important tourist attraction and will generate jobs and economic develop in rural communities in these regions.
- In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, four out of 19 CTDD funded projects were Indigenous owned businesses and/or organizations totaling \$529,500 in CTDD funding. The recipients are Fox Bay Retreat, Carcross Tagish Limited Partnership, Kluane Energy and Dennis Shorty Fine Art.

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Indigenous Tourism

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

- **“Spark” Tourism Micro-grant:** In the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year, 8 Indigenous tourism entrepreneurs received assistance through Micro-grant funding. The recipients are Kenny Joe (Dàkeyi Dánán Tours), Amber Berard-Althouse (Indigenous Tourism Walks + Talks), Kyra Chambers (Champagne Pack Trains), Nicole Nielsen (Yukon Roots), Pauly Sias (Kluane Outdoor Inspirations), Marlene Smith-Tutin (Bannock Barn), Ed & Kristen Long (Trapline 2U), Shadunjen Van Kampen, Jesse McCuaig (PERXX).
 - One indigenous led organization, Carcross Tagish Limited Partnership received assistance through the Micro-grant funding in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Approved by:

May 2, 2024

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note
Yukon Tourism Advisory
Board (YTAB)

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) is an important outcome of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy. Established in March 2020, the Board's primary function is to advise the Minister on the implementation of the Strategy.
- With the onset of the pandemic, YTAB became instrumental in advising on ways to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the tourism industry. YTAB provided 39 recommendations to government to help mitigate COVID-19 impacts and to position the Yukon's tourism sector for recovery.
- As we have moved past pandemic relief to a focus on recovery and destination development, the role of YTAB as an advisory body is evolving.

Additional response:

- We are currently working with YTAB to review its Terms of Reference to better position the Board to support the new, post-pandemic realities facing the tourism industry. A schedule of meetings over the next year is also being developed.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- YTAB's role is evolving from the role it took on during the pandemic. Some stakeholders will want re-assurance that YTAB is getting back to the mandate that was envisioned for YTAB before the pandemic struck.
-

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB)

TAB #26
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

Background:

- YTAB members are recruited through the Yukon government's Boards and Committees process and appointed to represent a range of stakeholders and perspectives.
- YTAB has been designated as a Category C Yukon government board. The Category C designation is consistent with a Board that makes decisions or recommendations with a medium-to-high impact on government or the public. Board costs such as per diems and travel are covered within the existing Tourism and Culture budget.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Emergencies and Yukon Tourism

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Emergencies, such as flooding, wildfires or road closures, are unexpected and yet happen almost every summer.
- Whether in-person or online, the Tourism branch supports visitors when these events happen.

Digital tourism kiosks

- Kiosks have instructions for how to get emergency updates from Yukon government sources.
- Kiosks feature 511 Yukon with information about road closures and weather alerts.
- Kiosks can be found in locations throughout the Yukon and Alaska.

At Visitor Information Centres

- Staff at VICs direct visitors towards <https://511yukon.ca/> and <https://yukon.ca/emergencies> for the most up-to-date info, and help answer specific questions.
- Our 6 VICs are used as key community locations for visitors to get information about emergencies and what to do.

Print booklet

- Visitor Services is working on a print booklet with information about how to travel safely. The booklet will be ready this summer, for easy reference when traveling in places without access to internet.
- The booklet has been a collaborative project with Community Services (Wildland Fire and Emergency Measures Organization).

Context—this may be an issue because:

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Emergencies and Yukon Tourism** Tourism and Culture

The tourism sector wants to know how the department will support visitors in emergency situations.

Background:

- The summer of 2023 had evacuations due to wildfires (Mayo and Old Crow). The previous summers, 2022 and 2021, were impacted by flooding (Dawson, Carmacks, Southern Lakes region).
- It is expected that, due to climate change, these events will continue to occur.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

March 6, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Yukon Archives**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Since 1972, Yukon Archives has acquired, preserved, and provided access to the Yukon's written, visual and audio records.
- The community celebrated the 50th anniversary of Yukon Archives last year in many ways, including the Artist-in-Residence pilot project. The Artist-in-Residence opening reception took place at Yukon Archives on December 7, 2023 to mark the end of the anniversary year.
- Yukon Archives partners with First Nations citizens, organizations, and governments on many initiatives, such as: increasing accessibility of the materials; improving accuracy of record descriptions; and sharing expertise on preserving and managing archival records.
- Yukon Archives has provided secure storage for CYFN archival records since 2002 and provides free office space for CYFN's Archivist.
- Yukon Archives provides operational funding, free office, and meeting space to the Yukon Council of Archives. In 2024-2025, the department will provide \$94,000 annually (an increase of \$19,000/year) through a 3-year transfer payment agreement to support the Community Archivist Program year-round.

Additional response:

- The Yukon's documentary heritage is a source of pride for Yukoners, and we encourage researchers and citizens to connect with Yukon Archives to learn about this treasure trove of material.
- Yukon Archives has a strong partnership with the Yukon Council of Archives (YCA) and continues to look at ways to increase accessibility of the materials both in-person and online. Starting in 2024-2025,

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Yukon Archives

Tourism and Culture

T&C will provide an additional \$19,000 to YCA, for a total of \$94,000 annually, to extend its Community Archivist Program to year-round.

- Yukon Archives hired a new Indigenous Archives Reference Assistant through YG's Indigenous Recruitment and Development Program to support its reconciliation efforts.
- Yukon Archives will be re-installing the exhibit, "Growing Up With the Yukon – The Van Bibber family," in the Hougén Heritage Gallery in Arts Underground in June 2024. The exhibition features photographs taken by the Van Bibber family over many years and tells the story of the family's lives at the homestead and their journeys throughout the territory. The exhibit opening will feature selections from recent oral history interviews with Lucy Van Bibber Sanderson.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The archival community in the Yukon is deeply committed to the preservation of the Yukon's documentary heritage and periodically raises questions or issues with the Minister.

Background:

- Yukon Archives holds a variety of records, including government and non-government records and a library of published materials.
- The Archives Act:
 - Designates Yukon Archives as the official repository for records;
 - Grants the authority to acquire, preserve, and provide access to the Yukon's documentary heritage; and
 - Mandates that Yukon Archives authorize final dispositions for all Government of Yukon records.

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Archives

TAB #28
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

About the collections

- Holdings at Yukon Archives include letters, diaries, manuscripts, photos, films, videos, sound recordings, maps, architectural drawings, books, and newspapers.
- Yukon Archives has exhibits on display and available for loan.
- Exhibits are available for viewing online, and periodically in the Yukon Archives research room, or at Arts Underground.

Digitization and Digital Preservation

- Yukon Archives is working on the digitization of video and sound recordings to address media format obsolescence, as well as building a program to preserve born-digital materials.

Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN)

- Yukon Archives has provided secure storage for CYFN archival records since 2002.
- Since 2017, CYFN has undertaken a project to identify, arrange and describe these records. Yukon Archives provides office space and support.

Yukon Archives stakeholders

- Yukon Archives is in its eighth year of funding and providing support to the YCA's Community Archivist, who provides advice to archives throughout the territory on the preservation and management of records.
- Friends of the Yukon Archives Society (FOYAS) works with Yukon Archives to acquire, preserve, and provide access to the Yukon's documentary heritage. FOYAS develops and designs exhibitions that draw on Yukon Archives' collections, including "Growing Up With the Yukon: The Van Bibber family."

Approved by:

February 5, 2024

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Arts

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Arts Unit's mandate is to foster the development and enhancement of the arts in the Yukon. Over \$4.4 million is invested each year to support the Yukon's arts sector, including over \$2.2 million in applicant-driven funding.
- The department delivers ten funding programs for artists and organizations. In 2023-24, these programs supported 233 organizations, projects and activities with funding.
- The Arts Unit directly funds 4 organizations: Yukon Arts Centre, Dawson City Arts Society (Klondike Institute of Art & Culture), Northern Cultural Expressions Society and Yukon First Nations Culture & Tourism Association. It also provides funding to the Yukon Art Society to administer the Artist in the School Program.
- The Arts Unit works with the Friends of Yukon Permanent Art Collection to acquire works for the Yukon Permanent Art Collection.
- More than one quarter of the 530-piece collection is on view in more than 30 locations around the territory and beyond in rotating displays.

Additional response:

- The work of the Arts Unit supports the implementation of *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries*. It has launched three new programs and continues to provide funding to artists and organizations, and fosters professional development;
- The Arts Unit helps Yukon artists and craftspeople connect to and access their audiences on territorial, national and international stages;

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Arts

Tourism and Culture

- The Arts Unit works closely with artists and organizations to increase accessibility to funding opportunities, with a commitment to providing support for Indigenous arts practices.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Artists and arts organizations continue to struggle to recover from COVID-19 and manage inflationary pressures. The capacity of arts organizations and their ability to retain qualified staff is also a common challenge.

Background:

New funding programs

- The department launched the Express Micro-grant (EMG) and the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant (IACCMG) in 2022-23. Since the launch of EMG in September 2022 and IACCMG in January 2023, the programs have funded **165** recipients, located across the territory.
- In March 2023, Yukon government announced the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund to support three individuals with \$50,000 to focus on their creative or cultural career and business skill development.

Yukon Permanent Art Collection (YPAC)

- 18 new works were added to YPAC in 2023 and are on display in the Jim Smith Building in the Out in the Open exhibition, which will run until May 2024.
- The Yukon Arts Centre storage vault, where most of the collection is stored, has reached capacity. The lack of storage will hinder the number and kinds of work that can be acquired. (see also – Tab 31 Arts and Heritage Collections)

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

April 12, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Heritage Programs

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Government of Yukon is committed to supporting the protection, preservation, and interpretation of the Yukon's human and natural history, in partnership with Yukon First Nations and other organizations.
- As climate change and development activities impact our northern landscape, we are working diligently with Yukon First Nations to collect, manage, study, and interpret the heritage resources encountered as part of these changes.
- We are pleased to support 19 Yukon First Nations cultural centres and museums through funding and the provision of specialized advice and expertise in collections management and conservation.

Additional response:

- The Yukon is home to fascinating and internationally significant archaeological artifacts and palaeontological specimens. Protecting, preserving, and interpreting the Yukon's heritage resources is critical for scientific research and sharing Yukon's stories.
 - Government of Yukon, with input from cultural centres, museums, heritage organizations and Yukon First Nations have developed a new Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums Policy. (see C7 Policy on Yukon first Nations Cultural Centres and Museums and Funding Review).
-

Context—this may be an issue because: The significant scientific discoveries in the Yukon are frequently in the media and often of high public interest.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Heritage Programs

Tourism and Culture

Background:

Archaeology/Palaeontology Programs:

- The preservation of organic materials in alpine areas (ice patches) is exceptional in southern Yukon and, as a result, artifacts have remained intact in snow and ice for thousands of years.
- Palaeontological specimens that have been preserved in permafrost for more than 10,000 years are being unearthed in the Klondike goldfields as a result of mining activities and in Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory as a result of erosion.

Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums:

- Government of Yukon supports eight First Nation cultural centres, three municipal museums and seven not-for-profit museums and oversees the management of the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre.
- Two YG funding programs support museums and cultural centres totaling almost \$2 million annually. (see also DPT4 Funding Programs)

Yukon Geographical Place Names Program:

- Government of Yukon recognizes the importance of traditional names used by Yukon First Nations people for geographic features and areas.
- Work is underway with Yukon First Nations through the Yukon Geographical Place Names Program to record and name geographical features throughout the Yukon.

Yukon Scientists and Explorers Act:

- The *Yukon Scientists and Explorers Act* states that anyone entering the Yukon to carry out scientific research requires a license. Research carried out for commercial purposes is exempt. The department is responsible for licensing under the Act.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Historic Sites

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Government of Yukon works closely with Yukon First Nations governments and communities to support the research, conservation, and interpretation of our historic places.
- Yukon is the only Canadian jurisdiction that has co-owned and co-managed historic sites with self-governing First Nations.
- These include: Rampart House and LaPierre House with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; Fort Selkirk with Selkirk First Nation; Conrad with Carcross Tagish First Nation, and Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy & Fort Constantine with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (see table below for full list).

Additional response:

- The department's interpretive program develops interpretive panels for historic sites, rest stops, and self-guided walking tours in collaboration with communities and First Nations, and through digital media.
- The department will work with site managers to implement Management Plans and activities at our co-owned co-managed historic sites, including continued conservation at Conrad on Building 1, through a bridge feasibility study at Rampart House and through log conservation on historic buildings at Fort Selkirk.
- In Spring 2023, Forty Mile Historic Site was severely damaged by flooding and ice jams. The impacts do not detract from the significance of the site nor the ancestral legacy that the site holds for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. (see Tab 8).

Context—this may be an issue because: Yukon Historic Sites are tangible expressions of the Yukon's history and heritage and are valued and enjoyed by Yukoners, who often advocate for the protection, interpretation, and conservation of the sites.

Session Briefing Note

Historic Sites

TAB # 31
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

Background:

- The Historic Sites Unit administers the Yukon Historic Resources Fund, the Historic Properties Assistance Fund and the Heritage Trails program to provide funding for the study, conservation, development and interpretation of historic sites and trails. **(see also DPT 4 Funding Programs)**
- There are 12 Yukon Historic Sites and 22 municipal historic sites designated under the *Historic Resources Act*.
- Planned projects for 2024 include:
 - Continuation of log conservation at Robinson Roadhouse, Building 1, Block2.
 - Continuation of conservation work on the Community House on Qikiqtaruk - Herschel Island to mitigate moisture and mold issues and to accommodate interpretation and welcoming visitors to the Island, and to reroof the Canada Custom's Warehouse.
 - Work with Yukon First Nations, municipalities, and stakeholders to document historic places throughout the Yukon for interpretation, development assessment review and understanding. Specifically, continued documentation of sites on Yukon's North Slope with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.
 - Continue to collaborate with Carleton University Immersive Media Studio to develop a virtual tour of Venus Mill.
 - Develop a conservation plan for Forty Mile Historic Site.
 - Work with the Advisory Committee to begin working on promotion and management of Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Site.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Historic Sites

TAB # 31
Spring 2024
 Tourism and Culture

First Nation	Site Name	Co-owned ¹	Co-managed ²
Selkirk First Nation	Fort Selkirk	✓	✓
First Nation of the Nacho Nyak Dun	Lansing Post	No (NND R-13B)	No
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy, Fort Constantine	Yes (Pending transfer of private lot)	✓
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation	Rampart House LaPierre House	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Carcross/ Tagish First Nation	Tagish Post	✓	✓
Carcross/ Tagish First Nation	Conrad	✓	✓
Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Canyon City	No (YG land)	✓
Champagne Aishihik First Nation	Sha'washe ³	No (CAFN R-8A)	✓

¹ Co-owned: The site will have two owners, in which fee simple title is accorded (raised) in respect of both parties as tenants in common.

² Co-managed: Applicable schedules to Chapter 13 of the FAs, specifies that management plans for the sites be developed for final approval by the Minister and the First Nation. And, are subject to dispute resolution under 26.3 if they can't come to agreement.

³ Sha'washe: Identified as a Special Management Area under Chapter 10 of the CAFN Final Agreement.

Session Briefing Note

Creative Potential

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

- Approximately \$500,000 was allocated to new initiatives starting in fiscal year 2022/23, and we have implemented or are midstream implementing seven actions, with more underway. A progress report was released in May 2023.
- We launched three new programs which provide an additional \$450,000 to the creative and cultural sectors. These are the: Express Micro-grant, the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant, and the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund. The partnership with Canada Council for the Arts to fund the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant has been extended for two years based on its success to date. (see DPT 4 Funding Programs).
- The budget for new acquisitions to the Yukon Permanent Art Collection was doubled in 2023-24.

Session Briefing Note

Creative Potential

TAB # 32
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

- Over 25 professional development workshops for the creative and cultural sector have been offered by the department since 2022.
- A new policy on Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums is nearing completion. A funding review is ongoing. (see C7 Policy on Yukon first Nations Cultural Centres and Museums and Funding Review).

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- The Yukon's 2021 Culture GDP was \$67.8 million, representing 1.9% of the total territorial economy. Canada's 2021 Culture GDP was \$54.8 billion, representing 2.3% of Canada's total economy.
- The creative and cultural industries sector encompasses the creation, production, promotion, distribution and commercialization of cultural goods, as well as the labour force and institutions required to support it.
- The share of culture jobs accounted for 3.3% of all jobs in Canada. Yukon culture jobs have increased 1.8% from 2020 to 2021 for a total of 782 culture jobs (2021).

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 5, 2024

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note
Arts and Heritage Collection**Spring 2024**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Department of Tourism and Culture has a responsibility to provide proper care for heritage and art collections that we hold in public trust.
- Many items in our collections are irreplaceable and globally significant. Several items are held on behalf of Yukon First Nations, and collections are managed collaboratively with Yukon First Nations.
- The 2023 Minister of Tourism and Culture's mandate letter stated: "Continue to advance the establishment of a heritage resource centre for the conservation and protection of Yukon's archaeological, paleontological, and cultural artifacts."
- The department has been pursuing options for a combined facility for Yukon government's art and heritage collections. Combining storage creates efficiencies, providing the necessary specialized storage and making the collections more accessible.
- A facility design will take into account the evolving co-management relationship between YG and First Nations.

Additional response:

- The current storage and research facilities have some deficiencies and present a risk of deterioration or damage to the collections.
- Work is continuing with departmental staff and the department of Highways and Public Works to identify and implement improvement priorities to mitigate risks to collections.

Session Briefing Note

Arts and Heritage Collection

Spring 2024

Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The department has been working on finding a home for the potential site for several years. Discussions are ongoing with Highways and Public Works, Yukon University, and other partners to try to find a solution.

Background:

- Government of Yukon is the steward of approximately 75,000 archaeological artifacts and approximately 50,000 palaeontological specimens, and an impressive and extensive art collection of over 500 pieces on behalf of Yukoners.
- All of these collections are growing, and a functional building program has been completed based on a 20-year growth forecast.
- The Beringia ice-age fossil record in the Yukon is globally significant, yielding important scientific information about extinct ice-age fauna and the impacts of climate change.
- The archaeological record in the Yukon is world-renowned for its studies in ice-patch archaeology and the history of early humankind on the continent.
- With the adoption of a distributed community museum model in the Yukon Museum Policy of 1989, it was the intention to build a central resource facility that could assist cultural institutions throughout the Yukon.
- Since the development of that museums policy, 16 studies have cited the need for a facility, and many have advised of the imminent risk to Yukon collections in its absence.

Approved by:

February 5, 2024

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Policy on Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums and Funding Review

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- We are pleased to support 19 First Nation cultural centres and museums through financial agreements and by providing expertise and resources for collections care.
- A new policy on Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums was approved in April 2024.
- The new policy establishes eligibility to access funding and clarifies the scope of funding and support services provided by the department's Heritage Unit.

Additional response:

- The next step is to complete a funding review to inform the department of sector funding pressures and modernize programs. The funding review is expected to be completed in summer 2024.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may in interest in this project as it is identified in *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative Economy and Cultural Industries*.
 - Efforts by the Federal government to establish a new national museum policy have been in the works for decades and recent policy development has been delayed.
-

Background:

- *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative Economy and Cultural Industries*, Government of Yukon's strategy to support the creative and cultural industries, recommends the development of a new Yukon Cultural Centres and Museums Policy.
-

Session Briefing Note

Policy on Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums and Funding Review

Tourism and Culture

- The Heritage Unit provides partial funding and support services to 19 museums and First Nation cultural centres in the Yukon and oversees the management of the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre. (see DPT 15 Funding Programs)
- Between 2015/16 and 2017/18 operational funding for museums and cultural centred increased by 30%. In 2022/23, YG provided an additional 13.2% to their base operational transfer payment agreement amounts, based on Consumer Price Index since the last increase in 2017/18 and a further 2% increase in 2023/24.
- Services for cultural centres and museums are provided through the Yukon Museums Assistance Program (operational and project funding), Collections Care Program (conservation and collections management) and First Nations Heritage Program (capacity development and cultural programming).
- The department's museum program was created in 1984 and a key guiding document, the Yukon Museums Policy, came into effect in 1989. That original policy describes its purpose and includes a policy statement. The policy also defines what a museum is and includes policy guidelines.
- The previous Yukon Museums Policy dates to 1989. It included outdated information and language and did not reflect the services currently provided to cultural centres and, or the distinct role that First Nation cultural centres play in communities. The sector is supportive of replacing the policy.
- The new policy states: The Yukon government will invest in strong, independent Yukon First Nation cultural centres and museums and provide support services, that respect self-determination, to share Yukon's stories within a unique northern context of reconciliation for Yukoners and visitors.
- In addition to the policy statement the policy clarifies eligibility to access funding and support, investment, capacity building and support services, and includes updated definitions for First Nation cultural centres and museums.
- A funding review for Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums was last completed in 2014. Several recommendations from that review have not been

Session Briefing Note**Policy on Yukon First Nations
Cultural Centres and Museums
and Funding Review**

Tourism and Culture

implemented. Initiating a funding review during winter 2024 is the first step in modernizing funding programs and levels of investment.

- Current funding levels are based on historical support rather than funding formulas. The funding review is providing an opportunity for Yukon First Nations, not-for-profits and municipalities that run museum to provide input that will inform how the funding is allocated and other potential changes to funding programs.

Approved by:

April 26, 2024

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Highway Rest Areas**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Highway rest areas are an important service for tourists and Yukoners alike.
- Highways and Public Works is leading an initiative to provide a higher, consistent level of services for rest stops with a more standardized approach.
- Tourism and Culture is working with Highways and Public Works to ensure that rest areas will continue to highlight and interpret Yukon's points of interests.

Additional response

- Over the last few years, the cost of maintaining rest stops has increased significantly, leading to budget pressures, and reduced services.
- Three rest stops were closed this past summer due to the very high costs associated with cleaning and maintenance and were permanently removed in October 2023. Signage at these sites clearly indicates nearby alternatives.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners and tourists travel the highways and require outhouses and waste receptacles.

Background:

- The Department of Tourism and Culture has identified \$315,000 in funding in 2024-25 towards interpretive signage upgrades and rest area maintenance.
- There are currently approximately 130 rest areas and pullouts on the Yukon highway network, owned by either HPW, T&C, Environment, Community Services, or Parks Canada.

Session Briefing Note

Highway Rest Areas

Tab # 35
Spring 2024
Tourism and Culture

- Tourism and Culture has a total of 13 rest stops with outhouses and garbage receptacles under its responsibility,
- An MOU with HPW is signed each year as HPW manages the maintenance contracts for the rest stops under Tourism and Culture. This past year, by removing the three sites from the maintenance schedule, total cost to Tourism and Culture under the MOU were reduced by approximately \$80,000.
- The three closed sites, all on the Klondike Highway, were closed due to higher than normal maintenance costs and due to their proximity to other more prominent rest areas.
- A majority of the budget for “Scenic Drives” is now used for rest stop maintenance contracts, with less and less being available each year for interpretive signage and other upgrades.
- Eduction (pump-out) costs are beginning to increase and may become a budgetary pressure. Eductions are separate from the HPW MOU for outhouse maintenance.
- The average distance between pullouts is 28 km. The maximum distance on class 1–3 highways is 70 km. About half of the 130 pullouts have outhouses.
- The service standards will specify minimum and maximum spacing between sites based on highway classification as well as the amenities that will be available.
- The HPW-led asset management plan envisions upgraded amenities at selected sites, such as EV charging and power, potential closure of some sites, and transfer of ownership of some sites.

Approved by:

February 5, 2024

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Rest Area Strategy**

Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- Rest areas along Yukon highways are an important part of our transportation network and provide travellers with a safe and appropriate area to rest.
- The Government of Yukon is developing a rest area strategy to provide a consistent, high level of service for travellers.
- The strategy will include a standardized distance between rest areas, allowing highway travellers to predict and rely on the Yukon's rest areas for their travel plans.
- The rest area strategy will also include service standards that will guide future service changes on our highways including changes to amenities, changes in rest stop locations, and the inclusion of fast-charging stations for electric vehicles.

Additional response:

- As the department develops and implements the rest area strategy, we will continue to meet the needs of those travelling on our highways.
- For example, to assist travellers in knowing where rest areas are located and planning their trips accordingly, rest areas were added to the 511 Yukon platform in February 2024.
- One of the commitments of our government under Our Clean Future is to make it possible for electric vehicles to reach all road-accessible communities by 2027, and creating electric vehicle charging stations at rest areas in remote areas will help fulfill this goal.
- Highways and Public Works also released a Request for Information in March 2024 seeking an improved model of outhouse and to

Session Briefing Note**Rest Area Strategy**Highways and
Public Works

determine the level of market interest in supplying outhouse buildings. This tender closes April 10.

- Improved models of outhouses are being assessed due to safety concerns with the concrete outhouses. The deterioration of the metal screws joining the concrete segments leads to structural issues and potential collapse.
- If the Request for Information is successful, updates to outhouses across the territory may start as early as 2024.

Additional response: Criteria for new Rest Areas

- There are several criteria that go into creating new rest areas.
- First, a Safety Rest Area provides defined services; at minimum outhouses and garbage bins, at defined intervals to provide predictable, dependable service to highway users.
- Second, rest areas need to meet certain engineering standards, including the ability to have clear lines of sight, multiple accesses, sufficient turning radius, and space for amenities and large commercial vehicles.
- Third, new safety rest areas should minimize environmental impacts by using existing sites where possible.

Additional response: Drury Creek Project

- There is a need for a new rest area between Carmacks and Faro.
- This is a high-priority service gap as there are currently no outhouses between the two communities.
- The Drury Creek Safety Rest Area and electric vehicle charging station installation project was proceeding through the YESAB process.

Session Briefing Note**Rest Area Strategy**

Highways and
Public Works

-
- The public comment phase closed on April 12, 2024.
 - On April 15, department officials conducted a site visit to better understand the area given the feedback we received during the seeking views and information phase of the YESAB process.
 - Upon review of the comments received, it was determine that a more detailed assessment of options is required at this location before proceeding further.
 - On April 19, Highways and Public Works requested that the submission be withdrawn from the assessment process pending more planning and assessment work.
 - The department remains committed to installing a safety rest are between Carmacks and Faro and will resubmit a alternative proposal to YESAB.

Additional response:

- In fall 2023, three rest areas permanently closed on the North Klondike Highway:
 - The Conglomerates point of interest at kilometre 297.8.
 - There are outhouse facilities within 10 to 20 kilometers on either side of Conglomerates near Braeburn and Montague Roadhouse.
 - Yukon Crossing at kilometre 395.2.
 - There are outhouse facilities at Five Finger Rapids which is within 13 kilometres of Yukon Crossing.
 - Stewart River viewpoint at kilometre 551.

Session Briefing Note
Rest Area Strategy

- There are outhouse facilities in Stewart Crossing at kilometre 535 which is 16 kilometres away.
- The three outhouses were removed in October 2023 by Highways and Public Works.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The closure of outhouses has generated media attention.

Background:

- Some rest areas have outhouses, garbage bins, and interpretive messaging on the Yukon’s history and environment.
- Most highway rest areas in the Yukon fall under the domain of Highways and Public Works. Forty-four of the 64 sites with outhouses are owned by Highways and Public Works.
- The 3 site closures in 2023 were in alignment with the development of the Yukon government’s rest area strategy.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

April 24, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

TAB# 27
Spring 2024
Finance

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

- 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.

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Spring 2024

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

- 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.

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.

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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

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Spring 2024

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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

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Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2023-24 Supplementary Overview

HPW TAB#1

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Spring 2024

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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.

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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.

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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.

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

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

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 & 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.
-

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).
-

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

Environment & 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

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Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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)

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)

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.

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.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- 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.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- 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

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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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.

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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.

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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 31st, 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.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- 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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- 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)

Spring 2024

Finance

- 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

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

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.

Context:

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

Background:

General housing information in the Yukon

Homelessness

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

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)

	April 2022	October 2022	April 2023	October 2023
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.¹

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		
	2022 Q3	2023 Q3	Change
Single-detached house	\$701,200	\$664,600	(-5.2%)
Condominium	\$459,400	\$426,600	(-7.1%)

¹ 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

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 6th 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

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.

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:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.02.02

Date