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Recommended response:

- The Executive Council Office leads initiatives that contribute to the following six goals:
 - prioritizing efforts to advance reconciliation;
 - improving health care;
 - fostering collaboration with other provinces and territories and jurisdictions for the benefit of Yukoners;
 - advancing Arctic security;
 - supporting Yukoners and Yukon youth; and
 - supporting recovery from COVID-19.
- The following actions support these six areas:

Prioritizing efforts to see reconciliation upheld

- In September 2023, the Government of Yukon released the second edition of Pathways magazine.
 - Pathways shares stories of collaboration, partnership and reconciliation.
 - It also reflects on the collaborative work done to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- The Premier has travelled to communities to meet with many Yukon First Nations governments to discuss community priorities and reaffirm government-to-government relationships.
- 2023 was the 50th Anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*.
 - The Government of Yukon supported the Council of Yukon First Nations in hosting celebrations to commemorate this momentous occasion.

- The 50th anniversary was acknowledged as parties convened an Intergovernmental Forum in Ottawa to continue to develop a strong foundation of collaboration and open communication.
- While in Ottawa, the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations leadership also held a Yukon Forum meeting.
 - Since January 2017, there have been 27 Yukon Forum meetings to discuss and support the advancement of work on shared priorities.
- Aboriginal Relations is supporting the implementation of accords with the Teslin Tlingit Council and White River First Nation.
 - Discussions are underway on the establishment of new accords with other interested Yukon First Nations.
- The Government of Yukon completed several significant agreements with First Nations and is in ongoing negotiations with others on issues related to government-to-government relationships, capacity development and First Nations interests in land planning, resource development and fish and wildlife management.
 - March 8, 2023 – Liard First Nation and the Government of Yukon signed an agreement on the development of 43 new residential lots on Frances Avenue in Watson Lake. Under this agreement, the Government of Yukon will make 25 lots available to the public, while Liard First Nation will hold title to 18 lots.
 - July 21, 2022 – Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Government of Yukon and Yukon Energy Corporation reached historic agreements on a collaborative approach for operating the Aishihik Generating Station.

- May 3, 2022 – Negotiations with the Teslin Tlingit Council resulted in the finalization of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge Project Agreement to be implemented by the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- February 14, 2022 – Aboriginal Relations supported the negotiation of the agreement that established the Yukon First Nation School Board. Eight schools voted to join the First Nation School Board in 2022 and another three schools joined in 2023.
- Negotiations are underway with Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council related to the relicensing of the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station and with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun for the relicensing of the Mayo Generating Station.
- Since early 2021, this government through the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) Oversight Group has been actively developing a targeted amendment to YESAA that would allow, with Yukon First Nation's consent, an exemption from assessment for projects that involve a renewal or amendment to an existing authorization.

Continuing to identify ways to support a broad range of reconciliation initiatives and projects

- In 2022–23, we provided funding support for the Council of Yukon First Nations celebration of the 50th anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*.
- In 2022, we provided funding to reimburse Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups to attend the Papal visit to Canada.
- Since 2021, we have provided funding and administrative support to the Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project.
- The Government of Yukon provides funding and administrative support to the Mapping the Way joint public education campaign on Final and Self-Government Agreements.
- We continue to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and work collaboratively with Yukon First Nations on these and other reconciliation initiatives.
- A trilateral process to amend the education provisions in five Yukon First Nation Self-Government Agreements was completed.
 - These amendments ensure that the Self-Government Agreements are consistent and support First Nations' involvement in the education system.
- In 2021 and 2022, amendments to the provisions in all 11 Yukon First Nation Self-Government Agreements relating to the Goods and Services Tax rebate and the taxation of interest earned in Registered Pension Plans were approved.

- The GST amendments ensure that First Nations governments are eligible for the same GST rebates as municipal governments.
- The Registered Pension Plan amendments ensure that Citizens of Yukon First Nations with Self-Government Agreements who earn investment interest are subject to the same tax treatment as Citizens of Yukon First Nations without Self-Government Agreements.
- Since 2020, Aboriginal Relations is working on a Consultation and Engagement Improvement Initiative.
 - This includes developing a web-based consultation and engagement management system and training and support materials to help Yukon government staff carry out meaningful consultation and engagement processes with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments.
 - Many of the tools are already in use and we anticipate launching the web-based system in fall 2024.
- Since 2017, the Office of the Science Advisor has been working toward policy and internal guidance on how to respectfully reflect Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in YG actions and decisions.
 - Foundational documents shared at the December 2019 Yukon Forum reflected two years of pre-engagement with Yukon First Nations and Transboundary Indigenous Groups, and with YG employees, and are guiding ongoing work with the Intergovernmental Working Group that was launched in 2022. This includes work towards a confirmed set of guiding

principles that will offer a framework for subsequent policy and implementation initiatives.

- The team is concurrently working with Yukon First Nations and Transboundary Indigenous representatives, as well as with YG colleagues, in developing a policy directive, resources and technical solution that will enhance our practice in receiving, managing, protecting, tracking and applying Indigenous knowledge that is shared with YG. While we are committed to ongoing improvement and learning (and to reflecting this continued learning in the policy and system), we anticipate that the policy directive will be launched in 2024-25 and that an RFP for the technical solution will also be issued in this fiscal year.

Improving health care

- November 6, 2023 – The Premier met with Canada's Premiers in Nova Scotia for a Council of the Federation meeting.
 - Premier Pillai raised the Government of Yukon's perspectives and interests on common priorities including housing, infrastructure and health care.
- July 26, 2023 – The Premier signed a letter of intent with Nova Scotia to work together to enhance training, recruitment, retention and labour mobility for health human resources.
- July 6, 2023 – following two years of advocacy by Premiers through the Council of the Federation, the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon concluded an agreement in principle for a

shared plan that will invest \$380 million in federal funding over 10 years in the Yukon.

Fostering collaboration with other provinces and territories and other jurisdictions

- February 8-9, 2024 – Governor of Alaska and members of his cabinet visited Whitehorse to discuss renewed cooperation on regional issues, including highways, fish and wildlife, community safety, wildfire management, regional security and economic development.
- January 5, 2024 – the Premier and Minister Streicker met with Minister Wilkinson (Energy and Natural Resources) and members of the mining industry to discuss infrastructure that can support critical minerals development.
- November 30, 2023 - The Premier and a Yukon government delegation completed a mission to Europe to promote opportunities in the territory, namely in terms of accessing the critical minerals needed to shift to sustainable energy.
- October 30, 2023 – The Premier met with B.C. Premier David Eby to discuss priorities including renewable energy and the potential of connecting the Yukon to B.C.'s electrical grid.
- September 25, 2023 – The Premier met virtually with Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy to discuss Arctic security, key infrastructure like Shakwak and the Port of Skagway, and more.
- September 22, 2023 – The Premier met with federal ministers in Ottawa on a range of topics, including affordable housing, infrastructure development, immigration and reconciliation.

ECO Accomplishments

Executive Council Office

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- September 20, 2023 – The Premier and a business delegation concluded the Asia mission.
 - The mission focused on developing partnerships, promoting innovation and collaboration in critical minerals and technology, and increasing business investment in the Yukon and tourism to the territory.
 - July 12, 2023 – The Premier met with his counterparts from across the country at the Council of the Federation summer meeting and discussed topics including health human resources, infrastructure, economic growth, Arctic security and more.
 - June 27, 2023 – At the Western Premiers' Conference, the Premier discussed strategic infrastructure and trade corridors, energy security, climate action, Arctic security, mental health and more with his counterparts.
 - June 8, 2023 – The Premier met with 25 Ambassadors and High Commissioners to Canada as part of Global Affairs Canada's northern diplomatic tour.
 - They discussed the economy, clean energy, health and more.
 - May 17, 2023 – The three northern Premiers met for the Northern Premiers' Forum and discussed shared priorities including Arctic security, infrastructure, critical minerals, housing and more.
 - May 8, 2023 – The Premier met with the Consuls General of the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan to discuss issues of shared importance.
 - May 2, 2023 – The Premier met with Ontario Premier of Ontario Doug Ford and signed a memorandum of understanding on collaboration in the housing development and investment sectors.

ECO Accomplishments

Executive Council Office

- December 6, 2022 – The Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nations Chiefs and federal Ministers met in Ottawa. They discussed support for Indigenous languages, the Substance Use Health Emergency, land use planning and more.
- July 12, 2022 – Then-Premier Silver attended the Council of the Federation and discussed health care, affordability, labour supply, climate change and more.
- March 1, 2022 – The Government of Yukon donated \$50,000 to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine following the illegal Russian invasion.
- October 19, 2021 – The Government of Yukon donated \$25,000 to help with relief efforts in response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

Advancing Arctic security

- January 4, 2024 – The Government of Yukon announced the establishment of the Yukon Arctic Security Advisory Council to ensure the Yukon's distinct context and needs are considered in federal decision making about Arctic security. The council will provide independent, expert advice to the territorial government on future risks and opportunities.
- October 23, 2023 – The Premier met with U.S. Consul General Jim DeHart about opportunities for the U.S. and the Yukon to work together on key priorities like Arctic security.
- December 5, 2022 – Then-Premier Silver appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs to share the Yukon government's perspectives on

ECO Accomplishments

Executive Council Office

Arctic security and defence issues, including opportunities to strengthen dual-use infrastructure in the Yukon.

- August 29, 2022 – Then-Premier Silver advanced key northern discussions at the Arctic Circle Forum including Arctic sovereignty, housing and health care.

Supporting recovery from COVID-19

- June 16, 2023 – The COVID-19 Recovery Research Program concluded with a public Research Results Summit held in Whitehorse.
 - The program supported 10 project teams in successfully completing research that addresses Yukon-specific research questions.
 - In addition to the researchers' direct efforts to share the results with partners and stakeholders, internal briefing materials for YG leadership were prepared and shared by the Science Advisor's office as results were released, supporting departments in the application of relevant evidence to current and future program and policy decisions.

Supporting Yukon youth

- The Government of Yukon is providing over \$1.2 million of annual operational funding to five key youth serving organizations:
 - Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) \$31,000
 - BYTE-Empowering Youth Society (BYTE) \$304,000
 - BGC Yukon (BGCY) \$297,000
 - Heart of Riverdale Community Centre (HRCC) \$298,000

ECO Accomplishments

Executive Council Office

- Youth of Today Society (YOTS) \$291,000
- Commencing in 2022/23, BYTE, BG CY, HRCC and YOTS received an annual operational funding increase of \$20,000. AFY received a \$6,000 annual increase.
- The Government of Yukon allocated \$424,000 of CASA funding for each of the fiscal years 2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26 to five key youth organizations to support youth mental health and wellness.
 - AFY - \$1,860 annually
 - BG CY– \$182,140 annually, with additional funding being to support a seven-day per week drop-in service.
 - BYTE, HRCC and YOTS - \$80,000 each annually
- In 2022/23, the Government of Yukon implemented a youth mental wellness grant with \$400,000 of available funding.
 - \$272,000 of funding was shared between the BG CY, BYTE, HRCC, and YOTS.
 - \$128,000 of funding was distributed to nine organizations for smaller projects valued between \$10,000 and \$20,000.
- The Government of Yukon provides up to \$320,000 of annual project funding to support the Youth Developmental Asset Program for youth activities, training, and employment for Kwanlin Dün First Nation and 16 Yukon communities.
- January 3, 2024 – The Government of Yukon is supporting the important role that young people play in shaping the future of the territory, providing over \$77,000 to 18 community groups through the Youth Investment Fund.

ECO Accomplishments

Executive Council Office

- August 25, 2023 – Four youth were awarded the Outstanding Youth Achievement Award for their devotion and contribution to their communities.
- May 24, 2023 – Twelve community groups from across the Yukon received over \$59,000 through the Youth Investment Fund for a range of artistic and recreational activities, such as therapeutic horseback riding, piano lessons, a rugby club and a theatrical presentation.
- December 20, 2022 – Thirteen community groups were awarded \$53,000 through the Youth Investment Fund. Recipients include Kidsfest 2023, a rock-climbing program and a youth café.
- October 24, 2022 – Thirteen Yukon organizations received \$400,000 in funding from the Youth Mental Wellness Grant for programs that promote youth mental wellness.
- August 11, 2022 – Four youth were awarded the Outstanding Youth Achievement Award for their devotion and contribution to their communities.
- May 31, 2022 – Eighteen community groups were awarded over \$77,000 through the Youth Investment Fund for a variety of arts and recreation programming aimed to provide youth with valuable experiences and learning opportunities.
- December 13, 2021 – The Youth Investment Fund contributed \$45,000 to 11 community groups to support a variety of arts, recreation and educational programming including an art camp, music camp and snowboard program.

- September 21, 2021 – Four youth received the Outstanding Youth Achievement Award for their remarkable service and contribution to their communities.

Supporting Yukoners

- December 21, 2023 – The Government of Yukon released the Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan.
 - This living document was developed in collaboration with community partners and summarizes the actions taken to date and future actions to help shape a safe, supportive and thriving downtown Whitehorse.
- March 28, 2022 – The Government of Yukon released the final report by the Canadian Index of Wellbeing that highlights the quality of life in the Yukon following a major survey completed in summer 2020.
 - The survey received close to 5,000 responses and provided Yukoners with an opportunity to share feedback about community vitality, democratic engagement, education and more.

Other accomplishment to note

- January 16, 2024 – The Government of Yukon is commemorating the territory's 125th anniversary with the release of medals featuring original artwork by Violet Gatensby.
 - The medals will be awarded to outstanding Yukoners who demonstrate values of leadership and reconciliation.

ECO Accomplishments

Executive Council Office

- October 26, 2023 – Amendments to the *Elections Act* received assent, enabling the establishment of an Electoral District Boundaries Commission which will propose changes to electoral areas for the upcoming election.
- June 13, 2023 – Members held a special sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly in its historic home in Dawson City to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Yukon becoming a territory of Canada.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office

2024.02.26

Date approved

Jim Smith Building Cafeteria

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable Yukoners and committed to creating a safe, inclusive and thriving downtown Whitehorse for everyone.
- Late last year, we committed to exploring space options to decentralize some food support services, including the potential use of the old cafeteria in the Jim Smith Building.
- From March 18 to May 1, the Government of Yukon will pilot a warming centre in the Jim Smith Building cafeteria.
- This pilot project aims to improve accessibility to safe warming spaces for all, especially vulnerable populations.
- Yukoners will have access to a range of services, including support from two onsite workers and an outreach worker.
- Through this project, we hope to reflect the values of compassion and inclusivity that are at the core of our work as government.
- We will evaluate the program's viability and impact.

Additional response:

- We are actioning the feedback heard during engagement with building occupants including the Joint Occupational Health and Safety committee and the Jim Smith Building ADM committee.
- We will be meeting with the Opposition and Third Party.
- The Yukon Employees' Union and the Yukon Association of Education Professionals were notified on January 30 prior to the Global Note going out.

Session Briefing Note

ECO TAB 02

Spring 2024

Jim Smith Building Cafeteria

Executive Council Office

Context — this may be an issue because:

- In late January the warming centre was announced by the Department of Health and Social Services and the pilot will begin during the spring sitting.

Background:

- The warming centre was initially planned for Whitehorse Public Library. This plan shifted because the library will be closed in March and April to replace the carpets.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister

Executive Council Office

2024.02.02

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Substance Use Health Emergency**Health and Social
Services

Government priority:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with community partners, First Nations and other governments to respond to the Substance Use Health Emergency.
- The Yukon Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy represents our commitment to implementing innovative, evidence-based initiatives to reduce and prevent substance use-related harms and support Yukoners in their health and wellbeing.

Key messages:

- In January 2022, our government declared a Substance Use Health Emergency in response to an increase in substance use related harms in the territory, including a significant increase in opioid-related deaths.
- In August 2023, along with the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Government of Yukon released the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy.
- In response to the Substance Use Health Emergency, we have developed Car 867, increased Opioid Treatment Services and access to safer supply, expanded the methods of consumption available and extended the hours of operation at the Supervised Consumption Site, held two Mental Wellness Summits, initiated a Paramedic Response Unit in the downtown core, and increased access to harm reduction supplies such as naloxone kits.
- The Managed Alcohol Program is being initiated in Spring 2024.
- This is a territory-wide challenge that cannot be solved alone. We appreciate the work of our partners: Blood Ties Four Directions, the

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Substance Use Health Emergency

Health and Social
Services

Yukon Hospital Corporation, Connective, the RCMP, Yukon First Nations, and all levels of government towards addressing this public health emergency.

Key facts:

- A Substance Use Health Emergency was declared in January 2022. The Substance Use Health Emergency strategy was released in August 2023.
- The 2024-25 Main Estimates includes an increase of **\$1.201M** (\$1,201,000) for 6.0 FTEs and a previously approved increase of **\$267K** (\$267,000) for the Yukon Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy.
 - These are both recoverable through the Working Together to Improve Health Care for Canadians Agreement. This bilateral agreement was announced in July 2023, and signed March 12, 2024.
- A Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy oversight committee is being formed and will be led by the Assistant Deputy Minister of Community and Primary Care. The oversight committee will prioritize actions and provide decisions on the strategy's direction.
- The Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy implementation committee will include project partners that are responsible for carrying out the actions in the strategy. The committee will include representatives from the departments of Health and Social Services, Justice and Community Services, the Council of Yukon First Nations,

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Substance Use Health Emergency**Health and Social
Services

Yukon First Nations, Whitehorse General Hospital, Blood Ties Four Directions and the RCMP.

- From April 2016 through the end of 2023, 98 Yukoners have died due to opioids.
- In 2023, there were 23 confirmed substance-use related deaths in the Yukon. Twenty of these involved opioids.
 - In 2022, there were 24 confirmed substance-related deaths in the Yukon.
- In 2023, there were 168 visits to Whitehorse General Hospital for drug poisoning and 613 alcohol-related visits.
 - In 2022, there were 140 drug poisoning and 677 alcohol-related visits to the Whitehorse General Hospital Emergency Department.
 - In 2021, there were 200 drug poisoning and 677 alcohol-related visits to the Whitehorse General Hospital Emergency Department.
- In 2023, Emergency Medical Services responded to 327 calls related to suspected drug poisoning and 825 calls related to alcohol-related calls.
 - In 2022, Emergency Medical Services responded to 341 calls related to suspected drug poisoning and 1,076 calls related to alcohol poisoning.
 - In 2021, Emergency Medical Services responded to 360 calls related to suspected drug poisoning and 1,225 calls related to alcohol poisoning.

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Services

Resources:

- Never use alone: the National Opioid Response Service is at 1-888-688-6677. This anonymous service will have someone stay on the phone with you while you use so individuals can be linked to virtual overdose prevention support.
- Opioid Treatment Services is an accessible, low barrier program. Visit 210 Elliott Street or call 867-668-2552.
- Check your drugs: get your drugs checked at the Supervised Consumption Site, the Outreach Van, or Emergency Medical Services. Get Naloxone and learn how to use it: Naloxone is free and you can find it in many places in the Yukon.
- Rapid Access Counselling is available to all Yukoners – call 867-456-3838 to make a counselling appointment within 72 hours.

Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy:

- Our government collaborated with health system and community partners on the development of the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy.
- The primary purpose of the strategy is to provide a roadmap for action on how the Government of Yukon, working with partners, can reduce substance use-related harms in the territory.
- As a living document, the Strategy is designed to evolve over time as it adapts to the changing needs of the communities and incorporates ongoing feedback from our partners.
- The vision of the Strategy is that all Yukoners will be mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically well and safe throughout their lifespans and able to contribute to wellness in their families, cultures, and communities.

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Substance Use Health Emergency

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- The Strategy's mission is that partners will work together to implement innovative, bold, and evidence-based actions so that substance use related harms are reduced and the health and wellbeing of Yukoners flourishes.
- The Strategy highlights four areas of growth: prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support, and community safety and wellbeing.
- The Government of Yukon is providing funding to support collaborative efforts aimed at implementing an initial 14 actions outlined in the strategy. The actions cover all four areas of growth.
- The current statuses of these 14 actions are in the table below.

Prevention		
1	Implement Planet Youth in Yukon communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department is developing plans to identify two pilot communities, proposals and assessment criteria.
2	Continue to support Yukon communities in creating and implementing community wellness plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A roadmap outlining the process, scope and roles is being developed to share with partners and communities.
3	Continue to launch communication and educational campaigns addressing substance use and mental wellness issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active or upcoming awareness and educational campaigns include Opioid Treatment Services awareness, alcohol medications, 988 outreach support and Rapid Access Counselling.
Harm reduction		
4	Implement a Managed Alcohol Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program development is underway. • The program will be launched in Spring 2024.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Substance Use Health Emergency

Health and Social
Services

5	Further expand the operating hours of Whitehorse's Supervised Consumption Site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hours have been expanded from 12pm-9pm, to 10:30am to 9:30pm, 7 days per week including statutory holidays.
6	Further expand access to Opioid Treatment Services, including safer supply and Opioid Agonist Therapy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opioid Treatment Services are offered at the Referred Care Clinic, Whitehorse Emergency Shelter and Housing First. We continue to explore rural and remote options.
Treatment and recovery support		
7	Ensure the availability of Opioid Agonist Therapy wherever Yukoners seek assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans, including procurement, are being developed for a Mobile Opioid Treatment Services clinic. Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services is working with community nursing to offer Opioid Agonist Therapy in communities.
8	Continue to increase support for Yukon First Nations to develop and implement land-based mental health and substance use treatment options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December 2023, a Letter of Intent was signed between the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations and federal government for a Yukon First Nations-led treatment centre. Launched in November 2023, the Land-based Healing Funding initiative will provide \$9 million in funding to Yukon First Nations and Yukon First Nation-led organizations over 3 years to March 31, 2026.
Community safety and wellbeing		
9	Continue to invest in preventing gender-based violence and improving services for victims of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement for the expansion of the Sexualized Assault Response Team was completed in December of 2023. An implementation plan is anticipated for 2025.

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Substance Use Health Emergency

Health and Social
Services

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim Services received \$369,000 in funding from the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence to support a transportation network for victims to access services in Whitehorse. Work to establish infrastructure is ongoing.
10	Increase frontline support staffing and create more safe and sober housing options for individuals grappling with substance use issues when transitioning from the criminal justice system back into communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Justice is improving supports for those transitioning into the community through reform of the bail system. Recruitment for a Support and Outreach position and a Clinical Counsellor position is ongoing. These positions will travel to communities to support clients' needs.
11	Continue to collaborate with Yukon First Nations governments to expand therapeutic courts and other restorative justice approaches in response to substance use-related treatment needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing initiatives through restorative justice and therapeutic courts include impaired driving, substance use treatment, trauma recovery, intimate partner violence prevention programs for men, healing camps at Jackson Lake and other programming in partnership with First Nations. A Senior Community Engagement Specialist will help identify Yukon First Nations who are interested in developing or expanding therapeutic courts and other restorative justice approaches. The position is currently filled via a Justice staff member and recruitment is ongoing. Currently, the Department of Justice is in partnership discussions with Carcross Tagish,

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Spring 2024

Substance Use Health Emergency

Health and Social
Services

		Tr'ondek Hwech'in and Vuntut Gwitchin to continue exploring new approaches.
12	Continue to support effective and accountable policing and enforcement responsive to community needs and taking into account the Yukon's modern treaty environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for a Senior Negotiator and a Strategic Policy Advisor has been secured through Community Tripartite Agreements and recruitment is ongoing. These positions will support engagement with First Nations regarding First Nation jurisdiction and authority for enforcement of First Nation laws and related interests. • A draft engagement plan and submission are in progress. • Discussions regarding enforcement are occurring with First Nations at Administration of Justice Agreement tables, and a joint Cabinet and Management Board submission is in development.
13	Expand the capacity of the Mobile Crisis Response Team (Car 867).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car 867 is currently available Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. These hours will be extended to 7 days a week for 10-hour shifts in early Spring. • To expand capacity, the Department of Justice is funding two RCMP officers and Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services is funding two nursing positions.
14	Increase the Government of Yukon's capacity to investigate and for civil remedies to disrupt the distribution of toxic illicit drugs and organized crime in Yukon communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This action is fulfilled through the existing Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Unit. • The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Unit anticipates signing a protocol with an 11th Yukon First Nation soon. These protocols provide investigative services in First Nation communities.

Session Briefing Note

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Substance Use Health Emergency

Health and Social
Services

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Unit is working with communities to update their protocols.• Funding from the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy includes an additional investigator for the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Unit.
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Actions to date:

- On September 30, 2021, we opened the Supervised Consumption Site and in May 2022 we completed renovations to support inhalation as a consumption method.
 - Hours have recently expanded to 7 days a week from 10:30am to 9:30pm, including statutory holidays.
- As of January 25, 2022, we have increased access to Opioid Treatment Services at 405 Alexander by expanding prescriber coverage to two days per week.
- We are strengthening the Opioid Treatment Services team with 9 new positions. These positions include 1 Registered Nurse Supervisor, 2 Registered Nurses, 2 Licensed Practical Nurses, 1 Community Engagement Worker, and 1 Administrative Assistant. Some of these positions have been filled and others are in the recruitment process.
- As of January 28, 2022, we expanded opioid medication coverage to include Sublocade.
- On October 31, 2022, we launched Car 867, a mobile crisis unit that includes an RCMP officer and a trained mental health nurse.
- We have organized three territory-wide public awareness and education campaigns.

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- On November 16 and 17, 2022 we held Youth Roots: A Substance Use Prevention Gathering, where we explored innovative and emerging approaches with Yukoners, partners and subject matter experts.
- We hosted two Mental Wellness Summits on February 14 and 15, 2022 and September 21 to 23, 2022 to hear from leaders, partners, subject matter experts and people with lived and living experience.
- We have increased access to Withdrawal Management beds by hiring additional Licensed Practical Nurses.
- We continue to increase on-the-land healing and treatment options in the territory.
- The Rapid Access Bike paramedic team launched in summer 2022 to improve EMS service and provide faster response in downtown Whitehorse during the summer months. This Yukon EMS program is a partnership with the RCMP and City of Whitehorse.

Alcohol Use and Managed Alcohol Program:

- In Spring 2024, we will be implementing a Managed Alcohol Program. This is one of the actions under the initial 14 in the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy.
- The Managed Alcohol Program will be offered through a 10-bed residential facility located at 509 Hoge Street in Whitehorse, the current location of the St. Elias group home.
- Government, health and allied health care partners will conduct client assessments to determine eligibility.
- Managed alcohol programs typically dispense wine, beer or spirits. Clients will have access to individually medically approved volumes of alcohol that will be served under supervision.

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- The program will be supported by three teams of new FTE positions including support workers, licensed practical nurses and a supervisor. Job descriptions and classification levels are currently being developed for these positions.
- While the structure and composition of the teams may change as we evaluate the program, we anticipate the teams will be dedicated to intake and assessment, support workers and medical oversight.
- Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services is currently working to finalize policies, program manuals and working with Human Resources to recruit staff before accepting clients.
- The program will attempt to reduce harms related to alcohol use amongst people living with severe, treatment resistant alcohol use disorder. This includes reducing instances of emergency services, non-beverage alcohol consumption and increase social stability.
- This initiative will help protect one of the Yukon's most vulnerable populations and will support public health and resource allocation.
- Creating a culture of moderate alcohol consumption and an environment that supports informed individual decision-making is a recommendation in Putting People First.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation leads a social responsibility program, including:
 - A "Get Home Safe" campaign during Rendezvous 2024, highlighting the risks of consuming alcohol when temperatures are below freezing outside;
 - Be A Responsible Server training for Yukoners responsible for serving or selling alcohol; and

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- Annual “Safe Grad” funding, designed to help school graduation planners keep graduates safe from alcohol and drug use during their graduation celebrations.
- In January 2023, the Canadian Centre of Substance Use and Addiction released updated low-risk drinking guidelines, which are supported by the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health.
 - These updated guidelines recommend a weekly alcohol use of a maximum of 2 standard drinks or less to avoid alcohol-related consequences and higher health risks.
- Our government now provides coverage for medications to support people diagnosed with Alcohol Use Disorder through the Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Program.

Awareness Campaign:

- In August of 2023, all community and First Nations government health centres, Blood Ties Four Directions and other partners received educational materials for the public regarding the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy and Mental Wellness Substance Use Services.
- In 2023, Mental Wellness Substance Use Services partnered with Blood Ties Four Directions to distribute 200 backpacks containing essentials and informational resources throughout the Yukon. This initiative supported 200 vulnerable individuals with direct access to information on substance use and mental health services, along with comfort items.
- We are supporting the Council of Yukon First Nations with \$50,000 for an anti-stigma campaign.

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Community Outreach:

- We appreciate the work of Yukon First Nations governments to address the unique needs of their communities in response to this health emergency.
- We will continue to support Yukon First Nations governments to improve health and social services in Yukon communities.
- We have supported Blood Ties Four Direction's initiative to increase distribution of take-home fentanyl testing kits in rural Yukon communities.
 - Blood Ties Four Directions provides harm reduction services in Whitehorse through the Outreach Van, and Mental Wellness. Substance Use Services staff working in Whitehorse and communities also provide harm reduction supplies and training.
- Expanding Opioid Treatment Services, including safer supply, to communities outside of Whitehorse is an element of the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy.

Decriminalization of Substances:

- The Government of Canada is responsible for the *Criminal Code* and the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* which determine criminality regarding drug use, possession, and trafficking.
- Our government has been working with partners to address the Substance Use Health Emergency, including support for a range of harm reduction initiatives aimed at reducing overdose deaths and curbing stigma around drug use.
- The Department of Justice is responsible for the Community Safety and Wellbeing pillar of the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy. Action item 9 instructs the department to explore and consider options

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on how best to allocate limited territorial policing resources to most effectively address violence in communities, the misuse of illicit drugs and organized crime.

- The Department of Justice is monitoring decriminalization efforts in British Columbia, Toronto and other jurisdictions to ensure any policy changes will be driven by high-quality evidence.

Emergency Medical Services:

- Emergency Medical Services has a Paramedic Specialist Clinic located at 405 Alexander and a Paramedic Response Unit in the downtown core of Whitehorse.
 - The clinic ensures a paramedic is on site at least 20 hours a day and we are working towards expanding this to 24/7.
 - The clinic has a spectrometer to test samples of drug supply on site. The spectrometer provides a more accurate detection of benzos, fentanyl and other contaminants in the drug supply.
 - The Paramedic Response Unit operates 10.7 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Both the Paramedic Response Unit and the Paramedic Response Clinic provide Drug Testing Kits and harm reduction supplies to the public.
- The Rapid Access Bike paramedic team provides faster responses in downtown Whitehorse during the summer months.
 - All members of the Rapid Access Bike team are trained to the same level, or higher, as a Primary Care Paramedic.
 - While there will always be an ambulance deployed at the same time as the Rapid Access Bike, the team can provide initial patient care before an ambulance arrives.

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- The Rapid Access Bike team also hands out Naloxone kits, drug checking kits, delivers education about safe injections, and provides general information on safety to the public.
- All Emergency Medical Services ambulances carry drug checking kits and Naloxone kits to provide to the public.
- Emergency Medical Services has distributed over 1,500 drug checking kits across the territory.

Naloxone:

- Naloxone kits, including nasal naloxone, are available, free of charge, at many locations across our territory, including pharmacies, Kwanlin Dün First Nation Health Centre, Blood Ties Four Directions, 405 Alexander, Emergency Medical Services, Community Health Centres, all Yukon Liquor Corporation locations, and from Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services locations throughout the territory.
- Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services staff in communities also distribute Naloxone Kits and have worked with First Nations governments to ensure that kits are widely available.
- Upon request, staff provide Naloxone training to First Nations governments and community partners.

Approved by:

Signature on file

March 21, 2024

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****405 Alexander**Health and Social
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Government priority:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with Connective, the Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations and our community partners to take action to improve health and safety and enhance supports for Yukoners.

Key messages:

- We are committed to helping people who are experiencing homelessness to access the services they need as easily as possible.
- 405 Alexander Street, also known as the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter, offers a low-barrier, 24/7 shelter and supportive living units, and a range of drop-in services for unhoused and street-involved adults.
- 405 Alexander is operated by Connective, in partnership with the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- Our government provides Emergency Medical Services, Home Care, and Mental Wellness and Substance Use outreach services at 405 Alexander.
- Several non-governmental organizations are also onsite to provide services, including Blood Ties Four Directions.
- We are committed to working in partnership with Connective, the Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations and our community partners to meet the needs of the community and 405 Alexander guests.

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Key facts:

- 405 Alexander Street has capacity for 54 emergency shelter guests per night and has 20 permanent supportive housing units operating under housing first principles.
- In 2022-2023, there was an average of 45.5 emergency shelter guests staying at 405 Alexander per night and 19.4 people per month living in Housing First Units.
- From April 1 to December 31, 2023, there was an average of 42.3 emergency shelter guests per night.

Reports:

- In May 2023, two independent reports were released evaluating the shelter's effectiveness, its impact on the community and the clients it serves. Both were completed with our involvement and support.
 - *Whitehorse Emergency Shelter Evaluation*, commissioned by the department of Health and Social Services prepared by Vink Consulting; and
 - *A Path Forward*, prepared by House of Wolf & Associates at the request of the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- Findings within the two reports were informed by discussions with clients, shelter staff and community partners.
- Responding to these findings and the recommendations from the 2020 Community Safety Plan requires the involvement of all our partners, as well as multiple departments and levels of government.
- We are committed to ensuring the safety of Yukoners and are meeting with the City of Whitehorse, First Nations governments, Yukon

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businesses, Connective, the RCMP and the federal government to discuss next steps.

- The Whitehorse Emergency Shelter Evaluation by Vink Consulting determined that 405 Alexander is reaching people who are homeless and street-involved, outlines key outcomes for guests and finds that it is providing benefits to shelter guests, supportive housing unit residents and the government that outweigh its costs. The report found that:
 - Most guests are satisfied with the services provided and the shelter is meeting needs of clients, though some unhoused women are choosing other emergency accommodation options, such as couch surfing.
 - Clients should be more supported to find permanent housing and more could be done on culturally appropriate approaches.
 - For every dollar spent on this shelter, the social return on investment amounted to \$2.11. The analysis found that for every dollar invested in a Housing First program, the estimated social return would be higher, at \$2.90.
 - Despite 38% of shelter guests reporting that their substance use has increased as a result of accessing the shelter, the report also states that this is more likely a result of homelessness and an overall nation-wide increase in substance use and negative impacts on mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A *Path Forward* assessed the safety and perspectives of community wellness. The report recommended:
 - The purpose of 405 Alexander Street should be determined and communicated.

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- Decentralizing some aspects of service delivery may be appropriate.
- Safe gathering spaces inclusive of women, LGBTQ2S+, and sober clients should be considered in addition to low-barrier spaces.
- Education and engagement events such as town-halls, community walkthroughs, social media campaigns should increase a cross-demographic sense of community, understanding and empathy.
- Increasing opportunities for cultural connection with land-based components that are within and outside of 405 Alexander is vital for First Nations guests.
- Harm reduction initiatives such as a Managed Alcohol Program should be considered for substitute therapy programs.
- Implementing a downtown-Whitehorse Community Safety Officer program via partnerships with Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council would increase visibility and access to justice and safety services.
- Mitigating opportunities for unsafe gatherings and intimidating behaviour through the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design approach can lead to a reduction in fear and improve quality of life for the community. The approach includes three principles: Natural Surveillance or high levels of observation, Natural Access Control or decreasing the opportunity of crime, and Territorial Reinforcement by creating a sense of pride in a space.

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- Implementing a case management approach and data management system between key partners may reduce gaps within overlapping systems and increase efficiency and access to intervention programs.

Next Steps:

- Along with Connective and the Council of Yukon First Nations, we are working on a plan to enhance the area outside 405 Alexander as recommended in A Path Forward using a crime prevention through environmental design approach.
 - On September 28, 2023, in partnership with Connective, we removed the high back benches from outside 405 Alexander as part of a broader environmental redesign intended to support our work to enhance the area.
 - Further assessment in responding to concerns about garbage and area cleanliness is underway. We are in discussion with Connective on considering the use of “sharps containers” for the safe dispensing of objects such as needles.
- In August 2023, Connective undertook a public awareness campaign: Facing Forward: Portraits of Resilience in Whitehorse to draw attention to the stories of guests and staff working for Connective and showcase the role of 405 Alexander.
- Recommendations from the Community Safety report that we received in 2020 have been operationalized. Highlights include:
 - Improved the provision of women-only services.

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- Ensured that the Shelter has sufficient and appropriate guidelines and processes in place related to occupational health and safety.
- Explored and implemented new ways of engaging with neighbours.
- Increased access to culturally-based programs and services and adequately trained staff to address diverse and culturally sensitive needs.
- Continued engagement with clients with lived experience to ensure they have a role in matters affecting programming and operations.
- Employing people with lived experience and with compassion to work with shelter clients.

Available Supports:

- We provide a range of on-site support including Emergency Medical Services, Home Care, social supports, and Mental Wellness and Substance Use outreach services.
- Emergency Medical Services has expanded their Paramedic Specialist Clinic hours at 405 Alexander to at least 20 hours a day.
- Emergency Medical Services supports the Mobile Paramedic Response Unit at 405 Alexander Street, which is equipped to provide mobile drug testing services and other health care services.
- Opioid Treatment Services from the Referred Care Clinic for guests of 405 Alexander have expanded to offer prescriber coverage two days

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a week. This approach has been very successful in increasing engagement in Opioid Treatment Services.

- We are working with Blood Ties Four Directions to increase awareness of the Supervised Consumption Site among guests of 405 Alexander and have expanded the services and hours of operation onsite and at the outreach van.
- Guests have access to harm reduction education and supplies, including Naloxone kits, and connection to appropriate support and services.
- Guests also have access to social workers and nursing support.
- Indigenous users have access to cultural support and programming, through the Council of Yukon First Nations support of a full-time Cultural Support Worker.

Coroner Inquiry into 405 Alexander Deaths:

- We are aware that the Coroner's Office intends to conduct an inquiry into the deaths of four individuals at 405 Alexander.
- Our government is committed to supporting the Coroner's Office as they conduct this work and to reviewing the Coroner's findings once they are available.
- The Department of Health and Social Services provides a range of on-site supports at 405 Alexander, including EMS, Home Care, Social Supports, and Mental Wellness and Substance Use outreach services.
- EMS has expanded their Paramedic Specialist Clinic hours at 405 Alexander to at least 20 hours a day, and EMS also supports the Mobile Paramedic Response Unit at 405 Alexander Street, which is equipped to provide mobile drug testing services and other health care services.

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- Opioid Treatment Services from the Referred Care Clinic for guests of 405 Alexander have expanded to offer prescriber coverage two days a week. This approach has been very successful in increasing engagement in Opioid Treatment Services.
- BRAVE Sensors were installed in bathrooms to alert staff if someone ceases to move for reasons such as an overdose or other health emergency.
- Guests have access to harm reduction education and supplies, including Naloxone kits, and connection to appropriate support and services.
- Staff at 405 Alexander receive training in recognizing and responding to the signs and symptoms of overdose.

Low Barrier Approach:

- The Government of Yukon and our partners at 405 Alexander Street are dedicated to offering person-centered, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed care and services to build and support the resilience of all Yukoners.
- 405 Alexander is a low barrier facility that is non-punitive, non-judgmental and meets people where they are with dignity, respect and compassion.
- Guests of 405 Alexander are not required to be sober or fall into a certain demographic to receive essentials services and support.
- The intention of a low barrier approach is to remove systemic barriers that may inhibit people from accessing food, medical and mental health services, social support and a safe space for overnight shelter.

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- Harm reduction is a vital part of a low barrier facility. Harm reduction measures provide opportunities for clients to access life-saving Opioid Agonist Therapies, medications for alcohol use disorder, support for safe substance use, and other health care measures that can treat the implications of substance use.
- A low barrier approach does not mean a no barrier approach. Effective barriers encourage a culture that communicates and protects the physical, emotional, and cultural safety of all shelter guests and staff.

Approved by:

Signature on file

March 5, 2024

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

**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.

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Inflation and Affordability

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- 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
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- 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 [and the first two months of 2024](#).
- Higher earnings were reported across most industries in 2023, and several industries reported earnings growth more than 2023's average inflation of 4.9 per cent. Even as some industries had earnings gains outpace inflation, earnings growth of 2.8 per cent in the industry total fell short of the overall increase in prices in 2023.

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Background:

Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

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

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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.
- 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.

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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 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.

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- 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.
- 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.

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- 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.
- 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.

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- 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.
- 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)

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Spring 2024

Finance

- 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.
- 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:
 - o Providing tourism sector leadership;
 - o Rebuilding confidence and capabilities for tourism;
 - o Supporting the recovery of tourism industry operators; and
 - o 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:
 - o Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS);
 - o Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS);
 - o Culture and Tourism Non-profit Sector Supplement;

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

Spring 2024
Finance

- 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;
- 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:

Signature on file

March 19, 2024

Deputy Minister, Finance_____
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).
-

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:Signature on file

Deputy Minister of Environment

March 1, 2024

Date approved

Signature on file

Deputy Minister of Finance

February 26, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

TAB#HR06
Spring 2024

TOC – Investigation and Criminal Charges

Education

Safer Schools Action Plan – DPT13

Hidden Valley School – Supports, Reviews Investigations, Legal: refer to SO06

Safer Schools Policies and Procedures: refer to DPT14

Safer School Disclosures: refer to DPT12

Value

- The health, safety, and wellbeing of students is our top priority, and we are taking the work of the Safer Schools Action Plan seriously.

Recommended response:

- On January 2, 2024, the Department of Justice confirmed that a search warrant had been issued and that the RCMP had charged the individual with possession of child pornography.
- This individual has not worked as a teacher on call since October 24, 2023, immediately after the department became aware of a potential investigation.
- The Yukon Association of Education Professionals were notified on December 29, 2023, and were provided an update on January 4, 2024.
- School councils and school administrators where the former teacher on call had worked were informed of the criminal charges on January 3 and 4, 2024.
- On January 4, 2024, I informed the public of these criminal charges through a Ministerial Statement. On the same day, the department contacted all school staff, families and partners in the education community with a link to the Ministerial Statement and information on supports available.

TOC – Investigation and Criminal Charges

Education

- I recognize that this is a concerning situation and may trigger an emotional response, but I want to reassure members of this house that we publicly communicated information on the charges as soon as possible, and that we have no information to indicate that charges against this individual involve Yukon children.

Additional response:

- I was first informed of a developing situation on December 29, 2023.
- On January 3 and 4, 2024, immediately after the department received RCMP and Justice confirmation of the charges, we followed the Safer Schools Action Plan and used our Yukon Schools Post-Incident Communications Guidance to communicate to impacted school communities and the public regarding the charges.
- Teachers on call are required to submit a clear vulnerable sector criminal record check every two years, and this former teacher on call did so over the five years they worked in Whitehorse-area schools.
- During the five years the former teacher on call worked with the Department of Education, they worked at the following schools:
 - FH Collins Secondary (2019 to October 24, 2023)
 - Individual Learning Centre (2018 to 2019 and 2020 to 2021 school years)
 - Golden Horn Elementary (2018 to 2021 school years), Christ the King Elementary (2019 to 2020 school year)
 - Porter Creek Secondary (2019 to 2021 school years)
 - École Émilie Tremblay (2020 to 2021 school year)
 - Jack Hulland Elementary (2020 to 2021 school year)
 - St. Francis of Assisi Secondary (2020 to 2021 school year)

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TOC – Investigation and Criminal Charges

Education

- École Whitehorse Elementary (2020 to 2022 school years)
 - Holy Family Elementary (2021 to 2022 school year)
- We take all allegations or reports of serious misconduct or inappropriate behavior very seriously.
- When information is received regarding serious misconduct by Department of Education staff, the human resources branch works closely with the Public Service Commission's Labour Relations branch to investigate, following the investigation framework and processes established under Human Resource protocols and by the Safer Schools Action Plan.
- While the teacher on call has not worked in Yukon schools since October 24, 2023, the nature and validity of the information were unverified. The department took precautions to ensure that this teacher on call did not work in a Yukon school while an RCMP investigation was underway.
- Support continues to be available to families and staff. Examples include:
 - Supports coordinated as needed via the School Community Consultant, school administration and staff to services through Family and Children's Services, Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services, and Victim Services.
 - Staff presentations on services and supports available to them, including crisis counselling services through LifeWorks and information on the broader Employee and Family Assistance Program.
- The Government of Yukon has taken significant action with the Safer Schools Action Plan over the past two years to improve safety and supports for students, their families, and the school community. We

TOC – Investigation and Criminal Charges

Education

know there is still more work to do to improve safety and security in Yukon schools. We are committed to continuing this work.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- A former teacher on call was arrested and charged with possession of child pornography and possession of a prohibited weapon on December 24, 2023. As this teacher worked in ten schools over five years (between 2018 and 2023), there will likely be citizen concern regarding whether the situation was handled and communicated appropriately.
 - The topic of student safety in schools has featured prominently in the Legislative Assembly discussions and the media since fall 2021, primarily driven by coverage of incidents at Hidden Valley Elementary School, Jack Hulland Elementary School, and the reports and recommendations made by various agencies.
-

Background:

- In October 2023, unconfirmed information about inappropriate behaviour of a teacher on call (TOC) were raised to the Department of Education. After receiving this information, the individual in question was immediately blocked from accepting TOC assignments as of October 24, 2023.
- The Yukon Schools Post-Incident Communications Guidance is not activated until a Yukon government employee is charged criminally by the RCMP or there is an allegation of incidents taking place at school, and not at the stage of receiving information regarding misconduct outside of school.
- On December 29, 2023, the department formally suspended the individual.
- On January 2, 2024, the RCMP confirmed to the Department of Justice that criminal charges had been laid against the individual. The Yukon Schools Post-Incident Communications Guidance was then activated.

Session Briefing Note

TAB#HR06
Spring 2024

TOC – Investigation and Criminal Charges

Education

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024-01-31

Deputy Minister, Education

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**ECO #8 / EMR #87 / ENV #32****Spring 2024****Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**ECO – EMR - ENV

Recommended response:

- Our government is committed to responsible mineral resource development and collaborative resource stewardship alongside First Nations partners.
- As directed in the January 2, 2024 Supreme Court of Yukon's decision, the Government of Yukon, Government of Canada, Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation had a consultation meeting on February 7 and 8, 2024 in Ross River.
- The Government of Yukon and Canada issued a Decision Document on March 8, 2024, recommending the project proceed to the regulatory phase.
- In response to Kaska concerns raised at the consultation meeting, existing terms and conditions were modified and new terms and conditions included.
- The government of Yukon is committed to continued consultation with the Kaska as it considers applications for authorizations and licences required by the proponent to construct and bring the mine into production.
- More broadly, we will also continue to engage meaningfully with the Kaska throughout the project's lifetime, in line with our commitment to reconciliation and to build strong relationships with First Nations governments.

Additional response:

- We are committed to meaningful engagement and reconciliation with the Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation.

Session Briefing Note**ECO #8 / EMR #87 / ENV #32****Spring 2024****Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

ECO – EMR - ENV

Context — this may be an issue because:

- On January 2, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon issued its Reasons for Decision on the judicial review of the decision to approve the Kudz Ze Kayah project.
- The Supreme Court of Yukon concluded that that the Crown failed in its duty to consult with respect to the June 14, 2022, submission.
- Ross River Dena Council have filed an appeal to the Supreme Court of Yukon decision, [which is scheduled to be heard in November 2024](#).
- During the project assessment and subsequent consultation, Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation identified impacts of the project to their Aboriginal rights and title.
- The Kaska Nation requested the project be rejected or be referred to a panel during the assessment.

Background:

- On June 15, 2022, a joint decision document was issued by the governments of Canada and Yukon to vary the Executive Committee's recommendations that the project be allowed to proceed, subject to terms and conditions specified in the Final Screening Report.
- On July 20, 2022, the Ross River Dena Council, on its own behalf and on behalf of the Kaska Nation, filed a petition for judicial review of the decision.
- In August 2022, BMC Minerals submitted applications to the Yukon government for a quartz mining licence, a Type-A water licence and land leases.
- A Supreme Court of Yukon hearing was held in April 2023.
- The Court's Decision was given on January 2, 2024.
- The Yukon government's regulatory review of these applications [was](#) paused in response to the Court's Decision, which sets aside the Decision Document for the project until consultation obligations have been fulfilled [and a new Decision Document issued](#).

Session Briefing Note**ECO #8 / EMR #87 / ENV #32****Spring 2024****Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

ECO – EMR - ENV

- On March 8, 2024, Decision Bodies issued a Decision Document recommending the project proceed to the regulatory phase.
- (See ECO TAB 31 Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives).

Approved by:Signature on fileMarch 13, 2024

Deputy Minister of the Executive Council Office

Date approved

Signature on fileMarch 13, 2024

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Signature on fileMarch 13, 2024

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Recommended response:

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

Additional response (Governor's visit):

- Over the course of the Governor's visit, we had productive conversations on highways and connectivity, fish and wildlife, community safety, wildfire response, regional security, MMIWG2S+ issues and enhancing the private sector's exposure to Alaskan officials.
- The Governor and I signed a new Intergovernmental Relations Accord which sets out a framework for how we will work together on matters of shared interest.
- We also concluded an MOU on new funding opportunities for the Shakwak highway. This is an important development that will improve road connectivity and safety for both Alaska and the Yukon.

- We are stronger together as neighbours and friends because of this visit, and we will continue to foster this important regional relationship.

Additional response (Shakwak/Alcan Highway):

- The Alaska Highway is a critical component of highway infrastructure for life in the North and the tourism sector.
- The Shakwak project encompasses the Haines Road and the Alaska Highway north of Haines Junction.
- Supporting the repair and safety of this road advances Canadian and U.S. priorities, including resilience to climate change, economic development, supporting communities and people in the Arctic and maintaining Indigenous connections that span borders.
- We continue to work in collaboration with the State of Alaska to identify short- and long-term funding solutions for this critical infrastructure.
- With our Alaskan counterparts, we have delivered an updated application seeking approximately \$25 million USD from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or “RAISE”, grant program.
- The MOU puts Shakwak into the Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which gives the State more flexibility in disbursing funds. The STIP lists the Shakwak project for \$31.25 million (in US dollars) over the next 4 years.
- Wherever the funds ultimately come from, this project will allow our government to restore some of the most degraded sections of the north Alaska Highway in the Yukon to improve this critical overland

route that is adversely affected by thawing permafrost and exacerbated by climate change.

- While we recognize this program is extremely competitive, we hope to see success for our application later this summer.

Additional response (Borders):

- We look forward to continued increases in cross border traffic and seeing more visitors from the U.S. this year, as well as Yukoners visiting our neighbours in Skagway, Haines and beyond.
- Our government is continuing to work with both the Canadian and U.S. federal government and Alaskan elected officials to get the Little Gold border crossing near Dawson back to its pre-pandemic operating window.
- I urge strong cooperation between Canadian and U.S. authorities on this issue.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Governor Dunleavy visited Whitehorse on February 8 and 9, 2024.
 - There may be interest in our efforts to secure funding for the Shakwak highway.
 - Little Gold border crossing did not open in 2020 or 2021 and was open for a shorter operating window in 2022 and 2023 than was typical pre-pandemic.
-

Background:

US relations:

- The Canada/US Roadmap announced by Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden in February 2021 is guiding relationships across borders. We are seeing more engagement with U.S. officials since the Roadmap was announced.
 - Consul General Jim DeHart (Vancouver) visited the Yukon in October 2023. Consular staff also visited the Yukon and met with YG officials.
-

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office

- Premier Pillai met with the newly installed Consul General DeHart in Vancouver on January 5, 2023, to discuss the Yukon-U.S. relationship.
- The Consul General plans to return to the Yukon in April, and Ambassador Cohen has also indicated that planning begin to facilitate his first visit to the Yukon in May.
- Premier Pillai met by phone with Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy in September and October 2023 where they discussed a number of areas for intergovernmental collaboration. The discussion was wide-ranging and included shared infrastructure, physician assistants training, Arctic security, fish and wildlife, and wildfire management.
- Governor Dunleavy, the First Lady and four Cabinet members visited Whitehorse on February 8-9, 2024. Two agreements were signed at the conclusion of the visit.
- Topics discussed during the visit included highways, Port of Skagway, bison and elk, salmon, MMIWG2S+, regional security, energy, forestry, agriculture, wildland fire and airline connections
- A strategic engagement plan is being developed with Alaska to maintain and build the momentum from the visit.

Shakwak:

- The new MOU puts our highway in Alaska's STIP, which will give the State more latitude to disperse funds. This is a promising option relative competitive grants, where the proposal is up against infrastructure initiatives in large states, counties and cities in the U.S.
- The project in the STIP mirrors the contents of the RAISE application.
- A new funding opportunity for the Shakwak project was identified in the US government's *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. The Haines Road and the Alaska Highway north of Haines Junction are now eligible for competitive grants administered by the US Department of Transportation.
- The Yukon government worked closely with Alaska in 2022 and 2023 to apply to the RAISE grant program for USD \$25 million over five years, the maximum

available for an individual project. The proposal would have funded reconstruction of permafrost-affected areas in an 80-kilometre stretch of the highway.

- The application was not successful in 2022 or 2023. While the proposal was rated “recommended”, it fell short of the “highly recommended” rating that is required to get funding. Even then, only one quarter of the “highly recommended” projects were awarded funding.
- Ambassador Cohen had a follow-up call with the undersecretary after the 2023 decision was made not to fund this project. The key gap in the application that was identified is related to insufficient evidence and data to support the claims related to quality of life, mobility, and connectivity.
- The Yukon government has continued to work with Alaska to build an improved application to RAISE. The application was submitted and we expect a decision in summer 2024.
- The total project cost is USD \$31.25 million. RAISE is proposed to make up 80 per cent of that cost, with Alaska and the Yukon covering 10 per cent each.
- There is strong communication and support for our application in both the US Consulate in Vancouver and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Skagway Port redevelopment: See Note # TAB 17 EcDev

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.02.15

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
BC Grid Connect

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Recommended response:

- In Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon committed to a target of 97 per cent of electricity on the Yukon's main grid being generated from renewable sources; up from the 92 per cent it is today.
- The Yukon – British Columbia Grid Connect project could allow the Yukon to maintain high levels of renewable energy over the long term. The project will be complex with infrastructure that crosses multiple traditional territories and provincial/territorial borders.
- By increasing the Yukon's renewable electricity supply we are supporting our ambitious electrification goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Yukon's largest emission sources: transportation, heating and mining.

Additional response:

- We are also looking at technical feasibility and options, potential cost and funding opportunities.
- Connecting the Yukon to British Columbia's electrical grid is a tremendous opportunity for shared growth and prosperity, economic reconciliation and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use.
- Increasing power supply availability by connecting to British Columbia's electrical grid will also help facilitate sustainable critical mineral development in the Yukon that will support the global transition away from fossil fuels.

Session Briefing Note

BC Grid Connect

EMR #7/YDC #10
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in what the Government of Yukon is doing to increase the Yukon's ability to generate energy from renewable sources.
-

Background:

- Work on the feasibility of the grid connect project will require the completion of a new development plan with updated costing.
- At the March and September 2023 Yukon Forum meetings, leadership discussed the potential to connect the Yukon and British Columbia's grids. This discussion represents the beginning of the government's collaboration on the project.
- The grid connect project was also presented at the Yukon First Nations' Energy Summit in October 2023 and was discussed at the Regional Energy and Resource Table meeting in January 2024.
- In 2022, approximately 92 per cent of electricity on the main grid was obtained from renewable energy sources.
- Renewable electricity, especially hydroelectricity, accounted for approximately 80 per cent of the Yukon's total electricity generation in 2022.
- One of the new actions added to Our Clean Future includes a commitment to complete an updated development plan and alternatives analysis for the Yukon-British Columbia grid connect project by the end of 2025.
- In 2019, Midgard Consulting produced the '*Yukon-British Columbia Interconnection Development Plan*.' The report identified the objectives of the project, a proposed development approach and a very preliminary cost estimate.

Session Briefing Note
BC Grid Connect

EMR #7/YDC #10
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Approved by:

Signature on file

January 30, 2024

Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Signature on file

January 31, 2024

President and CEO
Yukon Development Corporation

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Atlin**Yukon Development
Corporation

Recommended response:

- The Atlin Hydroelectric Expansion Project is not included in the 2024-2025 Budget, as the Proponent works to finalize requirements that need to be put in place before the Project is ready to receive government funding.
- We remain committed to the Project and when the preconditions for funding are met, we stand by ready to invest.
- The Yukon Development Corporation continues to work with the Government of Canada and the Proponent to identify funding opportunities.

Additional response:

- As the largest Indigenous proponent-led energy project that the Yukon has been involved with to date, it is also teaching us many lessons that will be applied as additional projects are advanced to fill the widening renewable energy gap.
- These preconditions for Yukon Development Corporation disbursing the funding to the Proponent, include: receipt of all permits and authorizations required for construction, execution of the Credit Agreement with the Canadian Infrastructure Bank, clear decision in support of the Project from Taku River Tlingit First Nation, and the funding is secured to cover the estimated cost of construction.
- We applaud the Proponent and the Taku River First Nation for their efforts to get the Project to this state of readiness and we are committed to strong and enduring partnerships with First Nations

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Atlin

Yukon Development
Corporation

proponents, governments, and communities in the energy economy in the Yukon.

- As the Project continues through the development phase, there is continual due diligence being done to ensure that the Project will bring the expected benefits to Yukoners in a manner that advances climate change goals, and is also affordable and reliable.
- The Proponent estimates that there remains a funding gap of between \$80-95 million, depending on the interest rate to be charged on the loan from the Canadian Infrastructure Bank.

If asked about the Transfer Payment Agreement:

- The Proponent requested an amendment to the TPA that would allow a broader range of permitting-related expenses to be supported.
- This amendment allowed the Proponent to align multiple federal and provincial funding sources more effectively.
- With this amendment the Proponent reports that they have expended the full \$2 million allocation in 2023/2024.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There has been extensive media coverage of the Project, and the Opposition has raised the Project regularly in the Legislature.
- Budget 2024-2025 does not identify specific funds for the Project, which is a change from Budget 2023-2024.

Background:

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Yukon Development Corporation

Date prepared: February 1, 2024
Last updated: April 8, 2024
Page 2 of 5

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Atlin

Yukon Development Corporation

- The Proponent (Taku Homeland Energy Limited Partnership) plans to expand the existing Atlin hydro facility by leveraging the water storage capability of Surprise Lake and connect to the Yukon grid with a 69 kV transmission line from the power plant in Atlin, BC to Jakes Corner in the Yukon. The line will follow the Atlin Highway right-of-way for the majority of the route.
- The Atlin Hydroelectric Expansion Project has been repriced by the Proponent.
- The total cost of the project based on 75% design for generation and construction ready design for the transmission line as of February 2024, is between \$267 million and \$324 million.
- Cost distribution can be considered 75% to generation, 15% to transmission and substations, and 10% to interconnection with YEC/ATCO.
- As outlined in Table 1 below, the total cost of the project will be influenced by the level of contingency required and the interest rate used in the Canadian Infrastructure Bank credit agreement.

Table 1: 2024 Repricing Results (\$ millions)

Construction Costs	\$267	
Contingency	\$42	
Max. Required for Construction (CIB interest rate 1%)		\$309
Interest Rate Sensitivity (Cost per incremental 1%)	\$15	
Max. Required for Construction (CIB interest rate 2%)		\$324

- There is currently \$226.4 million notionally committed from the Government of Canada, Yukon government, Canadian Infrastructure Bank, and Taku River Tlingit First Nation equity.
- Between \$80 million and \$95 million is required to close the funding gap, depending on the interest rate used in the CIB credit agreement.
- Yukon government has articulated that the following preconditions must be met prior to disbursing funds for the project:
 - receipt of all permits and authorizations required for construction,
 - execution of the credit agreement with the Canadian Infrastructure Bank,

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Atlin

Yukon Development
Corporation

- clear decision in support of the project from Taku River Tlingit First Nation,
- conclusion of consultation by all governments, and
- securing the full cost of construction.

Table 2: Sources and Uses of Funding to March 31, 2024 (\$ millions)

		Allocated	Spent	Available
NRCan	Smart Renewable Electrification Pathways	\$50	\$5	\$45
NRCan	Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities	\$6.1	\$2.9	\$3.2
ECCC	Low Carbon Economy Fund	\$32.2	-	\$32.2
CANNOR	IDEANorth	\$6	\$6	-
CIRNAC		\$6.8	\$6.8	-
	<i>Canada Total</i>	<i>\$101.1</i>	<i>\$20.7</i>	<i>\$80.4</i>
YG		\$50	\$2	\$48
BC		\$20	\$2	\$18
CIB	Loan	Up to \$80	-	Up to \$80
THELP	Equity	\$3.2	\$3.2	-
	<i>All Funders Total</i>	<i>\$254.3</i>	<i>\$27.9</i>	<i>\$226.4</i>

Table 3: Project costs over time (\$ millions)

Budget Year	Interest Rate	Completion	Project Cost	Funding Gap
2021/22	1%	2024	\$204	\$0*
2022/23	1%	2025	\$254	\$0*
2023/24	3%	2026	\$360	\$106
2024/25	2%	2027	\$324	\$82.5-97.5

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Atlin**Yukon Development
Corporation

*The project had notionally filled the full funding gap in 2022/23. Costs associated with delay in receiving funding, inflation of construction costs as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, changes in interest rates, no new funding, and less favourable foreign exchange rates resulted in the emergence of a funding gap.

- YDC has provided the Proponent with \$2 million in 2023/2024 to support advancing geotechnical and engineering design of the transmission line.
- Prior to the Transfer Payment Agreement expiring, a TPA Amendment was agreed to that expands the permitting-related expenses that could be supported through the TPA. The Proponent indicates that it has expended the full \$2 million and YDC anticipates receiving reporting by mid-April.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.04.10

President, Yukon Development Corporation_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Victoria Gold/Eagle Gold Mine**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has completed its review of the Eagle Gold Mine's 2022 Reclamation and Closure Plan and issued an updated financial security determination for the mine. The Government of Yukon now holds \$103.7 million in financial security for the mine.
- Natural Resource Officers regularly inspect this site to ensure compliance with licence terms and conditions. They have documented and addressed instances of the mine failing to meet its water storage requirements from October 2022 to October 2023.
- We are committed to ensuring that mining is conducted in an environmentally responsible way, in accordance with regulatory authorizations.

Additional response:

- We are aware of the tragic events at the Çöpler (pronounced "chirp-ler") Gold Mine in eastern Turkey and send our condolences to all those impacted.
- There are significant differences between the Eagle and Çöpler mines and we remain confident that Victoria Gold's heap leach facility has been developed in accordance with Canadian and Yukon design standards and requirements for construction, operation, monitoring and inspections.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Victoria Gold's 2022 court filing regarding the Yukon Water Board's security determination and charges filed by the Government of Yukon regarding water management have drawn media attention. The court process is ongoing.
- A recent failure of a heap leach facility in Turkey has raised questions.

Session Briefing Note

Victoria Gold/Eagle Gold Mine

#9
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The Eagle Gold Mine is a large conventional open pit and heap leach gold operation in north-central Yukon in the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Traditional Territory. Victoria Gold's Eagle mine is in its fifth year of production of an approximate nine-year mine life.
- Victoria Gold and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun signed a Comprehensive Cooperation and Benefits Agreement in 2011.
- The "Eagle Gold Mine Extension Project" has been submitted to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board Executive Committee. Victoria Gold has responded to the Project Proposal Guidelines, and the response is now in a public review period (Phase 4 of the pre-submission engagement process).
- The Extension Project proposes to extend the mine's life to 15 years. It includes the development of a secondary heap leach facility, new Olive Deposit open pits, a new waste rock storage area and a production rate increase from 29,500 tonnes of ore per day to 50,000 tonnes of ore per day.
- There have been cyanide spills (six during 2021 and 2022) on-site.
- The site was last inspected in January 2024. Inspection reports are published on the Yukon Water Board's Waterline website.

Security

- The Government of Yukon now holds \$103.7 million in financial security for the Eagle Gold mine.
- Energy, Mines and Resources revised the required security determination based on the most recent update to the Reclamation and Closure Plan. The new total security of \$103.7 million was furnished on February 28, 2024.
- The Government of Yukon has provided the company with guidance terms and conditions for future surety bonds and has also required the company to provide a

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Spring 2024

Victoria Gold/Eagle Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and Resources

Project Execution Plan to support the implementation of their reclamation and closure plan.

- Energy, Mines and Resources and the Yukon Water Board are conducting a second pilot project to review the 2022 Reclamation and Closure Plan and Security costing for the Eagle Gold Mine. The pilot project's current phase is for the Government of Yukon and Yukon Water Board to enter separate security determination processes.
- A security determination by the Yukon Water Board has not yet been made. Public commenting on the application began in February and the Yukon Water Board will consider comments received and issue a decision after that process.
- In June 2022, the Yukon Water Board issued a final security determination (based on the 2020 Reclamation and Closure Plan) for \$104.9 million to be furnished no later than September 15, 2022. On August 1, 2022, Victoria Gold sought leave to appeal the Yukon Water Board's decision on security to the Yukon Supreme Court.
- Victoria Gold was granted a stay by the Yukon Supreme Court and is not required to furnish the remaining Yukon Water Board security until 30 days after a decision on the appeal. The Court recently noted that the appeal would be heard in April 2024.

Turkey mine

- On February 13, 2024, a failure of the heap leach pad at the Çöpler mine dislodged 10 million cubic meters of earth across a 200-meter high slope. Nine mine workers remain unaccounted for.
- The Çöpler mine is an open pit gold mine approximately 550 km east of Ankara. It uses a heap leach process to recover gold.
- The key differences between the Çöpler mine and the Eagle mine are:
 - Heap leach location: the heap leach at Çöpler was constructed on the top of an exposed ridge, directly above an open pit. The heap leach at Eagle is contained in a valley, behind a dam engineered, constructed and operated to Canadian Dam Standards.

Session Briefing Note
Victoria Gold/Eagle Gold Mine

- Nature of the ore: the material at Çöpler has a very high fines and clay content, making control of saturation and percolation rates much more challenging.
- Saturation: the heap leach at Eagle is operated at much lower saturation levels than the heap at Çöpler. Consequently, there is much less moisture retained in the heap at Eagle.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

March 7, 2024

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note
Minto Mine****Spring 2024**
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are moving forward quickly with work to reclaim and close the Minto Mine site, in close collaboration with Selkirk First Nation.
- We are cooperating with the Receiver, PricewaterhouseCoopers, in its efforts to find a buyer for the site. The Receiver is working with one potential buyer and an anticipated completion date in early April.
- If the sales process is not successful, the Receiver will move to liquidating assets.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon spent approximately \$24 million in 2023/24 to protect the environment and begin remediating the site.
- In 2024/25, we anticipate spending up to an additional \$21.5 million as we move to reclaim and close the site. This will be recovered from the security we currently hold.
- Our initial estimates suggest that the costs for reclamation and closure of the mine are likely to be close to the \$93.2 million in financial security we sought from the mine operator. These estimates will be updated as work progresses.
- We are using a range of approaches to ensure work progresses effectively and efficiently, including open tenders where possible and direct award contracts where work must be delivered in shorter timeframes.

Session Briefing Note

Minto Mine

#3
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There has been significant attention on the recent abandonment of the Minto Mine.

Background:

- The Minto Mine was an underground copper mine with gold and silver byproducts located on Selkirk First Nation's Category A Settlement Land.
- On May 13, 2023, Minto Metals abandoned the site and the Government of Yukon took over short-term environmental management responsibilities.
- The Government of Yukon contracted JDS to immediately mobilize the site under a short-term contract to secure critical resources and subcontractors and initiate required activities. This contract ended on July 27, 2023, when Boreal Engineering took over as the site operator.
- On July 24, 2023, the B.C. Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the receiver of the Minto Mine site. The receiver is responsible for all of Minto's assets, undertakings and property, and has the authority, among other things, to put the mine up for sale.
- As Minto Mine is on Category A Settlement Land, Selkirk First Nation holds surface and subsurface rights and the Government of Yukon collected royalty payments on behalf of Selkirk First Nation under the Quartz Mining Act.
- Through a court Settlement Order, royalties owed to Selkirk First Nation were resolved by a payment of \$1.3 million USD and the retention of \$700,000 CAD previously paid to Selkirk directly by Minto Metals Corporation.
- Selkirk First Nation also received additional financial benefits under its net smelter royalty arrangement with Minto Mine's owner, Minto Metals Corp. There are still monies owed to Selkirk First Nation from this arrangement.
- Once the site went into receivership, former employees became able to access the federal government's Wage Earner Protection Program.

**Session Briefing Note
Minto Mine****Spring 2024**
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Government of Yukon holds \$75.2 million in security through a combination of cash and a surety bond for the Minto mine, and we are using this funding to protect the environment and for remediation activities.
- Contracts to support this work include:
 - JDS Energy and Mining for interim water management – \$6.87 million (contract over)
 - Ensero Solutions for water monitoring – \$1.26 million
 - BQE Water for water treatment - \$1.94 million
 - Boreal Engineering Ltd. for site maintenance and underground remediation - \$11.6 million

Approved by:

Signature on file

March 6, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Firearms – Federal Changes and Buyback Program

Spring 2024

Justice

Recommended response:

- The federal government's Bill C-21 amends several acts with changes focusing on organized crime, supporting violence prevention programs for youth, taking measures to combat gun-related domestic violence and preventing self-harm.
- Canadians are concerned about gun violence and the Government of Canada has reaffirmed its commitment to protect Canadians by making communities safer for everyone.
- The Government of Yukon supports the rights of legal gun owners in the territory, while also supporting an approach to gun control that helps protect public safety.

Additional response:

- While we have yet to hear Canada's final plans related to the Buyback Program, our government will be closely monitoring this program's rollout to ensure that implementation does not adversely impact frontline policing.
- We have made it clear that the Government of Canada will need to ensure that federal resources are provided to administer the Buyback Program.
- We are also aware that Public Safety Canada is reviewing the firearms officer program, which supports firearm safety in the territory. We are open to discussing with Canada the benefits this may have for Yukoners, including the possibility of having a Chief Firearms Officer located in the territory. Officials from the Department of Justice have met with Canada to discuss the program and we look forward to hearing about possible next steps later this year.

Session Briefing Note

Firearms – Federal Changes and Buyback Program

Spring 2024

Justice

Context:

- Bill C-21 and the Government of Yukon's position on it have been the focus of frequent questions that are rooted in concerns about potential impacts to law-abiding firearms owners in the Yukon.
- While most provisions in Bill C-21 have not been contentious, concerns heard in the Yukon relate to the Buyback Program and the impacts on hunters. Canada has not announced a final plan for the buyback rollout. The amnesty period for newly banned firearms has been extended to October 30, 2025.
- Canada is engaging Yukoners about potential changes to improve the delivery of firearms safety licensing and programming in the territories, including the potential creation of a Chief Firearms Officer program to oversee territorial safety training and licensing. This federally led engagement may create expectations that Yukoners will be able to provide input on issues that are outside its scope, such as the planned Buyback Program.
- The Yukon has the highest per capita number of prohibited and restricted firearms licenses in Canada. Lawful firearm owners in the territory include hunters, trappers and people performing remote wilderness work.

Background:

- On February 16, 2021, the federal government introduced Bill C-21. The Bill contains amendments to the *Criminal Code* and the *Firearms Act*, including new “red flag” and “yellow flag” laws to allow people to apply to a court for the removal of someone's firearm if there is concern for personal safety, such as domestic violence or mental health issues.
- Bill C-21 also aims to bolster border and law enforcement capacity, reduce the number of firearms in circulation, stop crime before it starts, address root causes of violence and provide resources to help combat domestic violence involving firearms.
- Changes introduced by Bill C-21 include measures to combat gun-related organized crime, provisions allowing municipalities to ban handguns through bylaws, violence prevention programming, stronger border controls for firearm offences, stricter criminal penalties and other technical amendments.

Session Briefing Note

Firearms – Federal Changes and Buyback Program

Spring 2024

Justice

- On January 19, 2023, the Yukon's Member of Parliament (MP) Brendan Hanley and then federal Minister of Public Safety Marco Mendicino hosted a roundtable in the Yukon to discuss Bill C-21 and proposed amendments which have since been withdrawn.
- Discussions at the roundtable included concerns that Bill C-21 could put lives of Indigenous hunters at risk in the Yukon by restricting certain types of firearms.
- Unlike single-shot or repeating firearms that require shooters to manually reload or re-cock the firearm before firing again, semi-automatic rifles automatically advance a new cartridge after each shot. Semi-automatics only fire once per trigger pull.
- Semi-automatic rifles are effective as a humane method to quickly dispatch animals, and as defense against polar bears, grizzly bears and wolves.
- Hunters encountering aggressive bears and wolves use their firearms to scare away dangerous animals and often do not have time to reload their firearms.
- On January 20, 2023, Premier Ranj Pillai issued a statement on Bill C-21 that supported MP Hanley's efforts to advocate for the interests of Yukoners, and his stance that the Yukon did not support Bill C-21 in the form presented for discussion.
- On May 1, 2023, the Government of Canada introduced revised proposed amendments to Bill C-21. The proposed amendments align with recommendations put forward in the March 2023 Final Report of the Mass Casualty Commission.
- The Bill passed third reading in the House of Commons on May 18, 2023, and its second reading in the Senate on June 21, 2023. It received royal assent on December 15, 2023.

Chief Firearms Officer

- In December 2023, federal Minister of Public Safety Dominic LeBlanc sent a letter to Premier Pillai indicating that he was interested in appointing a Chief Firearms Officer for the Yukon. BC currently provides this service to the Yukon.
- A Chief Firearms Officer is responsible for the administration of the *Firearms Act* in their region of jurisdiction. This includes support for required safety training and licensing.

Session Briefing Note

Firearms – Federal Changes and Buyback Program

Spring 2024Justice

- The Department of Justice is in discussions with officials from Public Safety Canada to understand the benefits of this role to the territory and under what circumstances the position would be appointed.
- Department officials met with the Government of Canada in Whitehorse on February 29, 2024, and both governments discussed the following.
 - The focus of the review is on examining improvements on education; increasing gender- and youth- specific, as well as culturally relevant, programming; improving accessibility of training courses; and general firearms safety awareness.
 - The program could be more effective if there were stronger coordination, where appropriate, between the federally appointed firearms officer(s) and the local “M” Division and Department of Justice.
 - The program would need to be tailored to the unique needs of the North for it to be effective for the Yukon, and will need to consider support for online as well as paper applications in remote communities.
- The Government of Canada will consider improvements to their program based on input from engagement in the three territories, and the Department of Justice expects further discussions after their engagement has concluded.

Buyback Program

- In 2022, the Government of Canada banned more than 1,500 models and variants of assault-style firearms. The federal government is finalizing a Buyback Program to safely remove the now prohibited firearms from communities.
- According to the 2020 Commissioner of Firearms Report, the total number of individual firearms licenses in the Yukon was 8,056 in 2020. Of those, 2,050 licenses were for restricted firearms and 143 were for prohibited firearms.
- The firearms ban includes an amnesty period followed by a mandatory Buyback Program for the newly banned models.
- The amnesty period has been extended to October 30, 2025, to ensure affected firearm owners and businesses continue to be protected from criminal liability for unlawful possession while they come into compliance with the law.

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Firearms – Federal Changes and Buyback Program

Spring 2024

Justice

- The Buyback Program involves two phases: Phase 1- Buyback for Businesses and Industry; and Phase 2- Buyback for Individual Firearm Owners.
- The Buyback Program is currently in phase 1. Businesses must ensure that now-prohibited firearms are stored per their classification. Firearms must:
 - be made inoperable by means of a secure locking device (e.g., a trigger lock);
 - be in a locked display case or cabinet; and
 - not be displayed in a window.
- The buyback process is expected to involve four steps: notification; collection; transportation and storage; and destruction.
- Firearm owners will need to confirm intent to participate, disposal choice and the compensation amount for assault-style firearms using a Buyback Portal.
- Program design for the Firearms Buyback Program is underway, including the development of a computer-aided processing system.
- The mandatory buyback component is a departure from past Canadian firearm regulation changes, in which *grandfather clauses* allowed firearms owners to keep previously legal firearms already in their possession.
- Once the Buyback Program is completed, the Government of Canada will create a report on the firearms collected, processed, destroyed and what payments were issued.
- In keeping with its core policing mandate, the RCMP will be the agency responsible for leading the collection of these assault-style firearms in the Yukon. Yukon's position is that all RCMP resources supporting the delivery of this program must be funded exclusively by the federal government.

Privately made firearms:

- The Government of Yukon strongly supports measures to counter the manufacturing and use of privately made firearms (commonly known as *ghost guns*).
- Privately made firearms are printed using a 3D printer and gun blueprints, which can be downloaded online and assembled within hours at a low cost. The receiver portion of the firearm can be printed and will not have a serial number, and the remaining firearm parts can be purchased at gun stores or online without a firearms license.

Session Briefing Note

Firearms – Federal Changes and Buyback Program

Spring 2024

Justice

- The Government of Yukon is currently doing its due diligence by:
 - researching the social, political and criminal aspects of ghost guns;
 - keeping up to date on media and social media discussions of these guns;
 - keeping up to date with federal/provincial/territorial colleagues; and
 - following world and domestic news about illegal firearms.

Statistics:

- The rate of violent *Criminal Code* firearm offences has increased in Canada for the eighth consecutive year (rising four per cent in 2022), while non-violent firearm offences remain stable.
- Of the 342 firearm-related homicides in 2022, 63 per cent were committed with a handgun, and 23 per cent were committed with a rifle or shotgun. In the remaining 14 per cent of cases, the firearm type was unknown or of another type.

Approved by:

Signature on file
Deputy Minister, Justice

March 5, 2024
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Nisutlin Bay Bridge**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: General

- The Nisutlin Bay Bridge is a critical link along the Alaska Highway and is an important landmark for Teslin.
- The bridge is nearing the end of its life and requires replacement.
- In spring 2019, the Government of Yukon and the Teslin Tlingit Council signed a project charter to work together to design and build a reliable structure that accommodates more traffic, while also improving access for pedestrians and cyclists.
- This project provides a significant positive economic outcome for the territory, local businesses, and the community of Teslin.
- The existing bridge will be replaced by constructing a new bridge, which will span 483 metres across the Nisutlin Bay, and have a scheduled service life of 100 years.

Additional response: Work Inspections - Quality Control and Quality Assurance

- As with any large infrastructure project, frequent inspections are a regular part of construction monitoring.
- Throughout the project, the Contractor is responsible for developing and following an approved Quality Control plan.
- The Government of Yukon has a fulltime team of onsite technicians and engineers who are based in Teslin to provide Quality Assurance, which means checking quality control.
- Inspections are happening at every step of the project and as defects or non-conformances are found they are rectified following an

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Public Works

approved protocol to ensure compliance with the project specifications.

- It is also important to note that repairs during the work are a normal part of large construction projects.
- When defects are discovered the Contractor, Government of Yukon and consultants work collaboratively to find an effective solution to ensure the quality of work.
- So far, 2000 cubic metres of concrete have been successfully poured.
- To visualize, this is equivalent to approximately the amount of concrete from 182 concrete mixer trucks.

Additional response: Project Schedule

- The contract was awarded on May 3, 2022, to Graham Infrastructure LP.
- Project work began in the summer of 2022 and is now heading into its third year of construction.
- The contractor continues to adapt the work program to respond to construction needs as they arise. During the mild winter weather, the contractor was able to continue working and has been focused on completing the project to meet their scheduled timelines.
- The substantial completion date is November 5, 2025, and the total completion date is April 6, 2026.

Additional response: Contractor's 2024 Work Plan

- To date, the contractor has completed both abutments for the new bridge, as well as three of the six piers.

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Public Works

- Work is ongoing on the next pier and on the temporary bridge, of which 80 per cent has been installed. Piling works on the last pier will start in April.
- Steel girders for the new bridge have been fabricated, and deliveries for the precast panels for the deck are ongoing.
- Granular pit development and rock production near Teslin and environmental measures such as hydroacoustic monitoring, fish salvage and water sampling are ongoing.
- During the upcoming construction season, the contractor plans to have the temporary bridge and all piers for the new bridge completed, steel girders and precast panels installed and both new fish habitat areas created.

Additional response: Project Cost

- The construction contract with Graham Infrastructure LP was awarded for \$159.96 million. The contract is now valued at \$183.8 million.
- Infrastructure Canada will contribute \$41.25 million through the *Building Canada Fund* and Transport Canada will contribute \$52.5 million through the *National Trade Corridors Fund*.
- The Five-Year Capital Plan indicates that approximate spending in 2023-24 is \$40 to \$45 million, for fiscal year 2024-25 it is \$45 to \$50 million, and for fiscal year 2025-26 it is \$25 to \$30 million. These numbers are subject to change as the work progresses.

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Public Works

Additional response: Fisheries Act Authorization Change Order

- Change orders, both large and small, are a regular part of contract management.
- To date there has only been one change in the contract value resulting from a change order.
- This change order stemmed from unexpected and restrictive terms and conditions in the *Fisheries Act Authorization* and Water Licence required for the project.
- When the Nisutlin Bay Bridge project was tendered, there was no reason to expect any significant deviation from similar, previous *Fisheries Act* authorizations from the regulator, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- The department planned according to the historical trend of stable and consistent terms and conditions in other *Fisheries Act* authorizations and water licences received from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Yukon's Water Board.
- However, in this case, the Government of Yukon received a *Fisheries Act* authorization in October 2022 that had new, restrictive limits to cumulative noise impacts on fish beyond what was expected and a Water Licence with additional scope.
- Working together, the Government of Yukon, Teslin Tlingit Council and Graham Infrastructure LP applied to amend both the Water License and the authorization to ensure the project could move forward.

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Public Works

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- The variance to the Fisheries Act Authorization was received in March 2023, at which point negotiations began between the Government of Yukon and Graham Infrastructure LP about a new schedule and work plan reflective of the authorization and ensuing additional work.
 - The additional work required by the terms and conditions of the FAA and Water License included:
 - increased water sampling requirements;
 - additional hydroacoustic monitoring;
 - design and management of bubble curtains – used to manage underwater noise;
 - additional fish salvage in isolated areas;
 - third party environmental monitoring;
 - a salmon sonar enumeration project to monitor salmon migration through the work area;
 - a fish movement research project to monitor impact of the construction work and change in habitat on the aquatic life in the Bay; and,
 - Resequencing the contractor's works schedule, as certain activities could only be authorized during a certain time of year to not disrupt fish migration and spawning.
 - The amended FAA resulted in a change order that increased the construction contract by \$23.89 million to a total of \$183.8 million to accommodate for additional work and services required. It also

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compensated the contractor for a delay in construction commencement and a 6-day extension to complete the project.

- With creative adaptations designed by the contractor, the Yukon government, and Teslin Tlingit Council to ensure the requirements of the *Fisheries Act* Authorization and Water Licence are met, all remain committed to delivering the construction of a new Nisutlin Bay Bridge.

Additional response: Fisheries Act Authorization and Water Licence Timeline

- The Water Licence for the project was issued on August 31, 2022.
- The *Fisheries Act* Authorization was issued on October 17, 2022.
- We received the amendment to the Water License on February 24, 2023, and a variance to the authorization on March 8, 2023.
- Due to the collaborative work undertaken by the contractor, YG and TTC to address the unforeseen restrictions of the FAA and Water Licence, the project is progressing well, and 88 piles have been installed in compliance with the *Fisheries Act* Authorization and Water Licence.

Additional response: Environmental Protection

- From the outset, environmental protection has been a major component of the project.
- Prior to construction commencing, Transfer Payment Agreements were signed with the Teslin Tlingit Council to undertake Environmental Baseline Studies in the area.

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Public Works

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- Under the project's *Fisheries Act* Authorization, we are required to establish a sonar enumeration project to make sure that the construction work is not negatively impacting fish populations or migrations.
 - A Transfer Payment Agreement was signed with Teslin Tlingit Council that provides funding to support this sonar project, which will last until the Nisutlin Bay Bridge replacement project is finished.
 - The project helps researchers with Teslin Tlingit Council count Chinook salmon passing through the Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area.
 - This important natural area is along the migration route for Chinook salmon returning to the Nisutlin and Wolf rivers and their tributaries.
 - The sonar covers a relatively narrow and shallow section of river. Like a police officer measuring cars' speed with a radar gun, the sonar "pings" various objects, in this case salmon, as they go by the sonar. The result is translated into a daily count of the salmon.
 - This work is essential to monitoring salmon migration numbers and making sure the fish reach their spawning grounds while a new bridge is being built in Nisutlin Bay.
 - Beyond the requirements set out in the regulatory approvals for fish habitat, the contractor is required to perform their construction activities to a high degree of environmental protection and reporting.
 - The contractor and the Yukon government meet weekly to discuss any environmental issues on the project, where underwater noise,

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2024

Nisutlin Bay Bridge

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Public Works

water quality or spill reports are addressed, and mitigations are confirmed.

- Environmental site inspections with the contractor, the Yukon government and environmental consultants are also conducted weekly to provide a high degree of environmental oversight.
- In addition, the Yukon government has retained an environmental consultant based onsite to monitor construction activities.
- An Environmental Technical Working Group meets every two weeks, composed of representatives from Teslin Tlingit Council, the Yukon government and the contractor to review plans in advance of work commencing.
- Through this working group, we are able to address many environmental concerns of Teslin Tlingit Council and the community before they arise during construction.

Additional response: First Nations Participation Commitments

- Both Teslin Tlingit Citizens and Yukon First Nations participation hours are tracked throughout the project.
- They are submitted monthly by Graham Infrastructure LP to the Government of Yukon.
- There is a target \$3.7 million in employment opportunities available for First Nations Citizens on the project. As of March 2024, 64.9 per cent of that target has been met.

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Public Works

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- As part of the monthly progress claim submission process the contractor also provides a summary of the progress on the BVR commitments.
 - This summary includes the subcontract values and subcontract payments to date.
 - All progress claims are accompanied by a statutory declaration.
 - The Department of Highways and Public Works reviews the monthly submissions to confirm the contractor is making best efforts to meet their commitments.
 - Beyond the commitments made by the contractor for employment and training for First Nation Citizens, and the Bid Value Reductions received to hire Yukon First Nation Businesses, the Government of Yukon has provided a number of benefits to the Teslin Tlingit Council by way of Transfer Payment Agreements to enable their participation in this project. Examples of these include:
 - funding for project planning and implementation support;
 - environmental and socio-economic baseline studies;
 - aquatic and terrestrial baseline studies;
 - cultural infrastructure support;
 - a community liaison position;
 - funding to develop a Teslin resource inventory and source list;
 - the salmon sonar project; and
 - workforce development.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Nisutlin Bay Bridge**Highways and
Public Works

- There are further planned Transfer Payment Agreements with Teslin Tlingit Council as the project continues.
- Teslin Tlingit Council also received funding from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to assist with the removal of vegetation from the gravel pits developed for the project.

Additional response: First Nation and Community Engagement

- Highways and Public Works continues to work collaboratively with the Teslin Tlingit Council and engage with the Village of Teslin, the public and specific stakeholders on this project as it moves forward.
- The project team meets with Teslin Tlingit Council monthly to discuss the project and troubleshoot challenges together.
- As well, the Government of Yukon, Teslin Tlingit Council and the primary contractor meet on a monthly basis to review the project and discuss potential community issues and solutions.
- The department is currently planning to hold an open house in Teslin in early summer to update the community on the progress of the project.

Additional response: Benefits for Local Businesses (Sub-contracting)

- As per the terms of the construction contract, the contractor, Graham infrastructure LP, is responsible for the hiring of sub-contractors for the project. The Government of Yukon does not direct the contractor, Graham Infrastructure LP, on any sub-contracting opportunities.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Nisutlin Bay Bridge**Highways and
Public Works

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- Sub-contractors perform work including electrical, logistics, earthworks, quarry development, materials procurement, and environmental monitoring.
 - There are several Teslin businesses and other Yukon businesses that are working as sub-contractors on the project.
 - A list of sub-contractors exists for the life of the project, and the contractor can hire from this list at any time. They can also add to this list if the need arises.
 - If there are subcontractors working on the project who have concerns about their contract with the General Contractor, I encourage them to reach out to the Procurement Support Centre to see what their options are.

Additional response: Granular Material

- This project will use over 100,000 cubic metres of aggregate for the various components.
- Almost all of the granular material for roadwork is locally sourced.
- However, the Nisutlin Bay Bridge Project will require approximately 2,400 m³ of coarse aggregate for the cast-in-place concrete being used.
- This small amount of coarse aggregate for concrete work is coming from Whitehorse.
- The aggregate being used in the concrete has specific requirements to ensure the structural integrity of the bridge.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Nisutlin Bay Bridge**Highways and
Public Works

- There are very limited sources of aggregate in the Yukon that meet these requirements, which is why aggregate from the Whitehorse area will be used for this specific portion of the project, which equates to less than 2.5 per cent of the aggregate needed.

Additional response: Granular Material at Ten Mile Pit (km 1258)

- A granular pit located at kilometer 1258 of the Alaska Highway, near Teslin, also called Ten Mile Pit, was developed to supply the project with granular-E material as described in the construction contract.
- However, after further testing, it was decided that granular sources for the project, including granular-E, will be sourced from the gravel pits located at kilometre 1184 and kilometre 1238.
- The granular resources from Ten Mile Pit will be used by the Government of Yukon for other projects or construction activities in the surrounding area.
- 50 per cent of the Ten Mile Pit area is shared with the Teslin Tlingit Council. The First Nation manages the development of their half of the Ten Mile Pit.

Additional response: Community Wellness

- The contractor has staffed a community wellness team that includes a liaison for their workers to contact, and a separate liaison for community members to contact, with any health and wellness issues pertaining to the project they may have.
- The contractor has developed policies for all staff regarding drugs and alcohol, and a respectful workplace including equity and inclusion and diversity.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Nisutlin Bay Bridge**Highways and
Public Works

-
- The Community Wellbeing Working Group, with representatives from Teslin Tlingit Council and the Government of Yukon will meet regularly to work through issues of wellbeing that might be arising for Teslin Tlingit citizens, and community members in general, from the project.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Nisutlin Bay Bridge is a landmark feature in Teslin and a key part of the Alaska Highway transportation infrastructure.
-

Background:**Existing Nisutlin Bay Bridge**

- The existing bridge crosses the Nisutlin Bay at kilometre 1,243 on the Alaska Highway and was constructed in 1953 by the Department of National Defence.
- The current bridge is the longest on the Alaska Highway within the Yukon Territory, spanning 584 metres.
- Maintenance costs of the existing bridge are between \$0.5 to \$1 million per year.

Historic Public Engagement

- In early 2020, we engaged with residents and business owners of Teslin, the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Village of Teslin to discuss potential options for the bridge.
- In January 2021, we hosted an open house in Teslin to present the design of the bridge to the community.
- In August 2021, during Teslin Tlingit Council's Annual General Assembly, Highways and Public Works had an information booth for citizens to learn more about the project.

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Nisutlin Bay Bridge

Highways and
Public Works

- In October 2021, another open house was held in Teslin to provide a project update and introduce the community to the two contractors so they could learn of potential employment opportunities.
- A ground-breaking celebration was held on October 21, 2022, with Teslin Tlingit Council, Village of Teslin, the contractor and officials from the Department of Highways and Public Works.

Approved by:	
Signature on file	April 8, 2024
Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works	Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note
Outfitting in the Yukon****ENV #2
Spring 2024
Environment**

Recommended response:

- Our government continues to work with the Yukon Outfitters Association to support the industry while ensuring the sustainability of Yukon wildlife.
- Despite the setbacks of the COVID years, Yukon's outfitting industry has performed strongly in recent years. The seven highest annual number of licences sold to non-residents occurred over the past 10 years.
- The Department of Environment reports annuals in the Yukon Hunting regulations summary the annual harvest of big game species by resident and non-resident hunters. Sheep, moose and caribou remain the most popular non-resident harvested big game species.
- When making decisions on the allocation of hunting opportunities, we prioritize the allocation of subsistence harvest as per the First Nation Final Agreements. The remainder of the harvest opportunity is then divided between resident Yukon hunters and outfitter clients.
- The principles of sustainability and conservation guides the departments management of all wildlife species.
- We recognize that there continues to be several outstanding issues of concern, and we are committed to resolving them collaboratively with the outfitting industry.
- To improve support for the outfitting community, the Department of Environment hired an Outfitter Liaison Officer in May of 2023.
- The Outfitter Liaison Officer and Wildlife Harvest Biologist meet frequently with Yukon outfitters and the Yukon Outfitter Association to answer questions, address specific issues of concern, and identify potential solutions. This includes questions about the quota system,

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Environment

individual quotas and other conditions of licence, appeal process, harvest information, general information to new outfitters, wildlife population information, etc.

Additional Response (Review of the Outfitter Quota Guidelines):

- Last year, the Department of Environment received recommendations from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to modernize the Yukon Outfitter Quota Guidelines.
- We agree that modernization of these guidelines is necessary for various reasons, including ensuring they conform with the Yukon *Wildlife Act*, addressing the Yukon's legal obligations to consult First Nations, and ensuring better alignment with how wildlife management is conducted in the Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon invited the Board to initiate the review and engagement on the Yukon Outfitter Quota Guidelines, given its mandate to make recommendations on all matters related to Yukon fish and wildlife management, legislation, research, policies, and programs.
- We are supporting the Board with their development of a work plan and budget for a potential review and engagement on the guidelines, which will enable the Board to evaluate their capacity and resource needs, and to determine if it is practicable to undertake this effort at this time.

Third Response: (Multi-Year Quotas):

- We recognize the certainty and flexibility that multi-year quotas provide to Yukon outfitters. However, multi-year and over quotas do not comply with the *Wildlife Act*.

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Environment**

- The Department of Environment has implemented an interim solution to provide outfitters with certainty, flexibility, and predictability.
- This interim process states that unless a legal, environmental, or socio-economic factor necessitates a change in the non-resident harvest allocation, quotas will remain unchanged until we have a new process in place to establish quotas.
- The interim process also allows outfitters who had quota agreements before 2022 to access unused moose and caribou quotas from the previous four years, up to a maximum value, as per their most recent agreement.
- We remain committed to working with the outfitting industry, Renewable Resources Councils, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, licensed hunters, and Yukon First Nations to ensure that a fair, transparent, and sustainable approach to harvest is applied.

Fourth Response (Outfitter Quota Appeals):

- In 2021, the Department of Environment was made aware that multi-year quotas and roll-over provisions do not comply with the *Wildlife Act*. As a result, the Department worked with outfitters to place them on annual quotas. Starting in 2022, quotas are established annually.
- Given the changes made to the quota process and the fact that some outfitters were assigned quotas for the first time, the Outfitter Quota Appeal Committee and the Concession and Compensation Review Board received an unprecedented number of appeals in 2022 and 2023.
- Our government responded to all timelines and information requests from the Secretariat coordinating the appeal hearings, but the number of appeals created significant delays in the appeal processes.



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- In 2023, five outfitters submitted appeals to the Outfitter Quota Appeal Committee. Two of the five also submitted similar appeals to the Concession and Compensation Review Board. These appeals are active and are now following the appropriate procedures.
- The Concession and Compensation Review Board hearings occurred on December 4, 2023, and the board’s formal reports from these hearings are pending.
- No Outfitter Quota Appeal Committee hearings have been scheduled.
- These are complex matters, and we are allowing the active appeals to work through the process before any decisions or changes are made.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Ongoing questions have been raised in the Legislative Assembly and in the media regarding outfitter guidelines, outfitter harvest quotas, and the quota appeal process.

Background:

- In 2022, 11 appeals were submitted; nine outfitters submitted appeals to the Outfitter Quota Appeal Committee. Two of the nine also submitted similar appeals to the Concession and Compensation Review Board.
- Seven of the 11 appeals from 2022 did not go to hearing: three were withdrawn by the appealing outfitters and four were cancelled by the Outfitter Quota Appeal Committee for various reasons.
- The Department of Environment meets frequently with the Yukon Outfitter Association and Yukon outfitters. In 2023, the Yukon Outfitter Liaison Committee met twice to discuss issues important to the industry. The department’s Outfitter Liaison Officer and Wildlife Harvest Biologist also meet regularly with Yukon outfitters.

Approved by:

Signature on file	March 19, 2024
Deputy Minister of Environment	Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Skagway Port Redevelopment Project**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is negotiating for secure tidewater access in the Port of Skagway for the Yukon mining industry.
- Our objective is to secure waterfront space to ensure that Skagway remains an export option for Yukon industry in the future:
 - Maintaining an ore export option in Yukon's nearest deep water port supports mine development, mineral exploration, and investment in the Yukon; and
 - Yukon and Skagway both benefit from a port that supports both tourism and industrial use. We are seeking a solution that works for industry and the community of Skagway.
- Yukon is proposing that Yukon and Skagway collaborate to build a marine services platform to enable ore export.
 - The platform would be a 227-foot, T-shaped, fixed concrete dock. It would be able to support multiple ore loading methods, as well as loading and unloading of other heavy goods.
- Skagway launched a port redevelopment project that eliminated its ore export capability in fall 2023.
- Yukon has funded the design for the platform, totaling \$739,266.
- The Department considered bundling Skagway's port development process with the marine services platform. This option would have required that a binding agreement be finalized in fall 2023.
- A non-binding terms sheet was signed on September 7, 2023.
- Negotiations toward the binding agreement have not yet concluded.

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Project**Economic
Development

- We are working towards finalizing the Export Cooperation Agreement, under which Yukon would fund the construction of a marine services platform in exchange for preferential access and fee discounts for Yukon mining companies using a future ore terminal.

Additional response:

- We respect the priorities and responsibilities of the Municipality of Skagway as they plan for the future of the ore peninsula post-2023, including the need to modernize the port for cruise ship traffic.
- We believe that we are working toward a solution that will secure long-term tidewater access for Yukon's industry and work for the community of Skagway.

If asked about the \$21M appropriation in supplementary estimates #1:

- As we indicated during the supplementary estimate process, the appropriation was based on an estimate for a possible pathway under which Yukon's proposed marine services platform would be bundled with Skagway's main redevelopment project.
- That pathway would have incurred significant mobilization and procurement costs in 2023-24 and would have required that a final binding agreement be completed in winter 2023-24.
- No funding was to be expended without that legally binding agreement with Skagway.
- As negotiations towards a binding agreement are ongoing, and were not finalized by fall 2023, the appropriation could not be spent.
- Yukon and Skagway are working together to determine the best pathway forward for the project, and negotiations are continuing as we work to reach a binding agreement.

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Skagway Port Redevelopment
ProjectEconomic
Development**If asked why the Marine Services Platform isn't in the 2024-25 capital plan:**

- While the Skagway Marine Services Platform is not specifically highlighted in the 2024-25 Five-Year Capital Plan document, \$44.7 million in funding is included in the fiscal plan and in the Capital Plan in 2025-26 through 2027-28.
- The funding for this project is included within the Real property and asset management category in the Capital Plan, in the table titled "Total planned capital spending by investment category" on page 8.
- That this project funding being reprofiled into future years was also highlighted in this year's Budget Address.

If asked about economic rationale for the initiative:

- Mining remains an important part of Yukon's economy. In 2021, it constituted 13.9% of GDP and provided significant indirect benefits to other sectors. In 2020, for example, 5.1% of the gross revenue of Yukon's retail sector was attributable to mining.
- Reliable access to Skagway's port helps attract investment, supports mine development and encourages mineral exploration in the Yukon.
- **Mine Development.** The nearest alternative export option to Skagway is Stewart, BC. For many potential mine projects in the Yukon, this would greatly increase trucking costs and directly impacts mine viability.
 - For Minto, shipping to Stewart instead of Skagway would have increased its trucking expenses by roughly 327%.
- The lack of an export option in Skagway would have a similar impact on the proposed Casino project given its location. This would directly affect the project's viability.

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- Were Casino unable to be developed due to the lack of an export option, Yukon could lose out on significant benefits. The estimated nominal impact on Yukon's economy of a single year of construction for Casino is:
 - Average annual spending on construction of \$723.5 million;
 - Total (direct, indirect and induced) GDP impact would be \$455 million; and
 - The total (direct, indirect and induced) jobs impact would be 3,316 jobs for that year.
 - **Investment and Exploration.** The lack of a secure export option in Skagway could make our jurisdiction less attractive and make it more difficult for junior companies to market their projects.
 - This could have a significant impact on the sector's contribution to the economy:
 - Exploration spending makes up a significant part of total mining activity in Yukon. In 2020, exploration spending was at \$75.8 million and in 2021, it totaled \$113 million.
 - For 2018-22, mineral exploration and development appraisal expenditures have averaged \$154.2 million annually in the Yukon.
 - This represents a total (direct, indirect and induced) GDP impact of \$128 million and 893 jobs.
 - **Critical Minerals.** Yukon benefits from a wealth of critical mineral resources. Losing secure tidewater access could directly impact our ability to contribute to the national critical minerals strategy or to develop our own.

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Development

- Yukon has known occurrences of 25 of the 31 critical minerals on Canada's critical minerals list, including known primary deposits of copper, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, tin, nickel and platinum group elements.
- These minerals are essential for the green and digital economy, and support key technologies like clean energy zero emission vehicles, and advanced manufacturing.
- Yukon's ability to contribute to this generational transition will depend on us developing our contribution, mining, to become integrated upstream in the national value chain for critical minerals.

If asked about ore loading methods:

- The selection of loading method depends on both acceptability in Skagway and industry needs. To maximize flexibility, this is best determined by future conversations between Skagway and specific users.
- On October 5, 2023, the Municipality of Skagway passed an ordinance mandating that any ore shipped out of Skagway must be transported in sealed containers and loaded using a containerized bulk-ore handling system.
- Our work aims at creating a footprint that can support and enables whatever ore loading method best meets stakeholder interest.

Industry Engagement:

- We have regularly engaged industry throughout the process, and have repeatedly been informed by stakeholders that they view access to the port as critical to the future of Yukon's mining industry.

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Project**Economic
Development

- Economic Development has met regularly with the Joint Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (JTIC), which represents Chambers and mining companies' interests, to provide updates and seek input on platform design.
- Since February 2023, we held the following meetings with JTIC:
 - Feb 7, 2023 - a briefing was provided to the Joint Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (JTIC) on the 60% design.
 - March 1, 2023 - a follow up meeting took place to answer industry questions.
 - April 12, 2023 - a scheduled briefing to JTIC with a commitment to move to quarterly meetings.
 - September 22, 2023 - a presentation to JTIC on Terms Sheet and update on negotiations.
 - October 4, 2023 - a presentation to JTIC on Terms Sheet and update on negotiations.
 - October 23, 2023 - a meeting with JTIC took place to discuss the Term Sheet and MSP design.
 - December 6, 2023 - a meeting with JTIC to update it on the MSP and Yukon Resource Gateway.
 - January 10, 2023 - a meeting with JTIC to update it on the MSP and Yukon Resource Gateway.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Skagway's planned port redevelopment project eliminated its ore export capability in fall 2023. Yukon is negotiating with Skagway to secure replacement infrastructure in the port.

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- The tender and bidding process undertaken by Skagway for its project was public. This includes the bid price and other references to the proposed marine services platform.
- The Fall Session 2023 appropriation of \$21.36 million for the project will lapse. The appropriation would have supported a pathway to bundle the marine services platform with Skagway's main project, but a binding agreement to enable that proposal has not yet been finalized.

Background:

- The Port of Skagway is the closest ice-free, deep-water port to most of the Yukon. Skagway demolished its existing ore loader as part of a port redevelopment project in fall 2023, eliminating its ore export capability.
- The Government of Yukon is negotiating the inclusion of a marine services platform capable of supporting replacement ore loading equipment.
- The marine services platform was included as an additive alternative in the bid documents for Skagway's port development project. This provided a pathway to bundle the platform with Skagway's main redevelopment project. In the Fall Session 2023, the Legislature appropriated \$21.36 million to support this potential pathway to bundle the two projects. This pathway would have required the Export Cooperation Agreement to be finalized in fall 2023.
- A non-binding terms sheet was signed by Yukon and Skagway on September 7, 2023, but the binding Export Cooperation Agreement has not yet been finalized. Consequently, the appropriation will lapse.
- The Department is continuing negotiations toward a final agreement and is working with Skagway to determine the best path forward.

Approved by:

_____ Signature on file	_____ March 20, 2024
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

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

Government priority:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to increasing access to primary health care services, and to working with and supporting our physician partners.

Key messages:

- A healthy and strong community of primary health care providers is critical to ensuring Yukoners have access to excellent primary health care services.
- In 2022, we negotiated a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Yukon Medical Association to help increase Yukoners' access to primary health care services and foster a strong physician community through a series of innovative initiatives that are in effect until March 31, 2025.
 - The Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Medical Association will be preparing for the next round of negotiations on a new MOU in advance of the current MOU's expiry date.
 - We will be seeking to have an MOU that supports the quadruple aims of improving patient experience, improving health outcomes, better managing costs and system effectiveness and better experiences for care providers.
- A primary initiative under the current agreement is the Attachment and Attraction program. The goals of this program are to increase Yukoners' access and attachment to primary and specialty care, while offsetting physicians' operating costs.
- The Department of Health and Social Services completed an evaluation of the first year of the Attachment and Attraction program operations

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Services

and is now working with the Yukon Medical Association to determine how to implement the evaluation recommendations.

- We know that the ways family physicians in the Yukon practice is different than in other jurisdictions.
 - Many family physicians here also provide specialized care such as General Practitioner Oncology, General Practitioner Anesthesia and General Practitioner Obstetrical services. These are services that are critical to supporting Yukoners to access primary, acute and palliative care closer to home.
 - The demand for a variety of health services and the ways in which that care is provided means we still experience challenges in connecting all Yukoners to a primary care provider.
- We have heard concerns about administrative burdens or 'red tape' presenting obstacles for doctors. We are working to ensure our contracts and payment systems are up to date and in line with modern standards.
- In addition, we have provided funding to the Yukon Medical Association to explore the development of a family medicine residency program.
- Addressing the gap in access to primary care providers is a priority for our government and the physician community.
- Both the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Medical Association are actively working together to address this gap through a variety of initiatives.

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Key facts:

- In 2024-25, we budgeted **\$6.5M (\$6,488,000)** to support physician benefit programs, the majority of which are administered by the Yukon Medical Association.
- As part of the Health Human Resource Strategy response, **\$120K (\$120,000)** in funding has been provided to the Yukon Medical Association to continue to support the physician recruiter position and enhance recruitment efforts.
- In 2023, the Yukon was supported by 212 visiting physicians, 132 general practitioners and 80 specialists.
- In 2023, there were 33,830 unique patients seen and 477,733 unique patient encounters at care settings in the Yukon.
- Based on 2019 to 2020 data, the Canadian Institute for Health Information found that approximately 17% of Yukoners did not have access to a primary care provider. This compares to a national average of 14.4%.
 - In 2017 to 2018, approximately 21% of Yukoners did not have access to a family physician.
 - This does not reflect access to primary health care services provided in Northern jurisdictions by Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners with expanded scopes of practice.
- Physician counts according to Scott's Medical Database:
 - Between the 2015 and 2021 calendar years, the Yukon's supply of resident physicians increased by 13.1% and the supply of resident specialists increased by 81.8%.

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Spring 2024

Physicians

Health and Social
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Claims and Billing:

- Ensuring that physicians are paid within an appropriate timeframe is a priority for our government and physician community.
- Physician claims are now being paid under 60 days with the Yukon Medical Association stating this is no longer a matter of concern for its members.
- We have formed a Physician Payment Advisory Committee with the Yukon Medical Association to improve the claims and payment system, as well as respond to concerns with administrative burden.
- Our physician community has also identified concerns with current administrative burdens including but not limited to, billing and payment process, as well as with electronic medical records.
- In fall 2023, a total of 20 fee codes were modified to allow for auto-payment. The number of claims going to manual assessment has decreased from 30% to 20%. This is an average of 600 claims per week no longer being manually assessed by default.
- Work is also underway to update how the system addresses patient names. Currently, claims are validated using a patient's full name and date of birth to match their health care card. Once implemented, the system will adjudicate using last name, first initial and date of birth to reduce additional need for manual assessment.
- We are working with the Physician Payment Advisory Committee to identify and determine additional opportunities to decrease processing times.
- We have engaged Meyers Norris Penny (MNP) to assist with system improvements, including developing an audit and recovery process. Physicians will have an opportunity to share their input during this work.

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- We are currently working on a multi-year Digital Health Strategy, which involves physician input.

Collaborative Care:

- Based on feedback provided by the Yukon Medical Association and their membership, we are currently working with two private primary health care practices in Whitehorse to explore opportunities to embed allied health professionals into these clinics.
- Introducing allied health professionals such as mental health professionals, social workers, and chronic disease nurses into primary health care practices will support Yukoners to access high quality care from the right provider, at the right time.
- As part of this pilot approach, we are leasing space from the two participating clinics to co-locate appropriate allied health professionals identified in collaboration with each physician practice. These allied health professionals will be employed by the department.
- Co-location of allied health professionals is one of several key steps in the development of high performing team-based primary care. This work aligns with the recommendations in the *Putting People First* report and is consistent with collaborative care models used at the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre and the walk-in clinic.

Contracts:

- While physicians are compensated using a fee-for-service model, the Department of Health and Social Services also uses alternative payment models and a mix of alternative payment and fee-for-service with many physicians and specialists.

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- Alternative payment models are being used with some resident specialists, community health and wellness centres, the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre, and the Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic.
- As recommended by physicians, we are also moving towards an alternative payment model for the inpatient Hospitalist program at Whitehorse General Hospital.
- Our government is committed to providing physician compensation that is fairly and equitably set within the local and national market, and that ensures health system resources are managed effectively to enable budget alignment.
- Our government and the Yukon Medical Association have introduced the Attachment and Attraction Program to encourage patient access family physicians while supporting physicians with overhead costs.

Fee-for-Service:

- The Putting People First report recommends “working with the Yukon Medical Association through the next contract negotiation cycle to develop alternative payment models to transition away from primarily fee-for-service payment for medical services.”
- As part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Yukon Medical Association, we have negotiated fee increases.
 - We continue to work with the Yukon Medical Association and our health system partners to ensure physicians are supported and to explore alternative payment models.
- Many Canadian jurisdictions are considering alternative models that meet the unique health system needs of each jurisdiction, including physicians working in payment models that are a blend of fee-for-service and an alternative payment plan. We are looking at alternate data

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

sources to collect physician encounter information that removes the requirement for shadow billing.

Find a Primary Care Provider Program:

- In spring 2023, we expanded the Find a Primary Care Provider Program to include Nurse Practitioners.
- As of January 2024, a total of 1,888 individuals have been matched to a primary care provider through the program. There are 3,591 people awaiting a match, which represents approximately 11.3% of the Whitehorse population.
 - Since expanding the program to include matches with Nurse Practitioners, 224 individuals have been matched with a Nurse Practitioner.
 - There are currently 3 providers enrolled with the Find a Primary Care Provider Program.
 - Primary health care needs of rural residents are met through Community Health Centres.
 - All communities have access to itinerant physician services through a Community Health Centre. Residents of Dawson City, Watson Lake and Haines Junction are supported by resident physicians.
- The program does not allow for duplicate applications under the program. Processes are in place to ensure the waitlist is up to date.
 - Individuals who apply for and are accepted to the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre will have their names removed from the Find a Primary Care Provider waitlist.
- Work is also underway to improve system efficiency, communication with applicants, and improve functionality for physicians. These system

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Physicians**Health and Social
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upgrades are informed by Yukon Medical Association physician feedback and will be launched in 2024.

Locums:

- Our government is providing funding to the Yukon Medical Association for a Physician Recruiter position to support work to recruit locum and resident physicians to the territory.
- We are working with the Yukon Medical Association to identify barriers to the recruitment of locum physicians and are hearing that areas such as payments, administrative burden, hospital privileging and licensing are sources of concern.
- As part of our work through the Health Human Resource Steering Committee, which includes physicians, hospital and the Yukon Medical Council representatives, we are exploring options to address barriers to recruitment and retention.
- On December 13, 2023, the Steering Committee released the Health and Human Resource Strategy which expresses five pillars, retain, recruit, plan, innovate and learn with 25 suggested ways to achieve these pillars to guide action.

Medical Director:

- Our government and the Yukon Medical Association are working collaboratively to introduce a Medical Director position.
- The Medical Director position is anticipated to support areas such as community and clinical care issues, as well as our ongoing work to transition to Health and Wellness Yukon.
- This will be an important role that will provide a physician perspective within this work.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Physicians**Health and Social
Services**Memorandum of Understanding:**

- The current three-year agreement with the Yukon Medical Association covers the period from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2025.
- The Memorandum of Understanding includes:
 - An Attachment and Attraction program that is intended to facilitate access to primary and specialty care while supporting physicians' operating costs;
 - The creation of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Learning Program and a commitment to help end systemic racism and discrimination in the health care system through learning and behaviour change; and,
 - A commitment to work with Yukon First Nations, health system partners and other service providers to support collaborative maternity and early years care.
- The Attachment and Attraction program offers funding for overhead costs to physicians who meet a minimum care delivery standard for patients and appointments. Family doctors who spend more days in clinic will have access to more overhead funding for each additional half-day they see patients.
- The Attachment and Attraction program is fully up and running with more than 40 participating physicians.
 - An evaluation of the program has been conducted; we are working with the Yukon Medical Association to address feedback provided.

Approved by:

Signature on file

March 5, 2024

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

Territorial firearms legislation

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the rights of legal gun owners in the territory, while also supporting an approach to gun control that helps protect public safety.
- Our government is closely monitoring Canada's next steps on Bill C-21 and the rollout of the Buyback Program.
- We are exploring the different mechanisms available to us to support law-abiding firearms owners.
- While no decisions have been made, it is helpful to understand what is happening in other parts of the country.
- On March 12, I wrote to Premier Smith in Alberta and Premier Moe in Saskatchewan, seeking to better understand the steps they have taken.
- We can learn from other jurisdictions as one part of gathering information to make evidence-based policy decisions.
- Ultimately, anything we do must reflect the Yukon's distinct context.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On February 12, 2024, the Official Opposition issued a press release urging the Government of Yukon to develop and enact firearms legislation for the Yukon and to establish a territorially appointed Chief Firearms Officer.
- Law-abiding firearms owners in the Yukon remain concerned about the potential impacts of Bill C-21 and may wish to understand the steps contemplated by the Government of Yukon to support their concerns.

Territorial firearms legislation

Executive Council Office

Background:

- On March 28, 2023, the Government of Alberta passed the *Alberta Firearms Act*, giving more tools to protect areas of provincial jurisdiction over firearms while expanding the role of the Alberta Chief Firearms Office.
- On April 6, 2023, the Government of Saskatchewan passed the *Saskatchewan Firearms Act* to enhance public safety across the province and protect the rights of lawful firearms owners.
- Premier Pillai spoke to Premier Smith (AB) on February 29, where he shared his interest in learning about their firearms legislation to inform next steps, if any, in the territory.
- On March 12, 2024 Premier Pillai wrote to Premier Smith and Premier Moe (SK), expressing interest in learning more about their provincial measures to protect the rights of lawful firearms owners.
- The Yukon has the highest per capita number of prohibited and restricted firearms licenses in Canada. Lawful firearm owners in the territory include hunters, trappers and people performing remote wilderness work.

Federal Firearms Legislation See Note # TAB 14 ECO

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.03.19

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Reducing Government of Yukon Emissions**Environment / HPW

Recommended response:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring climate resiliency continues to be a priority for the Government of Yukon.
- We are committed to tracking greenhouse gas emissions from our internal operations. We also track how climate change may be impacting government owned infrastructure.
- In December 2023, we released a report detailing the Government of Yukon's total greenhouse gas emissions. The report showed that in 2021, the government generated 49.9 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Appendix A).
- Of this total, the Government of Yukon's departments emitted about three quarters of this, at about 34.6 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, with government corporations and Yukon University making up the other portion (Appendix B).
- The Government of Yukon is taking action to reduce emissions from our buildings, fleet vehicle use and other operations.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon's emissions are largely the result of heating and powering buildings, operating maintenance equipment and fleet vehicle use.
- Given this, the Department of Highways and Public Works represents the largest share of emissions, due to the significant role they play in maintaining our buildings, roads, airports, and our main pool of vehicles.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Reducing Government of Yukon Emissions

Environment / HPW

- The Department of Highways and Public Works is also the Department who is leading a one-government approach to reduce emissions from Government of Yukon buildings by improving energy efficiency and installing renewable energy systems.
- Building improvements are prioritized based on where they will make the most impact in reducing emissions across government and are not tied to any one department.
- The Government of Yukon is also involved in providing homes, healthcare, and electricity for Yukoners. These areas also represent a high portion of Government of Yukon's emissions.

Third response (actions)

- Many actions in Our Clean Future empower Yukoners in taking climate action, while other actions support the Government of Yukon in reducing our own emissions and building resilience.
- To date, we have completed 31 retrofits to Government of Yukon buildings to improve efficiency and reduce emissions.
- To date, we have completed 81 certified energy assessments on our high-emission Government of Yukon buildings and will complete assessments for the remaining 36 high-emitting sites this year.
- To date, we now have 23 full battery-electric vehicles, including three cars, two trucks and three cargo vans, and 15 compact SUVs. In addition, we have 25 plug-in hybrid vehicles, including 13 trucks and 12 SUVs.
- In addition to these retrofits, we completed the installation of a biomass heating system at Elijah Smith Elementary School and began

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Reducing Government of Yukon Emissions**

Environment / HPW

installing solar panels and battery energy storage systems at two highway maintenance camps.

- In 2022, we also completed the expansion of the Government of Yukon's video and teleconferencing systems and developed requirements for employees to consider these options when requesting permission for work travel.
- To support emissions reductions in other Government of Yukon operations, we have actions that are designed to track emissions from health and social services, reduce travel emissions related to healthcare through provision of virtual health care services and retrofitting community housing buildings.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- During budget Opposition briefings, MLA Lane Tredger has asked several departments what their overall carbon footprint is. MLA Tredger has also stated that they intend to ask about the Government of Yukon's carbon footprint in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Background:

- Every year, the Department of Environment publishes a report on the Government of Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions alongside the Our Clean Future annual report and the Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Yukon report.
- Emissions from the Government of Yukon have increased since 2010 as the Yukon's population grows.

Approved by:

Signature on file

April 3, 2024

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Reducing Government of Yukon Emissions**

Environment / HPW

Appendix A: Total Government of Yukon emissions

Organization type	2021 emissions (ktCO ₂ e)
Departments	34.6
Corporations	13.3
Yukon University	2.0

Appendix B: 2021 emissions by department*.

Department**	Building emissions (ktCO ₂ e)***	Government Fleet, waste and refrigerants (ktCO ₂ e)	Total (ktCO ₂ e)
Community Services	1.11	1.51	2.62
Education	7.57	0.10	7.67
Energy, Mines and Resources	0.07	0.23	0.30
Environment	0.19	0.78	0.97
Health and Social Services	4.31	0.44	4.75
Highways and Public Works	7.05	6.47	13.53
Justice	1.00	0.04	1.04
Tourism and Culture	0.24	0.08	0.32

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Reducing Government of
Yukon Emissions

Environment / HPW

Unknown**			3.4
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	34.6

* The total emissions listed in the Government of Yukon greenhouse gas emissions report do not include leased buildings, as the Government of Yukon does not have access to that data. Therefore, not all departments listed in this table will have emissions linked to their operations.

** Departments are focused on providing programming out of their assigned government buildings and thus have limited control over reducing building emissions.

***The Department of Highways & Public Works is leading the greenhouse gas reduction initiatives for all Government of Yukon buildings by delivering building energy retrofit and renewable energy projects.

Advertising spending and Whitehorse Star closure

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- Like many Yukoners, we are sad to learn of the pending closure of the Whitehorse Star, which has operated independently in the Yukon for almost 125 years.
- Having a strong local media presence is important to our community, and is critical to a healthy, functioning democracy – so loss of this local media pillar will be felt throughout the territory.
- Over the last 20 years, we have watched media and information trends change dramatically in response to consumer needs, and local businesses are not immune to these shifts.
- Regardless, the Government of Yukon incurred advertising expenses of \$263,881.63 with the Whitehorse Star from March 2023 to March 2024, which was an increase over the previous fiscal year (2022-23).
- Supporting sustainable, local businesses is a priority of this government, as is fostering a vibrant economy.
- We always aim to support the sustainability of local businesses, so they are able to operate and thrive in the territory.
- The Whitehorse Star means a great deal to many Yukoners, and we join those in mourning the loss of this iconic newspaper.

Advertising spending and Whitehorse Star closure

Executive Council Office

Advertising spending

- We strive to use a range of advertising tools and mediums so that we can meet Yukoners where they're at – in 2024 this includes print, radio and digital advertising.
- We know Yukoners communicate both online and off, so we tailor our advertising strategies to target the groups we're trying to reach, and balance that goal with staying within our budget.
- We will continue to monitor media trends so that we can best communicate our programs, services and critical information Yukoners need in a timely and efficient way.
- As committed, we are in the process of pulling our advertising spending across the Yukon government and will share when we are able to.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On April 9, 2024, the topic of government advertising and the closure of the Whitehorse Star was raised in the Legislative Assembly. The Premier committed to share the amount spent on advertising, including in print and online.

Background:

- In January 2024 the Whitehorse Star's owners launched a new business strategy and survey to increase readership, revenue and content.
- The paper later announced its closure on April 5, 2024, and plan to cease publication on May 17, 2024.
- The Whitehorse Star was the longest-running independent newspaper in the Yukon, operating for 124 years.

Session Briefing Note

ECO-TAB 21

Spring 2024

Advertising spending and Whitehorse Star closure

Executive Council Office

Historical payments to the Whitehorse Star:

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
131,559	148,658	154,303	166,920	226,363	157,824	164,876	211,811

- Please note that the numbers above do not include payments made to the Star via credit card, nor do they include advertising from the Yukon Housing Corporation, the Yukon Liquor Corporation, or the Yukon Development Corporation.

Approved by:

Signature on file.

2024 04 12

a/Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

First Nations Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the development of cost-effective renewable energy projects in a manner that fulfills treaty obligations, promotes reconciliation and provides energy security for the Yukon.
- Our government works with First Nations during the assessment and licensing of energy projects and throughout a project's operation.
- Working with First Nation governments on energy generation projects is fundamental to meeting the Yukon's climate change and energy goals.

Additional response:

- We are working with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Yukon Energy Corporation to advance shared priorities in the Aishihik Lake area over the long term.
 - We are in discussions with Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council on the relicensing of the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station and with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun on the relicensing of the Mayo Generating Station.
 - We view these discussions as forums to advance reconciliation and reset our government-to-government relationships, recognizing the historical and cultural value of these areas to First Nations.
- The Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station is undergoing an environmental and socio-economic assessment and a water licence review.
 - Concerns such as impacts to salmon and other fish species will be discussed as part of the assessment and regulatory review.
 - As a decision body for this project, the Yukon government will be consulting with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Taku River Tlingit First Nation in a way that meets

First Nations Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council
Office

our obligations and our commitment to build strong relationships with First Nations.

- We are at the preliminary stages of exploring a grid connection with British Columbia. If that concept is feasible, we see that partnerships with First Nations will be critical to the success of any such project.
- Our government will ensure that discussions on existing and future energy projects include consideration of the rights, interests and potential involvement of Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups.

First Nations Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council
Office

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Some First Nations indicated they will not support energy projects without greater collaboration and commitments from the Government of Yukon in addressing their broader interests.
- In January 2023, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources confirmed the Government of Yukon is exploring a potential connection to the BC grid at a meeting with the leaders of Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.

Background:

Aishihik Generating Station (AGS)

- The AGS Agreements are consistent with Chapter 22 of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) Final Agreement and provide for an investment opportunity in the AGS. This enables CAFN to realize economic benefits tied to the station's continued operation.
- The Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC) was granted a five-year water licence for the AGS in December 2022.

Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station (WRGS)

- The water licence for the WRGS expires on May 31, 2025.
- The WRGS project is going through the relicensing process and is in the seeking views and information stage of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) designated office assessment.
- Comments submitted by members of the public and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to the Whitehorse Designated Office have raised concerns with regards to impacts of the dam on salmon and other fish species as well as the data available to the assessors.
- YG, DFO and Transport Canada are decision bodies on the project.
- Negotiations between YG, YEC, Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN), Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) regarding the relicensing are underway and are intended to:
 - promote long-term benefits and opportunities for First Nations and their citizens and businesses, including employment, training and contracting opportunities related to the construction and operation of the WRGS; and

First Nations Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council
Office

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- implement the shared commitment to build a better future and better relationship with respect to the ongoing operation of the WRGS, in recognition of its importance in meeting the Yukon's renewable energy needs and goals.
 - YG will be consulting with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) regarding the potential impacts of the ongoing operation of the WRGS on TRTFN's asserted Aboriginal rights.

Mayo Generating Station (MGS)

- The water licence for the MGS expires on December 31, 2025.
- Discussions between YG, YEC and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (FNNND) regarding the relicensing are underway and are intended to:
 - promote, develop and maintain a positive long-term relationship based on partnership, respect and reconciliation between the parties with respect to the ongoing operation of the MGS, other energy initiatives and other initiatives that the Parties may wish to advance collectively.

Independent Power Projects

Atlin Hydro Expansion

- Tlingit Homeland Energy Limited Partnership (THELP) is proposing to expand its Atlin hydroelectric generation infrastructure to increase its power output from 2.1 megawatts (MW) to 10 MW. The additional electricity would be sold to YEC, increasing Yukon's supply of renewable energy, especially in the winter when most needed.
- The project includes a transmission line from Atlin, B.C., to Jakes Corner, a new substation and upgrades to the transmission line from Jake's Corner to Whitehorse.
- EMR consulted with C/TFN during the assessment phase prior to issuing a Decision Document in July 2023. EMR is now consulting with C/TFN in the regulatory phase of the project.

North Fork Hydro

- Oro Enterprises is proposing to construct and operate a 2MW run-of-river hydroelectric generating station on the North Klondike River, in the overlapping Traditional Territories of FNNND and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH).
- The potential redevelopment of a hydro project at this site is subject to several provisions in the TH Final Agreement. Should the project proceed, these provisions impose certain obligations on YG including an exchange of Settlement Land for Crown land.
- In December 2022, TH indicated that they do not support the project due to potential impacts to TH Traditional Territory and treaty rights. YG encouraged the proponent to contact TH directly to better understand the First Nation's concerns.

Session Briefing Note

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Spring 2024

First Nations Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council
Office

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.04.29

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

TAB 27 ECO/EMR #102**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Our government has continued the mineral staking prohibition within the Kaska asserted Traditional Territory in the Yukon to allow time to address the court declarations made in the Ross River Dena Council and Kaska Dena Council mining cases.
- We also instituted a mineral staking prohibition for the Áashú (a-shoo) Village site and surrounding area in the asserted Traditional Territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to support our ongoing discussions.
- Our goal is to identify solutions that address our shared interests in land and resource matters, provide certainty to industry and benefit all Yukoners.
- We are working collaboratively with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation to replace the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act*. In that process, we are considering many of the issues raised in the court cases and anticipate the new legislation will help address those and the declarations. (See EMR #5)

Additional response:If asked about the Ross River Area:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River Area was put in place on March 27, 2013, and is in place until April 30, 2026. This is intended to allow time to advance consultation with the Ross River Dena Council and the other Kaska Nations on how best to address the court declarations regarding mineral staking, exploration and development.

TAB 27 ECO/EMR #102**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Ross River Dena Council has been actively participating in the work to develop new mineral legislation.
- The discussions around the development of new mineral legislation will create the foundation to address the issues covered by the Declarations, after which we will be able to re-assess the need for the mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River area and in other areas in the territory.
- These important discussions about the Yukon's mining legislation are ongoing. On behalf of the Yukon government, I would like to extend my thanks to the representatives from Ross River Dena Council and all our First Nations partners for their valuable input to date.

If asked about the southern Yukon portion of the Kaska asserted Traditional Territory:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the southern portion of the Kaska asserted Traditional Territory in the Yukon was put in place on February 1, 2017, and is in place until April 30, 2026.
- Liard First Nation has been actively participating in the work to develop new mineral legislation.

If asked about the White River First Nation:

- We are addressing a range of issues through bilateral negotiations with the White River First Nation, including consultation obligations related to the mineral declarations.

TAB 27 ECO/EMR #102**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

If asked about the Taku River Tlingit First Nation:

- We are advancing discussions with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on several matters including the mineral declarations, consultation, and their land interests in the Yukon.
- To support these discussions, our government withdrew land associated with the Áashú Village from potential land disposition and mineral staking on March 28, 2019. This withdrawal is in place until December 31, 2024.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Mineral staking prohibitions in asserted traditional territories remain a focus of discussions with affected First Nations and are of interest to other First Nations, industry, and stakeholders.
- The mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska asserted Traditional Territory were extended for a 2-year period in April 2024.

Background:

- In 2012, the Yukon Court of Appeal made two declarations with respect to the Ross River Dena Council v. Yukon (2012 YKCA 14) mining case: (1) the Yukon government (YG) has a duty to consult with the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) in determining whether mineral rights on Crown lands within the Ross River Area are to be made available to third parties under the provisions of the Quartz Mining Act; and, (2) YG has a duty to notify and, where appropriate, consult with and accommodate the RRDC before allowing any mineral exploration activities to take place within the Ross River Area.
- In 2013, YG took steps to comply with the second declaration by amending the Quartz Mining Act and Placer Mining Act to implement a new regime for Class 1 mining activities.

TAB 27 ECO/EMR #102**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In 2014, both the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) and Kaska Dena Council (KDC) started court proceedings seeking the same mineral declarations granted in the Ross River Area for their respective asserted traditional territories in the Yukon. The declarations were granted by consent.
- The three mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska and Taku River Tlingit First Nation Traditional Territories cover approximately 23 per cent of the Yukon.
- Additional staking prohibitions are in place for reasons such as land use planning, to create parks and protected areas, or to disallow staking within municipal boundaries. About 53 per cent of the total area of the Yukon is currently under a prohibition.

Approved by:

Signature on file	2024.04.30
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	Date approved
Signature on file	April 30, 2024
Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources	Date approved

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive Council
Office / Justice

Recommended response:

- The ongoing process of reconciliation remains a key priority for the Government of Yukon.
- We are guided in that work by principles set out in *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, among others.
- Our approach to reconciliation is characterized by:
 - the implementation of modern treaties with Yukon First Nations, the Tetlit Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit;
 - the negotiation of enduring agreements with non-Treaty First Nations;
 - the advancement of joint priorities at the Yukon Forum; and
 - collaboration with Indigenous governments on key pieces of legislation, including the new mining legislation currently being developed.

Additional Response:

- The Declaration recognizes the important role of treaties in strengthening relationships between Indigenous, territorial, and federal governments and the need to consider the unique context of each jurisdiction.
- In the Yukon, this means we must look at the Declaration in the context of our modern treaties.
- Our government will build on the good work already underway and draw from the Declaration and other sources to support and strengthen reconciliation efforts in the Yukon.
- An invitation has been extended to the leaders of Yukon First Nations to begin discussions on the Declaration and its potential application in the Yukon.
- A broad engagement process involving Yukon and transboundary Indigenous governments would need to take place before a Yukon

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive Council
Office / Justice

[approach to the Declaration could be determined.](#)

- The Government of Yukon continues to engage with the Government of Canada on its implementation of the Action Plan for the federal legislation on the Declaration, recognizing that each jurisdiction has its own approach to reconciliation and the Declaration.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions about the Yukon government's (YG) intentions with respect to the implementation of the Declaration in Yukon have arisen in various contexts, including at the Yukon Forum and in discussions and correspondence with some Yukon First Nations and the Inuvialuit.
- The governments of Canada (Canada), British Columbia (BC) and the Northwest Territories (GNWT) have affirmed in legislation that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the "Declaration") applies to their laws. The newly elected government in Manitoba has also committed to examining how it could implement the Declaration.
- CASA 2023 seeks "consent from Yukon First Nation Chiefs to initiate a discussion with the Premier and the Leader of the Yukon NDP on [the Declaration]."

Background:

- The Declaration, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007 and fully endorsed by Canada in 2016, speaks to the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, taking into account their specific cultural, language, identity, religion, health, education, economic and social circumstances.
- The Declaration is an international set of standards that emphasizes Indigenous Peoples' right to live in dignity, to maintain and strengthen Indigenous institutions, cultures and traditions, and to pursue self-determined development in keeping with Indigenous needs and aspirations. It is supported by 151 countries.
- The Declaration was designed as a guiding document rather than a specific legal instrument and may not be directly compatible with or easily implemented in Canadian or Yukon law.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive Council
Office / Justice

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- Jurisprudence on the Declaration is currently in its infancy and it will take time to get clarity from the courts about how the Declaration works with Canadian law. Relevant decisions to date include the following:
 - On September 26, 2023, the Supreme Court of British Columbia ruled in *Gitxaala v. British Columbia* that BC's Declaration implementation legislation "does not implement [the Declaration] into the domestic law of BC" and "does not create justiciable rights".
 - On November 1, 2023, the Québec Superior Court ruled in *R. v. Montour* that the Declaration "has the weight of a binding international [legal] instrument" in the constitutional interpretation of section 35(1). The court also stated that it is "not convinced by the reference to the UNDRIP as the direct source of Aboriginal rights" and that "the Applicants have not clearly pleaded or shown that the rights contained in the UNDRIP are directly enforceable under Canadian law".

The Government of Canada and the Declaration

- In 2016, Canada committed to developing legislation to implement the Declaration. In April 2021, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations made submissions to the committee hearings on the federal bill requesting that the federal legislation be made to apply to the Yukon.
- On June 21, 2021, the federal *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (the Act) came into force. It requires Canada to take all measures necessary to ensure that "the laws of Canada" are consistent with the Declaration.
- On June 21, 2023, Canada publicly released its Action Plan to implement the federal Act, which includes a chapter on "Indigenous Modern Treaty Partner Priorities". The plan was developed in consultation with Indigenous peoples.
- It is unclear how implementation of the federal Act and Action Plan may affect the Yukon. Potential implications include a shift in Canada's approach to treaty implementation and/or the amendment of federal laws relating to the Yukon such as the Yukon Act, the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, the Yukon *First Nations Land Claims Settlement Act* and the Yukon *First Nations Self-Government Act*.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive Council
Office / Justice

The Yukon Context and YG's Commitments Related to the Declaration

- The Yukon Legislative Assembly passed a motion in 2014 supporting Canada's endorsement of the Declaration (when Canada's support was still qualified).
- In September 2021, the Deputy Minister's Review Committee established an Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Truth and Reconciliation to consider YG's approach to the Declaration.
- In March 2023, YG sought consent from Yukon First Nation Chiefs to initiate a discussion on the Declaration with the Premier and the Leader of the NDP. The Chiefs asked for the Leader of the NDP to approach them separately and deferred on consenting to a discussion.
- YG has not committed to implement the Declaration but has made commitments related to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy*, both of which reference the Declaration.
- Strategic Priority 1 of the *Yukon Mineral Development Strategy and Recommendations* is to establish a modern mineral resource management regime that aligns with treaties, Canada's Constitution Act, court-guided agreements, recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the principles of reconciliation in the Declaration.

The Government of Northwest Territories and the Declaration

- On October 5, 2023, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories passed the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act*. The Act, developed in partnership with Indigenous governments and organizations, formalizes the mechanisms to be used by the GNWT to ensure that future legislation and policies are consistent with the Declaration.
- The leaders of the GNWT and Indigenous governments and organizations have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding which commits the parties to work collaboratively and cooperatively to prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

**United Nations Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Executive Council
Office / Justice

Approved by:

<u>Signature on file</u>	<u>2024.03.01</u>
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	Date
<u>Signature on file</u>	<u>March 1, 2024</u>
Deputy Minister, Department of Justice	Date

First Nation Court Case UpdatesExecutive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- In January 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon released its decision on the Judicial Review of the 2022 Kudz Ze Kayah Decision Document.
- The decision clarified how the territorial and federal governments must conduct consultation when there may be a significant impact to Aboriginal rights.
- It also confirmed that it is not necessary for the parties to agree on the outcome of the consultation for the duty to consult to have been met.
- In the Kudz Ze Kayah case, the Court found that the Governments of Yukon and Canada met the duty to consult over a period of approximately five years, except with respect to one submission from Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation.
- The Court directed the four governments to hold another meeting to consider that submission. That meeting took place on February 7 and 8, 2024.
- A new Decision Document was issued on March 8, 2024 which allows the project to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to a number of new and modified terms and conditions to address concerns expressed by the Kaska regarding potential impacts to caribou, land, water and air; cumulative effects; and project economics and feasibility.
- The 2024 Decision Document also includes a number of measures to ensure the Kaska will have opportunities to be meaningfully involved in both the regulatory process and in the project itself if it proceeds.

Additional response:

- In separate cases, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun asked the courts to address issues related to Yukon government decisions regarding two subdivision applications and a Class 3 mining application in their Traditional Territories.

First Nation Court Case Updates

Executive Council
Office

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- The Yukon government is appealing the Supreme Court of Yukon's decision in the case initiated by the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun as it raises legal issues beyond this one exploration project.
 - We have committed to work with Yukon First Nations to accelerate the pace of land use planning in response to their concerns.
 - In a separate matter, our government filed for a Judicial Review of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board's recommendation on the Michelle Creek project in northern Yukon.
 - It is important to note that this request for Judicial Review is not an action against Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in or the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
 - Rather, the Yukon government is asking the courts to provide clarity regarding the Board's decision-making processes.
 - This is needed so that all parties involved in YESAA assessments can be assured that recommendations will be made in an informed and unbiased manner and in accordance with the requirements of any applicable regional land use plan.
 - We will not comment further on cases that are before the court and look forward to the clarity that each decision is expected to provide.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Court cases involving Yukon First Nations receive a high level of public interest.
- The media coverage of the Kudz Ze Kayah (KZK) decision has generally portrayed the decision as being positive for First Nations while largely not referencing the portions of the decision that were supportive of the actions of the Yukon and federal governments.
- The media coverage of the Michelle Creek case has generally portrayed the application as being a request for review of the recommendation that the project not be allowed to proceed, rather than the process that was used to arrive at the recommendation.

First Nation Court Case Updates

Executive Council
Office

Background:

Ross River Dena Council v. AG (Canada), AG (Yukon), and BMC Minerals.

- In October 2022, Ross River Dena Council (RRDC), on its own behalf and on behalf of the Kaska Nation, filed a petition for judicial review of a decision by the Governments of Canada (Canada) and Yukon (YG) to vary a decision made by the Executive Committee of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board related to the Kudz Ze Kayah mining project proposed by BMC Minerals.
- RRDC alleged that decision makers did not adequately consider their June 14, 2022 submissions and failed to fulfill the duty to consult on the project.
- On January 2, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon released its decision. The Court found that the Crown governments generally met their duty to consult RRDC and LFN, other than in respect of their June 14, 2022, submission.
- The Court ordered YG and Canada to meet with RRDC and LFN to discuss that submission within 60 days and to issue a final Decision Document within 30 days after the meeting. That meeting was held in Ross River on February 7 and 8, 2024 and the new Decision Document was issued on March 8, 2024.
- **Next step:** RRDC has filed an appeal of the Supreme Court decision, which is scheduled to be heard in November 2024.

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun v. Government of Yukon and Metallic Minerals Corp.:

- On March 15, 2021, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (FNNND) filed a petition for judicial review of a YG Decision Document under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) to allow a proposed Class 3 quartz mining exploration program to proceed to the regulatory phase.
- FNNND claimed that YG breached its duty to consult by failing to engage directly with community members and failing to complete land use planning pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement between YG and FNNND and under Chapter 11 of the FNNND Final Agreement.
- The judicial review was heard on June 28 and 29, 2022 and the decision of the Supreme Court of Yukon was released on January 31, 2023. The Court set aside the Decision Document and referred it back to YG for reconsideration.
- Overall, the Court agreed with FNNND that YG's decision was unreasonable. The lengthy decision touches on several topics including the scope of the duty to consult, the rights

First Nation Court Case Updates

Executive Council
Office

protected under s. 35 of Canada's Constitution, the representation of Treaty rights-holders and land use planning.

- YG filed an appeal of the decision on March 1, 2023. FNNND contested the appeal, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) appeared as an intervenor.
- The appeal was heard in November 2023.
- **Next step:** The Parties and CAFN are awaiting the Court's decision.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation v. Government of Yukon et al.:

- On March 8, 2021, Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) filed a petition for judicial review of YG decisions under the Subdivision Act, which approved two subdivision applications in the 10 Mile area of Tagish.
- C/TFN asserts that YG breached its duty to consult and accommodate C/TFN, failed to uphold obligations under Chapter 16 of the Final Agreement by neglecting to coordinate land and resource management activities with C/TFN in critical caribou habitat and by allowing decisions to be made in the absence of a Chapter 11 land use plan.
- **Next step:** YG is simultaneously working towards a settlement with C/TFN and preparing for a hearing, should one be necessary.

Dickson v. Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (2021 YTCA 3):

- Dickson appealed a 2020 decision of the Yukon Supreme Court, which found that a modified version of the requirement for elected members of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) Council to reside on Settlement Land did not violate s. 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (Charter).
- VGFN cross-appealed, arguing that the Charter does not apply to the VGFN Constitution. YG was an intervenor on the appeal and made submissions arguing that the Charter applies to Yukon First Nation governments.
- The Court of Appeal issued a decision on July 21, 2021, dismissing Dickson's appeal. It found that the Charter applies to the residency requirement of VGFN's constitution, and while it infringes the equality rights under s. 15(1) of the Charter, it could potentially be justified under s. 1, which allows for reasonable limits on the guarantee of rights and freedoms. If the residency requirement cannot be saved by s. 1, it is still saved by s. 25 which specifies that no other rights guaranteed by the Charter can override or detract from Aboriginal or treaty rights established by current or future land claim agreements.

First Nation Court Case Updates

Executive Council
Office

-
- Dickson applied for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada on September 29, 2021. The Supreme Court of Canada accepted the application for leave to appeal and cross-appeal on April 28, 2022. On June 24, 2022, YG filed a notice of intervention respecting a constitutional question.
 - The hearing was held on February 7, 2023.
 - **Next step:** The Parties are now awaiting the Court's decision.

Federal Child and Family Services Act (Inuvialuit Regional Corp.):

- Bill C-92 (An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families) came into force on January 1, 2020. The Act affirms the inherent jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples in relation to child and family services.
- The Province of Quebec filed an appeal with the Supreme Court of Canada regarding the constitutionality of the Act. The hearing was held on December 7 and 8, 2022.
- On February 9, 2024, the Court released its decision, ruling that the Act is constitutionally valid as it is within the jurisdiction of the Federal government. The decision also confirms that the Act validly incorporates Indigenous laws around child and family services into federal law, thereby giving them the force of federal law.
- The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) served YG notice on November 24, 2021 of their intention to exercise legislative authority in relation to child and family services under subsection 20(2) of the Act and requested to enter into a Coordination Agreement.
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has proposed that Canada and YG work together to establish a process to develop a Yukon-specific fiscal and jurisdictional framework to support the implementation of the federal Act, which may inform discussions at the IRC Coordination Agreement table (and any future tables that may be requested by other First Nations).
- It will be important to understand how this Coordination Agreement framework will compare to Program and Services Transfer Agreements under the Self-Government Agreements.
- **Next step:** YG will continue working with ISC to develop a Yukon-specific framework and with IRC to develop a Coordination Agreement.

First Nation Court Case Updates

Executive Council
Office

Judicial Review of YESAB Recommendation for Michelle Creek Proposal (#2021-0176):

- In December 2022, the Dawson Designated Office (DO) released its Evaluation Report and Recommendations for the Michelle Creek Quartz Exploration project proposed by Silver47 Exploration Corp. within the area covered by the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- Although the DO had issued Information Requests for additional baseline information to which the proponent did not respond, the DO recommended that the project not be allowed to proceed, because in the assessor's view, it would have significant adverse effects that could not be mitigated.
- YG requested a Judicial Review on the basis that it was inconsistent of the DO to both issue a request for additional data to inform its recommendation (and as required by the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan), and to conclude that it had sufficient information (without having received that additional data) to finalize its recommendation.
- **Next step:** The hearing date has been set for November 27 – 29, 2024.

Approved by:

Signature on file
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.03.19
Date

Reconciliation with First Nations

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to building strong working relationships with First Nations.
- We are listening to and working with First Nations to address the harms caused by a long history of inequality and discrimination.
- We hope to achieve meaningful change and tangible benefits for all Yukoners through collaboration on a range of environmental, economic and social projects.

Additional response:

- We continue to work with the Government of Canada and Yukon First Nations to implement the Final and Self-Government Agreements.
- We work directly with Yukon First Nation governments in our quarterly Yukon Forum meetings and have been working together to implement the Joint Priority Action Plan since 2017.
- In partnership with First Nations, we implemented the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy, established a Yukon First Nation School Board and developed and passed the *Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*.
- We are also implementing the Representative Public Service Plan and advancing land use planning.
- Together with our partners, in June 2023 we released an implementation plan for Yukon's Strategy for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ Peoples.
- We continue to undertake key actions in support of the strategy.

Reconciliation with First NationsExecutive Council
Office

- Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups are a key voice in our collaborative work to develop new legislation for lands and minerals.
 - Our government is also advancing work with respect to the negotiation and implementation of government-to-government accords with interested Yukon First Nations.
 - Accords provide a formal mechanism for working together on matters of mutual interest and priority.
 - We are also prepared to discuss the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, how it might interact with the Final Agreements and what it may offer to support and strengthen our existing reconciliation efforts.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon government (YG) made public commitments to reconciliation and strengthening relationships with Yukon First Nations (YFNs). There is broad interest in knowing what YG is doing to support reconciliation.
 - Several Yukon and transboundary First Nations and the Inuvialuit have individually requested that YG formally implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
-

Background:

- YG supports reconciliation with YFNs and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups in many ways, including:
 - Working with YFNs through the Yukon Forum and implementing the Joint Priority Action Plan (refer to [TAB 36 "Yukon Forum and Joint Priority Action Plan"](#)).
 - Presenting a united voice to the federal government (Canada) at Yukon Days (refer to [TAB 78 "Federal Engagement"](#)).
 - Negotiating and implementing bilateral and trilateral agreements, including government-to-government accords, that support shared priorities (refer to [TAB 37 "First Nation Community Priorities and Accords"](#)).
-

Reconciliation with First Nations

Executive Council
Office

- Meeting our consultation obligations and building shared expectations about how consultation and engagement will occur by developing an online consultation and engagement system and corporate policies and procedures.
- Finalizing an implementation plan for the Yukon Strategy on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People with YFNs, Indigenous women's organizations, families, Survivors and representatives of the RCMP and Canada.
- Implementing the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy to enhance economic outcomes for YFNs and businesses.
- Working with YFNs to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action (refer to [TAB 89 "Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on the Calls to Action"](#)).
- Implementing the Representative Public Service Plan, *Breaking Trail Together*, in support of meeting the goal of increasing Indigenous representation in the public service to 22 per cent by the end of 2029.
- YG has signaled its willingness to enter into a broad discussion on the potential application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Yukon.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.02.05

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Support for Yukon First Nation Governments Burial Sites Investigations

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The residential school system caused lasting and widespread trauma.
- This was highlighted by last year's findings at the Chooutla site and demonstrate the need for ongoing support and compassion.
- The Government of Yukon continues to support the Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project Working Group in their efforts to bring to light the history and impacts of residential schools.
- We remain available to the Working Group as they lead this important work and will assist, if requested, in ways that support healing and reconciliation.

Additional response:

- Funding for this important work is being provided by the governments of Yukon and Canada and is administered by the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- The Yukon government is working internally to coordinate a response to the report on the Chooutla Residential School ground search conducted on behalf of the Working Group.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- In September 2023, the Project researchers and technical team announced that a search at the former site of the Chooutla Indian Residential School in Carcross found 15 potential grave sites and noted the number of students missing is 33 (originally believed to be 20).
- Continued ground research at the Chooutla site and surrounding areas will occur in spring 2024, along with sites in Whitehorse.

Background:

- In the Yukon there were six residential schools that operated between 1903 and 1985:
 - Chooutla School in Carcross;
 - Coudert Hall, Yukon Hall and Whitehorse Baptist Mission in Whitehorse;
 - the Shingle Point School in Shingle Point on the Yukon's Arctic coast (the

Support for Yukon First Nation Governments Burial Sites Investigations

Executive Council
Office

predecessor to All Saints (Aklavik Anglican) School in Aklavik); and

- o St. Paul's Hostel in Dawson.

- Additionally, the Lower Post School in northern British Columbia housed Yukon First Nation (YFN) students.
- The Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project Working Group (the "Working Group", formerly the Burial Sites Investigation Working Group) is mandated by Yukon First Nations leadership and supported by YG leadership through the Yukon Forum to identify and locate unmarked or missing graves at residential school sites in the Yukon with ground penetrating radar.
- All Yukon First Nations are represented on the Working Group.
- The Working Group continues to seek the participation of transboundary First Nations.
- Officials from YG and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) are assisting the Working Group to develop a work plan to guide the project and attend Working Group meetings when invited.
- In October 2021, the Working Group submitted a four-year (2021-2025) funding request of \$6.3 million to YG and CIRNAC focusing on sites in Carcross, Whitehorse and Dawson.
- The Working Group is reaching out to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Daylu Dena Council to clarify whether to include Shingle Point and Lower Post in this work.
- The breakdown by year and YG-CIRNAC cost-share is as follows:
 - 2021/22: ~\$741K (YG: ~\$222K/ CIRNAC: ~\$519K i.e. 30/70 split)
 - 2022/23: ~\$2.2M (YG: ~\$595K/ CIRNAC: ~\$1.6m i.e. 30/70 split)
 - 2023/24: ~\$1.7M (YG: ~\$525K/ CIRNAC: ~\$1.2m i.e. 30/70 split)
 - 2024/25: ~\$3.6M (YG and CIRNAC to determine the cost-share arrangement based on an updated budget and work plan.)
- The Working Group has submitted a funding request for the next five fiscal years in the amount of \$14 million. CIRNAC and YG are discussing how to address the funding request.
- The Working Group has noted a need for community-led health and wellness initiatives as they reach out to Survivors.
- All the information held by the Working Group is public information, but material related to interviews with survivors and witnesses will be stored in a secure data system maintained by CYFN.

**Support for Yukon First Nation
Governments Burial Sites
Investigations**

Executive Council
Office

- The Working Group also has a list of Yukon research information stored at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NTRC).

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.02.05

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

The Yukon Forum and Joint Priority Action Plan

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Forum is an important venue for government-to-government collaboration and meaningful dialogue.
- We will continue to work with Yukon First Nation governments at the Yukon Forum to identify and take collaborative action on shared priorities that advance reconciliation and improve the lives of all Yukoners.

Additional Response:

- On February 16, 2024, Yukon Forum leaders met at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.
- At that meeting, we discussed declining salmon stocks, targeted amendments to the *Wildlife Act*, Yukon First Nations engagement and collaboration on the implementation of the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement, and community safety as part of addressing the broader Substance Use Health Emergency.
- We also discussed ongoing resources and supports for the Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project (refer to [TAB 31 "Support for First Nation Governments Burial Sites Investigations"](#)).
- We are looking forward to the next Yukon Forum Leader's Retreat, tentatively planned for April, and the next Yukon Forum, to be scheduled for late spring or early summer 2024.

Context—this may be an issue because:

There may be interest in what is discussed at Yukon Forum meetings, updates to the joint priority action plan and next steps.

**The Yukon Forum and Joint Priority
Action Plan**

Executive Council
Office

Background:

- The Yukon Forum is a regular meeting between leaders of the Yukon government (YG), Yukon First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- The Yukon Forum was established in 2005 under the *Cooperation in Governance Act* between the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations and Yukon First Nations with Final Agreements.
- In January 2017, the governments signed a declaration to renew the Yukon Forum and committed the governments to meet four times a year.
- In May 2017, the governments agreed on the four joint priority areas which include:
 - fiscal relations;
 - bilateral and trilateral engagement on justice, health and social services, education and heritage;
 - land claim and self-government implementation; and
 - ensuring the territory's legislative agenda considers First Nation priorities.
- In September 2017, the Yukon Forum approved a joint priority action plan. It lays out the next steps on topics such as justice, heritage, education, health, land claim agreement implementation and fiscal relations.
- In June 2018, the Yukon Forum agreed to add fish and wildlife to the joint priority action plan.
- In June 2021, the governments reconfirmed their commitment to advancing the joint priorities and discussed plans to investigate all former residential school grounds in the territory.
- In March 2023, the governments discussed shared actions to address the Substance Use Health Emergency.

Approved by:

<u>Signature on file</u>	<u>2024.03.04</u>
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	Date Approved

First Nation Community Priorities and Accords

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- We work collaboratively with Yukon First Nation governments to address issues that matter to their Citizens and communities.
- We work on a government-to-government level with Yukon First Nations to identify shared priorities and develop practical ways of advancing work in those areas.
- The Government of Yukon formalized commitments with several Yukon First Nations through government-to-government accords and is ready to discuss accords with other interested Yukon First Nations.
- While accords provide a practical and transparent way to work together by setting out a process and action plan for collaboration, our government will also continue to meet with and hear directly from Yukon First Nations governments on their community priorities and needs.
- The Government of Yukon looks forward to continuing collaboration with First Nation governments.
- See First Nation community-specific recommended responses below.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Members of the Legislative Assembly commonly raise issues in their ridings or ask what the government is doing to support Yukon First Nation communities more broadly.
-

Yukon First Nations Community-Specific Recommended Responses:

Carcross/Tagish First Nation

- **Community meetings:** Leaders last met on January 11, 2024, to understand the current priorities of C/TFN's Executive Council.
- **Community priorities:** UNDRIP, land use planning, energy projects, 10 Mile litigation, Choooutla Residential School burial site investigations and site contamination and

First Nation Community Priorities and Accords

Executive Council Office

remediation project, the Substance Use Health Emergency, protection of caribou and housing.

- **Accord status:** No accord. The previous five-year accord expired in 2020.
- **Recommended responses:**
 - The Yukon government is working on commitments made at our last meeting in January 2024 and looks forward to future opportunities to meet with Carcross/Tagish First Nation.
 - We will continue to consult Carcross/Tagish First Nation about the potential for project proposals in their Traditional Territory to impact their Aboriginal and treaty rights.
 - We are optimistic about our discussions on land planning.

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

- **Community meetings:** Leaders last met on June 6 and 23, 2023, to discuss issues of importance to the community. The annual Aishihik Generation Station Principals meeting on the implementation of the relicensing agreements occurred on August 9, 2023. Deputy Minister Justin Ferbey had a meeting with CAFN Executive Director Jennifer Lee on February 28, 2024 as part of a series of meetings with Yukon First Nations Executive Directors to further establish the government-to-government relationships and discuss priorities and issues.
- **Community priorities:** Infrastructure development (CS, EMR, HPW), land use planning (EMR), housing (YHC), recreation (CS), the Yukon government's hiring policies (PSC) and emergency preparedness (CS), Indigenous Language Funding initiative (EDU), Community Wellness hub.
- **Accord status:** No accord on community priorities. In 2022, the Yukon government entered a project-specific accord with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations regarding the licensing of the Aishihik Generating Station.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Government of Yukon welcomes additional opportunities to build on our positive relationship with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

First Nation Community Priorities and Accords

Executive Council Office

- **Community meetings:** Leaders plan to meet in Mayo in March/April 2024 (exact date to be confirmed). A leadership meeting originally planned for August 7, 2023, was postponed due to the community wildland fire evacuation order. Deputy Minister Justin Ferbey had a meeting with FNNND Executive Director McGarry Selbee on February 22, 2024 as part of a series of meetings with Yukon First Nations Executive Directors to further establish the government-to-government relationships and discuss priorities and issues.
- **Community priorities:** Health and wellness (HSS), the substance use emergency (HSS), public safety (JUS), protection of lands/land use planning (EMR, ENV), education (EDU), infrastructure (CS, EMR), emergency preparedness (CS) and energy projects (ECO, YEC, and YDC).
- **Accord status:** No accord.
- **Recommended responses:**
 - The Government of Yukon looks forward to future opportunities to meet with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to establish shared priorities and collaborate on ways to deliver those priorities for the benefit of the community and all Yukoners.
 - Our government supports the regional land use planning process that started for the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun. We look forward to seeing the recommended regional land use plan in due course.

Kluane First Nation

- **Community meetings:** Leaders met on January 8 and 19, 2024 to discuss items of importance to the community.
- **Community priorities:** Construction of Kêts'ádań Kù (KETS-ADUN-koo "House of Learning") (the new school in Burwash Landing) (HPW/EDU), education (EDU), housing for teachers and Kêts'ádań Kù staff (YHC), community safety (JUS), community development projects (CS), economic development opportunities (EcDev), capital projects and development (HPW, IGR), strengthening language and culture (EDU, T&C), strengthening wellbeing (HSS) hunting management (ENV) and mineral development (EMR).
- **Accord status:** No accord. The previous five-year accord expired in 2018.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Government of Yukon looks forward to building on the positive relationship fostered with Kluane First Nation as we worked together to plan and design the new

First Nation Community Priorities and Accords

Executive Council Office

school in Burwash Landing, increase safety in the community and support economic benefits to Kluane First Nation Citizens.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation

- **Community meetings:** Leaders met on October 20, 2023, to discuss issues of mutual interest. Leaders also met on January 21, 2024, with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Chief specifically on the relicensing of the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station. Deputy Minister Justin Ferbey had a meeting with KDFN A/Executive Director Dorothy Sam on February 2, 2024 as part of a series of meetings with Yukon First Nations Executive Directors to further establish the government-to-government relationships and discuss priorities and issues.
- **Community priorities:** Housing (YHC), governance (ECO), education and culture (EDUC, T&C), environmental protection and projects (ENV), land use planning and forest management (EMR), health and wellness (HSS), salmon restoration (ENV, ECO) Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre Remediation (EMR), energy projects (ECO, YEC, YDC), economic development (EcDev) and infrastructure (CS, EMR, HPW).
- **Accord status:** No accord. The previous five-year accord expired in 2020.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Government of Yukon looks forward to future opportunities to meet with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation government to discuss shared priorities and how to collaborate to deliver benefits to the community and all Yukoners.

Liard First Nation

- **Community meetings:** Leaders last met in May 2023 to discuss community priorities.
- **Community priorities:** Integrated land planning and development in the vicinity of Watson Lake (ECO), regional forest planning and management (EMR), fish and wildlife management (ENV), health and wellness (HSS) and economic development (EcDev).
- **Accord status:** No accord. The previous one-year accord expired in 2019.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Government of Yukon is encouraged by the progress we have made together with Liard First Nation on shared priorities, including the Frances Avenue development project.

First Nation Community Priorities and Accords

Executive Council Office

- We look forward to continued collaboration with Liard First Nation on other priorities including forest planning and management, land planning and development and management of fish and wildlife for the benefit of the community and all Yukoners.

Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation

- **Community meetings:** Leaders last met on May 26, 2023. Deputy Minister Justin Ferbey had a meeting with LS/CFN Executive Director Kelly Skookum on February 2, 2024 as part of a series of meetings with Yukon First Nations Executive Directors to further establish the government-to-government relationships and discuss priorities and issues.
- **Community priorities:** Housing (YHC), land-based healing (HSS), infrastructure (CS), fish depletion (ENV), the Carmacks bypass (HPW), subdivision development (CS), a new cultural centre (T&C), land use planning (EMR) and a government-to-government accord (ECO).
- **Accord status:** In development. LS/CFN has identified and shared priorities with the Government of Yukon and discussions toward a government-to-government accord have begun.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Yukon government looks forward to working with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation to advance our shared priorities for the benefit of the community and all Yukoners.
 - We will continue to work together on the development of a government-to-government accord and other bilateral engagements.

Ross River Dena Council

- **Community meetings:** Leaders last met on January 18, 2024, in Whitehorse.
- **Community priorities:** Establishment of new RRDC community lands (EMR, ECO), housing (YHC), mental health supports (HSS), land-based healing initiatives (HSS), public safety (JUS), health and safety emergency declaration (HSS, CS, JUS, ENV), infrastructure (CS), the land guardian program (ENV), roads (HPW), land use planning (EMR), development of new economic opportunities for tourism (EcDev, T&C), the establishment of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (ECO, ENV), fish and wildlife management (ECO, ENV) and citizen transportation.

First Nation Community Priorities and Accords

Executive Council Office

- **Accord status:** No accord.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Government of Yukon looks forward to additional opportunities to meet with Ross River Dena Council to follow up on previous discussions and advance shared priorities for the benefit of the community and all Yukoners.

Selkirk First Nation

- **Community meetings:** Leaders last met on June 14, 2023. Deputy Minister Justin Ferbey had a meeting with SFN Executive Director Tristan Newsome on February 9, 2024 as part of a series of meetings with Yukon First Nations Executive Directors to further establish the government-to-government relationships and discuss priorities and issues.
- **Community priorities:** Minto, Vangorda and Casino mines (EMR), Faro mine remediation project (EMR), health and wellness (HSS), recreation programming (CS), land use and forest management planning (EMR), emergency preparedness (CS) and health and wellness (HSS).
- **Accord status:** No accord, although the SFN Chief expressed interest in an accord at the June 2023 meeting with the Premier. A follow-up letter was sent proposing to initiate accord discussions; SFN has yet to respond.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Yukon government looks forward to additional opportunities to meet with Selkirk First Nation to discuss shared priorities and collaborate for the benefit of the community and all Yukoners.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council

- **Community meetings:** Premier Pillai attended the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council General Assembly on August 13, 2023. Leaders last met bilaterally on October 24, 2023, to discuss community priorities. Leaders met again on January 21, 2024, with Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Smith specifically regarding the relicensing of the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station. Deputy Minister Justin Ferbey had a meeting with TKC Executive Director Charles Pugh on February 9, 2024 as part of a series of meetings with Yukon First Nations Executive Directors to further establish the government-to-government relationships and discuss priorities and issues.

First Nation Community Priorities and Accords

Executive Council Office

- **Community priorities:** Housing (YHC), Community Hub (ECO), health and wellness (HSS), language revitalization (T&C), housing (YHC), and energy projects (ECO, YEC, YDC).
- **Accord status:** No accord.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Yukon government looks forward to future opportunities to meet with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to discuss our shared priorities, including work on the Community Hub initiative, and to collaborate on the advancement of those priorities for the benefit of the community and all Yukoners.

Teslin Tlingit Council

- **Community meetings:** No leaders meeting was held in 2023. The Premier attended the Teslin Tlingit Council General Assembly on August 4, 2023.
- **Community priorities:** Nisutlin Bay Bridge project (HPW), subdivision development (CS), forestry (EMR), education (EDU), health and wellness (HSS), fish and wildlife (ENV), economic development (EcDev), infrastructure (CS), tourism (T&C), land exchanges (EMR) and emergency preparedness (CS).
- **Accord status:** Ongoing implementation of the (accord-like) 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Government of Yukon looks forward to future opportunities to build on the strong working relationship with the Teslin Tlingit Council. Our collaboration was instrumental in developing and initiating the Nisutlin Bay Bridge project.
 - We will continue to work together to advance our shared priorities, including those set out in our Intergovernmental Agreement and on emerging issues such as the need to understand the implications of the potential expansion of the municipal boundaries of the Village of Teslin.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

- **Community meetings:** Leaders last met on June 14, 2023. Deputy Minister Justin Ferbey had a meeting with TH Executive Director Brenda Butterworth-Carr on February 9, 2024 as part of a series of meetings with Yukon First Nations Executive Directors to further establish the government-to-government relationships and discuss priorities and issues.

First Nation Community Priorities and Accords

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- **Community priorities:** New mining legislation process (EMR), housing (YHC), land use and forest management planning (EMR), emergency preparedness (CS), Successor Resource legislation (EMR), Critical Minerals strategy (EMR), Yukon Wetlands policy (ENV, EMR) and health and wellness (HSS).
- **Accord status:** No accord.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Government of Yukon looks forward to additional opportunities to meet with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government to establish shared priorities and collaborate on ways to deliver benefits to the community and all Yukoners.

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

- **Community meetings:** Leaders last met at the Yukon Forum on February 16, 2024. Deputy Minister Justin Ferbey had a meeting with VGFN Executive Director Erin Linklater on February 28, 2024 as part of a series of meetings with Yukon First Nations Executive Directors to further establish the government-to-government relationships and discuss priorities and issues.
- **Community priorities:** Community wellness (HSS), childcare (HSS), access to mental health and substance use services (HSS), community safety (JUS), education (EDU), community development (CS), economic development (EcDev), emergency preparedness (CS), fish and wildlife (ENV).
- **Accord status:** Discussions completed on a government-to-government accord. Cabinet submission requesting approval is being advanced.
- **Recommended response:**
 - The Government of Yukon looks forward to finalizing a new government-to-government accord with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. The accord will set out our shared priorities and establish a plan to deliver on those priorities for the benefit of the community and all Yukoners.

White River First Nation

- **Community meetings:** Leaders last met on January 9, 2024.
- **Community priorities:** Health and wellness (HSS), emergency planning (CS), hunting (ENV), relationship-building (ECO), Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Table (ECO), Community Hub (ECO, EMR), land use planning (EMR), Casino & Coffee projects (ECO), UNDRIP (ECO) and community safety (JUS).
- **Accord status:** An accord was signed in 2020 and is in effect.

First Nation Community Priorities and Accords

Executive Council Office

- Recommended response:
 - The Government of Yukon continues to work with White River First Nation on the shared priorities set out in our 2020 government-to-government accord. We look forward to future opportunities for our leaders to meet to discuss and address issues of importance to the community.
-

Background:

- Accords are non-legally binding bilateral agreements between the Government of Yukon and a Yukon First Nation government. Accords identify shared priorities and set out a plan to coordinate the governments' actions in addressing those priorities.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.03.04

Deputy Minister

Date Approved

Executive Council Office

Liard First Nation – Issues and InitiativesExecutive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon and Liard First Nation are working to advance shared priorities including economic development, land planning and development, and collaborative approaches to the management of natural resources such as forestry and fish and wildlife.
- We are working directly with Liard First Nation to ensure that Yukoners and local industry can access reliable sources of firewood and timber while respecting First Nations' interests.
- We are also exploring new approaches to reconciliation with Liard First Nation, renewing our intergovernmental relationship and advancing Liard First Nation self-government.

Additional response:

- The Supreme Court of Yukon's recent decision on the Kudz Ze Kayah proposal provides important guidance about how the Government of Yukon and First Nations are to work together during consultation on major projects.
- In accordance with the Court's direction, the Governments of Yukon and Canada met with Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council in February to further consult them about the potential impacts of the Kudz Ze Kayah project on their asserted Aboriginal rights.
- A new Decision Document was issued on March 8, 2024 which allows the project to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to a number of new and modified terms and conditions to address concerns expressed by the Kaska regarding potential impacts to caribou, land, water and air; cumulative effects; and project economics and feasibility.
- The 2024 Decision Document also includes a number of measures to ensure the Kaska will have opportunities to be meaningfully involved in both the regulatory process and in the project itself if it proceeds.

Liard First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

-
- More broadly, we will continue to consult Liard First Nation on activities that may affect their asserted Aboriginal rights in the Yukon, including mineral exploration and land and resource development proposals, while exploring other ways to work collaboratively.
 - Our government has maintained the mineral staking prohibitions within the Kaska traditional territory in the Yukon and we are collaborating with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation that addresses mineral staking, exploration and development.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- A new Decision Document was issued for the Kudz Ze Kayah project on March 8, 2024.
 - The Official Opposition raised the staking prohibitions in the Legislative Assembly on March 25, 2024. The mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska traditional territory were extended for a 2-year period in April 2024.
 - The availability of firewood is of interest to media and the public.
-

Background:

Kudz Ze Kayah

- On January 3, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon issued its decision on the Judicial Review of the Decision Document for the Kudz Ze Kayah project.
- The Court set aside the June 15, 2022, Decision Document and directed the parties to hold a meeting to complete consultation on the June 14, 2022 letter from Liard First Nation (LFN) and Ross River Dena Council (RRDC). That meeting was held in Ross River on February 7 and 8, 2024.
- On February 1, 2024 RRDC, on its own behalf and on behalf of all members of the Kaska Nation, filed a Notice of Appeal of the Court's decision. The appeal is expected to be heard in November 2024.

Negotiations

- The Yukon government (YG) and Liard First Nation (LFN) established a bilateral negotiation table in August 2020.
 - The table's initial focus is on land development and planning in the vicinity of the Town of Watson Lake.
 - In spring 2023, the bilateral table concluded an agreement to advance the development of 43 residential lots within the Town of Watson Lake.
-

Liard First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

Forest Resources

- The Government of Yukon and LFN are working to advance short- and medium-term collaborative approaches to opening areas for fuelwood and timber harvesting in the Watson Lake area.
- EMR's Forest Management Branch and LFN have jointly developed a Timber Harvest Plan and an application for a Yukon *Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act* review of a salvage harvest project at Scoby Creek east of Watson Lake.
- The Timber Harvest Plan and salvage harvest project would allow for an adequate supply of dry fuelwood to meet the demand in southeast Yukon and the Whitehorse area.

Mineral Staking Prohibition

- YG consented to two mineral declarations in the Yukon portion of the Kaska traditional territory outside of the Ross River Area.
- A mineral staking prohibition in this area is in place until April 30, 2026, (refer to Tab 27 "Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation").

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.04.29

Date

Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon and Ross River Dena Council are working to advance each government's priorities related to economic development, infrastructure, land and resource planning, and fish and wildlife.
- The Government of Yukon, Ross River Dena Council and the Government of Canada are also working together to ensure that community lands are available for construction of new housing and other community infrastructure in Ross River.
- We are exploring new approaches to reconciliation in the Ross River area and look forward to working with the Government of Canada and Ross River Dena Council to advance their self-determination.

Additional response:

- The recent Supreme Court of Yukon decision on the Kudz Ze Kayah Decision Document provides important guidance on how the Government of Yukon and First Nations are to work together during consultation on major projects.
- In accordance with the Court's direction, the Governments of Yukon and Canada met with Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council in February to further consult them about the potential impacts of the Kudz Ze Kayah project on their asserted Aboriginal rights.
- A new Decision Document was issued on March 8, 2024 which allows the project to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to a number of new and modified terms and conditions to address concerns expressed by the Kaska regarding potential impacts to caribou, land, water and air; cumulative effects; and project economics and feasibility.

Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

-
- The 2024 Decision Document also includes a number of measures to ensure the Kaska will have opportunities to be meaningfully involved in both the regulatory process and in the project itself if it proceeds.
 - More broadly, we will continue to consult Ross River Dena Council on activities that may affect their asserted Aboriginal rights in the Yukon, including mineral exploration and development proposals.
 - Our government has maintained the mineral staking prohibitions within the Kaska traditional territory in the Yukon, and we are collaborating with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation that addresses mineral staking, exploration and development.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- A new Decision Document was issued for the Kudz Ze Kayah project on March 8, 2024.
 - The Official Opposition raised the staking prohibitions in the Legislative Assembly on March 25, 2024. The mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska traditional territory were extended for a 2-year period in April 2024.
-

Background:

Kudz Ze Kayah

- On January 3, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon issued its decision on the Judicial Review of the Decision Document for the Kudz Ze Kayah project.
- The Court set aside the June 15, 2022, Decision Document and directed the parties to hold a meeting to complete consultation on the June 14, 2022 letter from Liard First Nation (LFN) and Ross River Dena Council (RRDC). That meeting was held in Ross River on February 7 and 8, 2024.
- On February 1, 2024 RRDC, on its own behalf and on behalf of all members of the Kaska Nation, filed a Notice of Appeal of the Court's decision. The appeal is expected to be heard in November 2024.

Mineral Staking Prohibitions

- In 2013, YG implemented a notification regime for Class 1 mining activities in the

Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

Ross River Area (RRA) and withdrew the RRA from mineral staking.

- The staking prohibition was extended to April 30, 2026, to continue discussions with RRDC on implementing the two mineral declarations. (See #27 “Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation”).

Negotiations

- In 2022 YG and RRDC established a new YG-RRDC senior officials negotiation table.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- YG is required to develop a new proposal for the Pelly River crossing at Ross River by November 2027.
- Aboriginal Relations and Community Services are working with the Town of Faro to support consultation with the Kaska Nations on the amendment of their Official Community Plan.
- The 2020 Gateway Project agreement between YG and RRDC for the North Canol Road and Robert Campbell Highway has yet to be implemented.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.04.29

Date

White River First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon, White River First Nation and the Government of Canada are working together to advance shared interests and priorities.
- We have a bilateral government-to-government accord with White River First Nation focused on capacity development, education, justice, health, infrastructure, emergency planning, hunting and relationship building.
- We will work with White River First Nation and nearby First Nations to find constructive solutions when issues arise in the overlapping areas of their traditional territories.

Additional response:

- We understand that White River First Nation signed an Impact-Benefit Agreement with the Newmont Corporation regarding the Coffee Gold project.
- We are encouraged to see this positive example of a proponent and First Nation working together to address their shared interests.
- We look forward to further consultation and discussion with White River First Nation in the project's regulatory phase.
- We have started consultation with White River First Nation on the proposed Casino mine and look forward to further discussions as more project details become available.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The proposed Casino mine will be the first project assessed via Panel Review under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA).
- This will require extensive consultation and accommodation with all affected First Nations, including White River First Nation (WRFN) and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

White River First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

Background:

Government-to-Government Accord

- On June 5, 2020, WRFN and YG signed a government-to-government Accord that identifies priorities and action items.

Bilateral and Trilateral Negotiations

- WRFN and YG developed a Negotiation Agreement to guide bilateral negotiations on specific topics. As this has become outdated, the Parties are revisiting the Negotiation Agreement to reflect a current work plan.
- YG, WRFN and the Government of Canada are engaged in trilateral discussions about shared priorities, with an initial focus on lands in or close to Beaver Creek.

Interim Protected Lands (IPLs)

- Since 1989, approximately 136 land parcels have been protected for a future treaty with WRFN. Current protection orders expire on March 31, 2025.
- It is anticipated that the continuation or potential replacements for the Interim Protected Lands will be discussed at the trilateral table.

Major Projects

- YG and WRFN signed a Coffee Gold consultation plan in September 2018.
- YG is working with WRFN and other affected First Nations to develop and implement a monitoring program for the Coffee project.
- YG and WRFN have had initial discussions toward developing a draft project-specific consultation plan for the proposed Casino Mine in the pre-submission engagement phase of the assessment.

Capacity Funding and Consultation

- YG renewed an annual funding agreement supporting WRFN's participation in YG's negotiations and consultation and engagement processes.
- YG anticipates that WRFN and other First Nations will request project-specific funding to support their participation in the Casino consultation and engagement processes.

Approved by:

Signature on file	2024.02.02
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	Date

**Taku River Tlingit First Nation –
Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to advancing reconciliation with all First Nations, including the Taku River Tlingit First Nation.
- We are advancing bilateral discussions with the Taku River Tlingit on several issues including their land interests in the Yukon.
- As a part of our bilateral discussions, the Yukon government is considering a land transfer and a government-to-government agreement.
- The potential land transfer relates to an 11.5 square kilometre area, known as the Áashú (AH-shoo) Lands.
- It is located off the Atlin Road, within the Taku River Tlingit First Nation's asserted traditional territory and the Carcross/Tagish First Nation's Traditional Territory.
- The government-to-government agreement identifies processes for working together on topics of mutual interest.
- These discussions are not treaty or self-government agreement negotiations.
- They are to address the decision in the litigation brought by the First Nation against the Yukon government in 2014.
- We are consulting with Carcross/Tagish First Nation on potential impacts to their treaty and Aboriginal rights should the land transfer go ahead.
- No decision will be made about the land transfer before the consultation with Carcross/Tagish First Nation is concluded.
- The proposed Áashú Lands transfer does not include lots held by private landowners.
- The private lots would remain with existing owners and their access would be maintained on a public road.

Taku River Tlingit First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The potential transfer of the Áashú Lands was publicly announced by the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) in their newsletter.
- Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) also distributed a letter to its Citizens about TRTFN's land interests in the Yukon.
- Several questions about the potential transfer of the Áashú Lands was raised during the 2023 Spring and Fall Legislative Assembly sittings.

Background:

- TRTFN is a transboundary First Nation based in Atlin, British Columbia. TRTFN asserts a traditional territory in the Yukon that overlaps portions of the Traditional Territories of C/TFN, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Teslin Tlingit Council.

Statement of Claim

- In 2014, TRTFN filed a Statement of Claim requesting court declarations on three matters: consultation on mineral staking and exploration, the proposed Atlin Lake Campground and the issuance of hunting licenses and seals.
- The court granted two mineral declarations.
 - Declaration 2 regarding mineral exploration is in effect and was addressed through the implementation of the Class 1 notification system.
 - A consent order suspending Declaration 1 from coming into effect is currently in place. (Declaration 1 states that YG has a duty to consult TRTFN before granting mineral rights. This is not possible under the current free entry system.)
- In July 2017, YG and TRTFN filed an Abeyance Agreement with the Supreme Court of Yukon.
- Under the Abeyance Agreement each party agreed to provide notice prior to taking steps on the other matters set out in the 2014 Statement of Claim.
- In March 2019, YG prohibited entry for mineral staking and land dispositions on the Áashú Lands. Those prohibitions are in place until December 31, 2024.
- In Fall 2023, YG and TRTFN negotiators completed draft agreements to resolve the litigation.

**Taku River Tlingit First Nation –
Issues and Initiatives**

Executive Council
Office

Tripartite Negotiations and Tlingit Nation Rebuilding

- TRTFN and the governments of Canada, Yukon and BC are engaged in joint discussions on matters of priority to TRTFN.
- TRTFN has informed YG of its ongoing engagements with C/TFN and Teslin Tlingit Council to rebuild a Tlingit approach to governance.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.02.02

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Projects in Executive Committee Pre-submission Engagement Process

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports a streamlined, effective assessment and regulatory system.
- We are working with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board as it implements the Pre-Submission Engagement process.
- This process is new and participants, including governments, industry and First Nations, are all learning about it and its implementation.
- There are five projects currently in the Pre-Submission Engagement process:
 - Eagle Gold Mine Extension Project;
 - Chance Oil and Gas Eagle Plains Exploration Project
 - Brewery Creek Mine Project;
 - Mount Nansen Mine Remediation Project; and
 - the Callison Generating Station Project.
- Our government is participating in each of these processes.
- Based on what we've seen of this new process so far, we appreciate the value of providing early input on projects.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There are some concerns that the Pre-Submission Engagement (PSE) process will not meet its objective of providing a more streamlined and efficient assessment process and may in fact make the assessment process longer.
- As the PSE process is new, there is limited guidance for its implementation, and it is not yet well understood by participants.

Projects in Executive Committee Pre-submission Engagement Process

Executive Council
Office

Background:

- The PSE process came into effect on June 1, 2022, after the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) spent approximately three years developing it.
 - YESAB worked with industry, First Nations governments, other governments and NGOs to develop the process.
 - The Yukon government (YG) participated in developing the process and provided comprehensive comments during all stages of consultation.
 - The new process is proactive and occurs before a project proposal is submitted for screening by the Executive Committee.
 - The purpose of pre-submission engagement is to bring interested and affected parties together to review project requirements well before a detailed proposal is submitted for assessment.
 - The process is intended to identify gaps and issues of concern, define values and baseline information requirements and ensure a timely and efficient screening process.
-

Projects in the PSE process:

- Five projects are currently in the PSE process:
 - Eagle Gold Mine Extension Project (YESAB Online Registry #2022-0125) (see TAB 12 Eagle Gold)
 - Brewery Creek Mine (YESAB Online Registry #2022-0134)
 - Mount Nansen Remediation Project (YESAB Online Registry #2022-0136) (see TAB 54 Mount. Nansen)
 - Callison Generating Station Project (YESAB Online Registry #2023-0150)
 - Chance Oil and Gas Eagle Plains Exploration Project
 - The Eagle Gold, Brewery Creek and Mount Nansen projects all entered the PSE process in August 2022. Callison was submitted in November 2023 and Chance was submitted in February 2024.
 - Current project phases are as follows:
 - Eagle Gold Mine Extension Project: This project is in the 5th of 6 PSE phases. The public comment period on the Project Proposal Guideline Response (PPGR) ended on February 12, 2024. The Executive Committee now has up to 60 days to issue the Project Proposal Report.
-

Projects in Executive Committee Pre-submission Engagement Process

Executive Council
Office

- Brewery Creek Mine: This project is in the 3rd of 6 PSE phases. The Project Proposal Guideline (PPG) was issued on May 15, 2023 and is now being reviewed by the proponent, who has up to two years to respond.
- Mount Nansen Remediation Project: This project is in the 3rd of 6 PSE phases. The PPG was issued on May 19, 2023, and is now being reviewed by the proponent who has up to two years to respond.
- Callison Generating Station Project: This project is in the 2nd of 6 PSE phases. Public comments on the draft Project Proposal Guideline (PPG) are being accepted until March 4, 2024. After this the Executive Committee will prepare the final PPG.
- Chance Oil and Gas's 'Eagle Plains Exploration Project' was submitted to the Executive Committee on February 22, 2024. Because this project was referred to the Executive Committee by the Dawson Designated Office prior to the implementation of the PSE process, it has entered the PSE process at the 6th and final phase of the PSE. The Executive Committee now has up to 60 days to determine the completeness of the project proposal. If the proposal is deemed complete, it will commence screening and, if not, an Information Request will be issued to the proponent.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.03.07

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Recommended Response:

- The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Oversight Group, also known as the Oversight Group, is a joint effort between the governments of Canada, Yukon, and Yukon First Nations to oversee the YESAA process and promote its ongoing improvement.
- The Oversight Group is making progress on an amendment to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- This amendment would provide a mechanism in which existing projects requiring amendments or renewals of their authorizations could be exempted from a new assessment if certain criteria are met and affected First Nations consent.
- Phase one consultations on the proposed amendment were completed in December 2022.
- Officials from the governments of Canada and Yukon as well as the Council of Yukon First Nations are developing a guidance document and implementation plan to help support federal legislative drafting requirements.
- The Oversight Group continues to work with the YESAA Board to identify and advance other improvements to the YESAA process.

Additional Response:

- The Oversight Group committed to a comprehensive review of YESAA by 2027, as outlined in their Terms of Reference.
- The Oversight Group will define the scope and approach for a future review.

Context - this may be an issue because:

- Industry representatives are monitoring progress on the proposed amendment to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA).

Background:

- The Oversight Group is a joint effort between the governments of Canada, Yukon, and First Nations to seek efficiencies and ongoing improvements to the YESAA and YESAA processes.
- The Oversight Group was established because of the YESAA Reset Memorandum of Understanding ("Reset MOU"), signed in November 2017.
- In 2018, the Oversight Group adopted joint priorities which focus on three main areas:
 - revitalizing the YESAA Forum;
 - improvements to consultation and engagement; and
 - policy development and targeted technical working groups.
- The Oversight Group meets regularly to continue its work under the YESAA Reset MOU.
- The Government of Yukon and the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) sent a joint letter to the Minister of Northern Affairs in December 2020 requesting a focused review of the YESAA.
- In February 2021, the Minister of Northern Affairs indicated his commitment to working with members of the Oversight Group on amendments and renewals.
- The purpose of the review will be to propose amendments to address the need for an assessment of when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- Yukon First Nations maintain that any decisions concerning determining the need for an assessment of project amendments and renewals within First Nations' traditional territories will require the agreement of that First Nation. The Government of Yukon supports Yukon First Nations' position.
- The Technical Working Group, supporting the Oversight Group, held engagement workshops with industry, First Nations, and other organizations on the targeted YESAA amendment to address the assessment of amendments and renewals on October 25 and November 16, 2022.
- The engagement period closed December 2, 2022. A What We Heard report was developed and shared with the Oversight Group.

-
- In fall, 2023, the Technical Working Group completed a Guidance Document that would address concerns identified during engagement and recommended to the Oversight Group a small revision to the proposed amendment.
 - The Oversight Group continues to advance the targeted amendment, while taking steps to identify the requirements and process for initiating the full review of YESAA and the Regulations to follow.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.01.31

Date

**Session Briefing Note
Yukon Wetland Policy
Implementation****Spring 2024**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- I am pleased to share that we are making progress on several initiatives to implement the wetland stewardship policy.
- The implementation working group has identified several priority actions, including wetland classification, guidance for wetland identification, and comprehensive, territory-wide wetland mapping.
- The Government of Yukon is reviewing the potential for project impacts on wetlands during the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act assessment stage. We are also requesting more detailed wetland impact mitigation and reclamation planning at the licensing and post-licensing stages.
- In December 2023, we established standard operational guidelines for mineral activities in wetlands to be included in class 1 mineral exploration authorizations.
- We intend to engage with First Nations and interested parties on the guidance for the nomination, evaluation, and protection of Wetlands of Special Importance in 2024. When this work is completed, we will work towards an initial intake of nominations for Wetlands of Special Importance.

Additional response:

- To support wetland policy implementation, we recently released broad-scale wetland mapping within the Peel, Beaver River, Mayo and McQuesten watersheds.

Session Briefing Note**Yukon Wetland Policy
Implementation**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

- During the summer of 2023, we collected aerial imagery to support local-scale wetland mapping and vegetation mapping in the Klondike goldfields region. We anticipate undertaking wetland mapping in key drainages beginning in 2024.
- With support from Government of Yukon, Ducks Unlimited Canada will be releasing a user-friendly, common sense field guide to identifying wetlands for use by a variety of stakeholders including industry.
- We will be launching new wetland information pages on Yukon.ca to share guidance documents and resources as they become available.
- A more detailed summary of wetland actions will be provided in the 2024 State of the Environment report from the Department of Environment.

Third response:

- We acknowledge the importance of being responsive to new information as we continue to build our knowledge and improve our understanding of the Yukon's wetlands, including recognizing and respecting traditional, local, and scientific knowledge.
- We are preparing to launch a three-year wetland research project this summer with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The research will look at the effects of placer mining and reclamation activities on peatland greenhouse gas emissions and removals (fluxes) in the Yukon.
- We will continue to engage with other governments, departments, agencies, regulatory bodies, and external partners to discuss specific aspects of wetland stewardship policy implementation.

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

Spring 2024

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

- We remain committed to addressing wetland stewardship and protection within land use planning discussions and project reviews.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Implementation of the Wetlands Policy and the ongoing management of wetlands is of significant interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands was released on January 10, 2023. The goal of the policy is to ensure the benefits of Yukon's wetlands are sustained.
- The Government of Yukon committed \$1.68 million over two fiscal years (2023-24 to 2024-25) for the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources to begin jointly implementing the wetland stewardship policy.
- In January 2023, the Government of Yukon formed an internal working group to advance and coordinate the implementation of the wetland stewardship policy.
- The working group is composed of members of Environment, Energy Mines and Resources, Executive Council Office, and Highways and Public Works.
- The group meets monthly to advance various aspects of policy implementation and ensure a whole-of-government approach to policy implementation.
- See **Appendix A** for updates on implementation status.

Signature on file

Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

March 1, 2024

Date approved

Signature on file

Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resource

March 5, 2024

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Clarke and Streicker,
Environment and Energy, Mines and ResourcesDate prepared: February 21, 2024
Last Updated:

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

ENV #3 / EMR #91
Spring 2024
 Environment and
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Appendix A: Actions within the wetland stewardship policy			
Policy Actions (bold = near-term priorities)	Timeline * priority adjusted	Lead	Status update Not Started Initiated Underway Near_Complete
1. Develop guidance for the evaluation of wetland benefits in the Yukon	Long-term	ENV	We have completed some initial work comparing processes in other jurisdictions.
2. Update and finalize a Yukon wetland classification system	Near-term	ENV	We have completed a draft wetland classification document. We will be circulating this draft for review by our management partners and interested stakeholders in 2024.
3. Develop an accessible and easy to use guide to identifying Yukon's wetlands for proponents and the public	Mid-term	External	We have been working with Ducks Unlimited Canada to support their efforts to develop an accessible field guide—ensuring it will align with our classification system (action 2). Ducks Unlimited Canada plans to release this field guide in March 2024.
4. Develop wetland mapping standards for regional, local, and project specific mapping applications	Near-term	ENV	We are continuing to develop a draft wetland mapping standards document. Following internal government review, we will be circulating the draft to our management partners, as well as interested stakeholders, for review.
5. Create a broad scale territory-wide wetland inventory	Near-term	ENV	In 2023/24 (Year 1 of this work), we have completed work on a tool for evaluating map accuracy, evaluation of methodologies for predictive mapping and compilation of existing wetland field information. We are also exploring options to collaborate with Environment and Climate Change Canada to advance territory-wide wetland mapping. We should have a

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Spring 2024
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			working draft wetland map completed by spring 2024 but it will require further refinement before this map is suitable for wider use.
6. Support local scale wetland mapping, where needed	Near-term*	ENV	We have partnered with EMR's Forest Management Branch, to collect stereo (3D) aerial imagery for the Yukon Plateau region. We anticipate completing local scale wetland mapping in priority areas, within the Klondike Plateau, in 2024/25.
7. Promote northern wetland research	Near-term*	EMR/ENV	Environment is seeking opportunities to support ongoing work on this with other parties. A three-year research project is planned to begin this summer, led by the Wildlife Conservation Society and with funding support from Environment and Climate Change Canada.
8. Promote public awareness of wetlands	Long-term	ENV	
9. Develop guidance for the application and use of the mitigation hierarchy	Near-term	EMR/ENV	Addressed in Main message bullets. EMR is leading the development of guidance for the application and use of the mitigation hierarchy. ENV is continuing to work with regulatory agencies, particularly related to mining activity, to address wetland impacts during project assessment and regulatory approvals.
10. Update or develop proponent guidance to be used when submitting wetland impact mitigation information	Near-term	EMR	Plans are in place to develop proponent guidance on how to communicate impact mitigation plans.
11. Update or develop Standard Operating Procedures / Preferred Management Practices for	Long-term	EMR	EMR has developed standard terms and conditions for Class 1 mining activities. These are now being applied at the regulatory stage.

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Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

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 Environment and
 Energy, Mines and Resources

different activities impacting wetlands			EMR will review the effectiveness of these standard terms and revise as necessary.
12. Update or develop general wetland reclamation guidelines, and, where required, sector specific guidelines	Near-term*	EMR	EMR continues to apply the Ruby Creek reclamation plan guidelines for placer activities in the Indian River area. During the initial policy implementation phase, reclamation plans are not currently required outside of this area.
13. Develop guidance for offsetting wetland impacts	Long-term	ENV/EMR	Long-term objective that will be explored after near-term and midterm priorities have been advanced.
14. Develop specific and measurable guidance for the interpretation and application of Wetland of Special Importance nomination criteria	Near-term	ENV	See recommended response. We have completed a draft implementation document. YG departments are reviewing this document internally. Following this review, we will be circulating the draft for comment by our wetland management partners.
15. Establish a process for legal designation of Wetlands of Special Importance (e.g., through existing legislation such as application of Wilderness Management Areas under the Environment Act).	Mid-term*	ENV	Due to legislative agenda, developing regulations to support legal designation has been postponed. It will be advanced at a later date. In the interim, there are a number of existing tools (e.g., withdrawal of mineral staking) that can be used to protect Wetlands of Special Importance.
16. Create a publicly accessible catalogue of Wetlands of Special Importance.	Mid-term	ENV	In advance of the first call for Wetlands of Special Importance (WSI), we are developing the tools and systems to support a public catalogue. This will be available once we complete our first WSI intake.

**Executive Committee Faro Mine
Remediation Project Canada**

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the responsible remediation of the Faro Mine, including appropriate assessment and regulation.
- The Faro Mine Remediation Project's environmental and socio-economic effects will be considered and evaluated through the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* screening process.
- As a decision body for this project, the Yukon government is consulting with the Kaska First Nations, Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation in a way that meets our obligations and our commitment to build strong relationships with First Nations.

Additional response:

- As with any project, we are committed to continuing our participation in all stages of the assessment.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The project is of broad interest to Yukoners, particularly to the communities of Faro and Ross River and other Kaska First Nations, Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
 - The Yukon Act amendment related to Type II Mines announced in the federal Budget 2023 may generate questions about the project.
-

Executive Committee Faro Mine Remediation Project Canada

Executive Council
Office

Background:

Project information

- The Faro Mine was an open pit lead-zinc mine that began operations in 1969.
- The site was abandoned in 1998 and is currently in care and maintenance.
- In May 2018, the Government of Canada assumed responsibility from the Yukon government (YG) for the care and maintenance operations at the mine site.
- A Transition Agreement between the Government of Canada and YG was signed by YG with the support and agreement of the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) and Selkirk First Nation (SFN).
- The Faro Mine Remediation Project is an important initiative of the Government of Canada – Crown Indigenous Relations Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) – to improve the existing conditions at the Faro mine site.
- The project includes active remediation for a 15-year period to stabilize contaminants.

Assessment process

- The project proposal was submitted to the Executive Committee on August 27, 2019, and after an extended adequacy review, screening of the project commenced on November 21, 2021.
- On May 16, 2023, the Executive Committee of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) began developing the Draft Screening Report (DSR) for the Faro Mine Remediation Project, with a deadline of September 13, 2023. That deadline has been extended three times and is currently set for March 14, 2024.
- Once the DSR is issued, participants will have thirty days to provide comments before the Executive Committee finalizes the Screening Report and issues its recommendation. This timeline can be extended to ninety days.
- Once the Executive Committee issues its recommendation, decision bodies for the project will have either sixty days to issue a decision document accepting the recommendation or forty-five days to refer the recommendation back to the Executive Committee for reconsideration.

Consultation with First Nations

Executive Committee Faro Mine Remediation Project Canada

Executive Council
Office

- YG is consulting Kaska First Nations, as the project is located within the Kaska Traditional Territory.
- SFN and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation are being consulted as well due to potential downstream effects from the Faro Mine on treaty rights.

Yukon Act amendment

- An amendment to the Yukon Act gives the federal Minister responsible for Northern Affairs the same powers with respect to a Type II site on federal land as the responsible Minister in the Yukon government.
- This amendment was agreed to as part of transitioning the administration and control of the Faro Mine site from the Government of Yukon to the Government of Canada.
- It brings together governance of the project, financial responsibility for the remediation and statutory power to manage risks at the site under a single federal Minister.
- This amendment was contemplated in the Faro Mine Transition Agreement, entered into by the federal and territorial governments in 2020.
- The Yukon government was consulted.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.02.05

Date

**Session Briefing Note
Dawson Regional Land
Use Planning**

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are making progress on consensus discussions regarding the decision on the Dawson Regional Land Use Recommended Plan.
- Engagement on the Recommended Plan concluded December 20, 2022. A What We Heard report detailing feedback received during the engagement was released in June 2023.
- Input gathered from the engagement will inform the Parties' decision whether to accept, reject or request modifications to the Recommended Plan.
- If the Parties reject or request modifications to the Recommended Plan, the Commission will prepare a Final Recommended Plan. We anticipate they could provide a Final Recommended Plan in 2025.

Additional response:

- If a Final Recommended Plan is required, there will be another round of public engagements and First Nations consultation, and the Government of Yukon will provide detailed feedback to the Commission to support their work developing this plan.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, the Government of Yukon's response to the Recommended Plan, and the future of the interim withdrawals are of high interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in formed the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Commission in December 2018.

Session Briefing Note Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR # 1 / ENV #9
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

- The *Umbrella Final Agreement* Chapter 11 process provides the Commission with the autonomy to develop and recommend a plan to the Parties for their consideration.
- The Commission conducted a public consultation on the Draft Plan from June 15 to November 1, 2021.
- The Government of Yukon's response to the Draft Plan in November 2021 focused on six key topics: designations and Land Management Unit boundaries, cumulative effects, wetlands, culture and heritage, missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people, and implementation.
- Subsequent comments submitted to the Commission by the Government of Yukon pertained to critical minerals, access, rivers and watercourses, cumulative effects and working within the Draft Plan prohibition of entry order (interim and permanent).
- The Planning Commission delivered the Recommended Plan to the Parties (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon) on June 10, 2022.
- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in conducted a public consultation on the Commission's Recommended Plan from September 20 to December 20, 2022.
- Interim withdrawal of land proposed by the Commission was approved by Order-In-Council on June 15, 2021. This Order was amended on September 7, 2022, to reflect the Recommended Plan. The interim withdrawal is in effect until December 1, 2024 and may be extended to allow time to complete a final plan for the region.

Approved by:

Signature on file	February 12, 2024
Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources	Date approved
Signature on file	February 8, 2024
Briar Young, A/Deputy Minister of Environment	Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Successor Resource
Legislation – Minerals and
Public Lands**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is developing new minerals legislation and new public lands legislation in collaboration with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups.
- Made-in-Yukon legislation will improve our regulatory system, respect First Nations' relationships with the land, protect the environment and strengthen our economy.
- We greatly appreciate the important insights and perspectives that industry representatives, environmental organizations, and the public have provided as we work together on new minerals and new public lands legislation.

Additional response:

- We are actively working with First Nations partners to develop an agreed upon framework for a new minerals regime.
- In May 2023, we completed public engagement with meetings held throughout the territory and a What We Heard on new minerals legislation will be released once finalized.
- For the new public lands legislation, the Steering Committee has developed a series of options for key areas of new legislation.
- We will be launching public engagement and consultation to gather perspectives on these options later this year. In-person meetings will occur in every community and there will be an online survey.

Session Briefing Note

Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

#5
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The desire to see new minerals and public lands legislation developed has been a longstanding interest of Yukon First Nations governments stemming from commitments in the 2003 Devolution Transfer Agreement.

Background:

Minerals

- A Steering Committee for new minerals legislation which includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups was struck in September 2021.
- The Steering Committee worked to develop potential approaches for key policy issues from August 2021 to December 2022.
- This work formed the basis of a 90-day public engagement which concluded in early May 2023. A What We Heard report is tracking for release in Spring 2024.
- In the current phase, the Steering Committee is developing a recommended legislative framework which upholds Aboriginal and treaty rights, supports a viable and competitive industry, protects the environment, minimizes public liabilities, and ensures Yukon communities benefit from mineral activity.
- The Steering Committee is using the results of public engagement to inform its work.

Public Lands

- Work on new public lands legislation has been ongoing since 2020 and in Spring 2022, the Government of Yukon carried out First Nations consultation and public engagement to understand the views and interest for new lands legislation.
- In November 2022, a Steering Committee was established to direct legislative development that includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous governments.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

**Successor Resource
Legislation – Minerals and
Public Lands**

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Steering Committee has drafted a suite of potential approaches for each key policy issue and public engagement and consultation on the options is planned to occur in Spring 2024.
- This work will lead to a modernized land regime that balances a wide range of interests and values, including the sale and lease of public land.

Approved by:

Signature on file

March 7, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Casino Mine ProjectExecutive Council
Office

Recommended Response:

- On November 10, 2023, the Casino Mining Corporation let the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board know that their Environmental and Socio-economic Effects Statement submission for the Casino Mine Project would be submitted in the second half of 2024.
- The submission will initiate the Panel of the Board review process.
- We are preparing to engage and participate in the panel review process, recognizing the significance of the potential mine to the Yukon and to Canada, particularly for the development of critical minerals.

Additional Response:

- Our government supports mineral development that is environmentally and socially responsible.
- We understand our role and responsibility as technical experts, regulators and land and resource managers to ensure that mineral development is planned and evaluated on the best information available during the panel review.

Some details of the panel review process are still being developed by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, such as operational policies. Our government continues to monitor these developments. Our government is taking a proactive approach to Casino's proposed access which includes the use of the Klondike Highway, upgrades to the Freegold Road, and development of the Casino Road. There are potential benefits and impacts to existing public infrastructure, and to First Nations interests and values.

Casino Mine Project

Executive Council
Office

Context - this may be an issue because:

- The Casino Mine Project would be one of the largest mine projects in Canada and will be the first Panel of the Board review undertaken since the enactment of YESAA.
- As such, there is considerable public interest in the new process and in the project.
- The closure of Minto Mine and the transfer of care and maintenance of the Wolverine Mine may bring additional attention to the assessment of new mines.
- A recent YESAB assessment recommended that the development of 2 km of new road for placer mining access in the Casino area not proceed, due to impacts to moose and caribou, which implies that a threshold for cumulative effects has been reached.

Background:

Project Overview

- The Casino Project (the Project) is a proposed large-scale copper, gold, molybdenum and silver mine located approximately 150 kilometres northwest of Carmacks in west-central Yukon.
- It is owned by Casino Mining Corporation (CMC), a subsidiary of Western Copper and Gold.
- The proposed mine, and its access road and infrastructure, are within the Traditional Territories of Selkirk First Nation, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and within the White River First Nation asserted area.
- Kluane First Nation Treaty rights may also be impacted by downstream effects.
- The mine would process about 145,000 tonnes of ore per day over a 27-year mine life, making it the largest mine by production in Canada's history.
- The project proposes a conventional open pit mining operation and processing using a mill and flotation circuit and heap leach facility, and permanent storage of tailings and waste rock in a large-scale tailings management facility (TMF).
- Proposed access to the mine would involve upgrading the Freegold Road (~83 km), and development of the ~123 km Casino Trail into an all-season road.

Casino Mine Project

Executive Council
Office

- Approximately 188 trucks/day, (376 trucks round trip), would haul the processed ore from the mine site to the Port of Skagway.
- The mine is expected to employ approximately 1,400 people during construction and approximately 700 people during operations.

Panel Review Process

- In 2014, the Casino Mining Corporation (CMC) submitted a Project Proposal to the YESAB Executive Committee for screening.
- After two years in the Adequacy Review stage, the YESAB Executive Committee determined that the Project requires a Panel review for the following reasons:
 - a) the project involves technology that is controversial in the Yukon; and
 - b) the project might contribute significantly to cumulative adverse environmental or socio-economic effects in the Yukon.
- YESAB issued guidelines for the development of the Environmental and Socio-economic Effects Statement (ESES) for the Project in 2016.
- In a letter to Casino Mining Corporation dated October 28, 2022, YESAB outlined the reasons for their decision to revise the ESES guidelines. YESAB issued the draft revised ESES guidelines on January 3, 2023. The Government of Yukon Interdepartmental Working Group for the Casino Mine Project reviewed and provided comments on the guidelines on April 19, 2023.
- YESAB issued the final revised ESES Guidelines on September 12, 2023. CMC provided a schedule for their ESES Submission on November 10, 2023, indicating a submission date in the second half of 2024. Submission of the ESES will initiate the panel review process.
- The Minister of the Executive Council Office is the Government of Yukon decision body for a YESAB Panel Review. There will be several federal decision bodies.
- The Panel will comprise three YESAB members, excluding the chair. Its membership will be determined once the company files its submission.
- Details of participant funding and related processes for the Panel Review have yet to be determined.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.03.04

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Spring 2024

Mount Nansen - LSCFN

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is actively engaged in Yukon Water Board proceedings as appropriate.
- Our government supports a regulatory process that meets the commitments of Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and is grounded in the principles of reconciliation.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon aims to balance the conservation, development and use of water on behalf of all Yukoners and Canadians.
- We respect the quasi-judicial nature of the Board.
- It is important that governments and regulatory bodies operate within their responsibilities to support predictable regulatory processes and reasonable outcomes.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- On February 21, 2023, the Yukon Water Board (the Board) received an application by Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) pursuant to Chapter 14 of the LSCFN Final Agreement and ss. 16 & 19 of the Waters Act in relation to the Type B water licence (QZ19-055) issued to the Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership (MNRLP) to determine whether:
 - the licence should be amended in the public interest;
 - the terms and conditions of the licence need to be reviewed due to unforeseen impacts on LSCFN including the consideration of alternatives and measures that can be taken to avoid impacts to LSCFN's treaty rights;
 - MNRLP is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the licence; and
 - LSCFN is entitled to compensation under various provisions of Chapter 14 for loss and damage caused by MNRLP's use of water under the licence and MNRLP's uses of water that are not covered by the licence.

Spring 2024

Mount Nansen - LSCFN

Executive Council Office

- LSCFN named three respondents to the application including MNRLP, Government of Yukon (YG) and Government of Canada (Canada).
- Canada and YG submitted Responses to the Board on December 28, 2023.
- LSCFN submitted a Reply to the Board on February 2, 2024.
- We expect that the Board will call a subsequent Application Management Conference or issue a decision on procedure in the coming months.
- MNRLP applied for and obtained an amendment to its water licence to temporarily increase the allowable rate of discharge from the water treatment plant from 360 m³/day to 600 m³/day in October 2023.
- Due to LSCFN concerns communicated and reported in the media about insufficient storage capacity for contaminated water, MNRLP has recently submitted a further application for amendment to its water licence. We understand this to be to allow the operation of a second water treatment plant.

Background:

- In 2016, Canada initiated the sale of Mount Nansen due to a combination of escalating remediation costs (paid for by Canada).
- In May 2018, the Supreme Court of Yukon approved the sale of the Mount Nansen Mine site to Alexco Resource and JDS Energy and Mining.
- Under this arrangement, Alexco/JDS (as the Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership or MNRLP) is required to complete remediation work previously selected and approved by YG, Canada and LSCFN.
- Canada and MNRLP entered into a Remediation and Security Agreement (RSA) which describes how MNRLP shall implement a remediation plan at Mt Nansen.
- Canada, YG, and LSCFN entered into a Governments Agreement on June 13, 2019, describing how the governments will work together to implement remediation of Mount Nansen.
- In support of the sale and remediation process, YG issued a land lease for an area greater than 640 acres and amended an existing Water Board policy to waive the requirement for financial security.

Spring 2024

Mount Nansen - LSCFN

Executive Council Office

- The transfer of the site to the MNRLP was contingent on the issuance of the care and maintenance water licence.
- In April 2018, YG submitted a project proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board for care and maintenance activities at the site.
- In April 2019, after consulting with First Nations, YG and Canada issued a joint Decision Document for the project.
- In fall 2019, Canada submitted an application for a water licence for care and maintenance activities. MNRLP assumed responsibility for the application in 2020 and received a water licence from the Yukon Water Board on August 21, 2021.
- The Yukon Water Board received comments on the application from YG, LSCFN, and the Yukon Conservation Society.
- There was no public hearing held for the application although one was requested by LSCFN.
- The water licence was significant because it allowed YG to transfer care and maintenance responsibilities to MNRLP in October 2021.
- The water licence enabled MNRLP to install a water treatment plant to address contaminated water originating in the tailing's storage facility.
- The water treatment plant became operational on April 10, 2022.
- It is designed to treat Seepage Pond Water before discharge to ensure it is non-toxic.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office

2024.03.13

Date approved

Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station is a critical source of reliable, renewable electricity in the territory.
- The Yukon government is working with Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Yukon Energy Corporation on the renewal of the water licence which expires in 2025.
- Throughout this process, we are committed to building strong relationships with the impacted First Nations, strengthening our understanding of environmental and cultural values and establishing honest and collaborative ways to work together.
- The Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station renewal is undergoing an independent environmental and socio-economic assessment and an independent water licence renewal review.
- Concerns such as impacts to salmon will be discussed as part of the assessment and regulatory review.
- As a decision body for this project, the Yukon government will be consulting with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Taku River Tlingit First Nation in a way that meets our obligations and our commitment to build strong relationships with First Nations.

Additional response:

- We are committed to establishing a constructive, collaborative long-term agreement regarding the continued operation of the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station, to meet the Yukon's future energy needs, as well as support cultural practices and traditional uses in the Southern Lakes area.

Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station

Executive Council
Office

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The project entered assessment in December 2023 and is open for public comment until the end of April. This is the first time the facility has been assessed under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- There have been several news articles on the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station (WRGS) in the past months, including November 2023 CBC and Whitehorse Daily Star articles on impacts of the facility to salmon and a January 2024 CBC article on the assessment process and fish protection measures.

Background:

- WRGS is operating under a 25-year water licence that expires on May 31, 2025.
- The Yukon government, Yukon Energy Corporation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council began working collaboratively on the project relicensing in April 2022.
- A Technical Working Group (TWG) and a negotiators group have been established with representation from Yukon government, Yukon Energy Corporation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. The TWG focuses on assessment and relicensing processes and the negotiators focus on agreements to support reconciliation actions and a long-term relationship.
- The Yukon government is consulting with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and Taku River Tlingit First Nation regarding the potential impacts of the ongoing operation of the WRGS on Treaty and asserted Aboriginal rights.
- **See TAB 21 First Nations Interest in Energy Projects** for additional messaging on energy projects in general.

Approved by:

Signature on file
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.03.11

Date

**Yukon government's approach to
Traditional Knowledge**

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- We recognize the importance of working collaboratively with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups to deepen our understanding of their knowledge, values and perspectives so that our actions and decisions respect and reflect these ways of knowing, doing and being.
- We have held numerous conversations with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups, as well as across Yukon government departments, to build an understanding of needs, interests, values and concerns related to working with Yukon First Nations knowledge.
- Together we are developing guiding principles and key implementation priorities, while also moving forward on shorter term opportunities.

Additional response:

- Seven Yukon First Nations and three transboundary Indigenous groups have identified representatives for an Intergovernmental Working group so far and we are working on recruiting additional members.
- We are also advancing discussions and work toward technical and policy solutions for the appropriate protection and management of Yukon First Nations and Indigenous data and knowledge that has been shared with the Yukon government.

Yukon government's approach to Traditional Knowledge

Executive Council
Office

Context: this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon government reiterated its commitment to this work in the July 2021 mandate letter, though it was not repeated in the 2023 mandate letter.

Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups wish to ensure that the Yukon government proceeds in a way that respects the ownership, levels of sensitivity, value and importance of their accumulated and evolving knowledge.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon does not have a comprehensive corporate approach to working with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups to receive and apply Traditional Knowledge for our actions and decisions.
- Beginning in late 2017, the Office of the Science Advisor led a comprehensive pre-engagement process with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups, as well as Government of Yukon departments.
- A draft approach was brought to the December 2019 Yukon Forum, where discussions reinforced the importance of this work, and the need to proceed carefully.
- Invitations were issued to Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups in summer and fall 2021 for a formal Intergovernmental Working Group to guide this work.
- Ten members are delegated to the Intergovernmental Working Group so far, representing seven Yukon First Nations (Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kluane First Nation, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Ross River Dena Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and White River First Nation) and three transboundary Indigenous groups (Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Gwich'in Tribal Council, and Inuvialuit Game Council & Joint Secretariat).
- Working group meetings have focused on relationship and trust building; terms of reference; goals, milestones, and related steps on the path toward guiding principles; as well as on the group's guidance and questions on the developing Indigenous knowledge tracking policy and technical solution.

Yukon government's approach to Traditional Knowledge

Executive Council
Office

- The Yukon government remains open to bilateral conversations with Yukon First Nations that do not wish to participate in multilateral group discussions and to those that are not ready to proceed with this conversation at this time.
- While these broader efforts and discussions continue, we are applying what we have learned so far to other areas of work, including support for Indigenous-led research and research methods, exploration of corporate training options for concepts related to Indigenous knowledge ownership and control, and guidance for YG employees and external researchers on best practices for working with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous knowledge holders and knowledge.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.02.05

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Streamlining of Regulatory Assessment Process

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is taking action to improve the territory's assessment and regulatory system.
- Assessment and regulation should be efficient, predictable and grounded in the principles of reconciliation.
- The Government of Yukon is developing new minerals legislation and new public lands legislation in close collaboration with Indigenous governments.
- Since early 2021, the YESAA Oversight Group has been developing an approach that would allow, with Yukon First Nations' consent, an exemption from assessment for projects that involve a renewal or amendment to an existing authorization.
- The Government of Yukon is working with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board to ensure the effective implementation of the Pre-Submission Engagement process.
- We are implementing priority actions from the Wetlands Stewardship Policy, which was released in January.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with Yukon First Nations, Government of Canada and relevant Boards and Councils to ensure project proposals have effective Regional Land Use Plan conformity checks.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Industry groups have identified concerns around efficient regulatory and assessment processes.

Streamlining of Regulatory Assessment Process

Executive Council Office

Background:

- A Steering Committee for New Minerals Legislation was struck in September 2021. It includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and Transboundary Indigenous governments.
- The Steering Committee for New Minerals Legislation is working to develop a recommended framework for a new regime that will cover all aspects of new legislation. Information from the public engagement and Indigenous consultation period in 2023 is being considered by the Committee, and a What We Heard document is being prepared to share with the public.
- The Steering Committee for New Public Lands Legislation has finalized the policies issues outlined in a discussion paper that is planned for release as part of a public engagement and First Nation consultation process. The release of this discussion paper will also be supported by public open houses in communities throughout the Yukon as well as meetings with groups, organizations and other governments that may have an interest in a new public lands act.
- The YESAA Reset MOU established the YESAA Oversight Group, with members from Government of Canada, Government of Yukon and CYFN. YESAA Oversight Group objective is to look for improvements in the implementation of YESAA.
- Consultation and engagement on a proposed approach to renewals and amendments under YESAA occurred in late 2022-2023. A draft Guidance Document and Implementation Plan has been developed.
- The YG wetlands stewardship policy is a high-level guide that will support environmental and socio-economic assessment, regulatory approval and licensing, as well as provide tools for land-use planning.
- YG has completed staffing of wetland implementation positions, and established a cross-departmental working group to aid with implementation and coordination on policy actions. The working group has identified 9 priority implementation actions and three operational priorities for advancement.

Streamlining of Regulatory Assessment Process

Executive Council Office

- The pre-submission engagement process for YESAB is a proactive, front-end process that occurs before a project proposal is submitted for screening by the Executive Committee. The purpose of pre-submission engagement is to bring interested and affected parties together to review project requirements well in advance of a detailed proposal being submitted for assessment. The process is intended to identify gaps and issues of concern, to define values and baseline information requirements and ensure a timely and efficient screening process.
- Section 12.17.1 of the Final Agreements and section 44(1) of the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* provide for the continued participation of Regional Land Use Plan Commissions as the conformity check body for approved regional land use plans.
- Section 11.7.1 of the Final Agreements states the YG shall exercise any discretion it has in granting an interest in, or authorizing the use of, land, water or other resources in conformity with the Regional Land Use Plans.
- Once the North Yukon and Peel Watershed land use planning commissions disbanded, the Parties agreed Yukon Land Use Planning Council would undertake compliance checks, but there has been no dedicated funding for this.
- ECO, Energy Mines and Resources, and Environment have been collaborating for several months to determine options for conformity checks for Regional Land Use Plans.
- Administrative, financial and legal analysis is required prior to determining if any processes for conformity checks are preferred by YG. Discussions with Canada, CYFN and YFN representatives will also be a basis for confirming a preferred approach.
- Currently YG is looking into short-term options for conformity checks until a renewed funding package for the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) and Final Agreement (FA) Implementation Plans is secured.
- YG will be engaging with the Council of Yukon First Nation (CYFN) and Yukon First Nation (YFN) representatives, and if necessary other stakeholders (e.g. Yukon

Streamlining of Regulatory Assessment Process

Executive Council Office

Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC) and Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB)), to discuss options conformity checks.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office

2024.02.14

Date approved

**Youth Directorate Funding to
Community Organizations**

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Youth Directorate supports programs and services that help youth reach their full potential through mental health and wellness.
- The Youth Directorate provides more than \$1.6 million annually to youth-serving organizations and community groups through several funding programs.
- We provide an additional \$1 million per year to support youth mental health and wellness.

Additional response:

- Our government is committed to supporting organizations that provide valuable supports and services to the territory's youth and communities.
- Our contributions help these organizations keep Yukon youth engaged and build better futures.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- CASA includes a commitment to increase Government of Yukon funding by an additional \$1 million for youth mental health and wellness.

Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

Executive Council
Office

Background:

CASA

- The Youth Directorate was allocated \$500,000 of CASA funding for each of the fiscal years 2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26 to provide additional funding support to five key youth organizations to support youth mental health and wellness.
- Over \$1.6 million of annual funding will be available as follows:
 - Association franco-yukonnaise \$32,860 total per year
 - \$31,000 operational funding + \$1,860 CASA funding
 - BGC-Yukon – \$479,140 total per year
 - \$297,000 operational funding + \$182,140 CASA funding with additional funding being to support a seven-day per week drop-in service.
 - BYTE-Empowering Youth Society \$384,000 total per year
 - \$304,000 operational funding + \$80,000 CASA funding
 - Heart of Riverdale Community Centre – \$378,000 total per year
 - \$298,000 operational funding + \$80,000 CASA funding
 - Youth of Today Society – \$371,000 total per year
 - \$291,000 + \$80,000 CASA funding
- Education is also receiving \$500,000 of CASA funding to support mental health in schools.

Funding Programs

- The Youth Directorate provides up to \$422,000 of annual project funding to support:
 - The Youth Developmental Asset Program – \$320,000 for youth activities, training and employment for Kwanlin Dün First Nation and 16 Yukon communities.
 - The Youth Investment Fund – \$102,000 for community-driven initiatives aimed at marginalized youth ages 18 and under.

Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

Executive Council
Office

Territorial Youth Strategy (TYS)

- The upcoming Territorial Youth Strategy is a collaborative effort between many diverse stakeholders (young people, youth serving organizations, businesses, community members and First Nations governments).
- The strategy is community-driven and includes Government of Yukon input from various levels. The strategy's vision is that all youth in the territory feel empowered, have a positive sense of self, have mutually caring and fulfilling relationships, and feel connected to and supported by their family, community and land.
- The Government of Yukon will be expected to officially commit to support the TYS at the Youth Summit in April 2024.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.03.19

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

Topic: Current Yukon Water Board license applications of note.

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Victoria Gold Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The company has a Type A Water License and in November 2020 submitted an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) and security costing.• The Board and EMR signed an agreement in January 2021 to pilot a process in which the two regulators conducted a collaborative review of the submission and hold joint meetings with the company.• On June 17, 2022, the Board determined to not approve the RCP and Ordered \$104,903,628 in security inclusive of security held under the <i>Quartz Mining Act</i>.• On August 1, 2022, the company filed documents (an appeal) with the Yukon Supreme Court related to the Board's determinations.• On September 28, 2022, the Court ordered that the Water Board Order dated June 17, 2022, be stayed, insofar as it required the company to furnish an additional \$36,241,328 in security, until 30 days after a decision is released by the Court on the appeal.• On October 3, 2022, the company submitted an updated (2022) RCP and security costing pursuant to the licence which the Board is reviewing.• The Board and EMR signed a second pilot process for the review of the RCP and security costing.• The Secretariat and EMR held a workshop with the company on January 8 and 9, 2024 to seek clarity and discuss information gaps.• The Board is waiting for the company to submit an updated RCP and will continue its review.

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

BMC – Kudz Ze Kayah	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In November 2020, the company created an application for a Type A Water Licence and began submitting supporting documents.• A Decision Document (DD) was issued for the project on June 15, 2022.• The public comment period for the application began on January 6, 2023.• The DD has been set aside per the Yukon Supreme Court decision.• The Board is waiting for a DD.
Goldcorp Kaminak Ltd.- Coffee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The company submitted two applications (Type A and Type B) to the Yukon Water Board in November 2023.• The Type A application is in administrative review.• Technical review of the application will be supported by Hutchinson Environmental consultants.
Alexco Keno Hill Mining Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The company has a Type A Water Licence and in November 2021 submitted an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) and security costing.• The Board completed its review of the RCP and security costing and on September 8, 2023 ordered the company to furnish and maintain security in the amount of \$11,346,433.• The company submitted its 2023 RCP and security costing on November 27, 2023.• The Board is reviewing the RCP with support from SLR Consulting.

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office**CHAPTER 14 WATER USE DISPUTE**

APPLICANT	DETAILS
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On February 21, 2023, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) submitted a water use dispute application to the Board regarding Water Licence QZ19-055 issued to Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership (MNRLP).The Board has determined the Parties to the proceeding are LSCFN, Canada, Yukon and MNRLP.The Board is currently awaiting a response by LSCFN.

HYDRO UNDERTAKINGS

APPLICANT	DETAILS
Yukon Energy Corp. – Aishihik Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Licence HY22-016 was issued to the company on December 21, 2022.On April 30, 2023, YEC submitted for Board Review and Approval, a Five-Year Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (“MAMP”) pursuant to the licence.The Board’s review of the MAMP is on-going.

MUNICIPAL UNDERTAKINGS

APPLICANT	DETAILS
YG Community Services – Dawson City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In July 2021 Community Services (CS) applied to amend their Type A Water Licence for the Dawson City Wastewater Treatment Facility in order to improve treated effluent quality.An intervention was received from the Government of Yukon.CS responded to the intervention on August 9, 2023.On October 18, 2023, the Board advertised notification of a virtual public hearing for December 6, 2023 with an intent date of November 27, 2023.No persons indicated they intended to appear at the public hearing by the intent date and the Board cancelled the hearing.The Board issued an information request to Community Services and is awaiting a response.

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

Haines Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In May 2021 the Village of Haines Junction opened an application to renew its Type B Water Licence for municipal water supply and waste disposal which expired on January 29, 2022. Interventions were received from Government of Yukon and Parks Canada/Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in June 2023. On September 20, 2023, the Board advertised notification of a public hearing in Haines Junction for November 6 & 7 with an intent date of October 27, 2023. No persons indicated they intended to appear at the public hearing by the intent date and the Board cancelled the hearing.
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PLACER UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Tamarack Inc. – Indian River and Montana Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company applied for a Type B Water Licence and Placer Mining Land Use Approval for a project in the Indian River wetlands complex. In June 2017 the company was advised that the Board was satisfied that it would be in the public interest to hold a public hearing given the matters raised in the application and the interventions. Of note was the request for a public hearing by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The Board also issued an information request to the company. The company responded to the Board's information request on November 23, 2023 and Jan 6, 2024. The response is currently being reviewed.
Fellhawk Enterprises Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On October 6, 2021, the company submitted an application to the Board for a Type B Water Licence and Class 4 placer land use approval. The mining plan proposed works on mining grants currently granted in another company's mining land use approval. The Board denied the application for a Water Licence and Approval. The company filed a petition filed in Supreme Court of Yukon on August 30, 2022 The YSC found the Board's reasons for decision were not adequate and as a result the Court found the Board's decisions were not reasonable.

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The YSC ordered the Board to reconsider the application.• The reconsideration is underway.
Indian River Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board has several active applications before it which are in the Indian River wetlands complex.• YESAB recommended terms in evaluation reports stating there should be no mining in undisturbed wetlands within the Indian River complex.• The decision body (Energy Mines and Resources) varied the recommendation to allow for mining in these areas subject to submitting an approved wetlands reclamation plan.• Interventions in the water licence process from Yukon Conservation Society and First Nations requested the Board hold public hearings on the matter of wetlands and encouraged the Board to develop a policy to guide decision making.• A three-day virtual public interest hearing was held in October 2020.• Interventions included reference to an MOU between the Yukon government (YG) and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) in which YG committed to work with TH to develop a policy and guidelines for the protection and reclamation of Indian River wetlands.• In August 2021 the Board released a "What We Heard Report" and made a recommendation to the Premier to consider the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection, Use and Reclamation of Yukon Wetlands. The Board is participating in the YG Wetland Policy Group and is working on the development and implementation of Water Board Wetland Information Guidelines, which will eventually be informed by the wetland policy.• The Board continues to deliberate each application on a case-by-case basis given the evidence provided by all parties.

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

Statistics - Water Licence Applications 2013 to Date			
Year	Type B	Type A	Total
2014	120	4	124
2015	133	2	135
2016	123	8	131
2017	135	7	142
2018	121	5	126
2019	102	7	109
2020	116	5	121
2021	93	6	99
2022	108	3	111
2023	88	4	92
2024	9	0	9

Statistics do not include plans submitted for review and approval by the Board.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.02.01

Date

Budget Operations for Cabinet

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- This year's Cabinet budget is \$3.4 million.
- This funding provides members of the Executive Council with planning and administrative support services.
- There has been no increase to this budget since 2019/20.
- Details of out-of-territory travel for Ministers are posted to Yukon.ca.

Ministers

\$348,400 in funding is for expenses related directly to the Ministers.

- \$293,400 is allocated for in-and out-of-territory travel for Ministers and their staff, as required.
- \$50,000 is allocated for communication costs (telephones, etc.) for Ministers and their support staff.
- \$5,000 is allocated for other miscellaneous expenses.

	2023-24		2022-23		2021-22	
	Budget	Estimate	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Travel	293,400	295,000	293,400	250,764	293,400	35,303
Communications	50,000	45,000	50,000	27,938	50,000	27,174
Other expenses	5,000	8,500	5,000	9,344	5,000	4,178
TOTAL	348,400	348,500	348,400	288,046	348,400	66,655

*Reduced travel costs in 2021-22 due to COVID

Budget Operations for Cabinet

Executive Council Office

Cabinet Offices support

The Cabinet Offices support budget totals \$3,083,000.

- 98 per cent of this budget funds personnel costs and the remaining being allocated to office operations (supplies, material, training etc.).
- There are currently 24 full-time employees budgeted in the Cabinet Office.
 - 14 advisory positions
 - 7 administrative positions
 - 3 executive positions

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Expenses related to Ministerial travel were historically low during the pandemic (2020-21 and 2021-22). However, travel has resumed to pre-pandemic levels.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister

Executive Council Office

2024.02.02

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Legislative Assembly amended the *Electoral District Boundaries Act* to establish an Electoral Boundaries Commission before the next territorial election.
- The commission will examine the current territorial electoral district boundaries and suggest changes to the boundaries, number and names of electoral districts for the next general election.
- A Chair and Commissioners were appointed in December 2023 and have started their work.
- Reviewing electoral districts ensures that all Yukoners have fair, effective and balanced representation in the Assembly as the territory's population grows and shifts.

Additional response:

- The Electoral District Boundaries Commission has up to 12 months to report back to the Assembly on its recommendations.
- This will allow enough time for the *Electoral District Boundaries Act* to be amended and to provide the required period of six months to pass before the November 2025 territorial election is held under the new boundaries.
- Nominees from each party represented in the Legislative Assembly were appointed to the Commission in mid-December.
- Members include:
 - Chief Justice Suzanne M. Duncan, Chair, determined by legislation;
 - Warren Holland – nominated by the Yukon Party;
 - Patricia Cuning – nominated by the Yukon Liberal Party;

Electoral Boundaries

Executive Council Office

- Elizabeth Hanson, nominated by the Yukon New Democratic Party; and
 - Maxwell Harvey – Chief Electoral Officer.
- The Chief Justice of the Yukon Supreme Court chairs the commission and the Yukon's Chief Electoral Officer supports the Commission.
- The Commission will conduct research and hold public hearings before preparing its report and recommendations.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Chief Electoral Officer recommended, in his 2019 and 2021 reports, that a Commission be established ahead of the next territorial general election.
- The boundaries recommended by the 2018 commission were introduced as amendments to the *Electoral Boundaries Act* but were defeated by the government.
- The Chief Electoral Officer's reports recommend that other changes be made to the *Elections Act* such as imposing restrictions on political parties and campaign financing. The Yukon is the only jurisdiction in Canada without such limits.

Background:

- Current electoral boundaries were established in 2008.
- Three elections have been held using these boundaries (2011, 2016, 2021).
- The *Elections Act* provides that commissions should be appointed after every second general election. A commission was appointed in 2017.
- The Yukon's population has grown and shifted significantly since 2008.
- The growth of the Whistle Bend neighbourhood is one example.
- The commission may recommend boundary adjustments or new districts to address growth and shifts in population.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 67

Spring 2024

Electoral Boundaries

Executive Council Office

Approved by:

Signature on file
Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office

2024.02.02
Date approved

Recommended response:

- From June 2023 to June 2024, we are commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Yukon becoming a territory of Canada.
- This provides an opportunity to reflect on the long history of this land and think about the territory we want to build for the future.
- We have already launched several exciting initiatives tied to the Yukon's 125th year:
 - the Yukon 125 Fund provided up to \$7,500 to 62 projects across the territory that pay tribute to Yukon communities, heritage and cultures;
 - the 125 Prize will provide three exceptional projects with up to \$125,000 to achieve something extraordinary; and
 - A special sitting of the legislature was held in Dawson City on June 13, the day the Yukon became a territory 125 years ago.
- The 125 Prize recipients include:
 - Matthew Lien received \$125,000 for The Kluane Compositions which will develop a hybrid, three-movement music composition and a grand piano helicoptered into Kluane National Park to be featured in the composition's ten-minute music video;
 - Tedd Tucker and Amy Kenny received close to \$80,000 for It's Weird Up Here: A celebration of small achievements will profile wild and wacky stories through an illustrated book; and
 - John Sergeantson received under \$20,000 for Yukon Alpine Climbing First Assent where a climbing team will attempt to perform the first ascent of an alpine rock route "Radelet Arete" in southern Yukon.

- Most recently, we announced the development of a commemorative medal, featuring original artwork from Carcross/Tagish First Nation artist Violet Gatensby.
- The medal will be awarded to Yukoners who embody values of leadership and reconciliation through a collaborative effort.
 - 125 medals are reserved for Yukon First Nations leaders, to recognize outstanding members of their communities; and
 - 125 medals will be awarded by the territory's political leaders, with medals reserved for government Cabinet members, the Speaker of the House, other party leaders and members of the public.
- We look forward to celebrating these remarkable Yukoners in the weeks to come.

Additional response:

- This anniversary is a significant milestone in our history.
 - It is a time for us to recognize the impacts that the Klondike Gold Rush and the Yukon's social, political, and economic development had on First Nations Peoples.
 - The anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate our shared efforts to create a more inclusive society and culture and build more inclusive governance.
-

Context:

- The Yukon became a territory of Canada on June 13, 1898, following the population influx brought by the Klondike Gold Rush.

Background:

- The various funds and initiatives were primarily delivered by the Department of Tourism and Culture and through partnerships with local organizations.
- A special sitting was held in Dawson City to commemorate the 125th anniversary of joining confederation.
- A new logo, using Yukon place brand themes, was prepared for the occasion and has been used on a new flag.
- A new Instagram page was created for posting 125 days of notable Yukon content.
- The Yukon 125 medal features artwork entitled Resilient Hearts/ Insightful Vision, by Carcross/Tagish First Nation Violet Gatenby.
- The initiative was discussed with Chiefs at the September 2023 Yukon Forum meeting and announced publicly in January 2024.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.02.26

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date approved

Media Monitoring

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon helps the public service make informed decisions with an internal media monitoring and transcription service.
- In late January, the Government of Yukon posted a new Request for Proposals to best meet the public service's media monitoring needs.
- The Request for Proposals includes clear direction that news reports are captured in the twice-daily media monitoring report, and that interview transcripts be billed at a per-word fee.

Additional response:

- Transcripts of media coverage are for the use of Government of Yukon staff for internal review, analysis and research.
- As a courtesy, we also provide several arm's-length offices with media monitoring services.
- Following a request for proposals, a Canadian company from outside the territory was awarded the current media monitoring contract based on their experience, skills and expertise, as well as their price submission.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Given opposition parties use the Government of Yukon's media monitoring services, they are interested in any changes to the service.

Media Monitoring

Executive Council Office

Background:

- When the last media monitoring and transcription services contract ended, the department was required by government procurement processes to send out a Request for Proposals.
- The most cost-effective and qualified supplier was awarded the contract.
- This new vendor is providing a similar service at a reduced price.
- While the previous supplier chose to provide verbatim transcripts of news broadcasts in the media monitoring reports, the new provider considers them transcripts and charges accordingly.
- When concerns were first raised about this change, the department worked with the vendor to provide expanded descriptions of each broadcast in the report.
- We are unable to make any further changes within the scope of the contract.
- Procurement best practice is to continue with the current pricing schedule and apply the lessons learned to the next contract.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister

Executive Council Office

2024.02.02

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Work continues on electoral reform so that Yukoners have the best electoral system in place to ensure they are properly represented in this Legislative Assembly.
- On November 7, 2023, the motion to accept the Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform's final report was supported by a majority of this House.
- That motion enabled the creation of a Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, which will recommend a model for electing Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.
- They will table their final report to the Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly by October 31, 2024.

Additional response:

- The Citizens' Assembly will be a representative body of all Yukoners with 2 representatives from each of the 19 ridings.
- Participants will be selected randomly with assistance from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.
- Almost 1,800 Yukoners declared their willingness to participate in a Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, and those people will be the first to be considered for this important work.
- Dr. Sara McPhee-Knowles has been appointed to Chair the Committee.
- The budget for this work is estimated to be just over \$287,000 this fiscal year and just over \$953,000 next year.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The motion to create the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform was passed in the fall sitting, and the final report is due October 31, 2024.
-

Background:

- The Official Opposition did not support the passing of the motion.
- Dr. McPhee-Knowles is not related to MLA Tracy McPhee

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister

Executive Council Office

2024.02.09

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to continuous improvement of our day-to-day operations, the design of new initiatives and the delivery of services to the public.
- To support this important work, the Evaluation Unit will move from the Department of Finance to the Executive Council Office as of April 1, 2024.
- This will allow the unit to better integrate with the government's priorities through the strategic planning work led by the Executive Council Office.

Additional response:

- By monitoring and measuring the operations and the outcomes of programs, we are supporting the successful evaluation and evidence-based management of our programs.
- Phased implementation of the new *Performance Measurement and Evaluation Framework* began in fall 2022.
- This *Framework* improves our understanding of how government expenditures translate into real benefits for the Yukon and Yukoners.
- A growing proportion of government programs, policies, and strategies are reporting on their anticipated outcomes, the resources dedicated to their accomplishment and the metrics used to understand their operations and the results they achieve for the Yukon.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The government committed to the development of an Evaluation Framework in Minister Silver's Mandate Letter of July 5, 2021.
 - The Evaluation Unit and two FTEs will transfer to the Executive Council Office as of April 1, 2024.
-

Background:

- The government is committed to developing an evaluation framework in the former Premier's 2021 Mandate Letter. This commitment was reaffirmed in the 2023 Mandate Letter for the Minister of Finance.
- In response to these commitments, the Evaluation Unit in the Department of Finance developed the *Performance Measurement and Evaluation Framework* and began a phased implantation in fall 2022.
- The *Framework* includes two major components. The first component is a formalized set of standards and best practices that help departments design programs and collect information in a way that enables government to evaluate the success of those programs in the future. The Evaluation Unit has worked with departments since 2022 on a voluntary basis to apply these standards and begin to evaluate several existing and new programs.
- The second component of the *Framework* is an enterprise software application that would facilitate the collection, storage, and analysis of information relevant to evaluation. The Department of Finance requested \$240,000 through the IRMC envelope in 2024-25 (\$70,000) and 2025-26 (\$170,000) to support the development of the data platform.
- The Department of Finance used a Negotiated Request for Proposals (nRFP) for the procurement of the platform in the fall of 2023.
- One proponent responded to the nRFP; however, the proposed cost was significantly higher than the amount secured under the IRMC envelope. The

Session Briefing Note

**ECO TAB #71
FIN TAB #23
Spring 2024
ECO-FIN**

Evaluation Unit Transfer

Yukon government is therefore exploring options for this component of the program.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister, ECO

2024.02.21

Date approved

Signature on file

Deputy Minister, FIN

February 19, 2024

Date approved

Establishing the Yukon Fund

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring Yukoners benefit from our natural resources.
- Through budget 2024/25, we have enabled the creation of the Yukon Fund.
- This fund celebrates the Yukon's 125th anniversary and is intended to provide long-term financial benefits to future generations of Yukoners.
- We look forward to sharing more details about this exciting initiative after the technical work is completed.

Additional response:

- The fund will maximize the investment of Beaufort Sea oil and gas exploration and development revenue.
- Work is underway to outline the fund's parameters and how it will be managed.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The 2024-2025 budget contains a line item for the Yukon Fund.

Background:

- The Yukon government signed the Western Arctic Offshore Accord with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Canada, and the Northwest Territories in August 2023, which formalized resource revenue sharing from past and future oil and gas exploration and development activities in the South Beaufort Sea.
- Yukon will receive \$12M from Canada as a result of the Agreement, which will be used as seed money for the Yukon Fund.

Establishing the Yukon Fund

Executive Council Office

- In 1976, the Alberta government established the Alberta Heritage Fund, funded largely through a percentage of resource royalties.
- By 1987 Alberta ended contributions to the fund, and often spent more than the fund earned.
- The Fund is now worth over \$21 billion, but it would be substantially larger had it been managed more effectively.
- In 1990, the Norwegian parliament passed legislation to create what is now the Government Pension Fund Global, and the first money was deposited in the fund in 1996. The Fund is now worth over \$2 trillion CAD.
- In 2022, the government of Newfoundland and Labrador established the Future Fund – a sovereign wealth fund used to save and invest natural resource revenue collected by the government, as well as a portion of the revenue from the planned privatization of state assets worth over \$5M.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office

2024 02 21

Date approved

**Intergovernmental Relations
(General)**

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon regularly works with other governments, in Canada and abroad, to advance our priorities and ensure our voice is heard.
- We have strong relationships with other provinces and territories and the federal government, and we look forward to continued collaboration on shared priorities.
- Internationally, we are working to promote the Yukon as a place to live, work, visit, and invest.

Recommended response (Western Premiers' Conference):

- As the Chair of this year's Western Premiers' Conference I look forward to welcoming my colleagues to the Yukon this summer.
- Since taking on the role last fall, I have worked with western Premiers on advocacy to the federal government related to secure information-sharing and wildfire response.
- The Yukon benefits from working collaboratively with neighbouring jurisdictions on issues of regional and national importance such as economic corridors, health care and Arctic security.

Recommended response (travel):

- In-person engagements help to cultivate strong, productive relationships with leaders across Canada and the world.
- There are costs and environmental impacts associated with these trips out of territory.

Intergovernmental Relations (General)

Executive Council
Office

-
- However, nothing can replace the value of looking people in the eye and listening to what they have to say.
 - We will continue to weigh the merits of travel carefully to ensure it is cost-effective and environmentally responsible and advances our objectives and priorities.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Premier Pillai was announced as Chair of the 2024 Western Premiers' Conference.
 - Engagements outside the territory may raise questions about costs and climate (emissions) impacts.
-

Background:

- Since the conclusion of the previous sitting, Premier Pillai has participated in intergovernmental engagements including:
 - mission to Europe (Frankfurt, Germany and London, UK) to promote mineral sector opportunities in Yukon (November 2023);
 - participated in the Intergovernmental Forum, bringing together Yukon First Nations, Government of Yukon and Government of Canada leaders in Ottawa (December 2023);
 - bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister and other federal ministers in Ottawa, as well as engagements alongside Yukon First Nations leaders as part of “Yukon Days” (December 2023);
 - in-person meeting with Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador (December 2023)
 - introductory conversation and in-person meeting with R.J. Simpson, Premier of the NWT (December 2023 and January 2024, respectively);
-

**Intergovernmental Relations
(General)**Executive Council
Office

- meeting with the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Johnathan Wilkinson and representatives of industry groups with mineral interests in the territory in Vancouver, BC (January 2024);
 - videoconference with P.J. Akeeagok, Premier of Nunavut, and R.J. Simpson, Premier of the Northwest Territories (January 2024);
 - meetings with BC Minister Cullen and Premier Eby on the margins of Roundup (January 2024); and
 - hosted the Governor of Alaska, First Lady, and members of the Alaska Cabinet in Whitehorse (February 2024).
- In June 2024, the Government of Yukon will host the next Western Premiers' Conference. The Western Premiers' Conference is an annual meeting of the Premiers of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba to discuss issues of common interest and concern.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.02.02

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Health Human Resources**Health and Social
Services

Government priority:

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

Key messages:

- Health Human Resources presents one of the greatest challenges facing Canada and the Yukon's healthcare systems today.
- Domestically and globally, we are facing unprecedented challenges including an insufficient supply of healthcare workers.
- These challenges have been further exacerbated by COVID-19, and both a growing and aging population.
- The Government of Yukon recognizes the seriousness of these shortages. In response, we have established a Health Human Resources Steering Committee jointly led by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Hospital Corporation.
- Using an intersectoral approach, the Committee developed a Yukon Health Human Resource strategy to address all aspects of health human resources.
- Our Health Human Resource strategy was released on December 13, 2023.
- We are also working closely with federal, provincial, and territorial government partners to respond to this situation.

Key facts:

- We have committed to allocating \$2.8M during the 2024-25 fiscal year to the implementation of the Health Human Resources Strategy.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Health Human Resources

Health and Social
Services

- We have committed to allocating **\$2 M** during the 2023-24 fiscal year to enhance recruitment and retention of new healthcare professionals across the Yukon. This includes funding to support the following initiatives:
 - **\$649K** (\$649,000) for Nurse Retention and Recruitment Incentives;
 - **500K** (\$500,000) to develop a cross-sectoral Yukon Health Human Resources Strategy;
 - **\$464K** (\$464,000) for Community Nursing and Nurse Practitioner funding for additional nursing FTEs; and,
 - **\$387K** (\$387,000) for 3.8 FTEs for Human Resources. The new positions will help support the Health Human Resource Strategy and Internationally Educated Health Professionals, they will also work on recruitment initiatives for health professionals.
- Community Nursing is currently experiencing a vacancy rate of approximately 15% for Primary Health Care Nurses, which is an improvement of approximately 33% since fall 2022.
 - Prior to COVID-19, the vacancy rate amongst Primary Health Care Nurses was approximately 5%.
- On December 1, 2022, we announced a **\$6M** package of retention and signing bonuses for nurses employed by the Government of Yukon.
- From December 1, 2022, to December 1, 2023, the Department of Health and Social Services has recruited 60 nurses, including (44 Registered Nurses and 16 Licensed Practical Nurses.
- In 2023/25 we have provided \$50,000 to the Yukon Medical Association to financially support a physician locum recruiter. As part of the Health Human Resources Strategy, we have committed to an additional \$120,000 to expand physician recruiting.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Health Human Resources**Health and Social
Services**Health Human Resources Strategy:**

- The Yukon Health Human Resources Strategy was released in fall 2023.
- The HHR Strategy provides a systemic, coordinated and informed roadmap towards a health and social services system that will meet Yukoners' current and future needs.
 - The Strategy builds on existing progress in the Yukon's health and social service sectors and includes key metrics to track progress and success, which will be reported publicly.
- The Strategy outlines 25 actions to be implemented jointly over the next three years by the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Hospital Corporation, in partnership with the HHR Steering Committee.
- The 25 actions span five key pillars which aim to boost the delivery of quality care and services and attract more health professionals to live and work in the Yukon.
 - The five pillars are:
 - Retain: Build and support skilled, passionate, healthy, diverse and inclusive teams.
 - Recruit: Grow and attract a passionate, engaged and qualified workforce reflective of the needs of Yukoners.
 - Plan: Collect the right data to support long-term workforce planning, identify gaps and make evidence-based decisions.
 - Innovate: Promote and implement new ways of working and learning.
 - Learn: Create more growth, training and educational opportunities for Yukoners to learn locally.
- This funding will help to support work on immediate term priorities and allow us to move forward with progressing key elements of the strategy, including new training and education opportunities, new recruiting and

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Health Human Resources**Health and Social
Services

retention initiatives and developing supports for internationally educated health professionals to practice in the Yukon.

- Additional funding for long-term initiatives will be made available through future budgetary processes as the strategy is implemented.

Health Human Resource Steering Committee:

- The Health Human Resources Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from across numerous Government of Yukon departments, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, as well as the Yukon University, Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Registered Nurses Association, the Yukon Employees Union, the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada and First Nations representatives.
- The Committee is looking at all aspects of Health Human Resources including retention, recruitment, planning, learning and innovation. They are also working to help coordinate, support and influence Health Human Resource work underway in their respective organizations so that it aligns with the Committee's recommendations and priorities.
- The committee has established eight working groups representing areas of recruitment, engagement and retention, housing, licensing, internationally educated health professional integration, data and planning, training and emerging positions.
- The work of this committee aligns with the ongoing collaborative efforts of Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments, which are supported by the recent federal investments which identify health human resources as a shared priority.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Health Human Resources**Health and Social
Services**Retention Bonuses:**

- The retention and recruitment bonuses implemented December 1, 2022, are being provided to Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Licensed Practical Nurses, until March 31, 2024, who are in a position requiring a nursing designation and performing nursing duties for the Government of Yukon.
- This bonus package serves to address the wage gap we face with other Canadian jurisdictions and helps us with the ongoing recruitment and retention challenges we are facing by creating tools to effectively attract and retain staff to serve our communities.
- This is not a reflection of the appreciation for the hundreds of other frontline care workers who work tirelessly to contribute to the health, safety, wellbeing, and care of Yukoners.
 - These staff can never be replaced, and we thank each and every one of them.
- The administration of these allowances is consistent with our delivery of other allowances and in accordance with other nursing retention letters of understanding within the Yukon Employees Union Collective Agreement.
- Like the other compensable allowances for nurses, the recruitment and retention bonuses are based on work performed. Employees who are on leave without pay but return during the specified period of time to qualify for any bonuses will receive a prorated amount for the time they are actively performing a position that requires a nursing designation.
- Government of Yukon and the Public Service Alliance of Canada/Yukon Employees' Union ratified a new collective agreement on June 6, 2023, that is in effect until December 31, 2024.

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Services

- The new collective agreement contains new nurse pay grids as well as a new retention allowance, effective April 1, 2024, for a Primary Health Care Nurse \$8,000 and Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge \$18,000.
 - As of December 8th, 2023, Yukon Hospital Corporation began issuing retention and recruitment bonuses to their nursing staff. These bonus packages mimic those offered by the Government of Yukon.

Education:

- In partnership with the Departments of Education and Economic Development, we also continue to work with Yukon University to expand programming to support Yukoners to pursue health-related careers.
- The Government of Yukon funds Yukon University to offer a Practical Nurse Diploma whose graduates are a valuable addition to the health care work force in the Yukon.
- Yukon University offers, in partnership with the University of Regina, a Bachelor of Social Work degree. We are working with Yukon University to enhance this program to better meet the needs of Yukon and deliver a more locally-based degree.
- Yukon University also offers a Health Care Assistant program which provides Yukoners with the skills needed to be front-line caregivers.

Bursaries:

- As part of the 2023 Confidence Supply and Agreement, we will work to enhance recruitment and retention initiatives for health care professionals, including programs aimed at supporting students pursuing

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Services

studies in health care fields and who commit to return to work in the Yukon.

- Our government currently provides funding for the Medical Education Bursary, the Nursing Education Bursary, and the Health Profession Education Bursary programs.
- Consistent with the recently released HHR strategy, these programs are under review to ensure that they meet current needs and objectives.
- During the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Department of Health and Social Services has budgeted **\$89K (\$89,000)** through the Medical Education Bursary, the Nursing Education Bursary, and the Health Profession Education Bursary programs to provide financial supports for up to 16 new recipients each year.
 - During the 2014-15 fiscal year, a total of **\$49K (49,000)** was budgeted for these bursaries to support up to 12 new recipients per year.
- In 2023-24, a total of 16 Yukoners received a bursary for studies in the healthcare field. These total **\$65K (\$65,000)** in bursaries being administered.
 - **\$30,000** went to 6 students pursuing nursing education;
 - **\$7,500** went to 1 medical student pursuing a family medicine residency; and,
 - **\$27,500** went to 9 students in other health care professions including 3 students pursuing licensed practical nursing and 2 in nurse practitioner programs.
- Currently, our bursary programs do not include a Return of Service Agreement that requires graduates to return to the Yukon to deliver care.
- Our government is committed and working to expand our programs to create greater incentives for students to return to work in the Yukon, and

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Services

to fulfilling our commitments as part of the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement.

- For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Department of Health and Social Services provided **\$150K (\$150,000)** to the Yukon Registered Nurses Association who administers the Continuing Nurse Education Fund.
- Yukon residents studying medicine or intending to study medicine can apply to other funding programs administered by the Canadian Medical Foundation, the First Nations Health Program at Whitehorse General Hospital, and the Yukon Foundation.
- The Government of Canada is also offering a student loan forgiveness program for doctors and nurses who reside in a community with a population of 50,000 or less to entice more doctors and nurses to rural communities.

India Trip:

- The trip to India was worth the time and effort and represents our first step in exploring possible partnerships within India.
- India represents a significant opportunity to recruit health care providers.
 - According to Statistics Canada, approximately 1 in 5 recent immigrants to Canada listed India as their country of birth.
 - India has emerged as the second-largest source country for the Yukon Nominee Program since its inception. From 2007 to August 31, 2023, the Yukon has nominated a total of 772 principal applicants from India, along with over 200 dependents.
 - India's nursing programs accept approximately 23,000 new Registered Nursing students every year with a reported 750,000 prospective students taking a required entrance exam.

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Services

- India has recently announced plans for over 150 new nursing programs, which could more than double the number of new Registered Nursing graduates.
- Many countries already have established partnerships in India and are seeing a return on investment for their efforts.
- For the Yukon, travelling to India was a necessary first step. We are committed to continuing to explore this initiative and are confident that we will see a future return on our investment.
- During the trip, representatives met with officials from the government of Kerala, with NORKA, which is a government emigration agency, and with nursing regulators, hospitals, and nursing schools.
- More work will need to be done with prospective partners in India, and here in the Yukon, before we see any nurses recruited directly from India.
- We want to ensure that internationally educated health professionals are well supported and integrated into our communities and our healthcare system and facilities to ensure their personal success and to ensure that Yukoners receive the high-quality care they deserve and respect.
- Our efforts within India are part of our medium- and longer-term approaches to respond to health human resource challenges. This is not an immediate fix and was never intended to be.
- The Health Human Resource Strategy outlines an intersectoral approach to addressing these challenges. The India trip is just one element of what is a multi-faceted response.

Internationally Educated Health Professionals:

- Internationally educated health professionals have historically played an important role in the delivery of health care in Canada, and we recognize

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Services

that best leveraging their expertise is a challenge being addressed by all governments across Canada.

- As part of our response to health human resource challenges, we are exploring ways to best support internationally educated health professionals to enter health professions in the Yukon.
- We are working with regulators and our federal, provincial and territorial partners to discuss physician licensing and pathways to licensing physicians, including internally educated physicians.
- Internationally educated health professionals who are underemployed and living in the Yukon can contact HHR@yukon.ca to connect with a team who are collecting information to determine how best to support them.
- We are working with Yukon University to explore opportunities to expand bridging and new education programs to support health care professionals including internationally educated individuals.

Licensing:

- We understand that it is vital that Yukoners have access to primary health care. The Registrar of Medical Practitioners actively participates in national and cross-jurisdictional organizations and initiatives aimed at harmonizing and streamlining licensing pathways and improving processes for all applicants.
- We also recognize that nurses are fundamental to a high-functioning health care system. We are working with the Yukon Registered Nurses Association to find ways to streamline licensing for registered nurses.
- Our goal is to minimize any administrative burden that draws resources away from care while at the same time ensuring that health

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professionals are appropriately regulated and Yukoners have access to safe, high-quality health care.

Letter of Intent with Nova Scotia:

- On July 26, 2023, our government signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of Nova Scotia to work collaboratively on Health Human Resources.
- Nova Scotia has adopted innovative strategies to create new opportunities to address recruitment and retention.
- Officials are working together to share best practices related to recruitment, retention, training, models of care, and licensing and credentialing.

Physician Assistants:

- Physician Assistants are healthcare professionals who work in collaboration with physicians and other healthcare providers under the supervision of licensed physicians.
- There are no Physician Assistants practicing in the Yukon and at present they are not regulated to do so.
- Through the Health Human Resources Steering Committee, we will continue to work with our health system partners such as the Yukon Medical Association, and the Yukon Hospital Corporation to determine the potential for integrating Physician Assistants into the Yukon's health care system.
- A Physician Assistant's scope of practice varies across Canada. Their scope of practice is similar to, but not identical to, those of a Nurse Practitioner.

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Services

- Typically, they conduct patient assessments, order and interpret tests, create treatments plans, prescribe medications, assist in surgical procedures and order and perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.
- Physician Assistants currently practice in the public healthcare system in Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Ontario and Nova Scotia and are primarily regulated via the respective provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons. Newfoundland, Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island are advancing work to incorporate Physician Assistants into their own healthcare systems.

Approved by:

Signature on file

February 2, 2024

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- We advocate the needs of Yukoners clearly and consistently to the right people, all the way up to the Prime Minister, to achieve the results we need and secure important investments and policy changes for the territory.
- Engagement with the federal government ensures that the Yukon's distinct perspectives are reflected in national dialogues and federal policy-making on significant issues such as Arctic security and sovereignty.
- We will continue to work with the federal government to advance the Yukon's priorities, including strong and sustainable health care systems, clean energy, and infrastructure and development projects that support our future prosperity and growth.

Additional response (Yukon Days):

- We continue to work with Yukon First Nations leaders to bring a joint territorial voice to Ottawa.
- Joint engagement helps to ensure that federal decision-makers understand our unique northern context, the issues of greatest importance to Yukoners and the home-grown solutions that can tackle our biggest challenges.
- The Yukon government and Yukon First Nations work together to make our voice stronger in our joint dealings with the federal government.

Additional response (Intergovernmental Forum):

- This past December as part of Yukon Days, I joined fellow Ministers and Yukon First Nations Chiefs at an Intergovernmental Forum in Ottawa.
- The Intergovernmental Forum was convened for the first time ever outside the territory, bringing leaders to Ottawa on the 50th anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, which set off the land claims process in the Yukon.
- Our discussions covered a range of shared priorities including affordable housing, health and wellness, land use planning, language revitalization, emergency preparedness, and protecting Yukon salmon for future generations.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- A number of high-profile Government of Yukon projects and initiatives require significant federal investment to be successful.
 - Yukon Days is recognized as an annual engagement, typically held shortly following the conclusion of the fall sitting.
-

Background:

- ECO Intergovernmental Relations coordinates engagement with the federal government on the Government of Yukon's priorities.
- Recent areas of focus for federal engagement include:
 - support for the Yukon government's infrastructure priorities, notably clean energy infrastructure, the Yukon Convention Centre, and the redevelopment of the Port of Skagway;

Federal Engagement

Executive Council
Office

- regulatory efficiency, specifically the YESAA targeted amendment on project amendments and renewals;
- arctic security;
- funding for affordable housing; and
- measures to support critical minerals development.
- Yukon Days is a longstanding annual event to promote the Yukon's priorities with the federal government and focuses on Premier, Minister and Chief-level advocacy on Yukon priorities with federal leadership.
- This form of engagement helps to fulfil the Yukon government's commitment in the Yukon Forum Joint Action Plan to bring a joint voice to Canada on multilateral initiatives.
- Since 2018, meetings take place in early December to raise the profile of the Yukon's interests at an optimal point in the federal budget cycle.
- The last Yukon Days meetings took place on December 4 to 6, 2023.
 - On December 4, Yukon's Premier and several Ministers participated in an Intergovernmental Forum meeting, alongside Chiefs and federal Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.
 - Further trilateral conversations occurred with select federal ministers to support focused engagement on specific priorities, notably infrastructure, housing, public safety, and mental wellness.
 - Topics for the 2023 event included housing; the substance use health emergency; land use planning; salmon management; Indigenous languages; and emergency management and community safety.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.02.02

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

**Arctic and Northern Policy
Framework**

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Arctic and Northern Policy Framework is the Government of Canada's vision for the North.
- Several of our government's priorities are reflected in the framework, including access to renewable and affordable energy, a safe and secure Arctic region and investments in infrastructure that can support healthy and prosperous communities.
- We continue to work with the federal government for the benefit of northerners and all Canadians, within and outside of the scope of the framework.

Additional response (engagement):

- Our government's strategies and priorities on issues from clean energy to health care will continue to guide our work with the Government of Canada, as we consider ongoing engagement on the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework and its governance structures.
- On October 13, leaders from across the North gathered in Whitehorse for a meeting convened by the federal Minister of Northern Affairs under the banner of the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework.
- Discussions touched on Arctic security, international policy, housing and other regional priorities.
- Participating in these discussions is an opportunity to share our interests with the federal government and other Northern leaders.
- We continue to encourage the federal government to match the level of ambition in the Framework with the investments that the North needs.

**Arctic and Northern Policy
Framework**

Executive Council
Office

Additional response (Yukon chapter):

- The Government of Yukon has no intention of publishing a stand-alone chapter. Ultimately, this is a federal policy tool.
- Through work with Yukon First Nations governments and public engagement, we developed a set of strategies and action plans that guide our work on issues such as health care transformation, climate and clean energy and economic development.
- These offer “made-in-the-Yukon” approaches to solving the challenges we face today.
- We will continue to engage with the framework as one of several federal strategies that influence decision-making about northern investments.

Context –this may be an issue because:

- The annual Arctic and Northern Policy Framework (ANPF) Leadership Committee Meeting occurred on October 13 in Whitehorse.
- The Government of Yukon has not released a “partner chapter” to the ANPF which could lead to questions on where we see ourselves in the framework.
- This was raised in the spring 2023 session.

Background:

- The framework was released in September 2019 and sets out the federal policy vision for Canada’s Arctic and northern regions to 2030.
- The federal government continues to engage with “partners” to the ANPF, including territorial governments, several provincial governments (Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, and Quebec) and northern Indigenous governments and organizations, on implementation.

Arctic and Northern Policy Framework

Executive Council
Office

- There is no implementation plan nor an investment strategy associated with the Framework. While federal announcements occasionally include connections with the ANPF, there is no dedicated source of funds to achieve the Framework's objectives, or for partner governments.
- "Partner chapters" to the ANPF were conceived as a way for Indigenous, territorial and provincial governments to outline their priorities in the context of the framework's goals.
- A pan-territorial chapter was developed by the three territorial governments and released at the same time as the federal framework. It highlights the key opportunities and challenges shared by the three territories, such as infrastructure needs, limited fiscal capacity and collaborative governance.
- The governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami each released stand-alone chapters.
- The Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) is developing their own chapter for the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework and received funding from the federal government for this work.
- Where relevant and appropriate, the Government of Yukon continues to work through ANPF mechanisms to advance the full suite of territorial priorities with the federal government.

Approved by:

Signature on file
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.02.02
Date

Recommended response (Arctic security)

- The Yukon's security is key to our safety and prosperity.
- I have frequent conversations with leaders in the federal government and the Canadian Armed Forces about our openness and willingness to partner in security.
- We continue to strengthen the lines of communication with the Department of National Defense and Joint Task Force North to ensure we are informed of matters that could impact our security.
- We are also engaging with the federal government on potential investments to increase the capabilities of the Armed Forces in Canada's North and provide infrastructure that supports our resilience and development.
- I was very pleased to see the announcement of Canada's new defence policy vision, *Our North, Strong and Free*, to be supported by significant investment of \$73 billion over the next two decades.
- What territorial leaders have been saying for years is resonating with federal decision-makers: that we need a strong, modern military capable of protecting Canada's North in the face of global uncertainty and volatility.
- I look forward to continuing to work with Minister Blair and his colleagues to increase the Armed Forces presence in the Yukon, and ensure that we benefit from the future multi-use infrastructure investments signaled in this policy.

Recommended response (Arctic Security Advisory Council)

- Our government established the Yukon Arctic Security Advisory Council.

- The Council brings together respected experts from a range of related disciplines.
- I've asked them to explore not only the risks that the Yukon faces, but also how we can leverage opportunities to support economic development and infrastructure in our communities.
- I look forward to seeing the results of their work which will help shape our strategic approach to these issues, support effective advocacy with the federal government and identify opportunities for dual-use infrastructure and other investments.
- We invited Yukon First Nations leadership to participate in this conversation, as they bring a vital perspective on Arctic security.
- I look forward to further discussions with Chiefs on this important issue.
- There is increasing interest and activity in the Arctic by multiple global actors – most recently, Russia and China conducted naval exercises off the coast of Alaska.
- We are strengthening the lines of communication with the federal Department of National Defence and Joint Task Force North to ensure we are informed of matters that could impact the security of the Yukon.

Recommended response (Ukraine)

- We continue to condemn the illegal, unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- Putin's actions have caused devastation across Ukraine and threaten international peace, energy and food supplies.

- This is unacceptable and the most vulnerable people impacted by this need to be supported.
 - The Yukon has welcomed 80 Ukrainians to the territory since the invasion.
 - We are proud to support these individuals and families as they settle here and become a part of our community.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Security and defence in the North have a national profile in the context of the ongoing invasion of Ukraine, and increasing activity and interest in the Arctic by Russia, China, and others.
 - On January 5, 2024 the Premier announced the establishment of the Arctic Security Advisory Council.
 - The federal government announced *Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence* on April 8, 2024.
-

Background:

Arctic Security

- The Premier has had many engagements on this topic, including regular connection with the Minister of National Defence and Joint Task Force North.
- Northern Premiers delivered consistent messages to the Prime Minister, other Premiers, and other Arctic leaders about investments in Arctic security and the connections between strong communities, robust infrastructure, and Canadian sovereignty.

- Messages focused on the importance of northerners driving decision making about the North and how investments in making communities healthier and more resilient are investments in northern security.
- Global relationships and geopolitics have changed since the invasion of Ukraine. Russia is sanctioned and economically isolated and the high-level operation of the Arctic Council is on pause. Other forums, such as Arctic Circle and bilateral conversations with Arctic nations are filling in the diplomatic gap.
- Canada announced more than \$40 billion over 20-plus years to upgrade and operate new NORAD infrastructure in the Canadian Arctic. Some specifics on that spending have been announced, but there is no mention of funding that will be spent in the Yukon.
- While Department of National Defence (DND) officials continue to confirm that consultation with northern jurisdictions is planned, to date, the Yukon government has not been asked by DND to participate in any planning activities or conversations on the path for NORAD modernization.

Canada's Defence Policy Update

- Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister of National Defence, Bill Blair, announced *Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence* on April 8, 2024 as part of a series of pre-budget announcements.
- It will be implemented with an investment of \$8.1 billion over five years, and \$73 billion over 20 years.
- The policy recognizes the urgency and importance of asserting Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic and Northern regions, in the context of geopolitical shifts and climate change which have created new threats.
- The investment spans a wide range of initiatives, including improvements to Canada's naval fleet; new satellite and cyber operations capacities; ocean surveillance; and infrastructure and assets.
- It also includes \$218 million over 20 years for "Northern Operational Support Hubs" to expand the military's presence in the North, and to establish or enhance multi-use infrastructure that meets the needs of Northern communities.

Arctic Security Advisory Council

- The Council is mandated to develop a report for government that will assess risks across the Yukon security landscape; identify priority assets and infrastructure, and future opportunities for dual-use infrastructure; and areas of focus for the Yukon government's work with the Government of Canada to enhance security across the region.
- The Council is chaired by Dr. Ken Coates (McDonald-Laurier Institute, Yukon University), who specializes in Northern and Indigenous issues. Members of the Council include:
 - Maj.-Gen. (Ret.) Derek Joyce, who served in the Canadian Armed Forces for more than three decades;
 - Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot, Senior Fellow and Director of Energy, Natural Resources and Environment at the McDonald-Laurier Institute;
 - Dr. Jennifer Spence, Arctic Initiative Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs; and
 - Dr P. Whitney Lackenbauer, Canada Research Chair in the Study of the Canadian North and a professor at Trent University.
- Yukon First Nations leaders were invited to recommend individuals to sit on the Council; at this time, no nominations have been provided.

2023 security incidents

- Ongoing military interactions with non-NATO nations in the Arctic are garnering increased attention in recent years due to increased sensitivity on Arctic Security
- On August 7, 2023, national media reported US military responded to Chinese and Russian vessels off the coast of Alaska's Aleutian Islands. This Chinese and Russian military exercise is understood to have been conducted in international waters.
- NORAD aircraft downed an unidentified aerial object over the Yukon on February 11, 2023. CAF aircraft were mobilized and appeared in the territory on February 12, 2023 to search for the object, since believed to be of benign origin.

- ECO provided operational connection into Joint Task Force North and the Yukon Detachment throughout the operation.
- The government's Emergency Measures Organization and Wildland Fire Management provided resources to support the location and recovery effort.
- ECO has established regular meetings with JTFN and key senior Yukon officials with the intent of increasing communication channels for information sharing.

Approved by:

Signature on file

2024.04.29

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Recommended response:

- The Yukon's international engagement helps meet labour force needs, attract investment across our economy and ensures our voice and values are heard in global discussions about the Arctic.
- Taking the Yukon abroad shows that we are serious about being a productive partner in the global economy, including in critical minerals supply chains. It also demonstrates that the Yukon is a place where people from around the world can find success.
- We regularly host diplomats from other countries here in the Yukon, giving us opportunities to showcase what is exceptional about our territory.
- Throughout the past year, the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations leaderships have had many good discussions on mining investment and promotion and mineral development in the territory. We will continue to work together towards identifying and advancing a shared vision and on collaborative solutions for promoting responsible and respectful mineral development in the Yukon.

Additional response (UK Mission)

- Our mission to Frankfurt and London in November was a success, offering the chance to engage directly with international businesses that are interested in the Yukon's critical minerals.
- I also had the opportunity to connect with the UK government.
- The UK is developing partnerships with Canada on critical minerals, and the Yukon stands to be a valuable part of those conversations going forward.

Additional response (Asia Mission):

- The mission to Asia last September built on the significant engagement we have had with Japan and India through their diplomatic corps in Canada over the last few years.
- The trip was arranged with an eye to efficiency of time and money, and to receive good value for the money we spent.
- Our extensive program of meetings with government and business officials was the next step in strengthening these relationships.
- I am pleased that we were able to bring some Yukon businesses with us, to help them get exposure to new markets and opportunities.
- Japan and India are major international markets that are projected to grow significantly in the coming years.
- While Canada-India relations are facing significant challenges, we cannot lose sight of the fact that the Yukon has strong people-to-people ties in India.
- We continue to seek a constructive dialogue to support these connections at a sub-national level.

Additional response (costs):

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

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions on the mission to Asia may emerge following information disclosures and continued coverage of Canada-India diplomatic relations.
- Some may question the use of funds for international government travel.

Background:

UK Mission

- A Yukon delegation visited Frankfurt and London November 24-30, 2023.
- Outcomes from Frankfurt included:
 - Profiling the Yukon as a gold mining leader at the German Gold Show;
 - Private conversations with industry; and
 - Media.
- Outcomes from London included:
 - Connecting with UK MPs and Ministers at Critical Minerals Day;
 - Direct conversation with Canada's High Commissioner to the UK, Ralph Goodale;
 - Speaking engagements, private meetings and media at the Mines and Money @ Resourcing Tomorrow conference.
 - Bilateral discussion with Rio Tinto.
 - Meeting with Canada UK Chamber of Commerce.

- The total cost for the Frankfurt/London trip was approximately \$35,000. This figure does not include the Economic Development sponsorships at the conferences.

Asia Mission

- A Yukon delegation made a visit to Japan and India September 8 to 20, 2023.
- Outcomes and engagements in Tokyo included:
 - meetings with private companies (Mitsubishi Materials, DOWA Metals) and government (JOGMEC, JOIN) on critical minerals investment;
 - general business development with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan;
 - meeting with Japanese Arctic interests to discuss clean energy and climate change;
 - signing a letter of intent to support another special Aurora flight and tourism to the Yukon; and
 - several tourism engagements with Japanese companies.
- Outcomes and engagements in Trivandrum:
 - meetings with the Chief Minister and several state Cabinet ministers on health care, training and commerce;
 - a letter of intent from the Yukon government to work with NORKA on a targeted recruitment program; and
 - in-depth tour of Technopark Trivandrum and exposure to many tech companies working there.
- Outcomes and engagements in New Delhi:
 - meeting with the federal minister of mines;
 - engagement with Indian business leaders, including in tech; and
 - exposure to health training institutions.
- The total cost of the Asia trip was **\$170,899.54**, broken down as follows:
 - ECO (travel, gifts and hospitality, charge-backs for embassy services, Canada-India Business Council support): \$111,556.53;
 - Economic Development (travel, hospitality): \$26,542.71;

- Tourism and Culture (travel, Tokyo event venue): \$16,802.69; and
- Health and Social Services (travel): \$15,997.61.

India diplomatic relations

- On September 18, the Prime Minister announced that Canadian national security authorities are in possession of credible intelligence that “agents of the government of India” carried out the fatal shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Sikh leader in British Columbia, earlier this year.
- The Yukon government had not been briefed on this intelligence or the timing of the announcement before it was made. Planned meetings with Indian federal ministers the following day were cancelled.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office

2024.02.02

Date approved

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

Session Briefing Note**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.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

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- 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

Signature on file

Deputy Minister, Finance

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)

Session Briefing Note

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Spring 2024

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 Níkwān 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 Níkwān for the same development.

Approved by:

Signature on file

President, Yukon Housing CorporationApril 30, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****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

Spring 2024
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**Spring 2024****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:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

March 19, 2024

Date approved

Signature on file

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

March 19, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

HPW TAB#1

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

FIN TAB#28

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

Session Briefing Note

Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2023-24 Supplementary Overview

HPW TAB#1

FIN TAB#28

Spring 2024

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

O&M

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

Session Briefing Note

Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2023-24 Supplementary Overview

HPW TAB#1

FIN TAB#28

Spring 2024

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Capital

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

Session Briefing Note

Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2023-24 Supplementary Overview

HPW TAB#1

FIN TAB#28

Spring 2024

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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

**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:

Signature on file

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.02.02

Date