

Department of Environment
 Briefing Binder for Fall Legislative Sitting 2025
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Recommended response:

- Yukon businesses have a role to play in the Yukon's waste management system, and we have heard from them that the current Extended Producer Responsibility regulation may increase costs, create confusion, and place a heavier burden on Yukon businesses.
- As we are exploring pausing the expansion of EPR, the Government of Yukon is committed to taking the necessary time to connect with the business community and industry stakeholders to ensure that we move forward with a recycling system that is sustainable in a Yukon context.
- Businesses want and deserve to understand the economic impacts of EPR on their businesses. We are working with the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and the Producer Responsibility Organizations to determine the best way to assess economic feasibility.

Additional response:

- The concerns we have heard from businesses include the late release of fee information for some programs, uncertainty on which local businesses are obligated as producers under the regulation, and what the overall financial impact will be.
- As of now, we understand that most independent Yukon businesses are exempt from the fees of implemented EPR programs.
- We are taking this time to check-in with the business community, industry stakeholders, and Producer Responsibility Organizations to ensure the programs and the regulation are practical, effective and viable for Yukon businesses.

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Fall 2025

Extended Producer Responsibility

Environment

- While this happens, existing programs for batteries, automotive products and packaging and paper will remain in operation, and Yukoners will not see a disruption in the recycling services.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party's platform commits to pause and reassess extended producer responsibility and work with the City of Whitehorse for an interim solution to curbside recycling.
- Concerns have been raised about the anticipated costs of Extended Producer Responsibility to small businesses and fees being passed down to Yukoners.

Background:

- The purpose of extended producer responsibility is to shift the cost of managing the disposal or recycling of materials from taxpayers to producers.
- The Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation was passed in 2024, which has four programs: 1) batteries (in effect June 24, 2025), 2) oil (in effect August 1, 2025), 3) packaging and paper products (in effect November 1, 2025), and 4) hazardous and special products (planned to come into effect in early 2026).
- All provinces in Canada have extended producer responsibility programs, so in some cases, Yukon businesses are already paying some costs embedded in product prices without receiving the recycling services in the territory.
- To date, no small Yukon businesses have been registered as obligated stewards due to current program exemption criteria.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

December 17, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Outfitting in the Yukon

Fall 2025

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to providing the outfitting industry with certainty and predictability, while continuing to ensure the Yukon's wildlife is managed responsibly.
- This includes modernizing the Yukon's outfitter quota process to better support alignment with the Wildlife Act and Final Agreement obligations, and to provide greater certainty for industry.
- Currently, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board is leading an independent review of the Guidelines to Establish Outfitter Quotas.
- We will provide support for Renewable Resources Councils to participate in this review.
- We are committed to working with industry, Renewable Resources Councils, Yukon First Nations, the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and licensed hunters to ensure harvests are fair, transparent and sustainable.

Additional response:

- The Department of Environment will continue to work closely with the industry, First Nations and conservation partners to ensure the Yukon has a strong outfitting sector that benefits Yukoners today and preserves wildlife for future generations.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- In November 2025, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board announced a review of the outfitter quota process. The outfitting industry wants to know how this process will provide outfitters with business certainty, flexibility, and predictability.
- In 2022, the Department of Environment began assigning annual rather than multi-year outfitter quotas. Outfitters oppose this shift in practice.

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Outfitting in the Yukon

Fall 2025

Environment

Background:

- The Guidelines to Establish Outfitter Quotas were established in 1996. The Wildlife Act does not allow for multi-year quotas as envisioned by the Guidelines which were developed prior to the ratification of numerous First Nation Final Agreements and do not reflect the varied realities of the Yukon's land claim status or recent case law.
- As a result, in 2021, the Department of Environment modified how quotas were administered by introducing an interim process that extends existing quotas on a one-year basis, unless there is compelling rationale to adjust a quota (e.g. wildlife population fluctuation), and enables consultation with First Nation governments.
- In response to a recommendation from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the Department of Environment invited the Board to undertake a review and initiate public and stakeholder engagement to modernize the Guidelines to Establish Outfitter Quotas.
- This approach is supportive of the Board's role as a primary instrument for public participation in fish and wildlife management in the territory.
- In August 2025, the department committed \$683,000 in funding over three years to enable the Board to undertake the review process.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with community partners to develop a climate change plan that is rooted in practical, achievable actions, which Yukon communities and Yukoners will directly benefit from now and for generations to come.
- This includes actions that address climate risks while also looking at tangible actions to reduce our emissions.
- In fact, this supplementary budget includes \$52,000 in recoverable funding through our partnership with the Government of Canada that is supporting climate resiliency efforts including emergency management training, flood forecasting improvements, and community wildfire plan implementation.

Additional response (reporting requirements):

- This government was sworn in right before the legislated reporting deadline under the Clean Energy Act. We will publish the report as soon as it is complete, while continuing to work with stakeholders to develop a realistic climate change action plan that will increase the Yukon's climate resiliency, ensure communities are prepared for climate emergencies, reduce our emissions and increase energy security.

Yukon's Climate Change Strategy

Department of Environment

- Focusing our efforts on resiliency will support community preparedness for climate emergencies, protect critical infrastructure while creating good-paying jobs and growing the Yukon's economy.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party platform commits to developing a Climate Change Action Plan focused on realistic actions, rather than unachievable targets.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon has previously reported annually on the progress of the implementation of Yukon's climate change strategy. To date, five annual reports have been published, with the latest report released in November 2024.
- The Government of Yukon will connect with First Nation and Transboundary Indigenous governments and groups, municipalities, industry and the public to inform the development of a new climate change action plan. In addition, we will look to have discussions with Yukon youth, including participants of the Yukon First Nations Climate Fellowship, BYTE and Fridays for Future Yukon.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

December 17, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Mayo Wareham Dam Inspector's Direction

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is aware of the deteriorating condition of the Wareham Dam Spillway at the Mayo Generating Station and that Yukon Energy Corporation has been actively assessing the spillway and developing options to address it.
- On November 14, 2025, a designated Inspector with the Department of Environment issued an Inspector's Direction to Yukon Energy Corporation regarding the Wareham Dam Spillway in Mayo.
- The Inspector's Direction to Yukon Energy Corporation, under the Waters Act, requires measurable and timely actions, including the development of a risk management plan, adequate emergency preparedness measures and an evaluation of spillway management options.
- We will closely monitor Yukon Energy Corporation's compliance with these directions to ensure public safety and environmental protection.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Inspector's Direction signals a potential safety or operational risk at the Mayo Spillway, which may raise concerns about public safety, environmental protection and oversight of Yukon Energy Corporation.
- The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun has raised concerns about the Wareham Dam with Yukon Energy Corporation and Yukon government officials and are looking to the government to respond to these concerns.

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Mayo Wareham Dam Inspector's Direction

Environment

Background:

- The Mayo Hydro Facility (Mayo A) was commissioned in 1951 and supplies electricity to Mayo and other Yukon communities. The Mayo B powerhouse was completed in 2011 to increase total capacity and integrate the facility into Yukon's broader electrical grid.
- Inspectors designated under the Yukon's Waters Act may issue an Inspector's Direction, when necessary, to ensure compliance with the Act, its regulations or the conditions of a licence. An Inspector's Direction allows officers to require proponents to provide more information, and/or to take action to prevent potential failures or mitigate adverse effects, in accordance with clear deadlines.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Status

Environment

Recommended response:

- Current funding provided to the Yukon to implement the 10-year Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement is set to expire at the end of March 2026.
- The Government of Canada has indicated a national nature strategy is forthcoming and officials at the Department of Environment are working with their federal counterparts to determine funding opportunities to continue the work supported by the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement.

Additional response:

- Funding under the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement provides the Government of Yukon with an opportunity to accelerate conservation-related initiatives and enhance fish and wildlife surveying.
- Since signing onto the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement, the Yukon has increased its protected lands and waters area to a total of 21.1 per cent as recorded under the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database. As of March 31, 2025, this remains the highest percentage reported of all provinces and territories in Canada.
- It also provides an opportunity for the Yukon to strengthen land use planning processes and provide Indigenous partners, municipalities, and industry with clearer guidance on where resource development can occur and where areas should be protected.

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Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Status

Environment

- The Government of Yukon is encouraged by the federal government's commitment that a national nature strategy will be released, and we will continue to engage with our federal counterparts to understand how that will apply in the Yukon.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about whether this government is committed to implementing the 10-year agreement.

Background:

- The Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement commits the Yukon to supporting Canada's goal of protecting 30 per cent of lands and waters by 2030. It also builds capacity and aids in accelerating progress on species at risk surveys, data gathering and sharing and collaboration with Indigenous governments, groups and co-management bodies on these priorities.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

December 17, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Hunting Opportunities

Fall 2025

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to reviewing existing closures and restrictions to ensure that Yukoners have access to hunting opportunities while protecting the long-term sustainability of our wildlife populations.
- We will work with Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and Renewable Resources Councils to evaluate where hunting opportunities can be offered.
- Decisions on hunting restrictions will continue to be informed by scientific data, Indigenous Knowledge, local ecological knowledge and public input, while respecting Final Agreements.
- We are committed to ensuring that changes to the hunting regulations are communicated to hunters and the public in a timely manner.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party's platform commits to an immediate review of existing hunting restrictions, including the current South Canol moose limitations, with support from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.
- Recent 2025 Ministerial Order decisions, including closing the Braeburn elk hunt, shortening the bison hunting season, prohibiting roadside grizzly bear hunting near Klukshu and not issuing the Kluane Wildlife Sanctuary sheep permit, gained significant public attention.

Background:

- The Department of Environment is responsible for conserving fish and wildlife populations and ensuring sustainable harvest.

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Hunting Opportunities

Fall 2025
Environment

- The department regularly reviews existing harvest restrictions to ensure harvest levels are sustainable for each specific wildlife population. Wildlife management decisions are informed by our current population information and harvest data.
- The department engages with co-management partners and consults affected Indigenous governments and groups, as well as the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, to inform them of any proposed changes to harvest restrictions.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Fish & Wildlife Regulation Change Process

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board as the primary instrument for ensuring public participation in the management of fish and wildlife in the territory.
- We are committed to working together with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to restore public participation in the process of fish and wildlife regulation changes to ensure Yukoner's voices are heard.
- Fish and wildlife management decisions should be informed by data, align with First Nations Final Agreements, and reflect the experience and values of Yukoners.

Additional response:

- The Department of Environment and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board have reviewed this year's regulation change proposals, which were submitted by First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils, interest groups and Yukoners.
- In the coming months, the Board will seek the public's input on those regulation change proposals that are being advanced for broader consideration.
- Following this public engagement, I will consider the Board's final regulation change recommendations for potential implementation in the 2027 fishing and hunting season.

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Fish & Wildlife Regulation Change Process

Environment

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party's platform commits to restoring the public engagement portions of the regulation change process that allows all Yukoners to have their perspectives heard.

Background:

- In December 2024, the Government of Yukon and the YFWMB announced the launch of a revised and improved process for amending fish and wildlife regulations, resuming a longstanding joint process that had been on pause since 2019.
- In spring 2025, a review committee comprised of Board and Department members, initiated a fish and wildlife regulation change proposal intake and received proposals from co-management partners, non-governmental organizations and members of the Yukon public. The Department of Environment also submitted several administrative and enforcement-related proposals into the process.
- Notice to proponents on the status of proposals was provided by the Board on October 10, 2025.
- The Minister of Environment has ultimate decision-making authority on whether proposals are accepted, varied, set aside or replaced under the provisions of Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement and the Wildlife Act.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

December 17, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Fish & Wildlife Regulation Change Process

Environment

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Wildlife Surveys and Data Use

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to increasing funding for wildlife surveys and data collection to ensure that our wildlife management decisions are guided by the best information available.
- With this data, as well as the information provided by licensed and subsistence harvesters, we will make informed decisions about harvest opportunities and conservation efforts.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon works with First Nations, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Renewable Resources Councils and other partners to prioritize species and survey areas, analyze and report on wildlife populations, assess harvest trends and determine risks to wildlife populations and habitats.
- Most recently, the Government of Yukon completed wildlife surveys for fish, caribou, moose, sheep, bears, bison, deer, elk, muskox, small mammals, and rare or at-risk species.
- We will continue to work with First Nations and co-management partners to determine which species and areas are a priority for surveying this upcoming year to inform wildlife management decisions in the territory.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party platform commits to increase funding and resources for wildlife surveys and data collection to ensure decisions are based on the best available information.

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Fall 2025

Wildlife Surveys and Data Use

Environment

Background:

- The Department of Environment allocated approximately \$3.2 million in 2025 toward wildlife population surveys across the territory.
- The department has secured an average of approximately \$1.5 million per year in external funds for wildlife and habitat monitoring over the past three years, in addition to \$2.1 million in federal funding provided through the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement.
- Wildlife survey priorities are determined by considering multiple factors, including how current and reliable existing population data is, licensed and subsistence harvest information, co-management partner priorities, exploration and development pressures, project decision-document commitments, implementation needs for species management plans, community fish and wildlife workplans, regional land use plans and available resources.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The federal Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans released a report in 2024 that identifies recommendations for the federal government, Government of Yukon and State of Alaska to address together to help restore Chinook salmon populations.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with First Nations, as well as other management partners, to respond to the federal Standing Committee's recommendations and work to restore Chinook salmon populations.
- While the Government of Yukon does not play a leading role in salmon management, we are committed to working with partners to protect, conserve and increase salmon stocks in the Yukon River. I understand that work to respond to the federal Standing Committee's recommendations is already underway.

Additional response:

- The Canadian-Origin Chinook Recovery Strategy is a collaborative effort, led by Fisheries and Oceans Canada with support from Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Salmon Sub-committee, the Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance, and the Government of Yukon.
- The strategy identifies actions to help improve Chinook salmon stocks in the Yukon River, including identifying areas to protect Chinook salmon habitat, increasing salmon education and aligning regulatory tools to protect Chinook salmon.

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Yukon River Salmon

Environment

- In addition, we are encouraged to see Kwanlin Dün First Nation is leading a feasibility study to create a Salmon Stewardship Centre. The centre would serve as a gathering and learning space, a salmon research hub and salmon stewardship hatchery.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party's platform commits to working with First Nations and management partners to respond to the recommendations of the Canadian Parliamentary Committee on Yukon River Salmon and consider measures to restore Chinook Salmon populations.
- Media coverage regarding the Whitehorse Rapid Generating Station's relicensing highlighted the impacts the station has on Yukon River salmon.

Background:

- Yukon First Nations voluntarily restricted salmon harvest for many years. This voluntary prohibition remains in place today.
- The Chinook salmon spawning escapement goal of 42,500 to 55,000 has not been met since 2018.
- In 2024, an agreement signed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Alaska State government committed the parties to increase Chinook salmon numbers to at least 71,000 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon entering the Yukon from Alaska over the next seven years.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an essential calving and post-calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou herd.
- The Government of Yukon continues to provide input and data into regulatory processes led by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service around oil and gas activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- We also continue to engage in the work of the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee, under the International Porcupine Caribou Agreement, in monitoring the status of the Porcupine Caribou herd.

Additional response:

- We will continue to work closely with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, United States Geological Survey, and the State of Alaska to attempt to mitigate and monitor impacts to Porcupine Caribou from development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- We are committed to ensuring that any decisions consider the ecological importance of the area, including its role as a critical calving and post-calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou herd, and reflect the perspectives and interests of our communities.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The United States recently opened available lands in the ANWR to oil and gas activities, which include significant portions of the Porcupine Caribou herd's calving and post-calving grounds.

Session Briefing Note

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

Environment

- Protection of the Porcupine Caribou herd's calving and post-calving ground is a significant priority for the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, who led and passed a resolution at the recent Assembly of First Nations calling the Prime Minister to protect the Porcupine Caribou and advocate against development in the herd's calving grounds located in Alaska.

Background:

- The ANWR protects 19.6 million acres of northeastern Alaska with the stated purpose of conserving fish and wildlife populations in their natural diversity, fulfilling international wildlife treaty obligations, providing opportunities for continued subsistence uses and protecting water quality and quantity.
- On January 20, U.S. President Trump signed Executive Order "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential" which directs agencies to maximize the development and production of natural resources on public lands including oil and gas reserves in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. In July, his administration also passed the Big Beautiful Bill which requires four additional oil and gas lease sales.
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was amended in July 2025 to streamline development approvals. This new process will greatly reduce Yukon's ability to comment on projects associated with the Coastal Plains Oil and Gas Program in the ANWR.
- Seven leases are currently owned by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority. Seismic testing is planned for winter 2025-26 following completion of a request for proposals over the summer of 2025.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

December 10, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Yukon Wetlands and Peatlands

Environment

Recommended response:

- Wetlands, including peatlands, play an important role in biodiversity, cultural values and environmental health.
- Many significant wetlands, wetland complexes and associated peatlands in the Yukon have already been protected through First Nation Final Agreement commitments.
- Examples include Habitat Protection Areas that protect significant wetlands in the Old Crow Flats area, the Nordenskiold area, the Whitefish Wetlands, areas southwest of Pelly Crossing as well as Tombstone Territorial Park.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is making progress on mapping wetlands in the territory through a 3-year partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- This mapping supports responsible land-use planning, regulatory and assessment processes, protection of sensitive ecosystems and consideration of climate resilience and carbon storage.
- Wetland maps are publicly available for some regions of the Yukon including the Peel, Dawson, North Yukon and Beaver River planning areas, Indian River and Mayo-McQuesten watersheds, and a portion of Whitehorse-Southern lakes.

Third response:

- The Wetlands Stewardship Policy, developed by the previous government, provides guidance for the management of wetlands in the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Yukon Wetlands and Peatlands

Environment

- Most recently, the department released guidance documents for Wetlands Classification Standards and the nomination of Wetlands of Special Importance, which are available on Yukon.ca. We have not received any nominations for Wetlands of Special importance to date.
- Our government will determine whether the policy is effectively balancing environmental protection, climate considerations, and responsible economic activity.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Recent media coverage has drawn attention to the significant carbon stored in Yukon's peatlands and suggests current policy frameworks may not fully account for the climate risks associated with peatland disturbance, prompting calls for clearer protection measures.

Background:

- Wetlands, including peatlands, cover a significant portion of the Yukon's landscape and play a critical role in storing carbon, regulating water, supporting biodiversity and maintaining permafrost stability in northern ecosystems.
- Yukon peatlands have accumulated carbon over thousands of years, and they can release greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Yukon currently relies on A policy for the stewardship of Yukon's wetlands (2023) and existing land-use planning and assessment processes (e.g., YESAB) to guide wetland and peatland management.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

December 17, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

**Campground
Improvements and
Planning**

Environment

Recommended response:

- Camping in the Yukon is becoming more popular each year and we will work to increase camping opportunities in the territory.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to exploring options to develop a new campground in the Yukon and the Department of Environment will begin this work over the coming months.
- In addition, we will work with Yukon First Nations, municipalities and community partners to identify opportunities where we can expand existing campgrounds and enhance recreational experiences, particularly in proximity to Whitehorse, while ensuring cultural and ecological values are respected and protected.
- This includes planning facility upgrades and redevelopments for Pine Lake, Tatchun Lake, Five-Mile Lake and Watson Lake campgrounds, as well as Tombstone Territorial Park, in the coming years.

Additional response (budget request):

- In this supplementary budget, we have requested increases to respond to the rising costs of providing free firewood in our campgrounds as well as for park and campground maintenance and the need for Yukon Parks officers and attendants.
- The Government of Yukon will continue to identify and invest in opportunities to enhance camping experiences for everyone.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Campground Improvements and Planning

Environment

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon party platform commits to working to expand sites at existing campgrounds, particularly those close to Whitehorse, and to exploring options to develop a new campground.
- Growing demand for camping in the Yukon has prompted requests to expand and improve camping opportunities across the territory.

Background:

- Yukon Parks operates 42 road-accessible campgrounds offering over 1,200 campsites.
- There are 12 territorial recreation sites in the Yukon, which provide day-use recreation opportunities including picnic shelters and boat launches.
- Significant facility development projects in territorial parks involves engagement with Indigenous governments and groups, stakeholders and local communities.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

December 17, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

New Campground Development

Environment

Recommended response:

- We know that the demand for camping in the Yukon is growing and that there is a need to increase camping opportunities for both Yukoners and visitors alike.
- Over the coming months, the Government of Yukon will explore developing a new campground in the Yukon while continuing to work to expand existing Yukon campgrounds and increase the number of campsites.

Additional response:

- We will work with community partners, including Yukon First Nations and municipalities, to identify potential locations for a new campground that is accessible and meets the needs of both local and visiting campers.
- We look forward to working closely with community partners to advance these conversations and enhance Yukon's campground network.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party's platform committed to exploring options to develop a new campground. During the election, the Yukon NDP, and now the Official Opposition, had also committed to constructing new campgrounds and may ask the government about its plans.
- The increasing demand for camping opportunities in the Yukon has turned attention to how the government can expand camping opportunities.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

New Campground Development

Environment

Background:

- Yukon Parks maintains 42 road accessible campgrounds, accounting for over 1,200 campsites and 12 recreation sites.
- In 2021, Yukon Parks began engaging with First Nation governments with traditional territories within two hours of Whitehorse on a new campground development project.
- Suitability criteria were developed to guide identification of potential campground locations that would balance providing recreation and park experience with stewardship of sensitive ecological and cultural values.
- Over the past four years, Yukon Parks has developed 69 new campsites at parks throughout the territory.
- The last public engagement regarding campground development was in 2019, as part of engagement on the Yukon Parks Strategy.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

December 17, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Campground Reservation Service

Environment

Recommended response:

- Yukon campgrounds are highly valued by both Yukoners and visitors, and it is important that the campground services provide enhanced camping experiences for everyone.
- The Department of Environment manages 42 campgrounds, accounting for over 1,200 campsites and 12 recreation sites across the territory. Of those campsites, 103 sites were available for reservation in 2024, accounting for 5,819 campsite reservations in the 2024 camping season.
- Our government is committed to reviewing the online campsite reservation services to determine whether revisions are needed.
- Following this review, the department will report on how the campground reservation service worked for both local and visiting campers.
- Taking this feedback into consideration, we will determine if any adjustments are needed for the 2026 camping season to ensure that camping opportunities in the Yukon remain accessible, fair and affordable.
- This includes also assessing options for annual camping voucher holders.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party's platform commits to review the campground reservation service to determine whether revisions are needed.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Campground Reservation Service

Environment

- Feedback on the reservation service has been positive, but some Yukoners have raised concerns about the ability to use their annual camping vouchers as a form of payment.

Background:

- During the 2024 and 2025 camping seasons, the Department of Environment implemented an online reservation service pilot project that allowed users to reserve campsites at participating front-country campgrounds.
- The service was available at four front country campgrounds, which included Wolf Creek, Marsh Lake, Pine Lake and Tombstone, where half of the sites were available for reservation, and the rest continued to be available on a first-come, first-served basis. An online reservation service has been in place in the Tombstone Territorial backcountry campgrounds since 2012.
- In the 2024 camping season, 5,819 campsite reservations were made using the online service. In 2025, 7.8 per cent of annual camping voucher holders booked the three nights at extra no cost.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

December 17, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Flood Mapping

Fall 2025

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring Yukoners and Yukon communities have the tools they need to prepare and respond to the increasing climate impacts we are facing in the north, including flooding.
- The Department of Environment is currently developing flood hazard maps for flood-prone Yukon communities. These maps show how different flood scenarios could impact an area and help inform flood preparedness, emergency management, and land use planning.

Additional response:

- Flood hazard maps are developed using historical flood data, hydrological and hydraulic modeling, and local knowledge from communities and Yukon First Nations.
- The Yukon has completed flood hazard mapping for Carmacks, Old Crow, Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake, Lake Laberge and Teslin. Final maps are near completion for Dawson and the Klondike Valley.
- In addition, flood mapping studies are currently underway for Mayo, Ross River and Upper Liard, with engagement on draft maps planned for next spring.

Third Response:

- Through our partnership with the federal government, flood mapping expenses were 100 per cent covered through funding agreements.
- We will continue to work closely with community partners, and the federal government, to ensure that flood risk information is available to support both community safety and sustainable land-use planning.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party's platform commits to help the Yukon adapt to the changing climate and to take actions to mitigate the impacts of forest fires and floods.
- Questions may arise whether flood mapping will be put on hold while a new climate change plan is being considered.

Background:

- Completing flood hazard mapping for flood prone communities was an identified action under the Government of Yukon's 2020 Our Clean Future climate strategy to support resilience and adaptation to climate change.
- The 14 flood-prone communities identified for flood hazard mapping are: Teslin, Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake, Lake Laberge, Upper Liard, Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Ross River, Whitehorse, Carmacks, Dawson, Klondike Valley and Old Crow.
- Maps have been completed for Carmacks, Old Crow, Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake, Lake Laberge and Teslin.
- Completing flood hazard maps for all 14 communities is dependent on available resources but is expected to be completed by 2028.
- Federal funding covers most costs, with each flood hazard map estimated to cost \$400,000 to \$500,000.

Approved by:**Dennis Berry****November 27, 2025**

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Peel Land Use Plan Implementation / Peel National Park

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to continuing to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use plan in partnership with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council.
- As a part of this work, we are collaborating with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of Canada toward creating a national park in the Teetł'it Gwinjik (Peel River) Watershed.
- Establishing a national park will recognize the region's spiritual, cultural, environmental, and socio-economic values and support joint management of the park by the Parties.

Additional response:

- Both the feasibility study and the assessment report indicated that the creation of a new national park in the area is practical and desirable.
- Our next steps include participating in negotiations on an agreement-in-principle, transferring administration and control of the land to the Government of Canada, and finalizing an establishment agreement.
- If established, the new national park would protect 3,000 square kilometres of the Peel Watershed and represent a significant step toward implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan, in accordance with First Nations Final Agreements.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Peel Land Use Plan Implementation / Peel National Park

Environment

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party's platform commits to working with parties to create a national park in the Teetł'it Gwinjik (Peel River) watershed and continuing to implement First Nations Final Agreements.
- The Opposition may ask whether the government is committed to implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

Background:

- Public engagement for the Teetł'it Gwinjik (Peel River) National Park ended on March 17, 2025.
- The Peel Plan Implementation Committee, which consists of representatives from all five governments who are signatories to the Peel Plan, is working together to determine how to fulfill commitments to protect other areas of the Peel watershed.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

December 17, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The independent Dawson Regional Planning Commission is developing the Final Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan.
- After receiving the Commission's Final Recommended Plan the Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will conduct public engagement and consultation to determine whether to accept, reject or modify the plan, as required under our Chapter 11 treaty obligations.
- We support a regional plan that balances the growth of industry, such as forestry, agriculture, mining, tourism, outfitting and other activities, along with community development, while respecting ecologically sensitive and culturally important areas.
- We will work together with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Commission to finalize the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Dawson Regional Land Use Plan is of interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- Chapter 11 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement provides the Commission with the autonomy to develop and recommend a plan for the Parties' consideration.
- The Commission completed the Recommended Plan on June 10, 2022.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submitted their proposed modifications to the Recommended Plan to the Commission pursuant to 11.6.4 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement on April 30, 2024.

Session Briefing Note**Dawson Regional Land Use Plan**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Government of Yukon commenced consultation with the White River First Nation, pursuant to a bilateral Consultation Agreement and legal duty to consult, in May 2024. On August 21, 2024, White River First Nation submitted a written consultation response to the Government of Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon submitted their proposed modifications to the Recommended Plan to the Commission pursuant to 11.6.2 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement on November 25, 2024.
- The Commission has been working to develop the Final Recommended Plan since the Parties submitted their proposed modifications.
- Interim withdrawal of land from staking 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 April 1, 2026, and is anticipated to be extended to allow time to complete the process towards a final plan for the region.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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

Recommended response:

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in the Yukon.
- Advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action is central to our government's commitment to reconciliation.
- We will continue to collaborate and work in partnership with Indigenous governments and groups on advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action to create meaningful change and better programs and services for Yukon First Nations Peoples and all Yukoners.

Additional response:

- We are tracking our actions and initiatives in addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- It has been 10 years since the report and Calls to Action were published. The Official Opposition may ask for an update on the government's progress in addressing the Calls to Action.

Background:

- Released in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)'s report Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future contains 94 Calls to Action on redressing the harms resulting from residential schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. There are 32 Calls to Action that relate directly to YG.
- YG and 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);

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

- 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).
- YG last reported on its progress to implement the TRC Calls to Action in fall 2023 through a status report and Pathways magazine. The magazine and report provided an update on the actions being taken across YG and in collaboration with YFN governments in areas including child welfare, health, education and justice.

Approved by:

KL

November 28, 2025

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

**2025-26 Supplementary
Estimates No. 1 – CORPORATE**

Finance

Recommended response:

- By bringing these Supplementary Estimates to the Legislative Assembly for debate, we are providing transparency to the public about how the government is allocating taxpayer dollars.
- These Supplementary Estimates serve as an update on spending from the previous government, to fulfill the obligations and contracts already committed to by departments for the current fiscal year.
- We want to increase transparency and accountability around spending, rather than relying on special warrants for the remainder of the year.
- We look forward to bringing forward a budget this spring that we have had the opportunity to shape, and that is reflective of our priorities and commitments to Yukoners.

Contingencies

- Our guiding principle has been that these Supplementary Estimates will provide the resources needed by departments to take them to the end of the fiscal year, without requiring further changes or dependence on additional spending.
- There is a provisional contingency for price and volumes pressures, including inflation, increased demand for public services, and potential wage increases resulting from ongoing collective bargaining.
- There is also a general contingency to ensure compliance with financial authorities. These contingencies are included to ensure all departments remain within their voted budgets for the fiscal year given the potential for unforeseen pressures.

**2025-26 Supplementary
Estimates No. 1 – CORPORATE**

Finance

Summary:

- The 2025-26 Supplementary Estimates No. 1 forecasts an overall gross increase of \$150.4 million in O&M spending, with an offsetting increase of \$8.3 million in recoveries. The net increase in O&M spending is forecast at \$142.0 million when accounting for recoveries.
- Capital adjustments in the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 reflect an overall increase of \$1.0 million in spending and a \$1.6 million increase in capital recoveries. This results in a net decrease in capital spending of \$594 thousand.
- Budgetary revenues are projected to increase by \$5.9 million, primarily due to a \$5.7 million increase in accrued interest on loans to the Receiver for Victoria Gold Corporation.
- The Government of Yukon continues to maintain a budgetary surplus forecast for 2025-26 of \$12.5 million, revised down from the \$82.0 million forecast in the Main Estimates.

FTEs:

- There is an increase of 71.2 FTEs or “Full-Time Equivalents” in the Supplementary Estimates. This is primarily for 57.3 FTEs in Education, including teachers, Educational Assistants, and other positions to provide enhanced support for students.
- This increase also includes 11.4 positions in Health and Social Services for both frontline and administrative positions, and small personnel additions to the Department of Justice (2 FTEs) and the Public Service Commission (0.5 FTEs).

2025–26 Supplementary Estimates No. 1 – CORPORATE

Finance

Borrowing:

- Total anticipated territorial borrowing was \$773.9 million in the 2025–26 Main Estimates, inclusive of \$400 million in long-term borrowing authorized in the First Appropriation Act 2025–26. We expect to proceed with the second tranche of this borrowing in the spring, using the remaining \$200 million authorized.
- Significant energy infrastructure pressures require an increase of \$100 million to the Yukon Development Corporation's short-term borrowing limit. This includes \$50 million authorized by the previous government, and an additional \$50 million being authorized by this government to address critical work in Mayo.
- Other factors include a decrease of \$966,000 in a loan payable by Yukon University and a \$3.15 million increase in accrued interest payable.
- Revised estimated total borrowing in 2025–26 is \$876.1 million. This leaves \$323.9 million available within the \$1.2 billion borrowing limit.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2025–26 Second Appropriation Act will be tabled during the fall sitting.

Background:

- Supplementary estimates are introduced by the government to account for unforeseen spending at the time of tabling the annual Budget.

Approved by:

Katherine White

December 8, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved