



Economic Development

2025 Fall Sitting

Minister of Economic Development

Honourable Jen Gehmair



Department of Economic Development

2025 Fall Session Briefing Book

Branch Tab #

Hot Topics

Port of Skagway/Marine Services Platform	PPC	1
Yukon Nominee Program	IMM	2
Eagle Gold Sales Process	PPC	3
Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods	PPC	4
Crime Prevention Grant Program	PPC	5
Paid Sick Leave Rebate	IIBD	6
Trade Resilience Program	IIBD	7

General

Economic Overview	PPC	10
Platform Commitments	PPC	11

Innovation, Industry & Business Support

Supports for Entrepreneurship & Innovation	UPDATED	IIBD	15
Economic Development Fund		RED	16
Business Incentive Program		IIBD	17
Investment Attraction		IIBD	18
Mining Sector Supports		IIBD	19
Miners Lien Act		PPC	20
Innovation and Entrepreneurship	NEW	IIBD	21

First Nation Collaborations

First Nations Collaborative Initiatives	RED	25
---	-----	----

Media and Music Industry Development

Performing Musicians Fund	YMD	30
Screen Media Funding Programs	YMD	31

Community Development

Community Development Fund	RED	35
Regional Accomplishments	RED	36

Labour Market Development

Labour Market Development- Programs and Funds	LMD	40
Foreign Credential Recognition Project	LMD	41
Labour Market Transfer Agreement- Tariff Response	LMD	42

Department of Economic Development 2025 Fall Session Briefing Book

Immigration Programs

Immigration Programs	IMM	45
Immigration Branch Operations	IMM	46
Temporary Measure to Support Prospective Nominees	IMM	47
Settlement Services	IMM	48
Francophone Immigration	IMM	49
Philippines Memorandum of Understanding	IMM	50
RCMP Search Warrants	IMM	51

Trade Files

International Trade and Canada-U.S. Trade Discussions	PPC	55
Internal Trade Barrier Removals – CFTA	PPC	56
Party-Specific Exceptions – CFTA	PPC	57

Arctic Security

Canadian Institute for Arctic Security	CIAS	60
--	------	----

Other Departments Briefing Notes of Interest

Canada and United States Relations	ECO	65
Critical Minerals	EMR	66
Dawson Regional Land Use Plan	ENV/EMR	67
Yukon Mineral Exploration Program	EMR	68

Corporate Briefing Notes

Truth and Reconciliation Commission- Update on Calls to Action	ECO	70
2025-26 Supplementary Estimates No. 1	FIN	71

Port of Skagway/Marine Services Platform

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government remains committed to securing long-term tidewater access to support the territory's mining industry.
- Reliable port access is significant to the success of mining industry, investment attraction, and long-term economic growth in Yukon.
- The Department has strong working relationships with the Borough of Skagway.
- The Department will continue to work with the Municipality of Skagway to review the current Export Cooperation Agreement to ensure it meets Yukon industry and business needs for the near, mid and longer term.

Additional response:

- Yukon will continue to collaborate with partners in Alaska to support access to tidewater, recognizing the shared economic benefits and close regional ties.
- Reliable port access is significant to the success of mining industry, investment attraction, and long-term economic growth in Yukon.
- The department is monitoring potential project-related implications of the U.S./Canada trade discussions.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Selkirk Copper acquired the Minto Mine and it intends to get the project back into production by ^{Withheld} Selkirk Copper will use the Port of Skagway to export concentrate to international markets once it is in production.

Port of Skagway/Marine Services Platform

Economic
Development

Background:

Skagway:

- Port of Skagway is the closest ice-free, deep-water port to most of the Yukon.
- In October 2023, Skagway passed an ordinance requiring ore travelling through the port to be containerized and is interested in limiting the impact of ore shipment traffic during the summer cruise season.

Negotiations:

- A non-binding terms sheet was signed by Yukon and Skagway on September 7, 2023.
- The term sheet and draft Export Cooperation Agreement outlines designated preferential access and discounted rates for users.
- The binding Export Cooperation Agreement has not yet been finalized.

Spending:

- The 2025-26 Five-year capital plan included allocation for \$40 million - \$51 million over three years starting in 2026-27.
- Yukon funded the platform design, totaling \$739,266 (CDN), in 2023.
- Yukon entered into a funding agreement with Skagway in summer of 2025 to support permitting work and advance project timelines. The estimated cost is \$120 thousand (USD).

Industry Perspective:

- Department officials have regularly engaged industry, including Selkirk Copper, Western Copper and Gold, and the Joint Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of the Yukon Chamber of Mines throughout the process.
- Industry stakeholders view access to the port as critical to the future of the Yukon's mining industry.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 1
Fall 2025

Port of Skagway/Marine Services Platform

Economic
Development

- Yukon's exports of lead concentrate to the U.S. totaled approximately \$123.3 million, and its exports of zinc concentrate totaled approximately \$7.7 million in 2024.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Yukon Nominee Program

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development is continuing to adapt the Yukon Nominee Program to meet growing demand, while improving transparency and program integrity to restore trust and reduce program misuse.
- In 2025, the department focused on keeping foreign nationals who are already building their lives here, people who are a part of our communities, support our vibrant Francophone community, and provide vital healthcare services to Yukoners.
- As stated in the Throne Speech, the government will launch a review of the territory's immigration policies to help balance the needs of our growing economy with the capacity of our infrastructure to support all Yukoners. We expect to have more details on this review early in 2026.

Department Priorities:

- The department knows that now is the time to make changes with the Immigration Branch.
- The current priorities are to:
 - Restore trust in the Yukon Nominee Program;
 - Improve transparency in how decisions are made;
 - Improve program integrity by fairly applying the same requirements to all employers and foreign nationals;
 - Strengthen relationships with stakeholders and listen to what Yukon employers need the most to bolster our economy; and
 - Reduce program misuse by ensuring the rules are followed and when they are not, program users are held accountable.

Program Review:

- The Yukon Nominee Program has experienced a rapid increase in demand by Yukon employers over the last several years.
- In 2026, our government is committed to reviewing how the program operates to ensure it is aligned with our goals and objectives for both our economy and labour market, and the needs of all Yukoners.
- Over the next year, we will establish a plan for program updates that best meet the needs of our territory now and into the future, with stronger accountability and integrity.

Allocations – 2026:

- On November 4, 2025, the Government of Canada announced its 2026-28 Immigration Levels Plan as part of the Canada's Budget 2025.
- The Levels Plan includes temporary and permanent resident, international student, refugee and protected person and provincial nominee program targets.
- We look forward to working closely with the Government of Canada to ensure the Yukon Nominee Program remains flexible and responsive to the territory's labour market needs, while supporting our shared goals for economic growth and community sustainability.

Allocations – 2025:

- In January 2025, we learned that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada had reduced all nominee program allocations across Canada by 50 per cent, leaving the Yukon with 215 nominations for the calendar year. This was later increased by 67 nominations in August and 125 in October, bringing the Yukon's total allowable allocation for 2025 to 407.

Yukon Nominee Program

Economic
Development

-
- With this allocation, the department invited all employers who submitted expressions of interest that aligned with the priorities for this year, to submit an application. The department has been working hard to process these applications by the December 31, 2025 deadline.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Due to the high demand by Yukon employers for the limited allocation available, the department could no longer operate on a first-come, first-served basis and implemented a new intake model in 2025.
-

Background:

- In response to program oversubscription in 2024 and reduced allocation in 2025, the department launched an intake approach for 2025 that focuses on four priorities:
 - temporary measure recipients;
 - foreign nationals who have lived and worked in the Yukon for at least a year;
 - foreign nationals who are Yukon University graduates; and
 - francophone/French-speaking foreign nationals.
 - As part of an agreement with Canada to deliver the temporary measure for prospective nominees, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada implemented a new requirement that at least 85 per cent of all nominations must be from temporary residents already within Canada.
 - The intake only accepted applications for out-of-country foreign nationals to positions in rural Yukon communities, regulated healthcare professions, or francophone/French-speaking candidates.
 - 55 applications that had been carried over from a previous year aligned with this year's priorities and were assessed for nomination.
 - 388 invitations to apply were sent to the Yukon employers who submitted Expressions of Interest in 2025.
-

Yukon Nominee Program

Economic
Development

- The 2025 Yukon Nominee Program intake followed a phased approach:
 - Assessment of carried-over applications for alignment with the identified priorities;
 - Intake where all employers interested in applying to the Yukon Nominee Program in 2025 submit an Expression of Interest indicating what priorities the foreign national aligns with;
 - Issuance of Invitations to Apply to those that align with the priorities; and
 - If any remaining nominations were available after inviting those aligning with the priorities to apply, 15 per cent were to be selected from rural Yukon communities and 85 per cent from Whitehorse-based employers. This phase did not occur as the number of Expressions of Interest that aligned with the priorities exceeded available nominations.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

December 15, 2025

Date approved

Eagle Gold Sales Process

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The sale of the Eagle Gold mine is being conducted by the Court-appointed Receiver, PricewaterhouseCoopers, with Bank of Montreal serving as the Financial Advisor.
- A successful sale is the only opportunity for the Government of Yukon to recover the significant amounts that have been loaned to the Receiver to support the remediation of the Eagle Gold Mine failure.
- The deadline for revised non-binding letters of interest is December 10, 2025.
- This process will help ensure that any restart of the mine occurs through a transparent process that meets regulatory and community expectations.

Additional response:

- Yukon government has been involved in this process as a regulator and as the Receivership Lender.
- The total authorized loan for 2024–25 and 2025–26 is \$220 million.
- Yukon government will be consulted on final bids, and the preferred bid must be approved by the Government of Yukon.
- The Receiver keeps First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun informed throughout the sale process, including sharing confidential documents.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On June 25, 2025, the Court granted an Order approving the Sale Process for Eagle Gold Mine.
- On December 10, 2025, bidders will be required to submit updated letters of intent, setting out additional details about their bids.

Eagle Gold Sales Process

Economic
Development

Background:

- The Sale and Investment Solicitation Process is a Receiver-led process and is subject to court approval in all aspects, including approval of a final transaction. The process started in July 2025 and is expected to conclude in the coming months. Interested parties have been requested to submit undated letters of intent by December 10, 2025.
- The Government of Yukon has been consulted by the Receiver on every step of the process, including the development of Sale and Investment Solicitation Process materials, and reviewing letters of intent.
- In addition to price, bidders will also be assessed according to criteria related to operational experience, financial capacity; and Environmental, Social and Governance/reputational factors. These criteria are to help ensure that the mine can be returned to production safely by a responsible operator.
- A new operator will be subject to the Yukon's mining and environmental regulatory regime and required to maintain environmental compliance. A condition of closing the transaction will be that the purchaser posts reclamation security as required by the Government of Yukon.
- The winning bid is conditional upon Court approval and approval of the Government of Yukon.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement is an important milestone in reducing internal trade barriers.
- We are looking at how the Yukon can participate in this national-level effort to support transparency for businesses, reduce regulatory burden and promote the sale of goods across Canada.
- Our government has committed to cutting red tape and taking actions that strengthen opportunities for our local businesses and improve the cost of living for Yukoners.

Additional response:

- The department participated in negotiations with counterparts across federal, provincial and territorial governments to help ensure the Yukon's priorities were reflected in the development of the agreement.
 - We are working to determine our priorities moving forward, including how to use this agreement to help Yukon businesses and consumers get better access to goods.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Reducing barriers to internal trade has become a matter of heightened interest due to U.S. tariffs on certain Canadian exports.
 - Domestic supply chain integration is important for the Yukon. The territory is more vulnerable to supply chain disruptions than other regions given its dependence on other jurisdictions for goods.
 - The Canadian Federation of Independent Business gave the Yukon an overall score of "D" in its June 2025 report card on internal trade, ranking the territory last among all Parties.
-

Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods

Economic
Development

Background:

- As an alternative to harmonization, mutual recognition strengthens trade by guaranteeing that goods that can be lawfully sold in one province or territory can be sold in another without further regulatory or technical testing or requirements.
- On February 28, 2025, Committee on Internal Trade Ministers instructed their officials to negotiate a national mutual recognition agreement on goods. The Committee on Internal Trade is the decision-making body responsible for implementing the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- At the July 8, 2025, Committee on Internal Trade meeting, Ministers agreed to finalize and implement an agreement by December 2025 to meet First Ministers' direction.
- In November 2025, Parties finalized an agreement covering all goods, aside from food, unless listed as an exclusion in a Party's annex to the agreement. The agreement does not apply to services or certain goods including alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, pharmaceutical products. However, Parties may expand the scope of the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods through future negotiations.
- The goals of the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods are to strengthen Canada's domestic market and bolster supply chains; improve productivity, regulatory transparency and business confidence; and demonstrate resilience in response to global economic uncertainty. The Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods enhances Parties' commitments under Chapter 4, Part B (Reconciliation) of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- On November 19, 2025, the agreement came into force when nine Parties signed, including: Alberta, Canada, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec.
- Signatures from all remaining Parties—aside from Nunavut and the Yukon—are expected by December 2025.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 4
Fall 2025

Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods

Economic
Development

- Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods signatories will implement the agreement within their jurisdiction by December 2025. However, Parties may choose to delay implementation until June 2026.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Crime Prevention Grant Program

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Crime Prevention Grant program is currently in the second year of a three-year program, in partnership with the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce.
- The grant is being used by the Whitehorse Chamber to offer training programs for front-line workers at businesses across Whitehorse focusing on de-escalation and conflict resolution.
- Our new government is committed to the development of a Crime Prevention Program which facilitates partnerships between the RCMP, governments and community groups and focuses on the underlying issues which cause crime.

Additional response:

- The Phase One pilot program provided:
 - Security assessments for 17 businesses and organizations with a waitlist of one;
 - Four safety and de-escalation training courses with participation by 86 individuals from 56 businesses and organizations. There was a waitlist of 11 for further courses; and
 - Updated and improved the “Who’s Minding Your Business” security checklist.
- Some of the training has been delivered in collaboration with Yukon University.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Businesses, and especially downtown businesses, have been struggling with operating safely.
- There are frequent media reports of break-ins, vandalism, and shoplifting incidents.

Crime Prevention Grant Program

Economic
Development

Background:

- The Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan was created in December 2023 as a roadmap aimed at enhancing the safety, health and overall wellbeing of downtown Whitehorse.
- The launching of a Crime Prevention Grant program was identified as a medium-term (1-12 months) action in the September 2024 update of the plan.
- Funding for the program has been identified for three years, through to fiscal year 2026-27.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Paid Sick Leave Rebate

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate program supports eligible Yukon workers (employees and self-employed) who earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$36.71 per hour.
- The program provides 40 hours of leave per 12-month period and includes all illnesses and injuries not covered by any other Act, benefit, or program.
- Paid Sick Leave Rebate started on April 1, 2023, and runs until March 31, 2026.
- The Government of Yukon will continue to explore opportunities on how we can support Yukon businesses.

Additional response:

- Employees must use all paid sick leave available to them annually through their employer before they are eligible for Paid Sick Leave Rebate.
- The program focuses on Yukoners making less than the average private sector wage because that demographic may otherwise choose to work while sick to avoid financial hardship.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Canadian Federation for Independent Business advocated in its letter on November 3, 2025, to the Yukon Government to continue Paid Sick Leave Rebate to support small businesses.

Paid Sick Leave Rebate

Economic
Development

Background:

- The program's budget is \$825,000 in 2025-26, totaling \$2.3 million over the first three program years. Present information in chronological order if applicable.
- Last year, in the second year of the program, (2024-25):
 - A total of \$592,176 was rebated to 134 businesses, enabling them to provide paid sick leave to 1,003 employees for a total of 25,369 hours of paid sick leave; and
 - Employees earned an average hourly wage of \$23.34 and, on average, claimed 25.7 hours of paid sick leave, resulting in an average rebate of \$590.40 per employee.
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate program is optional for employers, and rebates are paid directly to eligible businesses (not to individual employees).

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Trade Resilience Program

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Trade Resilience Program was launched in 2025-26 with a budget of \$1 million.
- The program is time-limited to support Yukon businesses facing challenges caused by U.S. trade decisions and Canadian countermeasures.
- Approximately 44 per cent (\$445,000) has been awarded to businesses and industry associations so far.

Additional response:

- The projects funded under Trade Resilience Program include the following:
 - Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce: Arctic Summit Conference;
 - Dakwakada Capital Investments: Trade Mission between Yukon First Nation Dev Corps and Alaska Native Corporations;

Withheld

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Businesses are facing increased uncertainty because of U.S. trade policy, annexation rhetoric, and the introduction of tariffs on certain Canadian products.
- The Yukon is more vulnerable to supply chain disruptions than other regions given its dependence on other jurisdictions for goods and services. Developing trade resilience and increasing self-sufficiency will mitigate these risks.

Background:

- Key features of the Trade Resilience Program:

Session Briefing Note

TAB 7
Fall 2025

Trade Resilience Program

Economic
Development

- The Trade Resilience Program is intended to be an adaptation program, not a revenue replacement program;
 - The program is not designed to provide direct financial support to businesses impacted by a general economic downturn, but it may do so indirectly;
 - Given the ongoing uncertainty, and the highly unpredictable leadership in the U.S., the Trade Resilience Program is based on the principle of remaining flexible and nimble in response; and
 - The program seeks to be complementary to other programs, including new federal programs, not duplicative.
- See table below for a complete list of funded projects:

Business/Organization	Project Name	Amount
Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce	Arctic Summit 2026: Securing Sovereignty and Investment along the Arctic Passage. Withheld	\$50,000

Dakwakada Capital Investments LP	Alaska Trade Mission to Anchorage Withheld	\$100,000
TOTAL		Withheld

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Economic Overview

Economic Development

Recommended response:

- Yukon economy remains resilient, with strong fundamentals despite recent challenges.
 - Labour market indicators (participation, job vacancies, average pay) continue to outperform Canadian averages, and Yukon maintains one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.
 - Our government is committed to growing our economy, led by a thriving and prosperous private sector.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is always a high degree of interest in the state of the economy.
-

Background:

- The Yukon's economy has positive indicators in many areas, but the heap leach failure at Victoria Gold in June 2024 will continue to have negative economic impacts and the trade disruptions caused by the U.S. government continue to create economic headwinds and general uncertainty.
 - The Yukon's revised real GDP growth rate was a very solid 7.4 per cent in 2022, and 2023 numbers showed modest continued growth of 1.8 per cent. However, weaker numbers are expected for 2024.
 - Through 2025, the Yukon's labour market (labour force participation, job vacancies and average pay) continued to outpace Canadian averages, and we continue to have among the lowest (and often the lowest) unemployment rates in Canada.
 - The Yukon's population continues to grow, hitting 47,505 in Q2 of 2025.
 - Retail sales, after years of often strong growth, are now showing weakness, down 0.7 per cent in the January through August 2025 period.
-

Economic Overview

Economic Development

- For all of 2024, inflation averaged 2.0 per cent in Whitehorse, down from 4.9 per cent in 2023 and 6.8 per cent in 2022. For the January through October 2025 period, inflation has moved up to 3.1 per cent, reversing the trend.
- Tourism, in the Yukon as in the rest of Canada, has been rebounding strongly and Yukon border-crossing data shows visitor numbers now exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- 2024 numbers show crossings continuing to rise, reaching 481,505 for the year. Particularly encouraging is the growth in the number of U.S. residents (+10.3 per cent) and other foreign residents (+5.6 per cent) arriving in the Yukon.
- For January through August 2025, total border crossings have continued to rise, up 6.4 per cent over the same period in 2024.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Platform Commitments

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- There are three specific Yukon Party platform commitments that the department of Economic Development will lead:
 - Maintaining Film and Sound Industry Supports to ensure a vibrant film and sound industry while reviewing existing programs with partners to address long-term growth in the sector;
 - Supporting the Yukon's Digital Industry to strengthen the resiliency and capacity necessary to protect the territory's digital infrastructure and service delivery; and
 - Conducting a Review of Existing Regulations to reveal redundant, overly expansive, outdated or burdensome rules which are contributing to the administrative red tape currently hampering economic opportunities.
- I look forward to working with the Department and stakeholders on implementing these commitments and delivering change for Yukoners.

Media Support:

- Economic Development's media funding programs help to provide economic benefits and employment opportunities for Yukoners. The funds were launched in 2022 to support the production of professional film, television, and digital media projects.
- The Media Development branch administers the Media Training Fund, Predevelopment Fund, Development Fund, and the Media Production Fund, with a total programs budget of \$1,160,000.
- We are committed to supporting the Film and Sound Industry to grow and stay strong in the Yukon.

Platform Commitments

Economic
Development

Digital Industry:

- The Department provides approximately \$250,000-\$300,000 annually to Tech Yukon to support programming such as digital adoption, educational initiatives, and participation at major events. This includes funding for the Tech Yukon Digital Adoption Program this year which offers small businesses up to \$2,500 to support e-commerce activities.
- The department will continue to evaluate opportunities to strengthen resilience in the digital sector.

Review of Existing Regulations:

- Economic Development is leading many cross departmental initiatives that will reduce red tape and support the private sector.
- The department is building strategic partnerships through the Committee on Internal Trade to cut red tape and help Yukoners, local businesses, industries and communities benefit from freer trade across Canada.
- The department has also been working to ensure that the Yukon's priorities are included in national-level initiatives negotiated this year, including the Financial Services Chapter of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Platform commitments of the newly elected government will be a focus of interest, particularly before mandate letters are issued.

Platform Commitments

Economic
Development

Background:

- Economic Development has been actively working to reduce red tape. Examples include:
 - A new online portal to apply for Economic Development funding programs. 18 applicants successfully submitted over \$1 million in funding requests on September 15, 2025, for Tier 2 Community Development fund, through the new fund management system, SmartSimple. Clients can apply online, track progress, and access their files and correspondence in a single location; and
 - This will soon be available for other funding programs.
- On January 9, 2025, Economic Development launched the Foreign Credential Recognition Navigation Service. This service offers targeted support to Internationally Educated Health Professionals to facilitate credential recognition and licensure within the territory:
 - Economic Development continues to refine the program to help improve access and reduce administrative burdens to employers who use the Yukon Nominee Program.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Supports for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Department collaborates with businesses and industry associations to make strategic investments and promote an entrepreneurial culture that attracts and supports startups.
- The Department has valued partnerships with Yukonstruct, Yukon Venture Angels, Tech Yukon, and Yukon University to deliver physical spaces, educational programming and networking opportunities that foster an innovative environment.
- In collaboration with Tech Yukon, the Department has supported ten early-stage tech companies from the Yukon to participate in the Web Summit conference in Vancouver in 2025. We look forward to exhibiting again next year in Vancouver.

Additional response:

- We continue to partner with the innovation ecosystem to deliver on programs such as:
 - Yukonstruct's Startup Bootcamp, Pathfinding services, and Innovation Week;
 - Investment workshops for entrepreneurs and angel investors;
 - YukonU Innovation & Entrepreneurship's innovation grant;
 - Sponsoring the Mitacs Accelerate Research and Business Strategy Internship Program;
 - Yukon University's Incubate North and summer biz school; and
 - Tech Yukon's Digital Adoption Program.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Supports for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Economic
Development

Background:

- The department provides financial support to the following organizations:
 - Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship – \$850,000 in 2025-26 (year 2 of a 3-year agreement);
 - Yukonconstruct – \$250,000 in 2025-26 (year 2 of a 3-year agreement);
 - TechYukon – \$280,000 in 2025-26;
 - Yukon Venture Angels - \$95,000 in 2025-26 (year 2 of a 3-year agreement); and
 - Mitacs ^{Withheld} in 2025-26.
- **Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship** is focused on areas of innovation that contribute to the social and economic prosperity of the Yukon, including technology development, social justice, climate action, community development and sustainable resource development. The University Board of Governors supported a motion to conclude the program by March 31, 2026 at the December 12, 2025 meeting.
- **Yukonconstruct** is a non-profit society for innovators, freelancers, startups, developers, students, inventors and creatives. Workshops and shared workspace are available at its Northlight Innovation hub.
- **TechYukon** is the technology industry association for the Yukon, representing 28 Yukon technology companies.
- **Yukon Venture Angels** cultivates and encourages the private sector investment community in the Yukon. Yukon Venture Angels engages with Yukoners keen to learn, engage and invest in and support local enterprises. The focus is to grow the Yukon's private sector economy.

Approved by:

Brian MacDonald
Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development

December 16, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Economic Development Fund provides funding for initiatives that directly contribute to economic growth and diversification throughout the Yukon.
- From April 1 to November 20, 2025, 39 projects were approved under the Economic Development Fund, for a total of \$1,597,298, including several multi-year projects.
- Annual Economic Development Fund Reports are published online on Yukon.ca and list all supported projects.

Additional response:

- All Economic Development Fund applications are reviewed and assessed to ensure they meet fund eligibility and evaluation criteria.
- Eligible projects include those that advance business innovation, support economic diversification, and strengthen competitiveness through capacity or capital development.
- During the last 2024-25 fiscal year, 68 projects were approved through the Economic Development Fund, with a total contribution commitment of \$1,836,888.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Economic Development Fund is a competitive program that is often oversubscribed, resulting in many applicants investing significant time and effort in proposals may not be approved.

Economic Development Fund

Economic
Development

Background:

- **Eligible applicants.** The fund provides support to Yukon businesses, First Nations governments, First Nations development corporations, municipalities, community societies or industry associations and non-profits organizations.
- **Selective project examples.** Business planning, feasibility studies, partnership development, market expansion activities and innovation or research initiatives.
- **Funding.** Available for up to 75 per cent of eligible projects costs (50 per cent for capital expenses), with three funding tiers:
 - Tier 1 – A rolling intake for applications up to \$30,000;
 - Tier 2 – Applications between \$30,001 and \$100,000 with intakes on April 15 and September 15; and
 - Tier 3 – Applications over \$100,000 with a \$500,000 per project cap, with an intake on January 15.
- The total allocation for the fund is \$1.96 million in 2025-26.
- **Smart Simple.** The department is implementing an online fund management system that will support the administration of the Economic Development Fund.
- **Examples.** Economic Development Fund has supported the following projects:

Withheld

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Business Incentive Program

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Business Incentive Program ended on July 8, 2025, as part of the Yukon's efforts to reduce internal trade barriers.
- We will continue to provide rebates to eligible businesses for contracts that were open at the time of the program's cancellation. However, new procurements published after July 8, 2025, are not eligible for the program.

Additional response:

- The Business Incentive Program was developed in the early 1990s in response to a period of high unemployment and general economic decline in the Yukon and Canada.
- For more than a decade, Yukon's labour force participation rate has been among the highest in Canada and its unemployment rate is among the lowest.
- We look forward to working closely with Yukon businesses and industry stakeholders to strengthen the economy and ensure our local businesses have access to opportunities in the Yukon and across the country.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Local businesses may be concerned about increased competition from other jurisdictions in Canada when bidding on Yukon government contracts.

Business Incentive Program

Economic
Development

Background:

- Business Incentive Program supported local economic activity by providing rebates to Yukon businesses working on eligible Yukon government contracts for hiring Yukon laborers and for using Yukon-made goods and services.
- The program provided two types of rebates for Yukon government procurements:
 - Construction rebates for labour and apprentice costs, youth employment, and Yukon materials; and
 - Goods and Services rebates for items produced locally and purchased by the Yukon government.
- In the 2024-25 fiscal year, Business Incentive Program paid \$511,276 in rebates to seven businesses for eight projects in the 2024-25. This does not include applications under assessment for multi-year projects.
- Since the start of this fiscal year, the department has processed one Business Incentive Program application totaling \$60,665 in rebates.

Business Incentive Program and Trade Agreements:

- The exception gave businesses a rebate for using Yukon content when they won Yukon government procurement contracts below the Canadian-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement limits (approximately \$353,300 for goods and services and \$8.8 million for construction).
- On July 8, 2025, the Yukon removed its Business Incentive Policy exception from the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- Once an exception has been removed from the Canadian Free Trade Agreement it cannot be added back in.
- Since Business Incentive Program preferences local content and discriminates against other Canadian jurisdictions, the program is non-compliant with Yukon's market access and non-discrimination obligations under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

Business Incentive Program

Economic
Development

Indigenous Peoples Exceptions in Trade Agreements:

- The cancellation of Business Incentive Program and removal of Yukon's associated Canadian Free Trade Agreement exception does not impact the Yukon's ability to provide preference or advantage to Yukon First Nations.
- All Parties to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement have a broad exception for any rules or measures that apply to Indigenous peoples (Article 800, Canadian Free Trade Agreement).
- Canada includes exceptions and reservations for Indigenous peoples and businesses in all its major trade agreements to meet its legal and constitutional obligations.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Investment Attraction

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Attracting private investment is important for the Yukon's economic development. Investment helps grow businesses, diversify the economy and create employment opportunities.
- The department supports investment attraction through access to capital, business incentives, investment related immigration, and promoting Yukon's sectors.
- Our government will put the private sector, not the government, at the forefront of the economy. This will mean putting a clear focus on the growth of the private sector.

Additional response:

- The department strengthens the Yukon's economic base and competitiveness through capital access and investor incentive programs, including the Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Program and the Yukon Business Investment Tax Credit.
- In addition, the department works to attract domestic and foreign direct investment through its mining investment attraction activities and the Yukon Business Nominee Program.
- Through our Transfer Payment Agreements with Yukon Venture Angels, we are supporting private angel investment in our small- and medium sized businesses.
- Department officials regularly attend trade shows and investment conferences to promote the Yukon's potential for investors.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Investment Attraction

Economic Development

Background:

Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Program: A partnership between the Government of Yukon and participating financial institutions that guarantees 65 per cent of the principal, up to \$100,000 for eligible businesses.

- Eligibility is limited to new business start-ups and small businesses (less than \$5 million in revenue, under 100 employees) in the Yukon. No new applications were received between January 1 and November 20, 2025.

Yukon Business Investment Tax Credit: A 25 per cent individual tax credit for Yukon investors that allows Yukon-based businesses to issue shares in exchange for an agreed upon return and tax credit.

- ^{Withheld} Limited were approved for \$4 million in the 2025 Tax Year by utilizing the Yukon Business Investment Tax Credit program, which gives Yukon investors access to \$1 million in Yukon tax credits.
- Eligible entities must be a private, incorporated corporation with a permanent establishment in the Yukon and pay at least 25 per cent of its salaries to Yukon residents. Entities with more than \$100 million in assets are ineligible.
- We expect demand in 2026 to meet or exceed the available funding.

Yukon Business Nominee Program: Since 2001, 52 candidates have been nominated for Permanent Residence under Yukon Business Nominee Program, with 32 businesses established worth \$25.3 million in investment. No new businesses were nominated under the Yukon Business Nominee Program in 2025-26.

Events and Trade Shows: The department promotes Yukon's investment potential through national and international events, including major mining and innovation conferences.

Partnerships: Through collaboration with organizations such as Yukon Mining Alliance, Yukon Venture Angels, Invest in Canada, etc. we have the ability to reach more markets and increase the pool of potential investors to the Yukon.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Mining Sector Supports

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Mining remains a cornerstone of Yukon's economy. The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting responsible mineral investment that creates opportunities for Yukoners and their communities.
- Our government will work to offer a stable investment climate, critical infrastructure, and immense geological potential, strengthened by partnerships with First Nation governments.
- The department continues to support the sector through funding programs, infrastructure projects, and by promoting Yukon's mineral potential globally.

Additional response:

- The department continues to showcase the Yukon's investment potential at international conferences and events, working collaboratively with industry groups and other partners.
- We continue to invest in responsible infrastructure development to support investment in the sector, including through:
 - Negotiations with the Municipality of Skagway for secure tidewater access for Yukon's mining industry;
 - The Yukon Resource Gateway Program; and
 - We have secured federal funding to support pre-feasibility work for a Yukon-B.C. grid connection under the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The mineral sector is a key contributor to the Yukon's economy and there is ongoing interest in the level of government support to the sector.

Mining Sector Supports

Economic
Development

Background:

Industry Group Transfer Payment Agreements:

- We are currently in year 1 of a 3-year agreement with the Yukon Mining Alliance to host the annual property tours and to lead and facilitate investment attraction activities for the mining sector. The Transfer Payment Agreements are valued at \$397,000 per year.
- We are currently in year 3 of a 3-year agreement with the Yukon Chamber of Mines to provide financial support for the Yukon Geoscience forum and for Yukon Night at AME Round Up. The Transfer Payment Agreements are valued at \$65,000 per year.

Pan-Territorial Marketing Initiative:

- In March 2024, CanNor approved a three-year pan-territorial marketing initiative between Yukon, Nunavut, and Northwest Territories, later branded as Invest North of 60.
- CanNor approved the project with a contribution of \$420,000 which would be supplemented by territorial contributions totaling \$210,000 over three years. ^{Withheld}
^{Withheld} was selected as the contractor to support those efforts.
- The initiative was launched at the Prospectors and Developers Association Conference in March 2025, and it will return in March 2026 and 2027.

Skagway Negotiations:

- The department funded \$739,266 for platform design and has a Transfer Payment Agreements with Skagway for up to \$169,000 to complete permitting.

Other Funding:

- In 2025, the department commissioned a study by ^{Withheld} to assess the economic and socio-economic benefits to the Yukon from the development of mining. The report will be available in late 2025 to early 2026.

Approved by:

<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Miner Lien Act

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The *Miners Lien Act* protects contractors and subcontractors by enabling them to claim liens against mines for up to 60 days' worth of unpaid goods and services provided for mineral recovery.
- Valid lienholders are secured creditors, and are prioritized for repayment over other debts, including mortgages or other encumbrances, for a 60-day period.
- The priority order of all creditors, including lien claimants, is ultimately determined by the federal *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* and the federal *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*.
- It is not possible to alter the priority of lien claims to give preference to Yukon-based creditors as this would be contrary to the principles established in federal legislation.

Additional response:

- The *Miners Lien Act* is subject to federal insolvency laws, meaning if any amendments were to be contemplated, they must align with federal legislation.
- Any potential changes to the legislation would have to be forward-looking and could not apply to existing insolvency proceedings.
- We must also be mindful of unintended consequences when considering changes to the Act.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On November 19, 2024, in the Fall sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, the Third Party called for the Government of Yukon to rewrite the *Miners Lien Act* to prioritize local creditors in Yukon mine closures.
- This followed a call by the Third Party during the Spring Session, for process changes to reduce “hardship” for local businesses and to “make the *Miners Lien*

Miner Lien Act

Economic
Development

Act work for Yukoners and not global corporations”, citing the closures of Wolverine Mine (2015) and Minto Mine (2023).

Background:

- The *Miners Lien Act*, which came into force in 2002, underwent the first substantive changes in 2008, including:
 - Introduction of a new provision giving lien claimants priority over mortgages or encumbrances for work, services, or materials provided to the mine for a period of up to a 60-day period (section 3);
 - Extension of the right to lien to subcontractors; and
 - Removal of miners, labourers or other persons from those entitled to a lien.
- In 2016, the *Miners Liens Form Regulation* made procedural changes to prescribed forms to be used for submitting a lien, release and affidavit. No changes were made to the *Miners Lien Act* itself.
- Since the June 2024 failure event at the Eagle Gold Mine (Victoria Gold Corp), 30 claims of lien against Victoria Gold have been registered, totaling \$60,237,639.
- As of November 21, 2025, the Victoria Gold liens registry indicates that 14 contractors or subcontractors have filed their Supreme Court-issued certificate of pending litigation with the Mining Recorder’s Office.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Recommended response:

- On December 12, 2025, Yukon University's Board of Governors supported a motion to end the Innovation and Entrepreneurship program by March 31, 2026.
- The Department is a significant financial contributor to the program; however, program governance and operational decisions are the responsibility of the University.
- We will continue to support innovation and entrepreneurs in the Yukon to help grow and diversify our economy. Innovation is about embracing change and exploring new ideas.
- We are proud of the accomplishments supported through Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) programming, and we look forward to continued collaboration with Yukon University on research and innovation initiatives.

Additional response:

- Innovators can still access business supports through partners like Yukonstruct, Tech Yukon, and the Yukon Venture Angels.
- The Department of Economic Development's Economic Development Fund is also accepting applications year-round to support business opportunities.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On December 12, 2025, Yukon University's Board of Governors supported a motion to discontinue the Innovation and Entrepreneurship program by March 31, 2026. The Department is a major financial contributor to I&E.

Background:

- I&E has operated out of the Northlight Innovation hub in downtown Whitehorse since September 2018. I&E was previously known as Cold Climate Innovation, which was established in 2009 at Yukon University.
- I&E operates arms-length from Yukon University, and it is not integrated into the University's core research or academic programs.
- The Department is a long-time funder of I&E and its earlier versions of the program. Currently in year 2 of a 3-year TPA in the amount of \$850k per year (\$597k programming + \$253k operations and admin).
- I&E's programs include the following:
 - Innovation Fund - provides grants to businesses and entrepreneurs;
 - Incubate North - business incubator for businesses looking to grow and expand their markets;
 - Wrap-Around Services - connects entrepreneurs with subject-matter experts in niche areas such as legal, IP, corporate finance, etc.; and
 - Summer Business School - helps guide students to launch new business ideas over the course of a summer.
- CanNor, TD Bank, IRAP, and corporate sponsors have historically contributed funding to I&E. Yukon University only provides in-kind support.
- I&E sublets space from Yukonstruct at Northlight Innovation Hub. Annual rent increases projected over the next 5-years would have put financial strain on Yukon University.
- The Department of Economic Development will work with Yukon University to ensure a smooth transition for I&E clients and partners.

Approved by:	
<u>Brian MacDonald</u>	<u>December 16, 2025</u>
Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

First Nations Collaborative Initiatives

Economic Development

Recommended response:

- Yukon First Nations' governments and their development corporations have significant economic opportunities and play a critical role in growing and diversifying the territory's economy.
- Our government is committed to strengthening partnerships with Yukon First Nations and supporting them in building capacity and identifying economic priorities within their Traditional Territories.

Additional response:

- More than \$1.7 million in economic development funding (approximately 11 per cent of the department's transfer payment budget) has been directed to Yukon First Nations governments, development corporations and limited partnerships in 2025-26. This includes:
 - Over \$1.1 million in labour market funding;
 - \$231,000 through the Economic Development Fund;
 - \$209,000 through the Community Development Fund;
 - \$125,000 in funding to Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce; and
 - \$100,000 in support from the Trade Resilience Fund.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The new government is committed to forging strong government-to-government relationships with Yukon First Nations.
- Advancing economic development opportunities for Yukon First Nations is essential to meeting the commitments under Chapter 22 of the Final Agreements.

Background:

- The department provides funding to Yukon First Nations governments and development corporations to support:

First Nations Collaborative Initiatives

Economic Development

- Governance and capacity building;
 - Strategic and economic planning;
 - Development of feasibility studies and establishment of business ventures;
 - Labour market and workforce development; and
 - Projects providing lasting benefits to Yukoners.
- Funding supports advances economic reconciliation through projects that strengthen Indigenous programs, communities and organizations. Ongoing projects include:
 - Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to increase its service provision capacity and strengthen labour market support for their citizens (Building UP, 2024–26);
 - Yukon First Nations Wildfire to deliver 'The Wildlife Warrior Program', providing workplace-based opportunities for youth to increase their Skills for Success in a culturally relevant environment;
 - Kwanlin Dün and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to support Indigenous entrepreneurs acquire business licenses;
 - Teslin Tlingit Council to build capacity to help youth take advantage of employment opportunities on their traditional territory;
 - Supporting a trade mission between Yukon First Nation Development Corporations and First Nations owned businesses to Alaska to meet with counterparts from Alaska's Native Corporations (Trade Resilience Fund, October 2025);
 - Bears' Lair entrepreneurship camp for indigenous youth aged 11-18 hosted in Haines Junction by Sha Shāw Corporation (Community Development Fund, 2025-26); and
 - Yukon First Nation Education Directorate to support hands-on trades education through mobile training units for Indigenous youth in urban and rural Yukon communities (Economic Development Fund, 2025-26).

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Performing Musicians Fund

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Economic Development launched the Performing Musicians Fund in 2022. It is a comprehensive funding program for Yukon musicians to foster continued growth in this vibrant creative industry.
- The annual funding for the Performing Musicians Fund is \$300,000.
- Between April 1 and November 21, 2025, the department approved 25 applications, including eight established musicians and 17 emerging musicians, for a total of \$317,265.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- 2025-26 is the first year the Performing Musicians Fund has been fully subscribed to. A planned November 25, 2025 intake, will not accept applications due to the program budget being fully committed.

Background:

- Eligible activities under the Performing Musicians Fund include:
 - Activities that help musicians improve their skills, such as preproduction activities or workshop registration;
 - Professional sound recording intended for commercial release, applying to showcases and auditions to secure bookings; and
 - Costs associated with marketing new music and developing opportunities contributed sustainably to their income.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Screen Media Fund Programs

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Economic Development's media funding programs help to provide economic benefits and employment opportunities for Yukoners. The funds were launched in 2022 to support the production of professional film, television, and digital media projects.
 - The Media Development branch administers the Media Training Fund, Predevelopment Fund, Development Fund, and the Media Production Fund, with a total programs budget of \$1,160,000.
 - We are committed to supporting the Film and Sound Industry to grow and stay strong in the Yukon.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party platform included a commitment to maintain Film and Sound Industry supports to ensure a vibrant film and sound industry while reviewing existing programs with partners to address long-term growth in the sector.
-

Background:

- The four Media Development funding programs launched in 2022 replaced five outdated programs. Annual funding was increased by \$500,000 in time limited funds that expired on March 31, 2025.
 - The changes were intended to modernize the programs to keep pace with developments in the national and international screen sector, and to maximize the benefits to the Yukoners.
 - The Media Development funding programs' annual intake dates are announced on Yukon.ca. Each program may be closed once funding has been fully subscribed.
 - Closing these programs allows the department to allocate resources to the year the activity occurs and manage its budget appropriately; and
 - The application process mirrors federal programs from the media industry. Applications are not accepted verbally.
-

Screen Media Fund Programs

Economic
Development

- The Media Development programs, particularly the Media Production Fund, are often oversubscribed, overspending their budgets by an average of \$520,000 annually from 2014-15 and 2024-25.
- Between April 1 and November 21, 2025, the department approved 15 applications totaling \$1,982,126, including:
 - seven applications for a total of \$43,579 under the Media Training Fund;
 - three applications for a total of \$41,230 under the Predevelopment Fund;
 - one application for a total of \$40,000 under the Development Fund; and
 - four applications for \$1,857,317 under the Media Production Fund.
- The 15 projects anticipate spending approximately \$5.85 million in the Yukon, creating dozens of local jobs and building capacity, while supporting Yukon businesses, and contributing to economic diversification.
- Annual Media Development Fund Reports are published online on Yukon.ca and list all supported projects.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Community Development Fund supports events and initiatives that provide long-term, sustainable economic, cultural and social benefits to communities across the Yukon.
- I look forward to working closely with communities to better understand how the Community Development Fund strengthens local connections and supports long-term well-being across the Yukon.

Additional response:

- From April 1 to November 20, 2025, 24 projects were approved under the Community Development Fund, for almost \$1.5 million in funding. Several projects are multi-year initiatives.
- During the 2025-26 fiscal year, 10 projects outside of Whitehorse were approved for a total of \$591,708 representing 40 per cent of the total approved budget.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- Annual Community Development Fund reports are published online on Yukon.ca.
- The Community Development Fund is for projects that:
 - Create economic benefits such as generating local spending, creating employment opportunities, building needed infrastructure and bringing new money into the Yukon from outside sources;
 - Develop skills, knowledge and experience;

Community Development Fund

Economic
Development

- Create social benefits such as strengthening social and community networks, building partnerships and facilitating community involvement;
- Support a community's long-term well-being; and
- Have measurable social, cultural and economic benefits for Yukon residents and communities.
- Funding is dispersed across three tiers:
 - Tier 1 for requests of \$20,000 and less (four intakes per year);
 - Tier 2 for requests between \$20,001 and \$75,000 (two intakes per year); and
 - Tier 3 for requests over \$75,000 (one intake per year).
- Examples of projects funded through the Community Development Fund include:
 - \$75,000 to Signpost Seniors Association to repair or replace 3 entrances to the Signpost Seniors Building in Watson Lake;
 - \$35,500 to Sha Shāw Corporation to host a Bears Lair youth entrepreneur camp to empower First Nations youth aged 11-18;
 - \$110,000 to the Village of Haines Junction to develop planning documents for a new recreation centre in Haines Junction; and
 - \$250,000 to Polarettes and Polar Tumblers Gymnastics Club to outfit the new 25,000 sq. Ft. gymnastic training facility with high quality training and recreation equipment in Whitehorse.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Regional Accomplishments

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon provides support to advance economic reconciliation through projects that bolster Indigenous programs, communities and organizations.
- Communities have benefited from a variety of funds administered by the department, in addition to Community Development Fund and Economic Development Fund.
- Communities also receive support from Media Development funding programs. Many screen-based media projects film in locations throughout the Yukon and spend their budgets in multiple communities.
- The department provides economic immigration programs to help businesses across the territory meet their labour needs.
- Economic Development also supports labour market development initiatives of employers and organizations through Staffing UP and Building UP programs.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Regional Accomplishments

Economic
Development

Background:

- From April 1 to November 20, 2025, the department approved \$1.6 million in Community Development Fund and Economic Development Fund support. Of this amount, 46 per cent (\$734,723) went to communities outside of Whitehorse. These include:
 - North region (Dawson City, Eagle Plains, Keno, Mayo, Old Crow): \$97,749;
 - West region (Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction): \$428,233;
 - Central region (Carmacks, Faro, Pelly Crossing, Ross River): \$117,762; and
 - Southeast region (Carcross, Southern Lakes, Teslin, Watson Lake): \$96,979.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Labour Market Development – Programs and Funding

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Economic Development plays a key role in strengthening the Yukon's labour market.
- Through the Labour Market Development Branch, the department invests in programs that help connect Yukoners and employers with the skills, training and support they need to succeed.
- These investments include partnerships that build workforce capacity, advance skills development and support apprenticeship and post-secondary learning across the territory.
- For the 2025-26 fiscal year, the government has dedicated over \$7 million to labour market programming, supported through federal Labour Market Transfer Agreements.
- The branch also leads the Foreign Credential Recognition Project, which helps internationally trained healthcare workers put their skills and experience to work in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon has a suite of programs to support a skilled workforce by helping job seekers, employers and learners access the training and support they need.
- Building UP – Provides funding to organizations that offer services and support to job seekers and employers.
- Staffing UP – Supports employers in attracting, training and developing the talent they need to grow their business.
- Working UP– Delivered by the Department of Education helps individuals with their learning and career goals, including support for apprenticeship and trades training.

Labour Market Development – Programs and Funding

Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Labour market activity has become a more prominent topic of discussion following changes in the U.S. tariff policy, leading to significant work in internal and international trade, labour mobility, and the resulting layoffs, particularly in steel, softwood lumber, auto industry, and projected secondary, tertiary and supply chain effects that may lead to more layoffs.

Background:

- The Department of Economic Development became the lead for Labour Market Development in April 2022. From 2010 to 2022, this responsibility was held by the Department of Education. Before 2010, it fell under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada.
- Primary funding for labour market programs comes from the Canada-Yukon Labour Market Transfer Agreements, specifically;
 - The Canada-Yukon Labour Market Development Agreement, with funding provided by Employment and Social Development under Part Two of the Employment Insurance Act; and
 - The Canada-Yukon Workforce Development Agreement with funding provided by Employment and Social Development under the Department of Employment and Social Development Act.
- Canada reduced its funding under these agreements in fiscal year 2024-25. Taken together these cuts reduced program funding by \$1.8 million. This forced a reduction to existing services (approximately 30 per cent cuts for all existing programs) and resulted in the shutdown of services such as Klondike Outreach, Skookum Jim Youth Employment, Klondike Region Training Society, and the NGO Hub.
- Canada is offering an amendment to the Labour Market Development Agreement for fiscal year 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 as a response to the United States tariffs situation. This amendment will add \$1.523 million to the Labour Market Development Agreement over the next two plus years.

Labour Market Development – Programs and Funding

Economic
Development

- The Yukon continues to see unfilled jobs, particularly in skilled and regulated sectors such as health care and trades, and demand for entry level positions (food services, retail and hospitality).
- At the same time, nationally there are concerns about the growing youth unemployment rate, particularly now that this includes university graduates. This is currently less of an issue in the Yukon.
- Yukon's unemployment rate has been the lowest or second lowest in Canada for several years, but we also have a significant number of working age Yukoners who are not in the labour force.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Foreign Credential Recognition Project

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Foreign Credential Recognition Project is a four-year, \$3.65 million federally funded initiative to streamline credentialing processes, reduce barriers, and help internationally educated health professionals integrate into the Yukon's healthcare workforce.
- As a key component of the Project, the Navigation Service (launched on January 9, 2025) has supported internationally educated health professionals through information, referrals, and funding.
- The Foreign Credential Recognition Project also funds initiatives led by Community Services and Health and Social Services to advance its objectives, including development work on new licensure pathways for internationally educated physicians and development of the transition-to-practice program for internationally educated nurses.

Additional response:

- A funding agreement is also being developed to:
 - support Community Services in its research and policy work on modernizing the Health Professions Act; and
 - support workplace integration for internationally educated nurses in the transition-to-practice program, including wage subsidies for Health and Social Services and the Yukon Hospital Corporation to provide enhanced mentorship, training, and assessment.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Staffing shortages across the Yukon's healthcare system are receiving significant public attention, including temporary closures of community health centres and long wait times for certain procedures and services.

Foreign Credential Recognition Project

Economic
Development

-
- Recent media coverage has highlighted the case of an Iranian-trained physician in Whitehorse unable to practice despite living in the territory.
 - Attention is further heightened by national reporting on provinces recruiting physicians and nurses abroad, particularly in the context of recent U.S. immigration policy changes that may influence international healthcare worker mobility.
-

Background:

- The Department of Economic Development signed a contribution agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada on February 5, 2024. The agreement ends in January 2028.
 - The Yukon continues to experience unfilled positions in the healthcare sector, mirroring a nationwide challenge as the sector struggles to find certified professionals to meet growing demand.
 - Addressing this shortage is crucial to maintaining a resilient health care system that can provide high-quality care to all Yukoners.
 - Streamlining the foreign credential recognition process is one way to increase the labour supply in the Yukon's healthcare sector.
 - A Foreign Credential Recognition Working Group has been established to support interdepartmental coordination with members from Health and Social Services, Economic Development, and Community Services. A network of key contacts has been established across multiple government departments and non-governmental organizations to strengthen and enhance Foreign Credential Recognition processes.
 - The service has engaged 131 individuals, created 51 action plans, and committed \$192,161 in financial assistance as of November 24, 2025.
 - There are nine individuals that have achieved a license to practice in Yukon. However, placement in employment remains a challenge as employers continue to require minimum years of Canadian experience prior to hiring.
 - To date, two individuals out of the 131 engaged individuals have employment that reflects their credentials.
-

**Foreign Credential Recognition
Project**

Economic
Development

- The Foreign Credential Recognition program continues to pursue solutions to this issue.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Labour Market Transfer Agreement- Tariff Response

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- As part of Canada's response to changes in the U.S. tariff policy and economic pressures, the federal government is offering a financial top-up to the Labour Market Development Agreement.
 - The Yukon will receive an additional \$1.5 million over the next three fiscal years.
 - This top-up aims to enhance labour market programing and support the workforce in affected sectors.
 - The Department of Economic Development has been working with Canada on the terms of the agreement, and I look forward to receiving the proposed agreement from Canada.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The national labour market has seen high public exposure due to the expected instability caused by U.S. tariffs.
 - The 2024-25 fiscal year saw significant cuts in the Labour Market Development program budget owing to Canada's reductions. This amendment brings more funding back into that program delivery.
-

Background:

- The offer was part of a \$570 million package announced by Canada beginning July 16, 2025, to support steel, softwood lumber and industries affected by tariffs and global market shifts.
 - Canada made the following announcements leading to this amendment offer:
 - July 16, 2025- \$70 million to assist up to 10,000 workers in the steel sector;
 - August 5, 2025- \$50 million to support 6,000 workers in the softwood lumber industry;
-

Labour Market Transfer Agreement- Tariff Response

Economic
Development

- September 5, 2025- \$450 million to retrain and upskill up to 50,000 workers in strategic industries affected by tariffs and global market shifts;
- November 17, 2025- All of these announcements were contained in the Federal Budget that is still being debated;
 - The Yukon is not offered funding associated with steel sector workers and only a limited amount in softwood lumber. The bulk of the offer is in the third item- industries affected by tariffs and global market shifts;
 - The Yukon (as well as the other two territories) were offered a floor level budget under the third item- \$1.5million over the entire period, plus \$23K in softwood lumber;
 - The Department of Economic Development will continue to work with Canada to ensure maximum benefit to the Yukon's labour market; and
 - To date, there has been little significant shift in the Yukon's labour market resulting from changes in the U.S. tariffs policy, but these can be expected as secondary effects and supply chain issues in the coming months.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development administers two immigration programs in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada: the Yukon Business Nominee Program and the Yukon Nominee Program.
- The Department of Economic Development is committed to restoring trust in this program by providing greater transparency, ensuring program integrity and reducing program misuse.

If asked about Yukon Nominee Program: [also see tab 2]

- The Department of Economic Development is continuing to adapt the Yukon Nominee Program to meet growing demand, while improving transparency and program integrity to restore trust and reduce program misuse.
- In 2025, the department focused on keeping foreign nationals who are already building their lives here, people who are a part of our communities, support our vibrant Francophone community, and provide vital healthcare services to Yukoners.
- As stated in the Throne Speech, the government will launch a review of the territory's immigration policies to help balance the needs of our growing economy with the capacity of our infrastructure to support all Yukoners. We expect to have more details on this review early in 2026.

If asked about the Yukon Business Nominee Program:

- The Yukon Business Nominee Program is designed to attract and retain skilled international entrepreneurs, to add diversity and

innovation to the Yukon's economy while ensuring that opportunities are safeguarded for Yukoners and other Canadians.

- The Yukon Business Nominee Program has successfully attracted and retained skilled international entrepreneurs to Dawson City, Mayo, Faro, Haines Junction and Whitehorse, creating jobs and enhancing economic diversification.
- Criteria are stringent to ensure that new businesses are sustainable, meaningfully contribute to development of the Yukon's economy, and target specific strategic sectors.

If asked about the Yukon Community Program:

- The Yukon Community Program pilot concluded as planned on June 30, 2025, following the completion of the agreement between the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada.
- The Yukon Community Program was introduced as a time-limited pilot to test an alternative approach to supporting employers and addressing labour shortages.
- Unlike the standard nomination process, the Yukon Community Program pilot allowed candidates to combine up to three part-time jobs to reach the full-time hours needed to qualify for the Yukon Nominee Program.
- Since the launch of the pilot in 2020, candidates were nominated to communities of Dawson City, Carmacks, Carcross, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- In 2024 the top five countries of origin were India (285), Philippines (54), China (24), Taiwan (seven), Germany (seven).
- In 2024 the top five occupations filled by nominees were Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers & Related Occupations (81), Cashiers (56), Early Childhood Educator and Assistants (46), Retail Salespersons and Visual Merchandisers (36), Light Duty Cleaners (32).
- Between January 1 and December 31, 2024, 430 applicants – the Yukon's full allocation - were nominated: 320 Critical Impact Workers, 53 Skilled Workers, 50 Yukon Express Entry and seven within the Yukon Community Program.
- Of the 430 applications approved in 2024, 384 were in Whitehorse, and the remaining 46 were from Dawson City (17), Haines Junction (six), Carcross (five), Watson Lake (five), Carmacks (four), Teslin (three), Pelly Crossing (three), Faro (one), Mayo (one), and Marsh Lake (one).
- Interest in the Yukon Nominee Program has steadily grown over the past few years, with applications more than doubling. Between 2019 and 2023, the approved principal applicants for the Yukon Nominee Program increased by over 2.8 times, on an annual basis, from 202 to 580, with 2023 being the top record year.
- Yukon saw an 82 per cent increase in base allocations from 2021 to 2023 (220 in 2021, 270 in 2022, to 400 in 2023 and 380 in 2024).
- Temporary or seasonal positions are not supported through the Yukon Nominee Program.
- The Yukon Nominee Program has received applications from over 694 employers, approving 3,372 principal nominees and approximately 2,471 dependents. Between 2018 and 2023, the number of employers utilizing the Yukon Nominee Program more than doubled from 94 to 200.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>December 15, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Recommended response:

- The department is focusing on:
 - strengthening our relationships with industry to ensure the Yukon Nominee Program is focusing on key areas of the Yukon's labour market; and
 - exploring procedural options to streamline processing and improve service standards.

If asked about Government of Canada Immigration Levels Plan:

- On November 4, 2025, the Government of Canada announced its 2026-28 Immigration Levels Plan as part of the Canada's Budget 2025. The Levels Plan includes temporary and permanent resident, international student, refugee and protected person and provincial nominee program targets.

If asked about Canada's announcement on physicians:

- Canada has announced two measures to support Canada's healthcare system attract and retain internationally trained physicians.
- In addition to creating a new Express Entry category for doctors with at least one year of Canadian work experience, they have also reserved 5,000 spaces for provinces and territories to nominate licensed doctors with jobs offers.
- We are currently working with our colleagues at Health and Social Services, and with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, to determine how the Yukon can best use these new opportunities to bring physicians to our community.

If asked about application processing times:

- The Department of Economic Development is continuing to respond to increasing program demand and is working to reduce application processing times.

If asked about program fraud:

- The department remains committed to ensuring the integrity of the Yukon Nominee Program and combating program fraud.

If asked about RCMP investigation:

- The RCMP executed search warrants on June 3, 2024, and December 20, 2024, for information held at the Department of Economic Development.
- All applicable records were provided in full compliance with the search warrants.
- As the investigation is ongoing, the government cannot speculate or provide further details at this time.

If asked about program review:

- The department recognizes that the Yukon's immigration programs are at a crossroads, with a rapidly changing immigration landscape in Canada resulting in a need for the department to review the program and the way it operates. We expect to announce more on this review early next year.
- The Auditor General of Canada had been planning to undertake a performance audit of the Yukon Nominee Program and the Yukon Business Nominee Program. On November 15, 2024, it was announced that this audit would be postponed out of respect

Immigration Branch Operations

Economic
Development

for the ongoing investigations by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- There are currently four streams under the Yukon Nominee Program: Yukon Business Nominee Program, Critical Impact Worker, Skilled Worker and Express Entry.
- All information submitted as part of the 2025 Expression of Interest and in Yukon Nominee Program applications is verified.
- In 2025, the Immigration Branch has withdrawn Invitations to Apply when it was found that Expressions of Interest could not be corroborated, and applications have been refused when employers were unable to provide required documentation to confirm information stated in the application.
- On January 14, 2025, the Auditor General of Canada issued a Management Letter providing four suggestions for the Department of Economic Development regarding the two nomination programs:
 - Evaluate resources for the Immigration Branch;
 - Consider establishing mechanisms to restore confidence in the immigration programs;
 - Establish ways to improve the balance of power between employers and employees; and
 - Determine if the Yukon Nominee Program Addresses Yukon's labour market needs.
- Following Yukon Nominee Program approval, a nominee may need to apply to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for a work permit.

Immigration Branch Operations

Economic
Development

- As of November 20, 2025:
 - Overseas nominees are subject to the processing times of the local visa office which varies greatly by location, capacity, and priorities, taking from as little as one week to 55 weeks; and
 - The processing of work permit applications from inside Canada is 229 days.
- The time it takes Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to review a Permanent Residence application for provincial/territorial nominees varies, and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada update their website with average processing times.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

December 15, 2025

Date approved

Temporary Measure to Support Prospective Nominees

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- In fall 2024, the Department of Economic Development announced an initiative, in collaboration with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, to deliver an interim measure to support foreign nationals who have settled in the Yukon and who wish to make it their home.
- Foreign nationals whose work permits would expire in 2024 or 2025, could request a support letter from the Government of Yukon to apply for a new, up to two-year, Yukon-specific work permit.
- The foreign national still needs to be nominated by their employer in 2025 or 2026 for permanent residency through the Yukon Nominee Program.
- This measure addresses labour market stability and supports Yukon's economic growth by retaining skilled foreign workers.

Additional response:

- In fall 2024, 25 support letters were issued. In 2025, an additional 151 letters were issued (for a total of 176).
- Of these, 72 applications were submitted in 2025 by employers of foreign nationals who received a support letter.
- We do not yet know if this initiative will be offered again in 2026 as it must be enabled by an Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada policy.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Due to oversubscription of the Yukon Nominee Program in 2024 and 2025, some foreign nationals who had settled in the Yukon and contributed to the local economy and communities, had expiring work permits and could potentially have had to leave Canada.

Temporary Measure to Support Prospective Nominees

Economic
Development

Background:

- A Letter of Intent between the Yukon and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada was signed on September 16, 2024, with the extension signed on March 13, 2025, to enable the use of Canada's temporary public policies.
- The Department of Economic Development accepted requests for a Letter of Support from foreign nationals between October 1 to October 31, 2024, and between March 19 to April 2, 2025.
- To be eligible, candidates need to have:
 - been residing and working full-time equivalent hours in the Yukon as of May 16, 2024;
 - secured accommodations within 150 km of their work location;
 - had a valid work authorization as of May 16, 2024, that expired in 2024 or 2025; and
 - a letter of employment from a current Yukon employer.
- Nominations for these individuals must occur from within existing Yukon Nominee Program allocations during 2025 or 2026.
- Retaining foreign workers who have already settled in the territory creates stability in the labour market, reduces impacts to the constrained housing market, limits impact to healthcare resources, and meets Canada's requirement to transition temporary residents to permanent residency.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Settlement Services

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Settlement services are essential to Yukon's economic growth and community vitality. They help newcomers integrate successfully, support workforce retention, and strengthen cultural diversity.
- The Department of Economic Development provides settlement support to Yukon Nominees through collaboration with employers, information sessions, worksite monitoring and community outreach.
- In 2025-26, Canada plans to invest \$2.2 million for settlement services for permanent residents in the Yukon, an increase of 7.5 per cent from 2024-25.

Additional response:

- Settlement services ensure that eligible newcomers receive the support and services necessary to successfully integrate into and contribute to both the Yukon's economy and their new community.
- Canada supports local service providers, such as l'Association franco-yukonnaise and the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon to provide integration services and programs.
- These services include delivering language and cultural awareness training to assist with finding housing and obtaining referrals to government services such as childcare, education and health care.
- They also link newcomers with community cultural groups and foster connections to support their settlement into the Yukon.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Settlement services and the ability of newcomers to integrate into local communities remain an area of interest.
- Retention is a key interest of many Yukon communities.

Settlement Services

Economic
Development

Background:

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

Settlement Agencies:

- In 2024-25, Multicultural Centre of the Yukon received \$2 million in funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada in support of Canada's Settlement Program (ending in 2025) for people who have permanent resident status and refugees.
- Multicultural Centre of the Yukon offers needs and assets assessment, referral and outreach services, community connections, employment related services, language assessment and training, literacy programs, and the Settlement Worker in School program.
- Over the past five years, up until March of 2024, Multicultural Centre of the Yukon has provided services to 1,161 clients.
- l'Association franco-yukonnaise has the following agreements with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada:
 - Francophone Welcoming Community pilot project (\$102,079/year);
 - Francophone Settlement (\$65,000/year); and
 - Réseau en immigration francophone du Yukon (\$25,000/year).
- l'Association franco-yukonnaise offers needs and assets assessment, referral services, community connections, and employment related services.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Recommended response:

- Francophone immigration is a valued and important contributor to supporting the needs of Yukon employers and communities.
- The Yukon is the third most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, with 14.4 per cent of residents being able to have a conversation in French. This makes us an attractive settlement destination for French-speaking immigrants.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work in partnership with the Government of Canada and L'Association franco-yukonnaise to recruit bilingual immigrants and help them integrate into Yukon communities.

Additional response:

- The Francophone community plays a vital role in Yukon's cultural and economic landscape by strengthening bilingualism, supporting workforce needs, and fostering inclusive communities.
- Their presence enhances Yukon's attractiveness as a settlement destination and contributes to the territory's growth through partnerships, integration programs, and cultural engagement.
- Between 2016 and 2021, Yukon was the only Canadian jurisdiction to increase the proportion of residents speaking predominantly French at home, and the 2021 census reported French as the first official language for 4.5 per cent of the population.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- Whitehorse was selected as one of 14 communities across Canada under the three-year Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative. Under the initiative, Association franco-yukonnaise receives \$102,079 per year (2020-24) to create programs and activities to help French-speaking newcomers integrate into the community.
- Increasing Francophone immigration is a high priority of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Vision Action Plan. The Vision Action Plan outlines shared goals for immigration based on Federal-Provincial-Territorial collaboration, consultation, and cooperation.
- The Immigration Branch offers bilingual services for clients and is represented on the “Réseau d’immigration francophone au Yukon”.
- Association franco-yukonnaise receives federal funding to provide settlement services including language instruction, orientation to healthcare, education and information on the employment sector or entrepreneurship.
- Association franco-yukonnaise is conducting a community engagement to develop their strategy to increase the French speaking population in the territory.
- In 2024, three francophone nominees and their households, (a total of seven individuals) were approved under the Yukon Nominee Program, with two of the three nominees being skilled workers.
- Between 2016 and 2021, the Yukon was the only Canadian jurisdiction to increase the number and proportion of those who speak predominantly French at home (up from 2.4 to 2.6 per cent).
 - The number of the Yukon residents who identified French as their exclusive first official language grew by more than 200.
 - The 2021 census reported that French was the first official language spoken by 4.5 per cent of the Yukon’s population.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 49

Fall 2025

Francophone Immigration

Economic
Development

- Between 2007, when the Yukon Nominee Program was established, and 2024, 134 principal-nominees from French-speaking countries have been approved through the program.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Philippines Immigration- Memorandum of Understanding

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- On March 18, 2022, the Yukon and the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Employment and Protection of Filipinos under the Yukon Nominee Program.
- The department has been working to finalize the Implementation Guidelines for the Memorandum of Understanding with the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers.
- The department continues to brief me on the Memorandum of Understanding, including its objectives, implementation status, and potential impacts on Yukon's labour market and international relationships.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Philippines Memorandum of Understanding:

- On March 18, 2022, the Yukon and the Philippines signed the Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding improves coordination between the Yukon and the Philippines on labour mobility and specifically:
 - improves identification and recruitment of Filipinos under the Yukon Nominee Program;
 - supports the safety of Filipino nominees under the Yukon Nominee Program;
 - waives fees applied by the Philippines to Filipino Yukon Nominee Program applicants; and
 - clarifies the role of the Philippines' vetted pool of qualified Filipino workers.

Philippines Immigration- Memorandum of Understanding

Economic
Development

- The Government of Yukon is continuing these conversations to explore opportunities to meet the territory's health sector human resource needs where local or Canadian workers are not available.
- Work on the draft guidelines has taken significantly longer than expected. The department is following up with our contacts in the Philippines government to finalize the agreement.
- The implementation guidelines will include an Activities Plan for the Government of Yukon and the Philippines, as well as Terms of Reference for a Joint Committee that will monitor and advise on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Other Initiatives:

- In September 2023, a business delegation went on a mission to Asia, visiting Japan and India.
- During the visit, a Letter of Intent was signed with the Kerala Department of Non-Resident Keralite Affairs. The Yukon government is currently focusing efforts on discussions with other organizations.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

RCMP Search Warrants

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The RCMP executed search warrants on June 3, 2024, and December 20, 2024, for information held at the Department of Economic Development.
- All applicable records were provided in full compliance with the search warrants. The department cooperated fully and ensured all requested information was turned over during both visits.
- The RCMP has requested that all inquiries be directed at them.
- As the investigation is ongoing, the government cannot speculate or provide further details at this time.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Search warrants have received public attention, and an update may be requested.
- The RCMP have not disclosed any information related to their ongoing investigation.

Background:

- The RCMP members attended the Department of Economic Development on June 3, 2024, and December 20, 2024, and staff assisted by providing all information requested in the search warrants.
- The RCMP confirmed an ongoing investigation but did not provide any further details.

Approved by:	
<u>Paul Moore</u>	<u>November 27, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

International Trade and Canada-U.S. Trade Discussions

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- International trade discussions have intensified since the United States introduced new tariff measures affecting Canadian business and workers.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work with Global Affairs Canada, provincial and territorial partners, and Yukon businesses to navigate this changing trade environment.
- Our goal is to help protect the Yukon's market access, support business resilience, and maintain stable trading relationships and supply chains.

Additional response:

- The department has introduced a tariff response program designed to help Yukon businesses adapt to changing trade conditions.
- The Government of Yukon is working with Canada to identify other potential initiatives and is collaborating with provinces and territories to advance a strong, unified Canadian economy.
- International trade negotiations, including the upcoming Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement review, fall under federal jurisdiction, and the Yukon will continue to advocate for northern interests through federal-provincial-territorial processes.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Changes in U.S. trade policy may introduce uncertainty for Yukon business, increasing costs, delays and compliance requirements.
- Canada's ongoing international trade initiatives include exploring new agreements with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, reopening negotiations with India, and recent agreements with Ecuador (January 2025) and Indonesia, (September 2025).

International Trade and Canada- U.S. Trade Discussions

Economic
Development

Background:

- **Canada - U.S. Trade Discussions.** Since early 2025, the U.S. has shifted its trade policy and introduced series tariff action on Canada, beginning with tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and applying Section 232 national-security measures targeting steel, aluminum, autos, lumber, copper and agriculture.
- In addition, the U.S. removed its “de minimis” duty-free threshold, requiring duties on all Canadian shipments under \$800 unless they qualify under Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement.
- Since March 2025, the U.S. has provided an exemption from International Emergency Economic Powers Act tariffs for goods that qualify for preferential duty-free treatment under Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement. However, this exemption does not apply to aluminum, steel, automobiles and soft wood lumber.
- Canada has implemented a series of retaliatory tariffs, while some have been lifted (example: alcohol, video game consoles), counter tariffs remain on steel, aluminum and automobiles. Trade negotiations are currently frozen.
- **Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement.** The six-year review of Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement is anticipated to begin in January 2026 and must occur no later than July 1, 2026.
- Canada has launched its internal consultative process to gather sector-specific advice on issues to raise with the U.S. and Mexico. The federal government continues to develop its strategic priorities and approach to inform the review process.
- The Prime Minister has emphasized that 85 per cent of Canada – U.S. trade is tariff – free and that average applied tariffs on Canadian goods are 5.6 per cent, compared to a global average of 16 per cent, highlighting the importance of maintaining agreement.

International Trade and Canada- U.S. Trade Discussions

Economic
Development

- **Economic Development.** Budget 2025-26 includes a \$1 million, Trade Resilience Program, to help Yukon business adapt to emerging trade barriers and supply chain disruptions.
- The department has convened an Interdepartmental Trade Policy Working Group to support cross-departmental coordination on trade policy measures with respect to international and internal trade.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Internal Trade Barrier Removals - Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Our government is committed to supporting the Yukon's private sector, creating opportunities for economic growth, and helping make life more affordable for all Yukoners. The department is working to building strategic partnerships through the Committee on Internal Trade to cut red tape and help Yukoners, local businesses, industries and communities benefit from freer trade across Canada.

Additional response:

- The department has been working to ensure that the Yukon's priorities are included in national-level initiatives negotiated this year, including the Financial Services Chapter of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods.
 - The department will look closely at these agreements to determine how we can participate moving forward.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Reducing barriers to internal trade has become a matter of interest due to U.S. tariffs on certain Canadian exports.
 - The Canadian Federation of Independent Business gave the Yukon an overall score of "D" in its June 2025 report card on internal trade, ranking the territory last among all Parties.
-

Background:

- **Canadian Free Trade Agreement:** Since 2017, the Canadian Free Trade Agreement has applied to all government measures affecting internal trade unless explicitly excluded. Parties can retain exclusions through general and party-specific exceptions.
-

Internal Trade Barrier Removals - Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Economic
Development

- The Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table is a key element of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement governance structure, tasked with reconciling regulatory measures that act as barriers to trade, investment, or labour mobility within Canada.
- Canadian Free Trade Agreement does not impact territorial legislation or protections related to Indigenous peoples, language, their environment, culture or health care. These areas are exempt from the rules of the agreement.
- **2025 Progress on Removing Internal Trade Barriers:** Since January 31, 2025, Committee on Internal Trade Ministers have met nine times to advance an ambitious Team Canada commitment to strengthen internal trade within Canada.
- On July 8, 2025, Parties collectively reduced the total number of Party-Specific Exceptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement by 30 per cent—including the removal of five Yukon exceptions. On the same day, Committee on Internal Trade announced the Memorandum of Understanding on direct-to-consumer sales for alcohol, which was signed by 10 Parties—including the Yukon.
- As of November 19, 2025, three national-level initiatives are finalized and ready for signature, fulfilling Committee on Internal Trade Ministers and First Ministers direction. This includes:
 - The Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods which will strengthen supply chains and improve transparency for businesses. Nine Parties have signed, including: Alberta, Canada, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec;
 - The National Memorandum of Understanding in Trucking, which Ministers of Transportation and Committee on Internal Trade Ministers target signing by the end of 2025. Highway and Public Works is the lead on this file; and
 - The Protocol of Amendment to implement the new Financial Services Chapter into the Canadian Free Trade Agreement. Four Parties have signed: British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories. The Chapter will be implemented upon receipt of the final signature, targeting early-2026 for implementation.

Internal Trade Barrier Removals - Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Economic
Development

- The Forum of Labour Market Ministers has recommended that Committee on Internal Trade Ministers amend Chapter 7 of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, and Parties are working to complete the Fourth Protocol of Amendment in early 2026. The amendments to Chapter 7 (Labour Mobility) will establish a 30-business day service standard, create an exhaustive list of documents regulators may request from labour mobility applicants; and introduce transparency requirements such as collection of metrics.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Party-Specific Exceptions - Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- This year, Canadian provinces and territories made significant progress by removing nearly one-third of all Party-Specific Exceptions from the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- The Department is considering opportunities to strengthen the Yukon's position as a domestic trading partner while ensuring we maintain the flexibility to meet the unique economic development needs of the territory.
- We are committed to supporting Yukon's private sector by engaging stakeholders and promoting policies that enhance competitiveness.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Removing additional exceptions that protect local preference could lead to Yukon businesses facing greater competition in liberalized economic sectors.
- In September 2025, the department sent stakeholder letters to gather information on Yukon Party-Specific Exceptions identified for potential future removal. The deadline given for feedback was December 16, 2025. In response to stakeholders' requests, the deadline was extended to February 16, 2026, to provide additional time for submitting input.

Background:

- **Canadian Free Trade Agreement.** Since 2017, the Canadian Free Trade Agreement has applied to all government measures impacting trade, unless specifically excluded as a Party-Specific Exception. The Agreement supports free interprovincial trade, making it easier for businesses to operate across the country.
- **Committee on Internal Trade Ministers' Recommendations.** On January 31, 2025, Committee on Internal Trade Ministers committed to enhancing their Parties' commitments under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement by reducing the total number of Party-Specific Exceptions under the Agreement.

Party-Specific Exceptions - Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Economic
Development

- Reducing exceptions increases the amount of economic activity covered by the Agreement's trade liberalizing rules.
- In 2025, Parties collectively eliminated more than 30 per cent of the total number of exceptions under the Agreement, fulfilling Committee on Internal Trade Ministers' 2025 direction.
- On July 8, 2025, the Government of Yukon removed five of our exceptions. These removals included exceptions limiting procurement, real estate agents, forestry, fisheries and agricultural land use.
- The Yukon now retains 24 exceptions, the second highest number among all Parties.
- On November 19, 2025, Ontario and Canada (both having removed all their exceptions in 2025) renewed their call for all Parties to remove all their remaining exceptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- **September-December 2025 Stakeholder Engagement.** The department began gathering stakeholder input to inform future decisions on whether to remove additional exceptions, including:
 - Exceptions that allow the Yukon to impose residency requirements for participating in rural land lotteries, owning agricultural land, and obtaining licenses for the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve;
 - Yukon's Regional Economic Development exception, which allows the Yukon government to provide Yukoners' preference for 10 government procurement contracts under \$1 million annually; and
 - The Yukon's exception excluding Municipalities, Academic Institutions, Schools and Hospitals from procurement obligations under Canadian Free Trade Agreement, Chapter 5 (Government Procurement).
- The stakeholders of this exception will also be sent a short questionnaire to help gather targeted feedback and inform the next steps.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

December 15, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- Arctic security and sovereignty are top of mind for Canadians, and the Yukon is meeting the moment in being able to position itself as a key partner in this issue.
- The Canadian Institute for Arctic Security is an initiative that allows the Yukon government to have specialized knowledge on security and defense threats and opportunities, while also making the North more informed on the issues.

Additional response:

- The federal budget is heavy in investments to support the Canadian Armed Forces and their operations to protect Canadians and assure peace around the world. With this investment, we expect to see increased focus on how Canada protects its Arctic.
- The national focus on Arctic security creates opportunities for Yukon to attract federal investment, foster partnerships with defense and research organizations, and position local businesses as suppliers and innovators in security-related infrastructure, technology, and logistics.
- By leveraging Canadian Institute for Arctic Security and upcoming events like the Arctic Summit, Yukon can establish itself as a hub for security expertise and economic growth.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Arctic security is a major theme in the national discourse and has featured in the federal budget.
- Yukoners and Yukon First Nations are watching with attention what changes in the security and defense posture in the territory will be, how they are engaging on the subject, and where they can play a role.
- The Canadian Institute for Arctic Security has been publicly active since November 2024 producing events, publishing articles, and in local media.

Canadian Institute for Arctic Security

Economic Development

Background:

- The Canadian Institute for Arctic Security was created following recommendations in the Yukon Arctic Security Advisory Council report.
- The Canadian Institute of Arctic Security was moved from the Executive Council Office to the Department of Economic Development on May 26, 2025. The Canadian Institute of Arctic Security is one full-time employee on temporary assignment to the project.
- The Department wrote CanNor in September 2025 asking for matching funding in fiscal 2026-2027 to continue the operations of the Canadian Institute for Arctic Security within the Government of Yukon.
- Canadian Institute for Arctic Security has delivered an Expression of Interest to the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency seeking renewed funding for 2026-27.
- Canadian Institute for Arctic Security has produced one public conference (Conference ZERO, March 2025) one executive roundtable (LATITUDE, August 2025) and has partnered with other national and international think tanks to produce a Joint Arctic Security Conference (September 2025).
- The Institute and the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce are co-hosting the Arctic Summit 2026 this February, which will bring business and security leaders from across the Arctic to the Yukon.
- Canadian Institute for Arctic Security has published over twenty articles, commentaries, interviews, and video essays on Arctic security themes through its website and social media.
- Canadian Institute for Arctic Security has two research papers in review for publication in the coming months, one on foreign interference in elections and one on defense infrastructure in the North.

Approved by:

Paul Moore
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- Canada and the United States (U.S.) share one of the strongest and most mutually beneficial relationships in the world.
- U.S. tariffs have had a serious negative impact on bilateral relations and remain a concern as our federal governments head into the 2026 review of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement.
- Yukon and the U.S. have shared interests in Arctic security, critical minerals, and infrastructure, including the Shikwuk Highway and port development in Skagway.

Yukon-Alaska Relations

- Alaska is a critical partner for the Yukon on connectivity, regional security and economic partnerships.
- In 2024, the Yukon and Alaska signed an Intergovernmental Accord that supports deeper relations between our jurisdictions and has led to the signing of two additional MOUs.
- Alaska worked closely with the Yukon to secure U.S. federal funding for the Shikwuk highway.

RESPONSIVE – Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

- In October 2025 the U.S. Department of the Interior re-opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain to oil and gas development.
- We recognize the importance that ANWR has for Indigenous communities, eco-tourism and biodiversity and are following this issue closely.

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

RESPONSIVE – Port of Skagway

- The Yukon is committed to working with the Municipality of Skagway to secure an agreement that works for both industry and the community to support ore exports through Skagway.
- I met with Mayor Hanson at Geoscience and spoke with him and Vice-Mayor Potter on this matter on November 20.
- *If pressed on federal involvement* – The Yukon recognizes Skagway's authority to exercise local government powers under Alaska's State Constitution and Statutes. We will work with Skagway on a mutually beneficial solution to get Yukon minerals to market.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Canada-US relations and unjustified U.S. tariffs have seized all leaders in Canada. First Ministers regularly meet to discuss Canada-U.S. relations.
- In October 2025, the U.S. reversed a 2024 rule and opened 1.56 million acres of the Alaska Coastal Plain and ANWR to oil and gas leasing.

Background:

Canada-U.S. relations

- In response to U.S. tariffs, the Yukon announced retaliatory measures, including the removal of U.S. liquor from YLC shelves. U.S. Consul General Crowley expressed concern over the measure during his visit in September 2025.
- Unjustified U.S. tariffs have harmed bilateral relations. Canada's federal government continues to work toward an agreement on sectoral tariffs, but the U.S. suspended negotiations in October in response to an Ontario anti-tariff ad.
- A trilateral review of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement will begin in 2026.
- Yukon's two-way merchandise trade with the U.S. totaled \$206.3 million in 2024, of which almost \$147.5 million was with Alaska.

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

Yukon-Alaska relations

- Governor Dunleavy visited Whitehorse in 2024. During the visit, Yukon and Alaska signed an intergovernmental relations accord. Yukon and Alaska have also signed MOUs on highways and public safety - particularly MMIWG2S+.
- Through partnership with Alaska and the U.S., US \$37 million in project funding was secured for Shakwak over the next several years.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

- In October 2025, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management opened oil and gas leasing for the 1.56-million-acre Coastal Plain of ANWR.
- ANWR is critical for the Porcupine caribou herd as the site where they give birth annually. Yukon is party to agreements with Indigenous Peoples and the Government of Canada to protect 13,000 km² of the herd's range in the Yukon.

Port of Skagway

- On November 18, CBC published comments by then-Premier-designate Dixon at the Yukon Geoscience Forum on an ordinance requiring bulk ore shipped through Skagway be containerized. The comments suggested that discussion of the ordinance should be escalated to the federal level between the U.S. and Canada.
- The comments have raised concerns in Skagway. Mayor Hanson and Vice-Mayor Potter called the Premier-designate to discuss the comments on November 20, which also became a matter of discussion at that day's Assembly meeting.
- Article 10 of Alaska's State Constitution provides maximum local self-government, which is further codified in Alaska Statutes Title 29. Under Title 29, first-class boroughs, like Skagway have authority to exercise a wide range of powers by ordinance not otherwise prohibited by law. This authority likely protects its containerization ordinance.

Approved by:

KL

November 28, 2025

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Critical Minerals

Fall 2025Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Yukon hosts deposits of 12 of Canada's 34 critical minerals, and occurrences of an additional 13.
- In 2025, the Yukon saw exploration activity for the following critical minerals: copper, zinc, tungsten, nickel, cobalt and platinum group metals.

Recommended response:

- Yukon Geological Survey received \$250,000 from Natural Resources Canada's Critical Minerals Geoscience and Data Program to digitize critical mineral exploration data from assessment files.
- This will facilitate access to critical mineral data and help assess mineral potential for land use planning. The funding is in place until 2027.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Geopolitical tensions have increased the focus on securing domestic supply chains for critical minerals.
 - Supports platform theme: Revitalizing the development of our natural resources.
-

Background:

- As defined by Canada, critical minerals must meet the following two criteria:
 1. The supply chain is threatened, and
 2. There is a reasonable chance that Canada can produce the mineral.
- Critical minerals must also meet one of the following criteria:

Session Briefing Note

Critical Minerals

Fall 2025Energy, Mines and
Resources

1. It must be essential to Canada's economic or national security;
 2. It is required to transition to a sustainable low-carbon and digital economy;
or
 3. It will position Canada as a strategic partner in the global supply chain.
- Canada's Budget 2025 proposes \$3.5 billion over 5 years to Natural Resources Canada for various funds to support critical minerals projects. This includes:
 1. \$2 billion over five years, starting in 2026-27 to create the Critical Minerals Sovereign Fund, for strategic investments supporting the development of critical minerals projects and companies;
 2. \$371.8 million over four years, starting in 2026-27 for Natural Resources Canada to create the First and Last Mile Fund to support the development of critical minerals projects and supply chains;
 3. Prime Minister Carney's announcement on November 13, 2025, that the Northwest Critical Conservation Corridor was referred to the Major Projects Office to realise its extraordinary potential for critical minerals development and clean power transmission in the Yukon and British Columbia; and
 4. Eligibility expansion for the Critical Mineral Exploration Tax Credit to include bismuth, chromium, fluorspar, germanium, indium, manganese, molybdenum, niobium, tantalum, tin, and tungsten, all of which are present in the Yukon.

Approved by:**Sierra van der Meer**

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 28, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Dawson Regional Land Use Plan

#5

Fall 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

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

#5
Fall 2025

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

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Mineral Exploration Program

#12
Fall 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Exploration is a key driver of the Yukon's economy. The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program (YMEP) supports our commitment to revitalize the development of our natural resources and ensure viable mineral exploration and mining.
- This program attracts external investment and encourages on-the-ground advanced exploration activity. It is a vital component in building a strong private sector, essential for the territory's financial future.
- This year's YMEP funding is projected to leverage \$2.4M in private investment.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Supports platform theme: Revitalizing the Development of Our Natural Resources; Diversifying and Growing the Private Sector
-

Background:

Yukon Mineral Exploration Program

- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program (YMEP) provides partial risk capital to locate, explore, and develop mineral projects to an advanced exploration stage.
- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program was recently updated to include extra weighting for projects that primarily target critical minerals.
- For the 2025 exploration season, the program received 67 applications for funding (40 hard rock and 27 placer applications). 39 projects have been approved for funding (20 hard rock and 19 placer projects).

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Mineral Exploration Program

#12
Fall 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In 2025/26, Energy, Mines and Resources will spend \$1.4 million on the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program. In return, the program is expected to leverage \$2.4M in private investment.

Mineral Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditure Statistics

- Junior exploration companies conduct most of the mineral exploration in the Yukon. Exploration activities contribute significantly to the Yukon's annual economic activity.
- For 2025, the Yukon Geological Survey estimates total hard rock exploration expenditures of \$199M by 51 explorers across 77 projects.
- Half of the money spent in 2025 was for gold exploration. Copper projects saw 21 per cent of spending, followed by lead-zinc (12 per cent), tungsten (10 per cent) and silver (7 per cent).
- The largest number of exploration projects occurred on the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (26), followed by Kaska Nation's asserted traditional territory (16), Selkirk First Nation (13) and the Traditional Territories of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (12). All other Yukon First Nations saw fewer than 10 projects.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 28, 2025

Date approved

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in the Yukon.
- 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 – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
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).

Session Briefing Note

Embargoed until tabling

TAB #20

Fall 2025

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