

SPECIAL SITTING FALL 2025 – HPW SESSION BRIEFING NOTES
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Recommended response:

- The Department of Highways and Public Works is dedicated to road safety and to ensuring that Old Crow receives a high standard of maintenance services.
- It is important in remote communities to find creative solutions to delivering services. As such, the department is reviewing how road maintenance can be best delivered in Old Crow.
- As a government, we will continue to support our communities by maintaining road service standards and providing safe and reliable transportation infrastructure.

Additional response: Staffing shortages

- I am aware that the community has been facing staffing challenges, particularly at the airport and for road maintenance.
- The department is working to hire an operator dedicated to snow clearing to maintain local service levels.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There have been recent questions from the community regarding snow clearing in Old Crow, as the former operator recently retired, and the responsibility for snow clearing has been shifted to the Aviation Branch.
- There may be questions about using airport equipment outside of the airport.

Background:

- With no road access to the community of Old Crow – all materials, equipment, and supplies must be flown in, which is costly and weather dependent.
- There is limited equipment and high costs because everything is transported by air. If a key piece of equipment breaks during winter, repairs can be delayed.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Whitehorse Airport Runway
Reconstruction****FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The main runway at Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport officially reopened on September 10, 2025.
- There are still more improvements coming to the airport, including hydroseeding, final site cleanup, and work on the north approach lighting system.
- In early 2025, a YESAB decision was received for the installation of the new approach lighting system within Baxter's Gulch.
- These improvements will help ensure the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport remains a safe and reliable hub, supporting Yukon residents, businesses and visitors for decades to come.

Additional response: Airport perimeter trail

- Now that construction is complete, the informal trails in the Puckett's Gulch area have been restored to their original state.
- All other trails and foot paths in this area, including those along the escarpment around the airport, fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Whitehorse.
- We will continue to have an open dialogue with the City of Whitehorse as they develop these trails and as well as any active transportation infrastructure near the airport.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Since the start of construction on the main runway, there have been ongoing concerns from the public about the construction impacting the perimeter trail around the airport.

Session Briefing Note**Whitehorse Airport Runway
Reconstruction****FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Background:**

- The broader challenges that complicate what can be achieved in this area include:
 - Federal safety rules: Transport Canada requires minimum separation between the runway and the airport fence, and we also need to plan for any future regulatory changes.
 - Airport operations: The perimeter road around the airport must remain in place and in some areas may need to be expanded for safety, security, and emergency response.
 - Drainage needs: Proper space is needed for ditches, swales, and other water management systems to protect the runway and airport infrastructure while also safeguarding the escarpment edge.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Nisutlin Bay Bridge replacement is a major Yukon infrastructure project underway in our territory.
- Earlier this year, concerns were identified about the soil conditions near the bridge abutments, and that further remediation work was required at both locations.
- Since the concerns were identified, the department has been working to develop a permanent remediation design that will adequately address the soil conditions.
- Upon completion of remediation design, a schedule for the remediation work will be developed and work will recommence to complete the construction of the bridge.
- Safety is our top priority, and the department is working to ensure the new bridge meets building standards and will be an asset for the territory well into the future.

Additional response: existing Nisutlin Bay Bridge

- The existing Nisutlin Bay Bridge remains safe and fully operational.
- This past fall, the bridge underwent its scheduled annual maintenance.
- Additionally, the department engaged an independent engineering consultant and contractor to conduct rehabilitation work to address some minor soil settlement concerns with the existing bridge.
- The existing bridge will continue to be regularly and professionally assessed by the department until the new bridge opens.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement**Highways and
Public Works**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Opposition may ask questions about any cost increases required to finalize the project.

Background:

- The existing Nisutlin Bay Bridge was constructed in 1953 by the Department of National Defence and crosses the Nisutlin Bay at kilometre 1,243 along the Alaska Highway.
- The original contract of \$159.96 million contract was awarded on May 3, 2022, to Graham Infrastructure LP.

Approved by:

T. Allen

December 2, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to transparency, responsible fiscal management, and delivering critical infrastructure that meets the needs of Yukoners now and into the future.
- Oversight is about building public confidence by ensuring that every major project delivers value, is well-managed, and reflects responsible stewardship of public funds.
- Major project oversight will be an ongoing commitment to monitoring performance, identifying gaps, and taking timely action.
- Our government will regularly review major projects underway in our territory to ensure they remain aligned with government priorities, community needs, and available resources.
- Our focus will be on early detection of budget, schedule and scope so we can take action before major setbacks or additional costs are borne by Yukoners.

Additional response:

- The Department of Highways and Public Works oversees major projects throughout our territory and, as such, our government will assess current oversight processes to determine where policies, tools, or government structure can be strengthened.
- Where changes are needed, we will implement them proactively, whether that's updating contracting practices, improving project scoping, or enhancing reporting methods.
- The department will be increasing transparency and accountability through consistent reporting and clearer decision-making pathways.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Oversight of Major Projects****Highways and
Public Works**

- Government employees will be supported with better tools and training to ensure they can manage complex and high-risk projects effectively.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions from the Opposition related to the Yukon Party's platform commitment to improve the oversight of major infrastructure projects.

Background:

- A further review of organizational resources is underway, with the aim of ensuring that resources are adequately allocated to support the delivery of major projects. This effort builds on recent structural changes within the department.
- The Capital Infrastructure Delivery Office (CIDO) is currently developing a project management framework to support the effective and consistent delivery of capital projects across the department.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- After any significant earthquake, the Department of Highways and Public Works immediately evaluates our public infrastructure for any signs of damage.
- Following the earthquake on December 6th, bridge inspectors were mobilized to assess bridges in the vicinity of the earthquake epicentre and other bridges in the territory. To date, no damage has been identified.
- Similarly, the department has conducted visual inspections across buildings in the western and central regions. These inspections included assessments of walls, support columns, floors, ceilings, electrical systems, and plumbing.
- A structural engineer was engaged to guide staff and conduct assessments of high-risk buildings located closer to the epicenter. No structural issues were identified, and all buildings were confirmed safe to occupy. This includes all Yukon schools.
- Due to the age and height of the building, École Whitehorse Elementary School was closed for one day on December 8th in an abundance of caution while the department conducted a structural assessment to ensure the building was safe for staff and students.
- Following the assessment, the school has been confirmed safe for students and staff to return to the building.

Additional response: Seismic and Schools

- The department performs seismic and structural assessments on Yukon schools to ensure staff and student safety.

- From these assessments, we have previously undertaken several mitigation measures. For example, improving structural aspects of the schools such as the roof, flooring and walls. Many non-structural upgrades have also been completed, such as seismic restraints on shelving, lighting and heating systems.
- Seismic mitigation is one of the many factors that we prioritize in any new school design.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Opposition may ask questions due to the recent earthquake on December 6, 2025.

Background:

- The Yukon's last major seismic event was in 2017, and the mitigations in place proved effective during that event.
- Yukon schools were built according to the building code at the time of construction, and modern building code requirements contain increasingly stringent structural requirements.
- A structural engineer assessed EWES and Takhini schools which were previously identified as high-risk buildings, and confirmed they are safe to use.
- Ross River School was also visually inspected as a precaution because of existing building concerns. No earthquake-related issues were found, and the school was confirmed safe for use.
- Using the guidance from the structural engineer, PMD staff have been systematically inspecting our buildings. No significant issues have been found to date.

TAB# 16

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2025

Earthquakes and Infrastructure

**Highways and
Public Works**

Approved by:

T. Allen

December 11, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring that rural schools are safe, welcoming and modern learning environments.
- This coming year, the department is planning many exciting upgrades at community schools including:
 - refinishing the gym floor, interior painting and adding an outdoor learning space at Johnson Elementary School in Watson Lake;
 - interior painting and planning work to replace the roof at Khàtìnas.àxh (pronounced Kaw keen ah sa) Community School in Teslin;
 - replacing the boiler, replacing the fuel tank and adding an outdoor learning space at Watson Lake Secondary School;
 - landscaping and site drainage work at the Ross River School;
 - upgrading the kitchen and replacing windows at Robert Service School in Dawson; and
 - upgrading to a propane boiler and completing the final phase of the roof replacement at J.V. Clark School in Mayo.
- In addition to the upgrades, the Departments of Education and Highways and Public Works are working together to deliver Kêts'ádań Kù, (Ket-zah-Done-coo) - a new school in Burwash Landing.

Additional response: Asset Management

- Highways and Public Works is developing a building condition assessment program for all government-owned facilities.
- These assessments will provide important data on the lifecycle costs and maintenance priorities for each building.

Session Briefing Note
Investment in Rural Schools**FALL 2025****Highways and
Public Works**

- The department is also finalizing its Strategic Asset Management Plan, connecting service delivery needs to future capital and maintenance planning.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Opposition may ask questions about rural schools and the new government's commitment to invest in schools.

Background:

- Rural school capital projects that were completed in 2025-26 include:
 - major structural upgrades including reinforcement of the building's walls and foundation, along with a new septic system at the Nelnah Bessie John School in Beaver Creek;
 - new roof at J.V. Clark School in Mayo (started but will be completed in 2026-27);
 - roof repairs and HVAC system replacement at the Robert Service School in Dawson;
 - roof replacement and stabilization project at Ross River School;
 - new flooring at the Tantalus School in Carmacks;
 - new outdoor learning spaces at Ross River School and Eliza Van Bibber School;
 - new mechanical controls system and energy efficient ventilation system at Johnson Elementary School in Watson Lake; and
 - interior re-painting at the St. Elias Community School in Haines Junction.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Kêts'ádań Kù (Burwash Landing School)

Highways and
Public Works
and Education

Recommended response:

- Our government is committed to ensuring rural communities are front and centre when upgrading and building new education facilities.
- To that end the Government of Yukon is delivering Kêts'ádań Kù, (Ket-zah-Done-coo) -which means “house of learning” in the Southern Tutchone language – a new school in the community of Burwash Landing.
- This has been a long-standing request of the community and Kluane First Nation.
- Construction began in the fall of 2024, and the project is expected to be completed by winter 2027-28.
- The building's foundations are complete, with ongoing construction happening throughout the winter.

Additional response: Design issues

- The project has experienced some delays, and while some design components are addressed, work onsite continues.
- A more fulsome update on project schedule is anticipated in early 2026.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Opposition may have questions about the new design and timeline.

Background:

- In August 2024, a \$26.9 million contract was awarded to GenMec ACL Inc.
- The Government of Canada is contributing just under \$10.9 million through its Rural and Northern Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Kêts'ádań Kù (Burwash Landing School)

Highways and
Public Works
and Education

- The process of issuing the new design will be completed in early 2026.
- The Department of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kluane First Nation in June 2020 committing to build a school and establish an Oversight Committee.
- The contract for Consultant Services was awarded in April 2022 and the community was consulted on the conceptual design in 2022.
- In July 2022, a Yukon Asset Construction Agreement was signed with Kluane First Nation to provide benefits to the community from the construction of the school.
- A revised IPA to increase the budget to \$41.5 million was approved in September 2025.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

[Date approved]

Mary Cameron

November 28, 2025

Deputy Minister, Education

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Khàtìnas.àxh Community School
[pronounced “Kaw keen ah sa”]
Teslin School**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Highways and Public Works leases the Khàtìnas.àxh (pronounced Kaw keen ah sa) Community School from the Teslin Tlingit Council.
- This summer, Highways and Public Works finalized a five-year lease with Teslin Tlingit Council for the continued use of the school.
- The department works closely with Teslin Tlingit Council to identify maintenance concerns and address them as quickly as possible.
- In the coming year the department has plans for strategic, long-range investment in the school’s roof, siding, and interior painting to keep this facility functioning for years to come.

Additional response: biomass

- The Government of Yukon and Teslin Tlingit Council have a heat purchase agreement to supply the school with heat from the Teslin Tlingit Council’s biomass facility.
- The biomass facility provides the majority of the heat for the school, with a backup oil burning system in place for supplemental heat as required.
- Air handling units were installed during summer break to provide more consistent heating throughout the school.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions may arise relating to the condition of the school and if a new school is warranted.
- [REDACTED]

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Khàtìnas.àxh Community School**
[pronounced "Kaw keen ah sa"]
Teslin SchoolHighways and
Public Works**Background:**

- In 2018, the name of the Teslin School changed to Khàtìnas.àxh [pronounced "Kaw keen ah sa"] Community School.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2025****Propane issue at Robert Service School**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The safety of Yukon schools for students and staff is top of mind for this government.
- In the morning of December 10, a school staff member detected the smell of propane outside the Robert Service School in Dawson City and alerted the property management staff immediately.
- To ensure the students were safe the principal evacuated the school, which was then closed. Highways and Public Works staff, the fire department and the propane company were on site immediately after being notified.
- Highways and Public Works has been monitoring the building closely and has determined that propane was released through an outdoor regulator.
- The issue with the heating system was caused by the heating blankets not turning on as designed.
- The heating system issues have now been fully resolved, and the school is open.

Additional response: propane system

- Robert Service School switched from oil to propane in the fall of 2024, after the oil boilers and underground tank reached the end of their service life.
- Propane is a heating source used in many Yukon government buildings, and it has performed well in other facilities.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2025****Propane issue at Robert Service School**Highways and
Public Works

- While the department considered other heating systems, the department moved to propane because it is:
 - a cleaner source of fuel with lower emissions,
 - easier to maintain as it uses no pumps,
 - reduces the risks of environmental impacts relative to fuel oil spills, and
 - leads to significant reductions in energy consumption and has a lower cost.
- As with any new system, there is a learning curve as we fine-tune how it operates.
- We are confident that we can run propane systems through the coldest parts of winter going forward.
- It is also important to note that the department is in the final year of a large-scale three-year mechanical upgrade and retrofit project at Robert Service School valued at \$5.8 million.
- This has included replacements, upgrades, and improvements to the domestic water, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, controls, and electrical systems – all of which improve the reliability and efficiency of the building.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Robert Service School in Dawson City closed on December 10 due to an issue with the propane heating system.

Session Briefing Note**Propane issue at Robert Service School****Fall 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Background:**

- The propane boiler system is the only source of heating for the building.
- Based on our current understanding, the heating issues were caused by two main factors:
 - Tank heaters that were not operating (primary factor).
 - Low propane volume (contributing factor).
- There are two main components of the propane system: boilers and tanks.
 - The propane tank system was installed by Superior Propane. HPW has contracted responsibility for both maintenance and filling of the tanks to Superior Propane.
 - The propane boiler system was transferred from Wildstone to HPW in fall of 2024. The automated controls system for the heating system remain under the responsibility of Wildstone as final commissioning of the system is still underway.
- A propane leak was found in Whistle Bend Place in 2024, which drew attention from news outlets and criticisms from unions.
- Elijah Smith Elementary School was evacuated in fall 2025 due to a burning smell, which was due to a defective motor in a fan.

Approved by:

R. Gorczyca

December 16, 2025

A/Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
School Maintenance**FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response: School Infrastructure Investments**

- Our government is committed to investing in school infrastructure across the territory to ensure students have sustainable, modern, and supportive learning environments now and in the future.
- This work typically includes Public Address system upgrades, boiler replacements, roof replacements, interior painting and installing outdoor learning spaces.
- To continue to ensure all Yukon government buildings, including our schools are safe and welcoming spaces, the department will work closely with the Department of Education to proactively plan and implement any required upgrades to keep all schools safe.

Additional response: School Maintenance

- The Government of Yukon prioritizes safe learning environments and undertakes routine and preventative maintenance work across Yukon's school facilities.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works conducts regular inspections of building life-safety equipment and systems across Yukon schools – prioritizing maintenance of critical systems, such as fire alarms and generators

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions are sometimes raised about maintenance practices in schools and how we minimize impacts to building occupants

Background:

- [REDACTED]

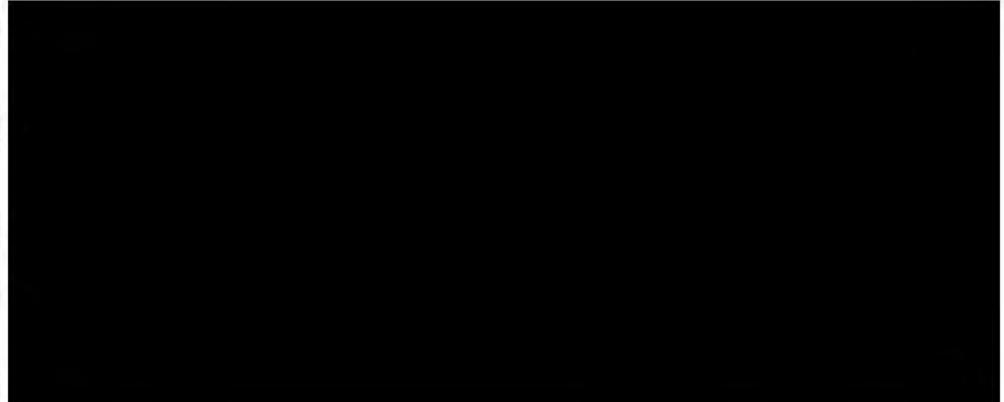
TAB# 12

Session Briefing Note
School Maintenance

FALL 2025

Highways and
Public Works

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Approved by:

T. Allen

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Water Quality in Yukon Schools and YG Buildings

Highways and Public Works

Recommended response:

- Safe drinking water in Yukon schools and buildings is essential for protecting health and ensuring a safe learning environment.
- The Department of Highways and Public works can confirm that all students have access to safe drinking water in every Yukon school and youth-occupied facilities.
- The Government of Yukon sampled over 800 water fixtures in Yukon schools and youth-occupied facilities over the past two years.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works remediated any fixtures such as water fountains that tested over the recommended limit of lead levels according to the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Additional response:

- Moving forward, the department is implementing a long-term water quality monitoring program for all youth-occupied buildings in the territory.
- This new program will help the department monitor water quality by testing all youth-occupied facilities on a three-year rotating cycle to ensure facilities meet the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines. Those facilities include:
 - schools;
 - youth residences;
 - buildings housing educational programs; and
 - daycares in Yukon government-owned buildings.

Water Quality in Yukon Schools and YG Buildings

Highways and Public Works

- As an added precaution, earlier this year the department also sampled for general water quality in all facilities that house adult occupants 24 hours per day, such as continuing care facilities and adult residences. The results confirmed that the water in these buildings is also safe to drink.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about water quality in youth-occupied facilities and the reliability of the new water quality monitoring program.

Background:

- Municipally fed water lines are tested at water treatment facilities and again at designated facility fixtures within the larger distribution network.
- Highways and Public Works has established a 5-year water sampling cycle for all well and water holding tank systems which aligns with the recommendations in the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines.
- HPW will continue to consult with the Chief Medical Officer and Health and Environmental Health Services to ensure we meet our regulatory requirements in respect to water quality.
- According to the Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, occasionally drinking water from fixtures with slightly elevated lead levels is not a significant health risk.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Whitehorse Elementary
Replacement Project (Joint Note
with EDU)**Education
and
Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- École Whitehorse Elementary is the oldest school in Whitehorse and is the highest priority for replacement. Updated facilities are essential to supporting safe, modern learning environments for students.
- A replacement school would provide students with a modern learning environment, improved outdoor spaces, and facilities that support collaborative, inclusive, and experiential learning.
- The Department of Education is working to identify alternative locations for the replacement school.
- The Government of Yukon will engage with the community on potential sites and will consider community input before moving forward.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The replacement of École Whitehorse Elementary is a top community priority. The previously proposed location at the Takhini Educational Land Reserve has generated significant public interest and debate.

Background:

- École Whitehorse Elementary was built in 1950 and is identified as the top priority for replacement in the Whitehorse Schools Facility Condition Index.
- In 2022, renovating the school was estimated to cost 1.4 times more than building a new facility.
- The current building cannot meet current or future programming needs, including requirements for inclusive, innovative, and experiential learning spaces.
- The replacement project was focused on relocating the school from downtown to the Takhini Educational Land Reserve, with a proposed location on the northwest corner of the site.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Whitehorse Elementary
Replacement Project (Joint Note
with EDU)**Education
and
Highways and
Public Works

- The Government of Yukon's 2025–26 Five-Year Capital Plan allocates \$45–58 million for the project over fiscal years 2025–26 to 2029–30.
- Additional funding will be required to complete the project based on current scope.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Growing enrollment pressures mean many Whitehorse elementary schools are operating above capacity. Moving forward with a replacement school is important to ensure adequate learning space for students across the Whitehorse region.

Approved by:

M. Cameron

November 28, 2025

Deputy Minister, Education

[Date approved]

T. Allen

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Yukon University Polaris Project
(Science Building)**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Yukon University is building a new science building known as the Polaris Project on its campus. Construction began in spring 2025 and is expected to be completed by fall 2027.
- The Polaris Project received approximately \$31 million in federal funding from Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Natural Resources Canada, and Employment and Social Development Canada. Our government is contributing \$13 million to ensure project delivery.
- We are supportive of the Yukon University's Polaris Project and will continue to engage with the university on this project moving forward.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about the Polaris Project as Yukon University is now sharing active construction updates on their social media.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon owns all land at Yukon University. Agreements are in place for the current campus buildings, and a new land use agreement will be required for the Polaris Project.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Alaska Highway Upgrades through Whitehorse**

Highways and Public Works

Recommended response:

- Our government looks forward to addressing population growth in the Yukon, and the increased demand on our highways, especially on the Alaska Highway through Whitehorse.
- In the near term, the Department of Highways and Public Works will focus on the planning required to upgrade Robert Service Way and Two Mile Hill intersections as both are key access points to downtown Whitehorse.
- For Robert Service Way, potential design options are being prepared.
- For Two Mile Hill, we will continue to work with the City of Whitehorse to coordinate the improvements with Hamilton Boulevard, Alaska Highway, and Range Road.
- Currently, the project team is working on finalizing a preferred design option.

Additional response: Paved multi-use trail-Two Mile Hill to Wann Road

- The department is working toward a paved multi-use trail from Two-Mile Hill to Wann Road. Recently, a YESAB decision document was issued for the section of trail between Two Mile Hill and the Kopper King, and the next steps are completing the detailed design work.
- As design options are considered, we are committed to collaborating with the City of Whitehorse, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and local community groups.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The upgrades along the Alaska Highway in Whitehorse have been high-profile projects that receive a lot of public and political interest.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Alaska Highway Upgrades through Whitehorse****Highways and Public Works****Background:**

- Thus far under the Alaska Highway upgrades through Whitehorse, several projects have been completed, including:
 - installing a left turn light at the Robert Service Way intersection;
 - major reconstruction at both the South and North Klondike Highway intersections;
 - improvements to the Range Road intersection, including traffic lights with pedestrian-controlled lights and a paved multi-use trail;
 - improvements at the Hillcrest Drive intersection, including acceleration and deceleration lanes and traffic lights;
 - improvements between Hillcrest Drive and Burns Road, including the addition of:
 - streetlights; two crossings with pedestrian-controlled traffic lights; a paved multi-use trail connecting to trails going into downtown; and upgrades to the multi-use trail adjacent to the highway.

Approved by:

T. Allen

December 3, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Dawson City Yukon River Crossing**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response: Ice Bridge**

- Our government is committed to supporting rural communities, including residents of West Dawson, by providing reliable transportation infrastructure.
- Typically, the ice bridge opens between December and January and closes mid-April. Its construction is dependent on several environmental factors, including river hydrology, ice conditions, and temperature.
- With freezing temperatures in the Dawson City region, we are pleased to see the ice has formed at the ferry crossing location.
- The contractor has been working since early-December to construct a crossing.
- Based on current conditions, we anticipate that the ice bridge will officially open to light duty traffic this afternoon or shortly after.
- Regular public updates will be provided on the status of the ice bridge on 511 Yukon.

Additional response: George Black Ferry

- For over 50 years, the George Black Ferry has supported safe and reliable Yukon River crossings for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.
- As the ferry nears the end of its life, work is underway to plan for its replacement.
- This work includes design work and planning to ensure a seamless transition for Dawson residents and travelers.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Dawson City Yukon River Crossing**Highways and
Public Works

- We are eager to collaborate with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government and the City of Dawson and make progress on this exciting project.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Residents of Dawson have expressed concerns about the lack of freeze up on the Yukon River this year.
- Earlier this year, the Government of Yukon announced plans to replace the George Black Ferry.

Background:

- The City of Dawson, and in particular the residents of Sunnydale were without an official ice bridge in the winters of 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2023-24.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Approved by:

R. Gorczyca

December 18, 2025

A / Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Our government will be working with the Government of Canada to maximize opportunities associated with Gateway program funding before it expires.
- This program is investing \$398.4 million to upgrade roads in the Yukon that improve access to mineral-rich areas and increase Arctic security by connecting the North to the rest of Canada.

Additional response:

- Every project under Gateway requires a Project Agreement with the affected First Nation(s). These agreements outline how we will work collaboratively to ensure that each project benefits First Nations citizens.
- Once Project Agreements are in place, efforts focus on benefit implementation and ensuring that regulatory requirements are completed before construction begins.
- We are also continuing to engage with key industry proponents to ensure infrastructure investments align with mine development plans and timelines.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions as the Yukon Party made a platform commitment to work with Canada to advance YRGP and spend the allocated funds.

Background:

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program funding has been extended to March 31, 2031. Canada has confirmed there will be no extension beyond this date.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

- The current project components and corresponding eligible costs for federal recoveries include:
 - Nahanni Range Road: \$10 million
 - Robert Campbell Highway (kilometre 114 to 232): \$60 million
 - Robert Campbell Highway (kilometre 354.9 to 414.4): \$60 million
 - Silver Trail: \$76 million
 - Dempster Highway: \$45 million
 - Casino Road: \$37.8 million
 - Freegold Road Phase II: \$10 million
 - North Canol Road: \$31 million
- The Department of Highways and Public Works is working toward transitioning the project agreement negotiations from Energy Mines and Resources to HPW.
- Project Agreements with the following First Nations have been signed and the project components associated with these agreements are being implemented or have already been completed:
 - Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (Carmacks Bypass — completed)
 - Liard First Nation (Nahanni Range Road and Robert Campbell Highway)
 - First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (Silver Trail)
 - Ross River Dena Council (Robert Campbell Highway)

Approved by:

T. Allen

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

November 26, 2025

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- The Department of Highways and Public Works monitors the Yukon's highway network daily for any potential risks and road safety hazards and performs maintenance activities as needed.
- Highway crews operate at twenty-one highway maintenance camps throughout the territory which are equipped year-round, ensuring the safe and efficient use of the highway network no matter the season.
- During the winter months, regional highway crews are scheduled to work seven days a week.
- After a snowfall, our main highways are cleared based on priority, ensuring school bus routes and high-traffic areas are addressed first, followed by all other roads as quickly as possible.
- The department aims for priority roads to be cleared within 24 hours after a snowfall.

Additional response: Robert Campbell Highway

- While the department is committed to maintaining highways to a safe standard, extreme weather and other factors can occasionally create difficult conditions despite best efforts.
- During periods of extreme cold, we continue to respond as conditions allow while protecting equipment and staff.
- This past weekend, the Robert Campbell Highway experienced significant snowfall followed by extremely cold temperatures, making it difficult for maintenance equipment to operate.

- While not all sections of the highway could be serviced, crews prioritized the stretch from Ross River to Faro, as well as community streets.
- Temperatures are now more favourable and crews are currently on the road working to maintain the entire Robert Campbell Highway.

Additional response: Asset management

- To ensure Yukon's highways are consistently maintained to a certain standard, the department is developing a new Highway Functional Classification System.
- This system includes a review of our winter maintenance standards to establish clear priorities for snow clearing and road upkeep.
- By implementing this approach, Highways and Public Works will better allocate the resources required to effectively provide Yukoners with a consistent and reliable level of snow removal and winter road maintenance every year.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about road conditions throughout the Yukon prompted by public discussions and inquiries.

Background:

- Due to the effects of climate change, maintenance requirements have increased significantly, including emergency maintenance needs. For example, on average the Yukon experiences an additional 24 days of snowfall annually compared to the 1990s and the proportion of the department's budget allocated to snow removal has doubled as a result.
- To reduce equipment damage and reduce downtime when temperatures drop below -30°C it's our policy to exercise caution before using equipment, below -

Session Briefing Note**Highway Winter Maintenance****FALL 2025****Highways and
Public Works**

35°C we will not dispatch equipment unless there is a critical need, and below - 40°C equipment will only be dispatched for emergencies.

Approved by:

T. Allen

December 15, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- Our government is committed to ensuring safe travel along the Alaska Highway.
- The Lewes River Bridge, located at kilometre 1393 of the Alaska Highway has been a key focus for the department, with further lighting improvements planned for next year on the eastern approach.
- Travelling this route, you would have noticed several other upgrades to improve safety, including:
 - reducing the speed limit in the vicinity of the bridge;
 - improving line markings;
 - extending the no-passing zone further away from the bridge; and
 - installing reflective hazard signage on the bridge to help improve visibility.

Additional response:

- As part of a broader package of safety improvements in the area, the department also completed a realignment of the Sawmill Road access this past fall.
- This work repositioned the access near kilometre 1394 to allow for the installation of an improved guiderail along the highway approach to the Lewes River Bridge.
- The new alignment enhances sightlines for drivers approaching the bridge and for those entering and exiting the highway, reducing the risk of collisions and making travel through the area safer for everyone.

Session Briefing Note
Lewes River Bridge**FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- There may be questions about the safety improvements due to a number of high-profile car accidents that have happened on or near the bridge.

Background:

- In the past 30 years, there have been a total of 14 reported collisions on this bridge. In reviewing these collisions, there were a variety of contributing factors, with no single common cause.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
Little Gold Creek Border Crossing**FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Our government is committed to working with the Government of Canada to expand the hours of operation of the Yukon's borders where possible.
- Our government is also a strong supporter of mining and tourism in the Yukon and will continue to coordinate with the Canada Border Services Agency to align our efforts with the forecasted opening and closing date at the Little Gold Creek Border Crossing.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about Little Gold Creek Border Crossing to help industry plan for the upcoming season.
- This is a Yukon Party platform commitment which may raise interest from the Opposition.

Background:

- The Department of Tourism and Culture has a strong working relationship with the Canada Border Security Agency regarding coordinating border closures with tourism hours.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works dedicates significant time and resources toward maintaining the Yukon's year-round and seasonal highway infrastructure.
- The opening of Little Gold Creek Border Crossing typically aligns with the opening of the George Black Ferry, but the federal government usually closes the crossing one month before the George Black Ferry is pulled for the winter.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Multi-use trail snow clearing
beside the Alaska Highway and
Airport**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that year-round accessibility along active transport routes is important for both pedestrians and cyclists.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works is aware of concerns of snow build up on the multi-use trail along the north side of the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport and will be addressing the issue shortly.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is collaborating with the City of Whitehorse to ensure that the active transportation infrastructure remains safe and accessible, even in the winter.
- We are working hard to develop a clear and sustainable approach to maintaining these routes moving forward.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The public may have questions about snow clearing on multi-use trails particularly around the airport area.
- Plow trucks can often spray snow onto the multi-use trail near the airport due to the proximity of the Alaska Highway.

Background:

- We are committed to working with the City of Whitehorse to establish a long-term maintenance plan for these trails moving forward.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Multi-use trail snow clearing
beside the Alaska Highway and
Airport**Highways and
Public Works

- Highways and Public works plow trucks must maintain a certain speed to effectively clear snow; however, our operators are required to reduce their speed whenever pedestrians or cyclists are observed on trails near the highway.

Approved by:

T. Allen

December 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****North Klondike Highway and Upgrades**

Highways and Public Works

Recommended response:

- The long-term viability of the Yukon's highway network is a priority for this Government and we're eager to invest in upgrades along the North Klondike Highway.
- This vital highway is an essential link between Whitehorse and northern Yukoners, for industry, and travelers from around the world.
- Through the federal government's National Trade Corridors Fund, more than \$267 million is planned for investment to upgrade critical sections of the highway between Carmacks and Dawson.
- This will include up to 209 kilometers of road reconstruction, three bridge improvements and several Intelligent Transportation Systems components.

Additional response:

- The planned work for the North Klondike Highway builds on the upgrades carried out by the department during the 2025 construction season which included:
 - a structural culvert replacement south of Dawson City;
 - 38 kilometres of revegetation between Barlow Lake and the Dempster Highway cutoff; and
 - 8.1 kilometres of road reconstruction south of Minto.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The condition of the North Klondike Highway was a hot topic this past summer.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****North Klondike Highway and Upgrades****Highways and Public Works****Background:**

- The North Klondike upgrades are located in the Traditional Territories of Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and Tr'ondëk Hwéch'in.
- The total project cost is \$267 million. The National Trade Corridors Fund will contribute \$200 million, and the Yukon government will contribute \$67 million.
- Intelligent Transportation Systems components include technology that collects data on traffic, road conditions and weather, digital message signs, and frost-depth monitoring to help inform seasonal road weight restrictions.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Rural Road Upgrade
Program/Resource Access Road
Program**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Our government is committed to revitalizing the Rural Road Upgrade Program and the Resource Access Road Program.
- The Rural Road Upgrade Program provides financial support for the improvement of maintained and unmaintained rural Yukon roads. Yukoners can apply to have specific roads upgraded per this program.
- The Resource Access Road Program is designed to assist resource-based companies in improving transportation infrastructure that supports commercial activity.
- Both programs play an important role in upgrading and maintaining transportation infrastructure that Yukoners and industry rely on.

Additional response:

- In the 2024-25 fiscal year, eight projects were completed under the Rural Roads Upgrade Program for approximately \$230,000, of which \$200,000 was allocated to improve the Goldfields roads in the Dawson Area.
- For anyone interested in knowing more about the programs or applying, they can find more information online at Yukon.ca.

Context—this may be an issue because:

There could be questions about funding the Rural Road Upgrade Program or Resource Road Program as it was a Yukon Party platform commitment to revitalize the programs.

Background:

- Rural Road Upgrade Program objectives:

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Rural Road Upgrade
Program/Resource Access Road
Program****Highways and
Public Works**

- to serve the transportation needs of Yukoners;
- to upgrade non-industrial rural roads in the Yukon, whether currently maintained by the Yukon government or not;
- to upgrade rural roads based on requests and input from communities, property owners and other stakeholders;
- to accomplish approved work with local contractors where available;
- to evaluate projects on a geographical basis so that all regions of Yukon benefit from the program; and
- to develop cost sharing arrangements for projects that are not in the Yukon government's current inventory of maintained roads.
- To be eligible, the road must be available for use by the public; within a surveyed right-of-way where designated; and located on public land.
- If on private land, the road must be formally recognized as a highway, in other words a public road.

Resource Access Road Program

- The Resource Access Road Program funds transportation infrastructure improvements that support industrial activities and has the same eligibility requirements though, the road must also provide an economic benefit to the Yukon.

Approved by:

T. Allen

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

December 3, 2025

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- The Swift River area experiences above average snowfall compared to other areas of the Yukon due to its elevation and geography.
- The region is also subject to frequent freeze-thaw cycles and rapidly changing weather conditions.
- These factors combined with the existing highway curves can often create slick conditions.
- Highways and Public Works will continue to actively plow and sand in the Swift River area this year.
- This past summer highway crews also rehabilitated sections of the highway surface to address the potholes associated with the freeze-thaw cycles.

Additional response: general winter maintenance

- As part of our commitment to keeping our highway's safe, the highway maintenance crews work seven days a week over the winter, holidays included, to plow snow, sand and maintain the roads.
- Crews conduct regular inspections in the winter to determine what type of maintenance is required.
- Our operational best practices prioritize sanding hills and corners, followed by other areas.
- While we are committed to maintaining our highways to a safe standard, we also recognize that extreme weather and other factors can sometimes make road conditions challenging despite our best efforts.

Session Briefing Note
Swift River Highway
Maintenance**FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- There may be questions related to road conditions in the Swift River area.

Background:

- Since 2020, this section of road has closed four times due to adverse weather conditions. There have been numerous collisions between kilometre 1063 and 1196 due to a variety of factors, not necessarily related to winter driving conditions.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Takhini River Bridge

FALL 2025Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Takhini River Bridge is an important travel link for Whitehorse residents and for those travelling along the North Klondike Highway.
- Although the existing bridge is expected to remain safe and fully functional for another 10 to 15 years, our government is committed to continuing to improve safety in the area.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works is looking forward to considering different options to accomplish this through future capital planning exercises.
- Last fall, the speed limit was reduced to 70 kilometres per hour and speed display signs, speed reduction signs, and “Share the Road” signs were installed on both approaches to the bridge to promote safer driving.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The public has expressed concerns about the safety and width of the bridge.

Background:

- The Takhini River Bridge is approximately 75 years old.
- The 10 to 15 year life expectancy could be extended by an additional 30 years by replacing the existing bridge deck and performing strengthening work on the trusses.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Traffic Safety Act Regulations**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The new Traffic Safety Act Regulations are designed to enhance the safety of road users and deter dangerous driving behaviour by increasing penalties, updating enforcement authorities, and modernizing programs.
- At least 11 regulations must be finalized before the Act can come into force in its entirety.
- Work is currently underway on these regulations. More research and discussion with stakeholders will take place before they are completed and brought into force.
- The department will endeavour to expedite the process, while ensuring that the research and stakeholder consultation is thorough.

Additional response: regulations in force currently

- In July 2025, new regulations came into effect that increased fines for several unsafe driving behaviours in the Yukon.
- This includes increased fines for speeding, careless or distracted driving, driving without a licence and failing to stop for school buses.
- In addition, the new regulations give municipalities greater authority to create traffic bylaws that reflect local needs.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Legislative Assembly passed the new Traffic Safety Act in fall 2024. There may be questions raised about the status of the Regulations and changes for Yukon drivers.

Background:

- Yukon's Motor Vehicles Act has not been significantly updated since it was first written in the late 1970s.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Traffic Safety Act Regulations**Highways and
Public Works

- The Traffic Safety Act, which received assent on October 29, 2024, is not yet fully in force and requires several regulations before it replaces the Motor Vehicles Act.
- The government has engaged with stakeholders, municipalities and First Nations to ensure their interests are taken into consideration in the development of the new Traffic Safety Act and will continue to engage with stakeholders during the development of the regulations.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2026

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Ensuring Contracts are Scoped
Appropriately**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Our government is committed to designing contracts that are clear, realistic, and structured for success from the outset.
- When designing procurements, there are different practices we can use to support the participation of small businesses in larger capital projects.
- These practices include:
 - unbundling, which breaks large projects into contracts that are a manageable size for smaller businesses;
 - direct awards to smaller businesses under the direct award threshold; and
 - Community Development Agreements with Yukon First Nations governments that incentivize participation by smaller Yukon First Nations owned businesses.

Additional response:

- To further support businesses, the department is considering more measures such as increasing the direct award threshold and exploring changes to bonding requirements.
- In 2026, the Government of Yukon will be conducting a review of its procurement policy, which will include a review of the practices mentioned.
- This review will also determine if there are other ways to increase procurement opportunities for smaller contractors.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Ensuring Contracts are Scoped
Appropriately**Highways and
Public Works**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Ensuring contracts are appropriately scoped is a platform commitment. There may be questions about what this commitment means and how it will be delivered.

Background:

- Within the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy, the unbundling measure requires, where reasonable, that project managers structure contracts so that they are of a size manageable by Yukon First Nations Businesses.
- There is also an obligation under each First Nation final agreement to make best efforts to structure contracts such that they are of a size manageable by small businesses.
- The Procurement Support Centre provides information for procurement authorities across government on how to perform an unbundling analysis. These measures promote participation of smaller contractors in larger infrastructure projects.

Approved by:

T. Allen

December 3, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
Local Food Purchasing**FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting local farmers and food producers by purchasing locally grown products whenever possible.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works administers the Online Marketplace platform which assists Yukon government staff in buying local food and supplies.
- All food products listed on the Online Marketplace are part of a Qualified Source List, making it an efficient and streamlined process for buyers.
- Conveniently, orders placed through Online Marketplace are delivered directly by local suppliers.
- The platform's electronic communication informs suppliers of receiving and confirming purchase orders, sends shipping notices, and emails invoices directly to Government of Yukon employees, creating an efficient process designed to maximize local procurement.

Additional response:

- In November 2025, six local food producers were listed in the Online Marketplace, they include:
 - Cold Snap Chippery
 - Hinterland Flour
 - ICY Waters
 - Little Red Hen Eggs
 - The Yukon Meat Company, and

Session Briefing Note
Local Food Purchasing**FALL 2025****Highways and
Public Works**

- Yukon Gardens
- We are also working with three other local food producers to onboard them onto the platform in the near future.
- In addition to the Online Marketplace, Highways and Public Works and Community Services include local food preferences in the catering contracts issued for camp food services.
- The department plans to continue to work with local food producers to reduce barriers and make purchasing local food easier wherever possible.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Party platform commitments include using government procurement to support agriculture, agri-food businesses, and the local food sector to grow.
- Local farmers and food producers recognize the Government of Yukon as a major food purchaser in the territory and may wish to see improved options to support increased government purchase of local food.

Background:

- So far in 2025-26, a total of \$25,885 in purchases were made through the Online Marketplace, supporting the procurement of locally sourced food.
- Local food Qualified Source Lists are a multi-departmental effort to increase the use of locally produced foods in government-run facilities. They support local farms and other Yukon food producers and help keep government food purchases in the territory.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- In 2024 the Office of the Auditor General of Canada conducted an audit of Yukon government's procurement policy and produced a series of recommendations.
- The department takes the recommendations of the audit seriously and views them as an opportunity to strengthen existing procurement processes.
- Since the audit, the Department of Highways and Public Works has developed an implementation plan to address each of the audit recommendations put forward.
- The department has already completed actions relating to two of the recommendations. Those recommendations related to:
 - implementing a process to ensure procurement decisions are documented and contracts are signed before work begins; and
 - implementing a process during contracting that requires government officials to certify that there is no real or perceived conflict of interest.
- The department is actively working on recommendations that pertain to identifying, collecting and reporting on the data that provides insight into how the procurement policy is meeting its objectives.
- Actions currently underway to address those recommendations include:
 - preparing for the five-year review of the Yukon government procurement policy;

- creating a benchmarking program;
- developing metrics for reporting on the performance of the Yukon government procurement policy;
- establishing formal reporting procedures for procurement and contracting performance;
- enhancing the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy's performance measurement framework; and,
- updating the Request for Analysis of Procurement Process to report back on whether those procurements achieved the intended outcomes.

Additional response: Public Accounts Committee Response

- In addition to the audit response, the department is also preparing a letter to address the requests for information from the Public Accounts Committee provided in summer 2025.
- The Public Accounts Committee can expect this letter in the new year.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- It's been approximately one year since the Office of the Auditor General of Canada released its final report and there may be questions about progress on the recommendations put forward.

Background:

- The Office of the Auditor General of Canada released the procurement and contracting performance audit on November 26, 2024.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works were called before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on January 16, 2025.

Session Briefing Note**Procurement Audit – OAG 2025**

- Within the Yukon government, 16 departments were involved in the procurement and contracting performance audit. Each department was audited for its role as a procurement authority.
- In addition to being audited for its role as a procurement authority, the Department of Highways and Public Works was audited for its role as the central agency responsible for procurement and contracting oversight for all of the Yukon government.

Approved by:

T. Allen

December 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
Procurement Training**FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Our government has made a commitment to Yukoners to ensure that government officials who are tasked with procurement are provided with sufficient training, oversight and support.
- Providing procurement authorities with proper training and skills is critical to ensuring that government procurements remain fair, transparent and deliver value for money

Additional response:

- While employees currently receive procurement training online through YGLearn and staff at the Procurement Support Centre receive specialized training, our government will be reviewing and updating these courses to ensure they meet the evolving needs of procurement authorities.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Ensuring government officials tasked with procurement are provided with sufficient training is a platform commitment. The public may be interested to know what training is currently offered and what changes will be made.

Background:

- In order to use the online tendering system, government employees need to take online training on the following topics:
 - bids&tenders tutorials;
 - Solicitation Methods;
 - Market Research;
 - Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy;
 - Public Procurement Law;

TAB# 34

**Session Briefing Note
Procurement Training**

FALL 2025

Highways and
Public Works

- o Procurement Policy Overview.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
Public Opening of Bids**FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Our government is committed to working closely with the Yukon Contractors Association to ensure best practices and protocols are in place.
- We look forward to identifying what improvements are needed and how to implement them. This includes reviewing practices such as bid openings.
- I anticipate meeting with the Yukon Contractors Associate soon to share the outcomes of this collaborative work.

Additional Response:

- The Department of Highways and Public Works is dedicated to continuous improvement. This includes regularly reviewing government practices to ensure they are effective and meet the needs of Yukoners and Yukon businesses.
- This year, the department is undertaking a review of the Procurement Policy.
- Our government will work closely with First Nations and industry to guide any future updates to the policy.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Returning to the public opening of bids is a Yukon Party Platform commitment, and there may be questions as to when and how they plan to do this.

Background:

- The Yukon is one of a few Canadian jurisdictions that continue to publicly post bid prices for Open Tenders from all bidders (rather than the winning bidder only), prior to contract award.

Session Briefing Note
Public Opening of Bids**FALL 2025****Highways and
Public Works**

- Prior to 2019, the Government of Yukon's Procurement Support Centre allowed the public to come in person to observe the opening of bids on Public Tenders.
- At the same time, the Yukon government posted the prices for the bid submissions directly on the Tender Management System (TMS). This method resulted in the public sharing of bid prices through two mediums: public openings and online posting.
- During this time, the Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) would host public openings for YHC Open Tenders and the Procurement Support Centre would host public openings for Open Tenders issued by the rest of Yukon government.
- In summer 2025, the Yukon Contractors Association requested that the PS Centre return to the practice of publicly opening Open Tenders upon closing and share prices before a compliance review is completed and before Bid Value Reductions are applied.
- This pilot is not currently anticipated to include Yukon Housing Corporation tenders, which are administered directly by the corporation.

Approved by:

T. Allen

December 3, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Vendor Performance Review
Program****Highways and
Public Works****Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is eager to work with the Yukon Contractors' Association to ensure that Yukon procurement policies translate into value for money for Yukoners.
- The Vendor Performance Review program will be further assessed before moving forward.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works will be engaging with the Yukon Contractors Association in the new year to discuss changes to the Vendor Performance Review Program.
- The department is looking forward to working with our industry partners on updates to this program.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Government of Yukon is ceasing the current Vendor Performance Review Program that was introduced in 2021. There may be questions about changes to the program.

Background:

- Vendor Performance Review Programs are becoming more commonplace in Canada. Many jurisdictions are interested in creating a Vendor Performance Review Program to get better procurement outcomes by avoiding contracting with those who have a documented history of poor performance.
- The Yukon government program was launched in October 2021, and the implementation was phased over the past four years.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Yukon First Nations Procurement
Policy**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to improving the Yukon First Nations Procurement policy to evaluate its effectiveness in supporting Yukon First Nation businesses.
- We look forward to engaging with Yukon First Nations and industry partners on ways to enhance the policy to meet its intended goals.
- We are also committed to using government procurement to enhance local contracting opportunities whenever possible.
- An independent review of the Government of Yukon's Procurement Policy is planned for 2026, which includes an evaluation of the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Ensuring the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy is meeting its intended goals is a Yukon Party platform commitment.

Background:

- The Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy came into effect on February 22, 2021.
- An independent contractor conducted a two-year review of the bid value reduction measure that was completed in October 2023. The consultant produced a report that is available on Yukon.ca/growing-together.
- The Monitor and Review Committee is made up of representatives from Yukon First Nations governments, industry and the Yukon government.
- The committee reviews data and makes recommendations. The data and recommendations are issued to the public in the form of reports.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2025****Yukon First Nations Procurement
Policy****Highways and
Public Works**

- The first report was released in March 2023 and the third issued in October 2024. The next report will be posted shortly.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- Our Government is committed to improving service delivery and providing better value for taxpayer dollars by continually modernizing the technologies we use to do business.
- The Department of Highways and Public works is strengthening the use of government's digital services through the Online Marketplace, a digital platform for government employees to purchase a variety of supplies from local vendors online, and the Yukon bids&tenders site, which makes it easier for businesses to participate in procurement by placing bids online.
- The department is also working with local vendors to explore new opportunities, such as:
 - the use of electronic platforms for digital approvals to get things done more quickly;
 - leveraging new software development platforms that allow local companies to develop new skills and experience to grow their client base in and outside the territory;
 - exploring the use of AI to enhance business solutions for government services; and
 - harnessing AI's ability to build code to improve the time and costs associated with business automation through software.
- All of this will help to ensure that our government remains competitive in this fast-evolving field and will allow local suppliers the opportunity to learn and gain experience by working with us.

Session Briefing Note**Supporting the local economy
through Yukon government IT**

- There are a number of ways IT supports the local economy through business modernization, and I look forward to more improvements to come.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions from the Opposition about the Yukon Party's commitment to modernizing IT and technology systems to spur economic opportunities in the local economy.

Background:

- ICT is working on modernizing the way the Government of Yukon financial data is stored and managed to reduce costs while introducing new ways to view and analyze the data for decision makers.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Supporting Yukon's Digital Infrastructure****FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon's digital infrastructure is as essential as our roads and electricity. Many Yukoners rely on rural and remote connectivity to access services and run their businesses.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works plays a key role in ensuring that the Yukon's digital infrastructure is supported by our government.
- For example, the department oversees the Dempster Fibre Line, which provides a critical backup telecommunications line for the benefit of residents and businesses of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in the event of service disruption.
- This line ensures that e-commerce, medical, educational, personal, and other services in the private and public sector experience fewer interruptions related to fibre line cuts.

Additional response:

- With the fast-moving digital world, our government is committed to keeping information systems and government-held information secure, while continuing to ensure that Yukoners can access the government services they need.
- We play a central role in setting long-term digital strategies to cover everything from broadband expansion to cybersecurity and digital service delivery.
- A robust team helps the government stay one step ahead of potential issues by modernizing our systems.

Session Briefing Note**Supporting Yukon's Digital Infrastructure****FALL 2025**Highways and
Public Works**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Opposition may have questions about what the Government of Yukon will do to meet its platform commitment to ensure Yukon's digital industry is resilient.

Background:

- Department officials are committed to working closely with the federal government, municipalities, First Nation governments, and telecom providers to align investments and streamline planning to enhance security and reliability.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

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

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

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- Released in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)'s report Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future contains 94 Calls to Action on redressing the harms resulting from residential schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. There are 32 Calls to Action that relate directly to YG.
- YG and YFNs collaborated on addressing the Calls to Action under the 2017 Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan and through other reconciliation initiatives, such as supporting the important work of the YFN-led Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project.
- YG has taken additional steps to address the Calls to Action, including:
 - establishing the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations Initiatives at the Department of Education, signing an agreement to establish a YFN School Board and entering into education agreements with all YFNs (speaks to Calls 7 and 10 directed to the federal government);
 - supporting Indigenous athletes and the North American Indigenous Games (Call 88);

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

- implementing the YFN Procurement Policy (relates to Call 92) and the Representative Public Service Plan: Breaking Trail Together (relates to Call 7);
- working with YFNs and Yukon Indigenous women's groups to implement the Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy (MMIWG2S+ Strategy) (relates to Call 41);
- participating at the Trilateral Table on the Wellbeing of YFN Children and Families to address gaps for culturally appropriate parenting programs (Call 5); and
- receiving input from YFNs on Health and Social Services programming through the Mental Health Advisory Committee (relates to Call 19).
- YG last reported on its progress to implement the TRC Calls to Action in fall 2023 through a status report and Pathways magazine. The magazine and report provided an update on the actions being taken across YG and in collaboration with YFN governments in areas including child welfare, health, education and justice.

Approved by:

KL

November 28, 2025

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved