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Funding for Justice Organizations

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Department of Justice funds the justice-related work of service providers, community organizations and First Nations governments.
- The Department of Justice regularly discusses funding levels with the respective organizations, working with each organization to ensure accountability for the funding used to deliver services.

Additional response:

- The department does not automatically add a set amount for annual inflation adjustments. Instead, it discusses funding pressures with service providers throughout the year and may address them through one-time or ongoing funding increases.

Context:

- Funding justice-related work is of public interest, and organizations across the territory are adapting to inflation, other increased costs of service delivery and concerns about reductions in other sources of funding.

Background:

- The department works with and funds organizations with important statutory mandates, including the RCMP, the Yukon Legal Services Society, the Yukon Utilities Board, the Yukon Review Board and the Yukon Human Rights Commission.
- The department also administers funding to the Indigenous Court Worker Program, Crime Stoppers, Supervised Community Housing, as well as partners supporting the work of the Justice Wellness Centre and the Sexualized Assault Response Team.
- These organizations have funding agreements in place and regularly discuss with the Department of Justice the annual level of funding required to meet program needs.
- In July 2022, the governments of Canada and Yukon signed a five-year Access to Justice Services Agreement. This umbrella agreement funds the Yukon Legal Services Society, the Yukon Public Legal Education Association, Gladue report writing and Indigenous Court Worker programs.

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Funding for Justice Organizations

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- The Department of Justice is providing over \$55 million to the following programs for justice-related initiatives for the 2025–26 fiscal year:
 - \$47,065,162 to the RCMP (including the Territorial Police Service Agreement, First Nations and Inuit Policing Program, 911 services and Car 867 funding);
 - \$3,474,820 to Legal Aid (Yukon Legal Services Society);
 - \$913,000 to the Yukon Human Rights Commission;
 - \$798,000 to Yukon First Nations for the Indigenous Court Worker Program;
 - \$807,632 to Connective for the Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program for men;
 - \$307,000 to community justice projects;
 - \$270,000 to the Yukon Utilities Board;
 - \$222,775 to the Council of Yukon First Nations for Gladue report writing;
 - \$856,000 for First Nations' Community Safety Officer programs;
 - \$200,000 for allocation to Yukon First Nations through the Community Safety Planning funding program;
 - \$175,000 to the Yukon Review Board; and
 - \$10,000 to the Crime Stoppers Yukon Community Association.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – Department of Justice Actions

Justice

Recommended response:

- Gender-based violence is a critical concern for Yukoners and has far reaching impacts in every Yukon community.
- The Department of Justice, along with the Department of Health and Social Services and the Women and Gender Equity Directorate, is continuing to advance actions in the Yukon funded under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

Additional response:

- Gender-based violence has a disproportionate impact on Indigenous women. We are working to ensure that our efforts are consistent with the intent, priorities and actions of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Context:

- This is a high-profile national initiative, and the public and the local non-profit sector have an interest in how funding is being used to support victims of gender-based violence in the territory.
- The prevalence of gender-based violence and rates of victimization are significantly higher in the Yukon than in most Canadian jurisdictions.

Background:

- The Canada-Yukon bilateral funding agreement with investments close to \$16.4 million over four years is currently in its third year and ends on March 31, 2027.
- The Department of Justice is receiving approximately \$6 million of this funding over the four years. The Yukon Implementation Plan for years three (2025-26) and four (2026-27) of the four year agreement were approved by Canada and include the following Justice-led actions.

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National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – Department of Justice Actions

Justice

Yukon Implementation Plan - Department of Justice Actions

- **Media Literacy** - A coordinated set of primary prevention initiatives aimed at training workplaces and communities to understand the roots of gender-based violence, and to educate and mobilize youth as anti-violence leaders.
- **Services for Children and Youth** - Implementation of multi-disciplinary responses for child and youth victims or witnesses to crimes. This initiative coordinates services for individuals and families to reduce barriers and system-based trauma.
- **Transportation for Victims of Violence** - Victims of gender-based violence, including sexualized assault and intimate partner violence, require safe inter-community transportation options and financial support when leaving their home communities to seek safety and/or to access clinical, legal or other critical services. (See BN #61: Intercommunity Transportation for Victims of Gender-Based Violence)
- **Integrated Case Assessment Teams for High-Risk Intimate Partner Violence Cases** - This initiative is focused on developing a collaborative approach to identifying, assessing and managing risk and preventing lethality in intimate partner violence cases where there is high or escalating risk. A contract for the development of a Yukon-specific process for service coordination was implemented pursuant to a public tender process, and substantive work is now underway.
- **Support for Justice-involved People** - This initiative makes resources and programs available to justice-involved people in facility-based and community-based corrections to facilitate healing from trauma and to support successful reintegration into communities.
- **First Nations-led Responses to Gender-Based Violence** - A partnership model that supports community capacity building to respond to gender-based violence in a culturally inclusive way. It begins by healing community leaders and reinvigorating traditional practices and knowledge. This model builds capacity and sustainability over time by engaging all community members in the response to gender-based violence.
- **Measures to address the non-consensual disclosure of intimate images** - Policy work is ongoing to explore legislative and policy solutions to improve support for victims.

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Mark Radke

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Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Opioid and Substance Use Crisis

Fall 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is implementing the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy's actions to support health and safety in Yukon communities.
- We work with partners to implement this strategy, including Blood Ties Four Directions, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the RCMP and other Yukon government departments.
- We will be examining ways to strengthen supports in the territory for treatment, prevention, and enforcement to address the opioid and substance use crisis that is affecting every community in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Current actions underway through the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy led by the Department of Justice include:
 - funding Car 867,
 - increasing resources in Community Corrections to support clients accessing services and reintegration efforts,
 - supporting Indigenous-led, community-based therapeutic courts and other restorative justice approaches that focus on healing and treatment alternatives for justice-involved clients, and
 - increasing capacity to the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Unit to disrupt the distribution of toxic illicit drugs and organized crime occurring on properties.

Context:

- The Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy is the principle guiding document currently in place outlining government's approaches to the Substance Use Health Emergency that was declared in 2022, and stakeholders will be interested to know if actions under that strategy will continue to be supported or prioritized for funding.

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Opioid and Substance Use Crisis

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- The strategy and its implementation receive significant attention in the legislature and in the media. Many communities are keenly interested in community safety and policing issues associated with the trafficking of illegal drugs.
- Between April 2016 and November 24, 2025, there have been 148 substance-use related deaths in the territory; 126 of these were opioid-related. Between January 1 and November 24, 2025, there have been 17 confirmed drug toxicity deaths, and 155 EMS calls for suspected drug poisoning.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon declared a Substance Use Health Emergency in January 2022, and several Yukon First Nations have also made emergency declarations (Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation).
- Justice leads actions under the Community Safety and Wellbeing pillar of the strategy and also provides treatment and prevention services to justice system clients.
- Action to address the opioid and substance use crisis is also supported by other initiatives, including the following.
 - The Community Safety Planning Funding Program for Yukon First Nations.
 - Actions under the Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan.
 - The Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan is now underway.
 - Prevention of gender-based violence and improvements in victims' services through the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence and the expansion of the Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART).
 - Engagement with First Nations on enforcement and policing matters in Administration of Justice Agreement negotiations and related tables.
 - Expansion of therapeutic court programming to additional communities.
- The department continues to review its actions under this strategy, modifying strategies based on results and outcomes as necessary.

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Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

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Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Corrections Act Review

Fall 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- The government of Yukon is arranging an independent review of segregation and restrictive confinement provisions that were added to the *Corrections Act* in 2020.
- The review will examine whether changes to the legislation have improved conditions for inmates and staff at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, and whether current practices are consistent with international human rights standards and recommendations from the Loukidelis report.

Additional response:

- The review will also consider the cost of the changes and their impact on the safety and security at the correctional centre.
- The results of the review may inform changes to the Act, the Regulations, or to how they are implemented at the program level.

Context:

- An independent review of segregation and restrictive confinement provisions in the *Corrections Act* must be submitted to the Legislative Assembly by June 2026.
- Segregation and restrictive confinement are significant deprivations of liberty within correctional settings that attract public interest in how their use is managed to balance the safety of staff and inmates and the rights of inmates.

Background:

- On June 19, 2020, an amendment to the *Corrections Act* came into force that included several provisions to restructure rules related to segregation and restrictive confinement in correctional centres in the Yukon.
- The amendment was designed to address recommendations from the 2018 Whitehorse Correctional Centre Inspection Report (“the Loukidelis report”), which

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called for a clearer and more comprehensive framework to govern the use of segregation and separate confinement.

- The amendment included a requirement (in section 19.09 of the current Act) for a review of the new provisions to begin within five years of coming into force, and for a final report to be submitted by the Minister of Justice to the Legislative Assembly within one year of the commencement of the review.
- This sets a rough deadline of June 19, 2026, for the review to be completed and submitted publicly.
- The Department of Justice has developed a scope of work for this review. To support the credibility of the review's process and findings, the department is working to secure a suitable independent contractor to complete the review within the required timeframe.
- The review is likely to result in recommendations for changes to the Corrections Regulation, and possibly the *Corrections Act*.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 26, 2025

Date approved

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Court of Appeal Act Amendments

Justice

Recommended response:

- Yukon's current *Court of Appeal Act* relies on British Columbia's Court of Appeal legislation as it was enacted in 1971.
- British Columbia repealed and replaced that legislation in 2022, and the rules of the court have evolved significantly since 1971.
- The territory's Court of Appeal must replace its legislation and rules of court to harmonize with the new British Columbia legislation while ensuring that the framework for the Court of Appeal works in the Yukon.

Context:

- There is unlikely to be significant public attention, but there may be questions from the legal community based on the Court of Appeal's work.
- The Department of Justice recently received a consultation paper from the British Columbia Court of Appeal outlining recommended amendments to remove inconsistencies and improve efficiency.

Background:

- Work is underway to inform the Government of Yukon's response to the consultation paper from the Court of Appeal. Policy direction will be sought on the recommended amendments and to recommend an approach to engagement in collaboration with the Court of Appeal.
- In 2025, the Chief Justice of the British Columbia Court of Appeal noted that Yukon had not been financially contributing to the operations of the Court of Appeal.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was created which requires the Government of Yukon to contribute two per cent of the wage costs of British Columbia's Court of Appeal annually to cover the costs of the territory's appeals.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2025*****Court of Appeal Act Amendments***Justice

Approved by:

Mark Radke

November 26, 2025

Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

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Firearms

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Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the rights of legal gun owners in the territory, while also supporting an approach to gun control that helps protect public safety.
- The Government of Yukon is exploring options related to the impact of the federal buyback program in a manner consistent with the *Criminal Code of Canada* and the *Firearms Act*.
- The Government of Yukon is working with Canada to support a Chief Firearms Officer based in the Yukon to serve the northern territories.

Context:

- There is public interest and confusion about the role of a Chief Firearms Officer.
- While many of the provisions of Bill C-21 have not been contentious, feedback from Yukoners relates to the impacts on hunters and concerns about the mandatory Firearms Buyback Program.

Background:

- In 2021, the federal government introduced Bill C-21. The Bill contains amendments to the *Criminal Code* and the *Firearms Act*, including new “red flag” and “yellow flag” laws to allow people to apply to a court for the removal of someone’s firearm if there is concern for personal safety, such as domestic violence or mental health issues.
- Changes introduced by Bill C-21 include measures to combat firearm-related organized crime; provisions allowing municipalities to ban handguns through bylaws; violence prevention programming; stronger border controls for firearm offences; stricter criminal penalties; and other technical amendments.
- During a Canada-led roundtable discussion, Yukoners indicated concerns that Bill C-21 could put lives of hunters at risk in the Yukon by restricting certain types of firearms used to protect against dangerous wildlife, namely semi-automatic rifles.

Chief Firearms Officer

- A Chief Firearms Officer is responsible for the administration of the *Firearms Act* in their region of authority. This includes support for required safety training and licensing.

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Firearms

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- In April 2024, the Canadian Firearms Program produced a Northern Services Review report. No significant deficiencies were identified in the program's operation, but recommendations were made to improve services in the North.
- The Government of Yukon has specifically been engaged in discussions with the Canadian Firearms program to pilot a Chief Firearms Officer position in the Yukon to support the three territories and a potential one-year Government of Yukon secondment to this position.
- Under the Canadian Firearms Program, the Chief Firearms Officer position has no role in the buyback program.

Firearms Buyback Program

- The federal firearms ban includes an amnesty period followed by a mandatory Firearms Buyback Program (FBP) for the newly banned models. The amnesty period has been extended to October 30, 2026.
- The Government of Yukon has advocated to the Government of Canada that no territorially-funded police resources should be used for the buyback program.
- On March 7, 2025, the federal government made several firearms-related announcements including expanding the list of prohibited firearms, enhanced firearms license ineligibility, revocation authorities and a review of the firearms classification regime.
- The Firearms Buyback Program involves two phases: Phase 1 – Buyback for Businesses and Industry; and Phase 2 – Buyback for Individual Firearm Owners.
- Phase 1 of the program for businesses closed on April 30, 2025, with over 12,000 prohibited firearms collected from business across Canada. Seventeen businesses in the Yukon were eligible to participate.
- Phase 2 is currently delayed as analysis of the pilot program that ran in Cape Breton for a six-week period is undertaken.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2025-12-18

Date approved

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Human Rights Act Changes

Fall 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is working with the Yukon Human Rights Commission on a potential amendment to the *Human Rights Act*.
- The changes being considered are based on recommendations from the Yukon Human Rights Commission and are designed to improve administrative efficiency while updating the Act to be consistent with similar human rights laws across Canada.
- The Department of Justice conducted a public engagement on the potential amendments to the Act in the spring of 2025, and a What We Heard document will be prepared to share the input received with the public.

Additional response:

- This work includes ensuring that the wording of the Act is consistent with decisions by Canadian courts and considering how to best address recommendations from the Yukon Ombudsman on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Yukon Human Rights Commission's operations.

Context:

- A public engagement on potential changes to the Act took place from March 10, 2025 to May 6, 2025 and the Department of Justice has received some questions from media about when results of this engagement will be shared.
- The Yukon Human Rights Commission, in an open letter to the Yukon Ombudsman, published September 16, 2025, is advocating for legislative changes to be made so that its budget is overseen directly by the Legislative Assembly.

Background:

- In June 2022, the Yukon Human Rights Commission requested that certain changes be made to its governing legislation, the *Human Rights Act*.

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- In August 2024, the Yukon Ombudsman published an investigation report regarding three complaints against the Yukon Human Rights Commission.
- The Ombudsman concluded that some aspects of the Commission's practices as well as the *Human Rights Act* and its regulations which govern the Commission lead to unfairness, hinder efficiency and reduce cost effectiveness of the Commission's work.
- The department has been consulting with the Commission about the recommended changes as well as other changes that may be warranted.
- The report included recommendations for the Department of Justice and the Commission. This included two recommendations related to the legislative changes:
 - to increase the number of Commissioners from five to seven; and
 - to remedy the concerns identified in the report by creating, in consultation with the Commission, new or amended regulations to clarify and harmonize the *Human Rights Act* with its regulations.
- The Ombudsman also recommended that the budget of the Human Rights Commission be more directly overseen by the Legislative Assembly rather than the Department of Justice.
- The Department of Justice does not oppose such a change but noted that it is not in the scope of the Executive Branch of government to accept such a recommendation and impose new obligations on the Legislative Assembly. Such a change would need the consent of the Legislative Assembly and consider the operational impacts of the changes on the Assembly as well as the legislative ones.
- The public engagement was focused only on those amendments that may be of interest to the public or may impact those affected by proceedings under the Act, though the discussion document also identified proposed administrative changes.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 26, 2025

Date approved

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Maintenance Enforcement Program

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that many families rely on support payments enforced through the Maintenance Enforcement Program.
- We will continue to support Yukon families that depend on child and spousal support payments.

Additional response:

- We are currently considering available options to limit disruptions in accessing the services of this program.
-

Context:

- A September 2025 Yukon Court of Appeal decision (*Rogers v. Maintenance Enforcement Program*) found the territory's legal framework for enforcing court-ordered child and spousal support payments to be "unlawful" unless a regulation is made under the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* to prescribe an income cutoff below which income will not be garnished.
 - Government has not yet determined whether it will make a request to the Supreme Court of Canada to hear an appeal of this decision.
-

Background:

- Child support obligations in Canada are based on standardized support tables set out in the *Federal Child Support Guidelines* (the Guidelines), which are a regulation under the federal *Divorce Act*.
- The Guidelines specify a monthly base support amount according to the paying parent's income and the number of children subject to an order for support. While there is judicial leeway to award support amounts that vary from the standardized tables, close adherence to the tables is the norm for support obligations ordered by family courts.
- Under the current federal guidelines, residents of Yukon can be required to pay support obligations if they have an annual income greater than \$16,000.

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Maintenance Enforcement Program

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- Court orders and legal agreements for support can be registered with Yukon's Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP), which operates under the territorial *Maintenance Enforcement Act* (the Act). This allows the program to take a range of enforcement actions against respondents who fall behind in meeting their legal support payment obligations.
- Maintenance enforcement measures authorized under the Act include:
 - issuing garnishment orders to collect payments directly from a respondent's employer, bank accounts, and federal payments such as income tax returns or Old Age Security payments;
 - registering a lien against personal or real property and seizing and selling assets owned by the respondent;
 - requesting the registrar of Motor Vehicles to suspend or not renew the respondent's motor vehicle license; and
 - other actions specified by the legislation.
- Section 22 of the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* requires the program director to exempt from garnishment any moneys that would reduce the respondent's income from all sources to "less than the minimum prescribed by the Commissioner in Executive Council."
- The fact that no such minimum income threshold has ever been set by regulation was characterized by the Yukon Court of Appeal as an "unlawful" regulatory absence in the 2025 *Rogers v. MEP* decision and has created uncertainty for any garnishment order in the absence of an income amount being prescribed in regulation.
- Following the court decision, the Department of Justice has directed the Maintenance Enforcement Program to pause taking further new monetary enforcement actions until government determines a path forward, and the program is currently only accepting voluntary payments.

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Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 26, 2025

Date approved

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Public Utilities Act Changes

Fall 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is considering changes to the *Public Utilities Act* to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of electricity regulation in the Yukon.
- A public engagement was conducted in spring 2025, and a What We Heard document will be prepared to summarize input received.
- Changes to the Act included in the engagement were intended to reduce administrative burdens and increase the Yukon Utilities Board's ability to respond to issues that arise in a modern electricity system.

Additional response:

- These changes will be designed to update the legislation while maintaining the Board's independence and authority over its procedures.
- This includes provisions giving the Yukon Utilities Board clearer authority to review the reliability and costs of new renewable energy projects.

Context:

- A public engagement on potential changes to the *Public Utilities Act* was held from February 18, 2025, to April 18, 2025, and some stakeholders (e.g., public utilities) may have questions about whether work will continue on these amendments with a similar scope and/or if further legislative changes will be considered.
- The Yukon Utilities Board is responsible for ensuring that the Yukon's electrical utilities provide reliable service at a fair cost to consumers. Its decisions are often the subject of public and media attention.

Background:

- The *Public Utilities Act* sets out a system to regulate the generation and sale of electricity in the territory. The Act establishes the Yukon Utilities Board (the Board) to

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set rates that may be charged for electricity and to oversee major capital expenditures of public electricity utility companies.

- The department has been leading the development of an amendment to update the legislation and improve the Board's ability to efficiently deal with present and future issues such as increasing energy demand and increasing reliance on renewable energy sources. This work has been done in consultation with officials from other Government of Yukon departments (Energy, Mines and Resources the Yukon Development Corporation) and the Yukon Utilities Board.
- From February to April 2025, a public engagement was held to gather feedback from the public and stakeholder groups on proposed changes to the Act and options for further changes to the regulations (to be made after the amendment is complete). This included a survey and meetings with the public utilities and the Board.
- In addition to administrative changes aimed at improving efficiency of the Board's processes, the engagement also proposed potential changes to the scope of what the Board may consider in its decision-making to better align with policy shifts towards electricity generation that include renewable sources.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

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Date approved

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SCAN Act Review

Justice

Recommended response:

- The *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* (SCAN Act) enables members of the public to file a complaint with the SCAN Unit when there is suspicion that a specified illegal activity is occurring habitually on a property and is negatively impacting a community.
- In 2022, the Act was amended to mandate a legislative review and the tabling of a report in the Legislative Assembly by 2027.
- As part of the legislative review of the SCAN Act, a public engagement with Yukoners and stakeholders was completed in September 2025.

Additional response:

- The SCAN Act has not been substantively reviewed since it was enacted in 2006, though some amendments have been made.
- This review presents an opportunity to hear from Yukoners, review best practices around the country, and inform potential improvements to Yukon legislation supporting community safety.

Context:

- Public and media responses to SCAN have been polarized, with some social advocacy groups expressing concerns with the legislation's impact on vulnerable people.
- There have been two recent Community Safety Orders issued by the court under the SCAN Act.
- NWT is currently considering developing SCAN legislation, which has garnered some media attention and questions about that legislation's implementation in the Yukon.

Background:

- The 2024 Yukon Supreme Court decision in *Wright v Yukon* found that five-day evictions under s.3(2) of the Act violated the tenant's *Charter* right to security of the person, and the court struck down that provision of the Act as unconstitutional.

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SCAN Act Review

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- The SCAN Unit now supports landlords seeking to evict tenants for reasons relating to SCAN investigations through a 14-day eviction notice clause in the *Residential Tenancies Act* or through a Community Safety Order from the Supreme Court.
- Review of the SCAN Act to date includes public engagement and work with the SCAN Unit, policy team, and Legal Services to identify possible Act amendments.
- The Department of Justice is currently drafting the Act review report, which includes the findings of the policy and legal work as well as the engagement feedback.
- The SCAN Act defines the types of activities the SCAN Unit can investigate as a “specified use” of property. Specified uses include:
 - the illegal sale of liquor and other contraventions of the *Liquor Act*;
 - contraventions of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada), the *Cannabis Act* (Canada) and the *Cannabis Control and Regulation Act* (Yukon) and the use or consumption of intoxicants;
 - activities related to prostitution;
 - the sexualized abuse or sexualized exploitation of a child (added in 2021);
 - the possession or storage of prohibited, restricted or stolen firearms, explosives, or other restricted weapons in contravention of the *Firearms Act*, the *Explosives Act*, and other laws (added in 2021); and
 - organized crime (added in 2021).
- The SCAN Unit has signed communication protocols with 10 Yukon First Nations governments to facilitate communication, prevention and enforcement activities for the implementation of the legislation in their communities.
- The SCAN Unit has received over 1,800 complaints since 2006. In 2024, the SCAN Unit received 195 complaints, the highest number of complaints recorded in a calendar year since the inception of SCAN. Between January 1, 2025, and November 20, 2025, the SCAN Unit received 201 complaints.
- In 2024, the SCAN Unit made 205 referrals to various support agencies.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 26, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2025****Coroner's Service Building Construction**

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Department of Justice and the Department of Highways and Public Works are planning a new facility for the Yukon Coroner's Service.
- The current Yukon Coroner's Service morgue does not meet community needs and is not designed to morgue standards.
- Capital funding of \$14,862,226 has been allocated for construction.

Additional response:

- Originally, building completion and occupancy was anticipated for winter 2027. However, the requirement to move this project to a different location extended timelines and identified additional challenges related to geotechnical assessment, civil engineering and access to City services.
- The project team will revise estimates and timelines once site feasibility is confirmed.

Context:

- In 2020, the Yukon government (YG) authorized the design and development of a new Yukon Coroner's Service (YCS) facility. This work is ongoing.

Background:

- In January 2024, YG approved funding of \$14,862,226 for this facility, with project completion planned for the winter of 2027. The original submission identified a construction location behind Whitehorse General Hospital.
- Although the Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC) initially expressed support to host the YCS building on its campus under a 'build to lease' arrangement, the YHC Board raised new concerns about the location in the Fall of 2024.
- Unable to sufficiently mitigate concerns raised by YHC, the Department of Justice explored more than a dozen alternate locations beginning in January 2025.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2025-12-18

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Electricity Costs and Rate Reviews

Justice

Recommended response:

- We are working to explore options to reduce electricity rates paid by customers in the Yukon, including examining opportunities for other sources of funding that would mitigate the costs of investments in our energy infrastructure being passed on to consumers.
- The rates charged for electricity in the territory are set by the Yukon Utilities Board, an independent regulator responsible for making decisions in the public interest.
- The board can make decisions about setting rates and making rate changes under the *Public Utilities Act*.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the board in fulfilling its responsibility to make independent, evidence-based decisions consistent with national standards for utility regulation while protecting the interests of Yukoners.

Context:

- Yukon Energy Corporation's 2025–2027 General Rate Application is underway and is expected to result in significant increases to the rates consumers pay for electricity.
- The Yukon Party Platform includes a commitment to freeze this rate increase and explore options for other funding sources for public utilities.
- According to Yukon Energy Corporation's application, the proposed rate increase would result in a total estimated bill increase of 34.3 per cent to customer rates by January 1, 2027, (for typical residential customers using 1,000 kWh/month) to be implemented incrementally from 2025 to 2027.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Electricity Costs and Rate Reviews

Justice

Background:

Yukon Energy Corporation 2025–2027 General Rate Application

- On May 12, 2025, Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC) filed an application with the Yukon Utilities Board (the Board) regarding YEC's 2025–2027 General Rate Application (GRA).
- The application requested increases to the rates to be charged to customers in order to cover expected costs for the years 2025 to 2027. This request included significant interim rate increases (temporary, additional rates to be charged pending a final decision) to become effective on July 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026, when other temporary rates are set to expire.
- According to YEC's application, the utility's expected costs are significantly larger than those approved in previous years. YEC explained that the cost increases are needed to make significant and urgent investments to safeguard renewable electricity and energy infrastructure, build new supplies of electricity to meet growing demands for winter power, and strengthen the Yukon's electricity system to adapt to evolving customer needs.
- YEC's application advised that the utility is applying for government grant funding to reduce the cost of projects included in the application, but no additional grant funding has been provided yet and future updates would be provided to the Board as part of the Application process.
- On June 16, 2025, the Board approved YEC's requested interim rates increases (Rider J).
- As of November 2025, the Board's GRA hearing is complete and a final decision on the proposed rate increases is pending.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 26, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Land Titles Modernization and Fees

Justice

Recommended response:

- In 2012, the Land Titles Office began a modernization project working on improving their processes, policies and legislation.
- The modernization project that started then continues to enhance the quality of services to meet national standards while maintaining the Land Titles Office's current high level of accuracy and certainty in title.
- We are exploring options to reducing fees and timelines to assist in reducing the costs for Yukoners purchasing homes.

Context:

- Yukoners face costs and timelines when buying or transferring property. The Land Titles system has improved efficiency through modernization, but there is ongoing interest in reviewing processes and fees to support affordable homeownership.
- The Yukon Party Platform included a commitment to remove all land transfer fees.

Background:

- Work on modernizing the land titles system has been underway since 2012, which has included significant revisions to the *Land Titles Act, 2015* and efforts to digitize land titles and make services available online.
- The first two phases of the project are complete. So far, the Land Titles Office has:
 - carried through all registration functions required by the *Land Titles Act, 2015* and *Condominium Act, 2015*;
 - developed a process and prescribed forms to enable Yukon First Nations governments to register Category A or Category B Settlement Land in the Land Titles Office without affecting Aboriginal rights and title;
 - digitized approximately 20,000 active titles;
 - digitized all but the oldest registered instruments and uploaded images into the electronic registry – there are about 600 remaining;
 - compiled title history for 80 per cent of active titles, or about 16,000 of approximately 20,000 active titles; and
 - opened the customer portal for the public to do online searches.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2025****Land Titles Modernization and Fees**

Justice

- This work has significantly reduced timelines for clients from nine weeks to 5 to 7 business days to register and process documents.
- If the Land Titles Office advances to Phase 3 of its modernization initiative as previously scoped, it would explore implementing online filing to streamline and enhance the efficiency of the registration process. This would require legislative amendments to accommodate electronic filing practices, such as the use of electronic signatures, and would incur costs for a significant information technology project.
- The typical land transfer fee for most Yukoners is around \$150 to \$350, depending on the value of the property/land.
- In comparison with most provinces and Territories, Yukon has some of the lowest transfer fees.

Approved by:

Mark Radke
Deputy Minister, Justice

November 26, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Bail Reform – Bill C-14

Justice

Recommended response:

- On October 23, 2025, the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-14, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the National Defence Act.
- This bill aims to strengthen bail and sentencing rules for repeat violent and high-risk offenders by expanding reverse-onus provisions for a specific set of serious offences, introducing new aggravating and consecutive sentencing measures, and limiting the use of conditional sentence orders.
- These proposed changes are intended to improve public safety and better address repeat violent offending.

Additional response:

- Bill C-14 has completed second reading in the House of Commons, and provisions are subject to change as it proceeds through the legislative process.
- Working collaboratively across sectors to address the root causes of crime remains an important aspect of the broader response to addressing recidivism, as root causes of offending can include lack of basic necessities such as housing, and unaddressed mental and physical healthcare needs.

Context:

- Repeat violent offending and public safety concerns have been an ongoing issue across Canada, especially following incidents where offenders commit violent acts while out on bail.
- Concerns have been raised within the Yukon about the release of repeat offenders back into Yukon communities and the increased rate of organized crime.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Bail Reform – Bill C-14

Justice

Background:

- Concerns about repeat violent offending have been repeatedly raised at Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers of Justice and Public Safety meetings since 2022.
- In January 2023, July 2024 and March 2025, Canada's Premiers wrote letters to the federal government emphasizing the need for tougher bail and sentencing measures.
- In January 2024, Bill C-48 came into effect, which introduced reverse-onus provisions for certain violent offences. This bill also required courts to consider prior convictions, the accused's history of violence, and the potential risk to public safety. Courts were also asked to note whether the accused is Indigenous or from a vulnerable population.
- Despite these reforms, concerns about repeat offenders continued.
- On October 23, 2025, the federal government introduced Bill C-14, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the National Defence Act (bail and sentencing) to strengthen Canada's bail and sentencing framework further.
- The reverse-onus expansion under Bill C14 applies to a specific set of serious offences, including violent and organized crime-related auto theft, break and enter of a home, trafficking in persons, human smuggling, assault and sexual assault involving choking, suffocating, or strangulation, and extortion involving violence.
- The second reading of Bill C-14 was completed in the House of Commons on November 18, 2025.
- If Bill C-14 passes and its changes are implemented, incarceration counts at correctional facilities may increase.
- The collection, analysis and reporting of reliable data on bail is critical to support the administration of bail systems in addressing public safety concerns. This topic has been discussed at FPT Minister meetings and informs the Department of Justice's work on repeat offender management in the territory.

Approved by:Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Hospital Designation Under the *Criminal Code*

Justice

Recommended response:

- On September 25, 2025, the Ministerial Order under the *Criminal Code* designating hospitals for the placement of an accused person under the jurisdiction of the Yukon Review Board was amended and the Whitehorse Correctional Centre was removed from the list of designated hospitals.
- Whitehorse General Hospital's status as a designated hospital remains unchanged, and the hospital continues to have the ability to accept accused persons under the jurisdiction of the Yukon Review Board.
- The Department of Justice, Health and Social Services and the Yukon Hospital Corporation continue to collaborate to ensure that the rights, safety and dignity of all impacted individuals are upheld.

Additional response:

- Whitehorse General Hospital has the capacity to provide short-term psychiatric admission while awaiting placement in an out-of-territory forensic care facility.
- The amendment also removed the Government of Canada and added Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services to reflect changes since devolution in responsibilities for providing mental health care services in the territory.

Context:

- The Yukon Review Board and the Whitehorse General Hospital initially raised concerns about the territory's capacity to securely hold higher risk individuals with the removal of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre as a designated hospital.
- However, the Department of Justice and Department of Health and Social Services will support the Whitehorse General Hospital to ensure it can safely provide for the short term custody of people as ordered by the Yukon Review Board.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Hospital Designation Under the *Criminal Code*

Justice

Background:

- Hospital Designation under s. 672.1 of the *Criminal Code* of Canada pertaining to persons deemed Not Criminally Responsible or Unfit for Trial is laid out in Ministerial Order 2025/48.
- The previous Ministerial Order was first made in 1993 and amended in 1994 and was not updated after devolution in 2003.
- Yukon Review Board clients who receive a disposition from the Board requiring long-term placements (30+ days) must be transferred out of territory because the Yukon does not have a forensic hospital.
- When a Yukon Review Board Accused is placed on a custodial disposition that requires placement in an in-patient forensic psychiatric hospital, Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services (HSS) contracts with an out-of-territory facility, covers the cost of care, and makes all necessary arrangements for transportation to and from the facility, including transport to and from Yukon Review Board hearings in Yukon.
- A recommendation to remove the designation of WCC as a hospital was published in the 2018 “Independent inspection of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre” referred to as the “Loukidelis Report”, and the Department of Justice has received regular questions since then about when that recommendation would be addressed.
- The 2018 report cited *R v Nehass*, 2017 YKSC, wherein the judge strongly recommended that the “Yukon government revoke the designation of the WCC as a hospital”.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2025-12-18

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Repeat Offender Management

Fall 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Department of Justice continuously reviews its efforts to manage repeat offenders to ensure it meets its responsibilities.
- The department consults with key stakeholders, such as the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, the RCMP, and Legal Aid, to discuss improvements to the Yukon's approach to repeat offender management.
- Interventions through the Corrections Branch are one part of a multi-pronged approach to reducing and breaking patterns of repeat offending.
- The current approach focuses on supporting behavioural change through programming, supports, and enhanced supervision, and it includes increased information sharing between Community Corrections and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, prior to bail hearings.

Additional response:

- Clients who present higher risks may warrant remand to custody in a correctional facility.
- Increased information sharing with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada supports prosecutors to ensure all relevant information is presented, enabling informed decisions when seeking bail conditions or when contesting bail applications at hearings for repeat offenders.

Context:

- The public has concerns that repeat offenders are being released back into the community without much accountability and are committing new offences. The downtown business community and public are frustrated by criminal activity in the Yukon, notably in downtown Whitehorse.

Background:

- The Yukon Community Corrections branch provides supervision and support to adults on bail, and to adults serving their sentences in the community.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Repeat Offender Management

Justice

- The Prolific Offender Management (POM) program was piloted from 2011 to 2014, and in 2017, transitioned to Yukon Community Corrections. Since then, the department has continued to apply the principles of POM – such as targeted interventions and risk mitigation – within its broader corrections framework. Its core activities were absorbed into ongoing case management practices.
- In fall 2024, Yukon Community Corrections began consultations with RCMP, Legal Aid, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, and other Canadian jurisdictions to improve repeat offender management in the wake of renewed public concerns about offence patterns in Yukon communities.
- The findings from stakeholder consultations informed improvements to repeat offender management that were implemented in January 2025. Key components of the improved approach to repeat offender management include:
 - better defined roles and responsibilities within the Department of Justice;
 - more communication with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada about law enforcement information to inform bail hearings;
 - more robust supervision and case management by Yukon Community Corrections, including additional supports for adults on bail; and
 - continued collaboration with the RCMP for monitoring, including curfew checks.
- The level of supervision a probation officer provides to each client is determined on a case-by-case basis. Considerations include the client's criminal history, previous compliance with reporting directions, the severity of current charges, the type of order put in place and the assessed risk level.
- All sentenced clients work through a Level of Service/Case Management Inventory, commonly known as a risk assessment, to inform an individualized case plan. An individualized case plan identifies the corrective measures needed to address the criminogenic risk/needs of the offender, including referrals to programs and supports.
- The Department of Justice, on October 27, 2025, presented a refined bail verification process to the judiciary.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Supervised Housing and Reintegration Programs

Justice

Recommended response:

- The men's Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program is an essential part of the criminal justice system.
- The program provides 24/7 supervision, housing and structured support for justice-involved individuals to assist with their reintegration back into communities after spending time in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.
- An evaluation of the women's and men's supervised housing programs has been completed. The Department of Justice is currently exploring options to address the evaluation recommendations.

Additional response:

- Residents of the men's supervised housing program receive person-centred support and have access to programs based on their individual needs, including, but not limited to:
 - criminogenic programming;
 - outreach services, including employment support and education;
 - Indigenous-focused programming;
 - community living services;
 - peer support; and,
 - food security support.

Context:

- On September 30, 2024, the women's Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program was paused to evaluate the structure and future needs.
- In the spring 2024 sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, a motion was unanimously adopted to evaluate all programs operated by Connective.
- Supervised housing programs have received significant public attention.

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Fall 2025

Supervised Housing and Reintegration Programs

Justice

Background:

The Men's Program:

- Supervised housing has been available for men in the Yukon since the mid-1980s. Through contract service providers, men have accessed housing programs and community supports as an alternative to custody, or as a tool to support discharge planning and community reintegration.
- Connective has been operating the Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program for justice-involved men since 2020 and the current Transfer Payment Agreement runs until March 31, 2026.
- The supervised housing program for men operates in a separate area on the grounds of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and has a capacity for 20 individuals.
- From May 1, 2020, to November 24, 2025, Connective has provided services to 190 bail and probation clients and 24 federal parole clients.

The Women's Program:

- Historically, the Salvation Army provided beds for women. Since the Salvation Army discontinued this service, intermittent solutions have addressed this service gap.
- Between June 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, the Department of Justice, through a Transfer Payment Agreement with Connective, ran a pilot women's stream of a Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program.
- During the pilot period, there were eight referrals accepted to the program, with seven admissions, for four unique individuals.

The Evaluation:

- The Department of Justice contracted MNP Consulting to complete the evaluation of the Supervised Housing and Reintegration programs.
- The evaluation focused on whether programs were effective and whether intended outcomes were met. The department is now considering the recommendations.

Approved by:

Mark Radke
Deputy Minister, Justice

November 26, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Inmate Counts

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Department of Justice is working with Yukon First Nations governments and other partners to address the complex and systemic factors that contribute to the overrepresentation of First Nation persons throughout the criminal justice system. The Yukon has a low custodial population in comparison to other Canadian jurisdictions.
- Total admissions to Whitehorse Correctional Centre fluctuated between 2009 and 2024. After reaching a high of 823 in the 2012–13 fiscal year, total annual admissions have been decreasing.

Additional response:

- The courts control the number of individuals remanded and sentenced. An admission is counted each time a person begins custody, so the same person may be counted multiple times in a year.
- In 2024, 324 individuals were admitted to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.
 - 72 per cent, or 234, self-reported as First Nations, Inuit or Métis and 56 percent self-reported as Yukon First Nations.
 - 78 per cent, or 252 inmates, were remanded.
 - 19 per cent, or 60 inmates, were sentenced.
 - 75 per cent, or 243 inmates, were from Whitehorse, and
 - 22 per cent, or 72 inmates, were from other Yukon communities.
- From January 2025 to date, 237 individuals were admitted to Whitehorse Correctional Center.
 - 78 per cent, or 186 inmates, were remanded.
 - 21 percent, or 51 inmates, were sentenced.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Inmate Counts

Justice

Context:

- In its final report, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada called upon federal, provincial and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in custody over the course of a decade.

Background:

- Many factors underlie and influence the rates of both crime and incarceration. Across Canada, crime rates have been declining over the last decade.
- Client admissions are a direct result of both policing decisions and court dispositions. The high proportion of individuals on remand in the Yukon is consistent with trends in other provinces and territories.

Approved by:Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Inmate Programming

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre offers programming to remanded and sentenced clients, regardless of incarceration status. However, criminogenic programming is mandatory for all sentenced clients.
- Programming is available in four different areas: criminogenic; cultural and spiritual; educational, vocational and health promotion; and leisure, recreation and wellbeing.
- Programming is offered through facility-based staff, the First Nations liaison officers, contracted service providers, Yukon University, and professional partners.

Additional response:

- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre has two dedicated First Nations liaison officers whose work includes connecting clients with traditional cultural and spiritual supports.
- Cultural programming at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre includes opportunities for beading, carving, drumming, fire ceremonies and talking circles.
- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre also works to build relationships with Yukon First Nations to provide ongoing supports for offenders reintegrating into the community.

Context:

- The Department of Justice has been increasing support for culturally appropriate programming at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre to address offenders' behaviours, reduce recidivism, and support positive community reintegration.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Inmate Programming

Justice

Background:

- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre's programming includes
 - bi-monthly health promotion programming;
 - educational and vocational programming in partnership with Yukon University;
 - cultural programming;
 - continuing targeted referrals to individuals' First Nations for ongoing community support and assistance;
 - individual spiritual and cultural support by the First Nations liaison officers;
 - spiritual supports through partnerships with community spiritual leaders in multiple faiths including First Nations' spirituality, group church services, individual clergy counselling; and one-on-one First Nations Elder and Knowledge Keeper counselling services;
 - substance use counselling; and
 - physician-supervised Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT).
- In conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Services, WCC offers two five-week, intensive treatment sessions at the facility for substance use issues.
- Case managers may also refer inmates to the Forensic Complex Care Team (FCCT) for therapeutic programming. FCCT's therapists conduct most of the therapeutic counselling and deliver most therapeutic programs.
- Therapeutic counselling may be individual or group-based and often includes individual counselling for criminogenic needs (e.g., sexualized offending or intimate partner violence). Individual counselling is also available to address other mental health or substance use concerns.
- To support programming, WCC staff receive training in respectful relationships, substance abuse management, 'Living without Violence', and facilitation skills.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Community Safety Planning

Fall 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon continues to foster safer and stronger communities across the territory through funding to support First Nations in their community safety planning projects.
- We remain committed to ongoing collaboration with the Government of Canada, First Nation governments and municipalities to support community safety and wellbeing planning and implementation processes.

Additional response – funding program:

- Phase One of the Community Safety Planning program was launched in 2023 and provides up to \$200,000 to each Yukon First Nation to support community safety planning and the implementation of priorities identified by their plans.

Additional response – Whitehorse:

- To help address community safety challenges in Whitehorse, the Government of Yukon, in partnership with the City of Whitehorse, is developing a comprehensive Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for Whitehorse.
- To implement this plan, we will be working with partner agencies, Yukon First Nations, the RCMP and the community to address Whitehorse community safety objectives and implementation.

Context:

- Yukon First Nations governments and municipalities have expressed interest in community safety planning and implementing community safety initiatives.
- Municipal governments and rural communities may have questions about potential expansion of eligibility for funding for community safety and wellbeing planning to include them.

Session Briefing Note

Community Safety Planning

Fall 2025

Justice

Background:

- Establishing a long-term funding approach to implementing community safety initiatives was identified in 2022 as one of the priority actions of Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy.
- On March 14, 2022, the Department of Justice announced that Phase One of a Community Safety Planning funding program would make funds available in 2022. The release committed to providing up to \$200,000 to each First Nation for community safety planning or related implementation work.
- Since 2022, several First Nations have accessed funding to support community safety assessments and some have secured funding for implementation of their community safety plans.
- On February 19, 2025, the Government of Yukon and the City of Whitehorse signed the Community Safety Planning Mandate commitment letter, setting the groundwork and outlining the expectations for working together on a shared Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing plan for Whitehorse.

Funding Agreements with First Nations

- To date, the Government of Yukon has signed agreements with Kluane First Nation, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, and Ross River Dena Council.
- The Government of Yukon has also provided partial funding to support Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and Liard First Nation's community safety planning initiative.

Approved by:

Mark Radke
Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Community Safety Officers

Fall 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada currently share the costs of funding four First Nation Community Safety Officer programs in the territory.
- Community Safety Officer programs in the Yukon are not about law enforcement but complement the work of the RCMP by providing a liaison with the community to enhance public safety.

Additional response:

- We are aware of Public Safety Canada's interest in making future funding for Community Safety Officer programs subject to provincial or territorial legislation being in place for these programs.
- Conversations on the matter are ongoing.

Context:

- There have been numerous requests from Yukon First Nations governments to fund Community Safety Officer (CSO) programs including through incremental Administration of Justice Agreement negotiations.
- First Nations governments may question why funding for CSO programs is not available through the Government of Yukon's community safety planning program.
- Recent news coverage from the Northwest Territories speaks to Public Safety Canada's proposed new First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) requirement for CSO-related legislation for CSO funding starting in 2026–27. This may raise questions about the Yukon as both the Northwest Territories and the Yukon have non-enforcement based CSO programs and neither jurisdiction has CSO-related legislation in place.
- In October 2025, the owner of House of Wolf & Associates Gina Nagano and former Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Doris Bill provided testimony concerning Community Safety Officer programs and the FNIPP within the Yukon to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

Session Briefing Note

Community Safety Officers

Fall 2025

Justice

Background:

- In the Yukon, CSO programs are led, designed and implemented by Yukon First Nations governments.
- The Government of Yukon currently has no role in direct program management but oversees the parameters for funding. Costs are shared at a ratio of 48 per cent for the Government of Yukon and 52 per cent for the Government of Canada (Canada) through the federal First Nations and Inuit Policing Program.
- Four Yukon First Nations are operating Community Safety Officer programs to address community safety matters and complement existing RCMP law enforcement: Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN); Selkirk First Nation (SFN); Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC); and Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN).

Federal Commitment to Fund Community Safety Officer Programs

- The Auditor General of Canada's 2024 report and recommendations on the FNIPP triggered a review of its guiding policy and terms and conditions.
- Revisions to the FNIPP terms and conditions include the creation of a dedicated stream of funding for CSO programs that are legislated and regulated by a province or territory.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2025-12-18

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Crime Rates and Violent Crime

Justice

Recommended response:

- Responding to crime requires a multi-pronged approach with a balance of enforcement activities, supportive social programs and prevention initiatives that address the underlying causes of crime.
- The Government of Yukon continues to invest significant resources in the Yukon RCMP, including funding for specialized units that investigate homicides, drug trafficking and organized crime.

Context:

- There are ongoing concerns from Yukoners around organized crime and the trafficking of drugs and alcohol. In 2024, there was increased concern regarding property crime and safety, particularly in downtown Whitehorse.
- The low population of the territories typically results in more variable per capita rates in crime statistics.

Background:

- Statistics Canada released its annual Police-reported Crime Statistics in Canada on July 25, 2024, featuring crime statistics about criminal activity reported to the police.
- Many provinces and territories recorded increases to the Crime Severity Index for the second consecutive year. The Yukon experienced a two per cent increase, which was also the national average.
- In 2023, police in the Yukon reported 15 firearm-related violent crimes – an increase of seven incidents from 2022. The Yukon had the third highest rate of violent crimes per 100,000 population, following the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
- The homicide rates in the Northwest Territories (13.34 homicides per 100,000 population), the Yukon (8.89 per 100,000) and Nunavut (4.92 per 100,000) were above the national average for 2023.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Crime Rates and Violent Crime

Justice

Organized Crime

- On March 13, 2025, the Yukon RCMP Division released an executive summary of a report on *Organized Crime in the Yukon: An Examination of Criminal Networks and associated Impact completed by the Criminal Intelligence Service British Columbia / Yukon*. Highlights include the following.
 - In 2024, lost productivity associated with opioid overdose deaths and the illicit drug market is estimated to have cost \$58.9 million, or the equivalent of \$1,273 per capita in the Yukon.
 - The rate of illegal drug toxicity deaths in the Yukon is falling. In 2021, the rate was 53.5 per 100,000 and in 2024, it dropped to 37.8 per 100,000.
 - Illicit drugs have overtaken alcohol as the most significant contributor to early deaths in the Yukon.
 - Cocaine is the most prevalent illicit drug being consumed in the Yukon. It is estimated that 15 to 20 kilograms of cocaine are being trafficked into the Yukon per month.
 - Yukon drug supply lines come primarily from organized criminal networks in British Columbia and Alberta.
 - Between 2020 and 2024, five organized crime networks have been operating in the Yukon.
- The report concluded that the Yukon's illicit drug market may be more expansive and lucrative than previously assessed and that organized crime is expanding into the Yukon. The report also suggested that large cocaine seizures in the Yukon and increased funding for policing and harm reduction programs have contributed to a reduced number of drug related deaths in 2024.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Downtown Whitehorse Community Safety

Fall 2025
Justice

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon takes the safety of downtown residents and businesses seriously and is implementing multiple activities to support safety and wellbeing in Whitehorse.
- The Department of Justice is working in partnership with the City of Whitehorse, to develop a Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for residents and businesses.

Additional response:

- In 2025-26, the Department of Justice:
 - funded three additional RCMP members to complement the current Whitehorse detachment;
 - committed ongoing funding for Car 867 following the completion of the pilot phase; and
 - funded a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan that is being developed in partnership with the City of Whitehorse.

Context:

- Concerns related to the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter have been shared with Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Chamber of Commerce, the media, the City of Whitehorse, Connective and law enforcement by business owners and individuals in the area.
- Multiple actions were published in the Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan, led by multiple departments including the Department of Justice, Department of Health and Social Services, and the Yukon Housing Corporation.

Background:

- During 2024–25, the RCMP reported an annual occurrence count of 24,553, an increase of approximately 1 per cent when compared to the previous year, with 65 per cent occurring in the Whitehorse area. The occurrence count includes calls for service as well as self-generated activities by officers.

Session Briefing Note

Downtown Whitehorse Community Safety

Fall 2025
Justice

- During 2024–25, the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter accounted for 9.5 per cent of all calls in the downtown core, up from 8 per cent in 2023–24.

Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan

- In response to escalating safety concerns around the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter and downtown Whitehorse generally, the Government of Yukon and its partners released the Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan on December 21, 2023 to address the safety concerns around downtown Whitehorse.

Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund

- The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit has increased its investigational and analytical capacity through support from the federal Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund.
- These enhancements have increased the capacity of the SCAN Unit by three investigators and one crime prevention analyst so that the unit can address the evolving nature of criminal activities reported in Yukon communities and neighbourhoods.
- Through the Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund, the Boys and Girls Club of Yukon received support to implement a youth-focused prevention initiative in Whitehorse.
- The Government of Yukon's new five-year (2023 to 2028) funding allocation under this program is \$3,998,194.
- This is an increase of \$1,747,459 from the previous 2018 five-year funding agreement (\$2,250,735).

Community Safety and Wellbeing Planning

- Community Safety and Wellbeing Planning has been adopted by the Government of Yukon, and its scope has grown to encompass initiatives that also promote community wellbeing through priorities specific to each community.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

First Nations and Inuit Policing Program

Justice

Recommended response:

- The federal First Nations and Inuit Policing Program supports law enforcement and community safety in First Nations communities.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work with the Government of Canada and other provinces and territories to inform the modernization of the program, so it better meets the needs of First Nations communities in the Yukon.

Context:

- The Government of Yukon, in partnership with Public Safety Canada, will host a Community Tripartite Agreement-focused meeting on January 21 and 23, 2026, to discuss the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) and issues such as Community Safety Officer (CSO) programs and Community Tripartite Agreements (CTAs) as well as future program operations in the Yukon.

Background:**Government of Canada's First Nations and Inuit Policing Program**

- Since 1991, Canada has provided opportunities to cost-share funding with provinces and territories for policing First Nations and Inuit communities through the FNIPP.
- Canada pays 52 per cent of the costs, and 48 per cent is paid by provinces and territories (PTs). The program is intended to:
 - ensure First Nations governments enjoy their right to personal security and public safety;
 - support responsible, accountable policing in First Nations communities; and
 - promote policing partnerships with First Nations governments based on trust, mutual respect and participation in decision-making.
- The FNIPP was designed to provide funding for the following policing agreements:
 - "Self-administered" police service agreements where a First Nation or Inuit community provides day-to-day policing services as authorized or established through legislation by a province or territory, like a Police Act. Such enabling legislation does not exist in the Yukon.

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First Nations and Inuit Policing Program

Justice

- Community Tripartite Agreements between Public Safety Canada, Yukon and First Nations governments where the RCMP provides dedicated policing services to a First Nation or Inuit community that enhances the police services available through the province or territory under co-developed letters of expectation that outline expectations, working relationships, and priorities.
- Yukon currently accesses funding through FNIPP for Community Safety Officer programs and Community Tripartite Agreements.

Yukon's Community Tripartite Agreements

- Yukon currently has 11 signed CTAs with Yukon First Nations governments, which fund 25 FNIPP officers. Three First Nations do not have CTAs:
 - Ta'an Kwäch'än Council is in the initial stages of discussion;
 - Teslin Tlingit Council have not signed a CTA; and
 - Selkirk First Nation terminated their CTA effective March 31, 2024.
- Canada has created a new CTA template for 2025 agreement renewal. The template includes a section providing for the enforcement of Indigenous laws by the RCMP under certain conditions.
- **Federal Legislation for First Nation Police Services**
- In 2020, Canada committed to work with First Nations on legislation that recognizes self-administered policing as an essential service, with input from provinces and territories.
- Planned legislation has not been introduced, and Canada committed to further negotiations and development of the Indigenous Justice Strategy instead.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

2025-12-18

Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Integrated Restorative Justice Unit

Justice

Recommended response:

- Restorative justice offers a way to hold offenders directly accountable to those they have harmed and gives victims the choice to play an active role in the justice process.
- Public safety is supported when we are using all available tools to stop cycles of reoffending and address harm in our communities.

Additional response:

- Restorative justice is not appropriate for every matter. Any file diverted to a restorative process is subject to legal requirements and a case-by-case suitability assessment.

Context:

- Increasing the use of restorative justice and diversion are actions that help address the Truth and Reconciliation calls for governments to eliminate overincarceration of Indigenous persons.
- Deputy Ministers of Justice have made joint commitments to increase the use of restorative justice in their jurisdictions at federal/provincial/territorial meetings.
- Communities and partners in other sectors have been asking the Department of Justice to work with them to implement restorative justice options and practices. These partners include the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, Department of Education and schools, First Nation communities, and law enforcement agencies.

Background:

- The Integrated Restorative Justice (IRJ) Unit operated as a pilot project from 2021-March 31, 2025, combining existing diversion, restorative justice, and community justice worker support resources to provide direct service delivery and with First Nations and other justice partners.
- The IRJ Unit funds and supports eight Community Justice Workers and 12 Indigenous Court Workers who are employed by Indigenous governments. The Unit offers training opportunities, mentorship, program development support, and co-facilitation support for restorative justice practices in communities.

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Integrated Restorative Justice Unit

Justice

- Community Justice Workers and Indigenous Court Workers are crucial frontline justice staff supporting individuals and the administration of justice in Yukon's communities.
- In early 2025, the unit held initial engagements with community stakeholders on interests in developing a new Family Court Worker Program. Further engagements are currently underway with the Yukon Status of Women's Council.
- In March 2025, the pilot's term funding expired. In June 2025, government received the results of an external evaluation of the IRJ Unit pilot project. The department is currently reviewing the evaluation results to determine next steps.
- In November 2025, the IRJ Unit worked with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Native Courtworkers Association of BC to bring together Indigenous Court Workers from across the Yukon for two days of networking and training, including a mock court practice with the assistance of a Yukon Justice of the Peace, Court Clerk, and Crown prosecutor.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2025-12-18

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

RCMP

Justice

Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon funds policing through investments in the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program and the Territorial Police Service Agreement (TPSA) with the Government of Canada.
- This supports the RCMP as the police of jurisdiction in the territory.
- The Government of Yukon works closely with the RCMP to maintain appropriate resourcing levels and funding in support of an effective police service and public safety.

Context:

- In recent years, there has been significant public interest in the resource levels required to support effective and responsive policing and there have been large increases to the RCMP's budget in the last two fiscal years.

Background:

RCMP Resources

- Territorial funding for police is under pressure due to new collective bargaining agreements, infrastructure investments, national initiatives, and mandated policy changes.
- In the 2025–26 fiscal year, the Government of Yukon increased the RCMP Territorial Police Service Agreement funding by \$5,126,537 or, 12.44 per cent for a total budget of \$46,336,525.
- The total Regular Members across both the Territorial Police Service Agreement and the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program is 156 regular members, 131 and 25 respectively.
- Due to the sparse population and vast geography, maintaining a responsive policing presence across the territory requires more officers per capita than in most provinces.

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RCMP

Justice

Future of Contract Policing

- On March 10, 2025, then Prime Minister Trudeau released a white paper titled *A New Policing Vision for Canada: Modernizing the RCMP* that set out a vision for the RCMP to transition to a wholly federal policing service and to end contract policing work.
- RCMP “M” Division Commanding Officer issued a statement reaffirming the RCMP’s commitment to continued contract policing in the territory.
- Early contract renewal discussions are underway at the Deputy Minister table.

Capital – The Accommodations Program Charge Process

- Under the Territorial Police Service Agreement, the RCMP manages capital assets through an Accommodations Program Charge (APC) arrangement that includes detachment construction and renovations (Major Capital), building repairs and upgrades (Minor Capital), and the maintenance of living quarters. The APC is structured in five-year cycles.
- Cycle Three of the APC has a budget of \$19.627 million (Yukon’s contributions) over five years and is for the renovation of the detachment buildings in Old Crow, Haines Junction and includes a new HVAC system for Whitehorse.

Federal Investigations Unit (FIU)

- The federally funded FIU supplements territorial policing resources and is tasked with federal policing priorities, including drug investigations, enforcement of federal laws, protective policing, commercial crime investigations, integrated border enforcement and intelligence functions.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

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Fall 2025

Yukon Police Council and Policing Priorities

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Police Council works to collect community perspectives and provide recommendations to the Minister of Justice who sets the policing priorities every two years.
- The Yukon Police Council is a citizen advisory council on policing in the Yukon. They work to promote ongoing dialogue between Yukoners, the Yukon RCMP and the Department of Justice.

Context:

- The Yukon Police Council (the Council) has engaged with community partners, First Nation governments and the City of Whitehorse in the last 18 months to inform their recommendations on new policing priorities for 2025 to 2027.
- The Council anticipates completing its policing recommendations for the Minister by April 2026.

Background:

- The role of the Minister of Justice in establishing the policing priorities for the Yukon is set out in the Territorial Police Service Agreement (TPSA) with the Government of Canada.
- The Council was formed in 2012 following recommendations in the Sharing Common Ground: Review of Yukon's Police Force final report in 2010.
- The Council also engages with diverse community groups across the Yukon, including stakeholders and the public.
- Elements and recurring themes from engagements, and feedback received by the Department of Justice, have been incorporated into the 2023 to 2025 policing priorities.
- Collaborative work continues with partners to address the effects of opioids and substance use in the territory (See BN #3: Opioid and Substance Use Crisis). This involves supporting community safety planning initiatives (see BN #40: Community

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Yukon Police Council and Policing Priorities

Justice

Safety Planning); working towards violence reduction; and strengthening relationships with Yukon First Nations and municipalities.

- The RCMP provides the Government of Yukon and the Council with quarterly updates on policing and activities that address territorial policing priorities. The RCMP also provides the Government of Yukon with an annual report each July.
- In recent years, RCMP “M” Division has also conducted their own public engagement to set priorities at the detachment level. In Whitehorse, the top three priorities identified and incorporated into the Whitehorse Detachment Action Plan are illicit drug use, property crime and traffic enforcement.

Engagements with the public

- In March 2024, the Council held an engagement session with the Whitehorse business community in recognition of the complex issues impacting safety in the downtown core.
- In September 2024, the Whitehorse City Council met and proposed the addition of policing priorities related to property crime and traffic enforcement.
- In December 2024, the Council held engagement meetings with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Chief and Council, as well as 34 Whitehorse community stakeholders. The meetings focused on policing recommendations centred on the City of Whitehorse.
- In January 2025, the Council held discussions with the City of Whitehorse Mayor and the Whitehorse City Council to gather recommendations informing Yukon policing priorities.
- The Council completed its last engagement meeting in July 2025 with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) Chief and Council to hear KDFN's policing recommendations.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

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Fall 2025

Gladue Report Writing Program

Justice

Recommended response:

- *The Criminal Code* requires courts to consider the circumstances of Indigenous offenders when deciding on a fair sentence.
- Gladue reports provide relevant background information to give courts an accurate understanding of an Indigenous accused person's experience with legal, social, economic and inter-generational harm.
- The Gladue Report Writing Program is administered by the Council of Yukon First Nations and is funded through the federal Access to Justice Agreement.

Additional response:

- Twenty Gladue reports were filed in the last fiscal year, and seventeen have been submitted so far in the current year.

Context:

- The Government of Canada committed to funding the Gladue Report Writing Program until March 2027 through the Access to Justice Funding Agreement, the umbrella agreement that also provides federal funding for Legal Aid, the Yukon Public Legal Education Association and Indigenous Court Workers in the Yukon.
- The 2024–25 budget for Gladue report writing had increased by \$47,775 to \$222,775 in ongoing funding.
- Some First Nation governments, justice partners, and NGO's have publicly criticized Gladue reports citing that they do not achieve the intended purpose.

Background:

- Yukon First Nations make up about 22 per cent of the Yukon's population but form the majority of people held in custody in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.
- The disproportionately high rate of incarceration of Indigenous peoples is deeply linked with the legacy of anti-Indigenous laws, practices and cultural attitudes in

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Gladue Report Writing Program

Justice

Canada, including the histories of specific treaty relationships, residential schools, the outlawing of Indigenous cultural practices, repeated relocations and dispossession, and other causes of intergenerational harm and trauma.

- Gladue reports support Indigenous accused (adults and youth), the judiciary and justice personnel in applying the sentencing principles for Indigenous offenders set out in section 718.2(e) of the *Criminal Code* and section 38(2)(d) of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
- Gladue reports aid courts in complying with the purpose and principles of sentencing, which require that systemic and background factors, as well as reasonable and suitable alternatives to imprisonment be considered for all offenders but with particular attention regarding Indigenous persons before the court.
- The Gladue Report Writing Program is administered by the Council of Yukon First Nations and is carried out by trained Gladue report writers.
- A joint management committee provides oversight for the Gladue Report Writing Program. It is comprised of the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Yukon Legal Services Society and the Government of Yukon.
- Training sessions for Gladue report writers are held annually. Recent program improvements include a Gladue report writer mentoring program and a report writing template.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Therapeutic Courts

Fall 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Community Wellness Court and Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court, Yukon's therapeutic courts, are overseen by the Territorial Court.
- Therapeutic courts are designed to address the root causes of crime by offering pre-sentence programming in a domestic violence context or when offenders' behaviours are driven by underlying mental health and/or substance use issues.
- The Government of Yukon is working in partnerships with Indigenous-led justice programs and service providers to promote access to culturally relevant services, including on-the-land programming, for therapeutic court clients.

Additional response:

- The Justice Wellness Centre supports therapeutic courts by providing individual case management and clinical counselling services to offenders.

Context:

- The Yukon Party Platform includes commitments to exploring sentencing and support options building on the experience of other jurisdictions and Yukon's therapeutic courts to support recovery-focused interventions and reduce reoffending.

Background:

- The Domestic Violence Treatment Option (DVTO) Court has been operational since 2001 and the Community Wellness Court (CWC) since 2007. They have served as models for domestic violence and drug treatment courts in many other Canadian jurisdictions.

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Therapeutic Courts

Justice

- The Community Wellness Court has a demonstrated track record in reducing recidivism rates. The last evaluation, completed in 2014, confirmed the program's success in reducing rates of recidivism and substance abuse.
- The 2014 evaluation found that the rate of substantive reoffending was 8 per cent for clients who completed program, compared with 31 per cent who entered the program but did not complete it.
- Over 95 per cent of offenders who completed the program demonstrated progress in addressing problematic substance use.
- The Justice Wellness Centre has developed a new therapeutic court evaluation framework to guide a five-year evaluation process that began in 2024.
- The Justice Wellness Centre's services are supported by the Government of Canada's Drug Treatment Court funding program.
- Services are provided by 3 case managers, 2 clinical counsellors, an Indigenous peer support worker and contracted cultural consultants.
- The Justice Wellness Centre has an ongoing partnership with Liard First Nation's Dene Keh community justice program. Dene Keh has received national recognition for integrating Indigenous-led programming into a therapeutic court model, increasing community capacity to respond to crime, and developing a year-round program for participants.
- The Justice Wellness Centre is also building new partnerships with the justice programs at Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nation.
- The Justice Wellness Centre continues to work with legal professionals and the Territorial Court to create streamlined versions of its Domestic Violence Treatment Option and Community Wellness courts for less serious offences.
- A streamlined program will take under six months, whereas the current programs take 12-18 months to complete.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

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Fall 2025

Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU)

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Family Information Liaison Unit provides coordinated supports for family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+ people.
- With the signing of a renewed five-year Canada-Yukon agreement beginning in the 2025–26 fiscal year, these services have expanded to include supports for families of Indigenous men and boys.
- Providing supports for families remains a key component of the Government of Yukon's work to implement *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy*.

Additional response:

- The Family Information Liaison Unit is delivered by the team at Victim Services, who work closely with other agencies and cultural support service providers to assist families to access information related to their loved one's case and to access relevant supports.

Context:

- The Government of Canada has expanded the scope of their funding for FILU services to also include support for families of Indigenous men and boys. There may be questions about whether this expanded scope has occurred in the Yukon.
- The new Canada-Yukon agreement was not signed in time to be included in the 2025-26 Main Estimates. It has therefore been included in the supplementary budget.

Background:

- On August 3, 2016, Canada announced that funding would be available for the creation of Family Information Liaison Units in each province and territory.

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Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU)

Justice

- Victim Services sought advice related to the development of the Yukon's FILU from the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate, the Executive Council Office, other areas of the Department of Justice, Indigenous women's organizations, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Yukon RCMP, the Association of Yukon Communities and the Yukon Women's Coalition.
- Canada has provided at minimum \$285,000 per year to the Yukon since 2017–18, in two to three-year increments.
- On May 29, 2023, Canada announced that \$37.3 million over five years would be provided to provinces and territories. In addition, \$7.75 million will be available annually, on an ongoing basis, to “ensure that the critical services provided by FILUs to families of all missing and murdered Indigenous people, including men and boys, continue to be available for as long as they are needed, and to enable FILUs to expand their operations to address gaps in service delivery and remain responsive to the needs of Indigenous communities.”
- Canada has announced funding through five-year agreements starting in 2025–26. Canada and Yukon signed a new five-year agreement in April 2025. Funding for this fiscal year is \$510,000.
- This new agreement will allow for the inclusion of services and supports for families of missing and murdered Indigenous men and boys under FILU in the Yukon.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Gender-based Violence

Justice

Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that victims of gender-based violence in rural communities need options to support travel to access services or to seek safety from a perpetrator.
- We have lowered barriers for inter-community transportation for rural victims of sexualized assault, intimate partner violence and anti-2SLGBTQ+ violence.
- Travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence includes assistance to leave a violent situation or to access time-sensitive clinical, legal or supportive services in another community.

Additional response:

- A campaign to increase awareness of the new transportation supports is in progress. Information on how to access these supports is available on Yukon.ca.
- An inventory of transportation services for each community has been shared with service providers, including a roster of on-demand transportation options, which was made available to partner agencies.

Context:

- Providing safe, reliable and affordable transportation between communities in the Yukon has been recommended in several recent reports, including the What We Heard report on Expansion of SART Services in Rural Communities and the Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy.

Background:

- Victims of gender-based violence residing in rural or remote communities have fewer options for confidential, 24/7 support to leave a violent or unsafe situation quickly, or to access important services in a timely way.

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Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Gender-based Violence

- Each victim has access to varying levels of resources. Some may have access to a private vehicle or public transportation, while others do not have access to any means of transportation and may be more isolated.
- Each victim also has unique needs. For example, some need access to consistent travel options to attend scheduled meetings with lawyers or medical appointments, while others require immediate transportation to escape the threat of violence and seek safety at a women's shelter or access to a Sexualized Assault Evidence Kit at a hospital.
- The department is providing funding to five non-governmental organizations to provide low-barrier travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence: the Council of Yukon First Nations, Queer Yukon, Yukon Women's Transition Home, Dawson Women's Shelter, and Help and Hope for Families.
- This funding is for victims of all genders and ages, including those with children and/or dependents, those with disabilities or needing an escort/support person to accompany them.
- In addition to increasing travel options, the Department of Justice has increased the Victims of Crime Emergency Fund by \$10,000 per year until March 31, 2027, to help cover emergency travel costs.
- Funding for the Yukon of about \$270,000 per year (until March 31, 2027) from the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence is designated to address transportation barriers for rural victims of gender-based violence.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 26, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2025****Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART)**Justice

Recommended response:

- The Sexualized Assault Response Team, or SART, is a network of agencies that provide coordinated, comprehensive supports for victims of sexualized violence.
- Available services include a 24/7 support line, accompaniment to the hospital and RCMP, 24/7 on-call physicians at Whitehorse General Hospital, forensic evidence collection at all three territorial hospitals and priority access to counselling through Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services.
- The Departments of Justice, Health and Social Services, and the Women and Gender Equity Directorate are working closely with SART agencies to implement the SART Expansion Action Plan to enhance supports and services for victims of sexualized violence in Yukon communities.

Additional response:

- We are making progress on service expansion in rural communities in several areas including:
 - strengthening relationships with rural service providers;
 - providing travel assistance for rural victims of gender-based violence;
 - improving navigation and pathways to access forensic care from rural communities; and
 - expanding access to training for community service providers.

Context:

- Ongoing coordinated SART services in Whitehorse and the expansion of services to rural communities supports victims of crime and addresses identified gaps in services for victims of sexualized violence.

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Fall 2025

Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART)

Justice

Background:

- Engagement with First Nations governments, rural service providers and victims occurred in the summer and fall 2023. A What We Heard report was shared with key partners, stakeholders, and the public in spring 2024.
- Based on input from public engagement, partner agencies worked together to identify priority actions which informed the SART Expansion Action Plan published in September 2025 and sets out ongoing, medium-term and long-term actions.
- Coordination of the network of agencies is supported by two Government of Yukon positions working in partnership with SART agencies to ensure there is continuity of care and a coordinated systems-based approach for victims of sexualized violence.
- Current Whitehorse SART partner agencies include: Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Justice; Women and Gender Equity Directorate; Yukon Women's Transition Home; Yukon Hospital Corporation; RCMP "M" Division; and Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Yukon Regional Office;
- Kwanlin Dün First Nation is also a signatory to the SART Protocol in Whitehorse and continues to work to integrate their services into the network;
- In the Yukon, there are three options for care at health care facilities:
 - medical treatment is available in all communities, and all community health centres offer standardized, clinic-based care to support victims;
 - forensic exam with a sexual assault evidence kit (SAEK) sent to RCMP (available at all 3 Yukon Hospitals); and
 - forensic "kit on ice" where the SAEK is stored at the hospital to provide time for the victim to decide about reporting to the RCMP (available at all three Yukon hospitals in Whitehorse, Watson Lake and Dawson City).
- Training is provided for SART agencies and any Yukon service providers who support victims of sexualized violence. A public catalogue of online, self-paced SART training is also available via YGLearn.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 26, 2025

Date approved

Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit+ People Strategy

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Recommended response:

- We are eager to continue working with all partners to implement the Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy.

Additional response:

- The first annual report released in 2024 has given us an invaluable snapshot of the work all strategy partners have underway. The directorate is currently working on the second annual report.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Indigenous women's organizations have asked for additional investments to support the implementation of the MMIWG2S+ strategy.
- While there is some investment made via the Yukon's implementation plan under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, there is no dedicated Yukon government fund to support implementation of the MMIWG2S+ strategy.
- Families and survivors have advocated for change for many years and want to see Yukon's strategy and implementation plan realized as soon as possible. They also want to stay at the forefront of the work.

Background:

- Women and Gender Equity Directorate is providing \$1.1 million to organizations to participate and lead initiatives for the implementation of the strategy. The directorate also plays a leading role in implementation as it provides ongoing communications, secretariat support.

Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit+ People Strategy

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

- The Yukon Advisory Committee was dissolved in Fall 2024, having completed its mandate to produce a strategy and plan for Yukon's MMIWG2S+ work and expecting a new structure to take its place to oversee implementation, accountability and leadership.
- The Yukon Advisory Committee included representatives of the Yukon government (YG), Yukon First Nations governments, three Indigenous women's organizations, 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners and an Elder.
- The committee released Yukon's strategy in December 2020 and the implementation plan in June 2023.
- Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy outlines 32 actions under four pathways to guide action in response to the National Inquiry's final report.
 - Strengthening connections and supports
 - Community safety and justice
 - Economic independence and education
 - Community action and accountability
- The directorate has two full-time positions to support strategy implementation.

Approved by:

Sierra Van der Meer

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, WGED

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Administration of Justice Agreement Negotiations

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting Yukon First Nations governments to exercise their authority and jurisdiction over the administration of justice as set out in Yukon First Nation Self-Government Agreements.
 - We will work with Yukon First Nations governments and the Government of Canada to negotiate and implement Administration of Justice Agreements.
-

Context:

- There is increasing interest from First Nations governments to enter or recommence Administration of Justice Agreement (AJA) negotiations with the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada. Multiple negotiations have recently restarted or are expected to restart soon.
-

Background:

- AJAs address how a Yukon First Nation with a Self-Government Agreement will exercise its authority for the administration, enforcement and adjudication of its laws.
- Section 13.6.1 of each Yukon First Nation Self-Government Agreement commits the parties to negotiate an AJA on a trilateral basis.
- The Government of Yukon's Department of Justice is the corporate lead for AJA negotiations.
- The only AJA in the Yukon was signed by the Teslin Tlingit Council, Government of Yukon and Government of Canada in 2011.
- Several other Yukon First Nations began and then stopped AJA negotiations.

Administration of Justice and Related Negotiations

- The Yukon government, Government of Canada and Teslin Tlingit Council are engaged in implementation negotiations pursuant to the Teslin Tlingit Council AJA and associated implementation plan. To date, matters related to the implementation of a Peacemaker Court, enforcement, corrections and community services have been negotiated.

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Fall 2025

Administration of Justice Agreement Negotiations

Justice

- In February 2024, the governments of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon and Canada recommenced AJA negotiations. Since then, two agreements have been signed: the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Administration of Justice Framework Agreement and the Interim Justice Provisions Agreement.
- Selkirk First Nation, Government of Yukon and Government of Canada have been in discussions intermittently since the fall of 2023 to explore arrangements under the Selkirk First Nation Self-Government Agreement regarding enforcement matters.
- In 2021, Kwanlin Dün First Nation paused AJA negotiations. In January 2025, the First Nation advised of its interest to re-engage in exploratory AJA conversations.
- In May 2024, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation provided formal notice of its interest in restarting AJA negotiations which were previously paused by the First Nation in July 2020. The Yukon government and the First Nation agreed to two AJA-related priorities in a Government-to-Government Accord on Shared Priorities, signed on July 27, 2024.

Interim Justice Provisions Agreements

- Interim Justice Provisions Agreements address the Government of Yukon's obligations in Self-Government Agreements to prosecute, adjudicate and provide correctional facilities for any term of imprisonment ordered by the court for violations of First Nation laws until an AJA is in place.
- Currently, seven Yukon First Nations have Interim Justice Provisions Agreements in place with Government of Yukon and Government of Canada: Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Government of Canada's Indigenous Justice Strategy

Fall 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- In March 2025, the Government of Canada released its first ever Indigenous Justice Strategy, developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous partners, provinces and territories.
- The Indigenous Justice Strategy intends to address systemic racism in the justice system and the overrepresentation of Indigenous people as both victims and offenders.

Context:

- The overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system has been repeatedly identified as an outcome of systemic discrimination and colonial policies. Many national reports, inquiries and commissions in recent decades have called for action to address it.
- The governments of Yukon, Canada and self-governing First Nations have concurrent jurisdiction over the administration of justice in the Yukon, which is more complex than in many other provinces and territories. Aspects of the federal strategy, if any, that may be implemented in the territory will require engagement with all affected governments.
- The strategy may provide an opportunity to advance shared priorities; however, it is unclear whether the Government of Canada will provide funding for implementation.

Background:

- In 2021, the federal Minister of Justice was mandated to develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy with Indigenous partners, provinces and territories to address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the Canadian justice system.
- In summer 2021, the Government of Canada held discussions with national Indigenous organizations to develop the vision, scope, key priorities and engagement approach.
- Following initial discussions, the Government of Canada undertook two streams of engagement: one led by Indigenous organizations and the other led by Justice Canada.
- Both streams focused on supporting Indigenous justice systems and reforming the criminal justice system to reduce systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system.

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Government of Canada's Indigenous Justice Strategy

Fall 2025

Justice

- Funding was provided for 38 Indigenous-led engagement processes, including by the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.
- Federal engagement included discussions with Indigenous partners, stakeholders, justice practitioners, and provincial and territorial representatives. In-person and virtual engagement sessions were held in Whitehorse in December 2023 and three “What We Learned” reports later summarized the key outcomes from the Canada-wide engagements.
- In June 2024, the Government of Canada released a Key Elements Consultation Draft which set out the vision, goals and proposed actions of the Indigenous Justice Strategy. In September 2024, the Yukon government provided feedback on that draft.
- The final Strategy was released in March 2025. It includes 26 priority actions for collaborative effort, as well as distinctions-based chapters specific to First Nations, Métis and Inuit to address the unique priorities and needs of each group.
- The First Nations chapter sets out terms for collaborative relationships, accountability, and long-term and predictable funding. It includes a framework for two main paths of further action: revitalization of First Nations laws and legal systems, and reform of the Canadian criminal justice system.
- In June 2025, the Assembly of First Nations released its First Nations Justice Strategy that includes 25 First-Nations driven approaches to address long-standing issues with the justice system, police and corrections. It also addresses the overrepresentation of First Nations people in the justice system.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Our government is committed to advancing reconciliation.
- We recognize the central importance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the foundational document *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, which sets out a vision for reconciliation and Indigenous self-determination in the Yukon.
- We know that some Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups have raised an interest in having Yukon adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as has been done in some other jurisdictions.
- We are committed to understanding Yukon First Nations' perspectives on the Declaration.

Additional Response:

- The Yukon government's approach to reconciliation is characterized by:
 - implementing modern treaties and upholding our obligations to Yukon First Nations, the Tetlit Gwich'in, and the Inuvialuit;
 - negotiating agreements related to Yukon First Nations' self-governance, such as those involving the administration of justice;
 - negotiating enduring agreements with First Nations without treaties;
 - advancing joint priorities at the Yukon Forum; and
 - collaborating with Indigenous governments on key legislative initiatives, such as the development of new minerals legislation.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Some Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups have expressed interest in having YG enact legislation on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples similar to that enacted by the Governments of Canada, BC and NWT.
- In March 2025, the Government of Canada announced its Action Plan Advisory Committee for implementing its *UN Declaration Act*, that includes a Yukon-based member.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive Council
Office

Background:

- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) is a non-binding international human rights instrument that seeks to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- The Government of Canada brought into force the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* in 2021 and released an Action Plan in 2023 for federal implementation of the Act.
- On March 20, 2025, the Government of Canada established an Action Plan Advisory Committee to provide advice to the federal Minister of Justice on implementing its Action Plan. One of the 10 members is Victoria Fred, a citizen of Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- The federal Act provides for joint priority-setting between the Government of Canada and Indigenous Peoples; it does not enact the Declaration into Canadian law or bind the provinces and territories.
- Although the Declaration has been raised at multiple Yukon Forum meetings and by individual Nations, there has been no consensus to prioritize working jointly on a Yukon approach to it.
- Both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy* reference the Declaration.

Approved by:

KL

November 28, 2025

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

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

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

International Human Rights Treaties

Justice

Recommended response:

- United Nations human rights treaties are instruments of international law, developed to provide a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations.
- The Government of Yukon reports on its international human rights treaty implementation through federal-provincial-territorial coordinating committees and the Forum of Ministers on Human Rights.

Additional response:

- Canada makes decisions about federal participation in international treaties.
- Canada has a protocol for consulting provinces and territories when the country is considering ratification of additional treaties, as the obligation to implement the treaties is shared.

Context:

- Human rights and civil liberties are increasingly perceived as being under threat in Canada and internationally.
- A case is currently before the Supreme Court of Canada on the topic of the increasing provincial use of the Canadian *Charter's* notwithstanding clause to pass rights-infringing legislation and in some cases to attempt to avoid its scrutiny by the courts.
- Canada relies heavily on the *Charter's* guarantee of fundamental rights and freedoms in fulfilling its binding obligations under international human rights treaties.

Background:

- Canada's Human Rights Secretariat coordinates mandatory cyclical reporting under seven United Nations human rights treaties through federal-provincial-territorial coordinating committees; Department of Justice officials represent the Yukon.

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Fall 2025

International Human Rights Treaties

Justice

- All provinces and territories are required to contribute jurisdictional input to periodic reports submitted to the United Nations.
- After reviewing each of Canada's periodic reports, a United Nations committee offers feedback and recommendations for the next reporting cycle. These reports are then tabled in Parliament and made publicly available on the United Nations' website.
- Responsible governments, including the Government of Yukon, are expected to widely disseminate the reviews of treaty implementation.
- The results of the 2025 review of Canada's track record under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was tabled in Parliament on November 19, 2025. The report highlighted significant gaps and implementation concerns.
- Canadian jurisdictions have until 2032 to make additional progress on implementation before the next CRPD periodic report is due.
- Canada is required to appear before the UN committee on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) in March 2026 for its next review.
- Concerns identified during Canada's last review under this treaty (in 2015) included gender-based violence and inequality; Indigenous rights; repressive policing of protests; threats to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association; rights infringements in Canada's prison systems, insufficient safeguards against counter-terrorism overreach and government's mass surveillance of civilians.
- Canada has recently been taking steps to ratify another human rights treaty under the Inter-American treaty system (as opposed to the UN), called the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (commonly known as the Belém do Pará convention).
- The federal Human Rights Secretariat is currently in the process of seeking formal support from all provinces and territories for ratification of the Belém Convention.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Systemic Racism and Justice

Fall 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that systemic racism is a reality for Indigenous and racialized peoples in Canada and in the Yukon.
 - There are federal and territorial efforts to address systemic racism in the justice system.
 - Our government supports the human rights of the Yukon's increasingly diverse landscape of communities and cultures.
-

Context:

- Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People (MMIWG2S+) Strategy explicitly seeks to address systemic racism and has many implications for the Government of Yukon's approach to justice-related matters.
 - The Government of Yukon has ongoing obligations to implement and report on its efforts under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
-

Background:

- "Systemic racism" refers to institutional structures and policies that perpetuate unequal access to resources, opportunities, and power along racial lines, with or without the presence of racist attitudes among those enforcing those rules, practices and systems.
- Justice-related systemic racism outcomes in Canada include the overrepresentation of Indigenous and Black individuals in criminal justice systems; the under- and over-policing of Indigenous and racialized communities; and disparities in access to justice.
- In the 2023 Yukon Bureau of Statistics population report, 21.3% of the Yukon's population identified as Indigenous. During that same period, First Nation individuals made up approximately 70% of inmate admissions, over three times their representation in the general population.

Government of Yukon efforts to address systemic racism

- The Government of Yukon does not currently have a government-wide anti-racism strategy or comprehensive approach to systemic racism and related structural barriers.

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Systemic Racism and Justice

Justice

- Yukon government's *Breaking Trail Together: An Inclusive Yukon Public Service* is a 10-year strategic plan to improve the recruitment and retention of Indigenous employees within the territorial public service consistent with Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.
- The Department of Justice supports or leads initiatives to improve the relationship between Indigenous and racialized Yukoners and the justice system, including:
 - ongoing Administration and Justice Agreement negotiations with self-governing Yukon First Nations governments and the Government of Canada;
 - improving culturally relevant programs and supports available at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre or those supported through Yukon Community Corrections;
 - expansion of supports and partnerships through the therapeutic courts;
 - support for community-led justice initiatives that provide other culturally-relevant programs and services through the department or in partnership with First Nations;
 - the development of cultural safety courses in relation to gender-based violence prevention and media literacy; and
 - training for justice system workers, including for SART partners such as the RCMP and public prosecutors.

Government of Canada efforts to address systemic racism

- In 2019, the Government of Canada established a Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat to lead and support anti-racism initiatives in the federal government. Through the *Building a Foundation for Change: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2019-2022*, the federal government sought to take steps to combat racism and discrimination nationally.
- The Government of Canada's *Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028* aims to tackle systemic racism by removing barriers and making systems more inclusive – especially for marginalized communities.
- The 2025 Indigenous Justice Strategy aims to address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in Canada's justice system, including the revitalization of Indigenous laws.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 26, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2025****Yukon Human Rights Commission Funding**Justice

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Human Rights Commission's mandate is to address human rights complaints, conduct research and provide educational initiatives.
- The Department of Justice is working closely with the Commission to address funding pressures and remains committed to providing the Commission with the resources needed to fulfill its mandate.

Context:

- The Yukon Human Rights Commission (the Commission) was the subject of a 2024 Ombudsman investigation into delays in processing human rights complaints.
- The Department of Justice has committed to supporting the Commission in implementing most of the recommendations from the Ombudsman's investigative report.
- The Commission is advocating publicly for an increase in funding. Recently, this was through an open letter to the Yukon Ombudsman, and similar messaging is likely to accompany its annual report when tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Background:

- The Commission gets its mandate from the *Yukon Human Rights Act*. Its operating budget is appropriated by the Legislative Assembly and managed through the Department of Justice.
- In August 2024, the Yukon Ombudsman released an investigation report about the Commission, which concluded that aspects of the Commission's practices, administration and governing legislation led to unfairness and contributed to delays in processing complaints.
- The Ombudsman also recommended that the Commission's funding be overseen directly by the Legislative Assembly, or that the Commission make submissions on its budget directly to Management Board rather than through the Department of Justice.
- The Department of Justice, in its response to the Ombudsman, indicated additional responsibilities for budgetary oversight of the Commission could not be imposed upon the Legislative Assembly by the Executive Branch of government.

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Yukon Human Rights Commission Funding

Justice

- Instead, such a change would need to be driven by the Legislative Assembly. There are operational considerations between separate and co-equal branches of government that need to be considered before taking on such responsibilities.
- If supported by the Legislative Assembly, the Department of Justice will prepare legislative amendments to support the transfer of budgetary oversight for the Commission from the Department of Justice to the Yukon Legislative Assembly.
- In addition to providing significant funding increases in recent years, the Department of Justice is also working to support the Commission to address its operational needs through legislative and regulatory amendments that have been identified by the Commission, the Ombudsman, and the Department of Justice (See BN # 13 *Human Rights Act Changes*).
- **Funding History for Core Funding of the Yukon Contribution Agreement**
 - 2016–17: \$677,972
 - 2017–18: \$817,000
 - 2018–19: \$803,000
 - 2019–20: \$646,000
 - 2020–21: \$733,000
 - 2021–22: \$708,000
 - 2022–23: \$658,000
 - 2023–24: \$808,000
 - 2024–25: \$923,928
 - 2025–26: \$928,948

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Funding for Legal Aid

Justice

Recommended response:

- We recognize the importance of funding legal aid services to support access to justice for low-income Yukoners.
- Funding for the Yukon Legal Services Society, also known as Yukon Legal Aid, provides a stable core budget for its regular operations.
- The budget for 2025–26 has allocated \$3,475,142 in funding for the Yukon Legal Services Society.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon remains committed to funding legal aid services in the territory to support the Yukon Legal Services Society in delivering on its mandate.

Context:

- The amount of legal aid funding contributed by the Government of Yukon is a topic of continued public interest.
- The Department of Justice routinely receives inquiries and complaints about the income thresholds for the availability of legal aid, which are set by the Yukon Legal Services Society.
- The high caseloads of legal aid lawyers and limited access to legal aid services outside of Whitehorse and for family law matters are also frequently raised as critical gaps in effective access to justice.

Background:

- The Yukon Legal Services Society provides legal aid services in the Yukon under the authority of the *Legal Services Society Act*. A board of directors appointed by the Minister of Justice governs the Society.
- The Act allows the Society to provide eligible Yukoners with legal services in certain types of criminal, civil and family law proceedings.
- The Society also provides poverty law services, such as advice and representation regarding the Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance or Income Assistance.

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Fall 2025

Funding for Legal Aid

Justice

- The Yukon Legal Services Society has three Whitehorse-based clinics and a new Justice Support Centre office that operates in partnership with Kwanlin Dün First Nation. There is a total staff of 21, which includes 12 lawyers, nine support staff and an executive director who reports to the Board of Directors.
- When staff lawyers are unable to provide client representation due to legal conflicts of interest, private lawyers are retained at a set rate to control costs.
- In 2023–24, core funding provided to Legal Aid was \$3,288,000.
- In 2024–25, core funding provided to Legal Aid was \$3,257,820.
- In 2025–26, core funding for Legal Aid will be \$3,475,142.
- There will be additional funding in 2025–26 of \$100,000 for Therapeutic Court representation.
- Pursuant to the new five-year Access to Justice Agreement with the Government of Canada, the federal contributions to core funding are as follows:

2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
\$1,356,163	\$1,616,465	\$1,784,970	\$1,862,420	\$1,846,588

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Outside Counsel Costs – Government-Wide

Justice

Recommended response:

- All legal services to the Government of Yukon are provided through the Department of Justice by an in-house legal team, which contracts outside counsel as needed.
- The total projected contract commitments for outside counsel for the 2025–26 fiscal year are \$1,948,670.
- As of November 19, 2025, actual expenditures for the 2025–26 fiscal year totalled \$505,663.
- Total expenditures for the 2024–25 fiscal year were \$1,279,856.

Additional response:

- Typically, outside counsel costs are incurred to retain specialized expertise or to secure legal representation for litigation occurring outside of the Yukon.
- The use of outside counsel also helps the Government of Yukon to avoid situations where conflicts of interest may occur if specific work were assigned to in-house counsel.

Context:

- The amount the Government of Yukon spends on hiring outside counsel is a subject of public interest.

Background:

- “Outside counsel” refers to private bar lawyers hired on contract by the Department of Justice to provide legal services for the Government of Yukon, often in consultation with a client department, from which the costs are recovered.
- All contracts for outside counsel are set up through the Legal Services Branch at the Department of Justice.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

Outside Counsel Costs – Government-Wide

Justice

- Typical reasons for retaining outside counsel include:
 - the situation is urgent and the requirements to deal with the matter exceed available resources within the Legal Services Branch;
 - the matter is so complex or time-intensive that the Legal Services Branch would not be able to provide the required service while continuing to meet the needs of other clients;
 - the work requires expertise unavailable within the Legal Services Branch;
 - the use of a Government of Yukon lawyer may cause a conflict of interest;
 - representation of the Government of Yukon is needed in a legal action started and conducted outside of the Yukon, where different laws and regulation require outside counsel to be used or in-person appearances are more cost-effective; or
 - special circumstances exist that require a particular lawyer or law firm.
- By department, total projected contract commitments for outside counsel for the 2025–26 fiscal year are \$1,948,671 and are as follows:
 - Justice: \$446,978,
 - Health and Social Services: \$367,667,
 - Energy Mines and Resources: \$254,004,
 - Public Services Commission: \$170,048,
 - Economic Development: \$155,613,
 - Yukon Development Corp: \$150,000,
 - Tourism: \$120,000,
 - Education: \$65,00,
 - Executive Counsel Office: \$82,173,
 - Community Services: \$48,479,
 - Finance: \$ 35,000,
 - Highway and Public Works: \$28,709, and
 - Yukon Housing Corp: \$25,000.
- Projected contract commitments each year are generally higher than actual costs.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

November 27, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- On November 14, 2025, the Supreme Court of Yukon approved the settlement agreement for the Jack Hulland Elementary School class action lawsuit.
- Students and former students of Jack Hulland Elementary School who experienced holds, restraints, or seclusion between January 1, 2007, and June 30, 2022, make up the class of plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

Additional response:

- The agreement has three components: a tiered Claims Protocol, a Special Counselling Fund, and an Acknowledgement and Apology.
- The claims process has three tiers that will provide compensation proportional to the harms experienced by individuals:
 - In Tier 1, there is a minimum payment of \$10,000 for anyone subjected to an incident of a hold, restraint, or seclusion.
 - In Tier 2, claimants can be compensated up to \$300,000 based on lasting harm caused by incidents they experienced.
 - Tier 3 deals with claimants alleging the most severe and lasting harm. Successful Tier 3 claimants could receive up to \$1 million.
- A new temporary and independent office overseen by the Department of Justice will be established to administer the claims process.
- The Government of Yukon will issue a public statement acknowledging and apologizing for the harm suffered by class members.
- A Special Counselling Fund will be established for the costs of counselling and related treatment that are not otherwise covered.

Context:

- The Jack Hulland Settlement Agreement was approved by the Supreme Court of Yukon on November 14, 2025, and there may be questions regarding the settlement process, public apology, and associated costs.
-

Background:

- In October 2022, the action was filed against the Department of Education and the Jack Hulland School Council. The litigation against the school council was subsequently dismissed, on consent. In September 2023, the action was certified as a class action lawsuit.
 - In August 2025, the parties arrived at a mediated settlement, which was approved by the Supreme Court of Yukon in November 2025.
 - There was a related previous criminal investigation. The RCMP final report was forwarded to the Public Prosecution Service of Canada in June 2024. No criminal charges were laid.
 - The claims process has three Tiers. Compensation amounts below are inclusive of all damages (compensatory, aggravated, and punitive) as well as interest, costs, and disbursements:
 - Tier 1 – Proof of Incident (\$10,000-\$35,000)- Claimants must show that they had been subjected to one or more incidents of a hold, restraint or seclusion.
 - Tier 2 – Proof of Harm (up to \$300,000) – Claimants are required to show that an incident that occurred has caused them some lasting compensable harm.
 - Tier 3 – Liability and Harm (up to \$1 million) - Tier 3 is designed to deal with claimants alleging the most severe and lasting harm.
 - To administer the claims process, the Department of Justice is contracting with a retired judge of the Supreme Court of Yukon to oversee the claims process. This was agreed to by both parties to the settlement agreement.
 - To support this process, the Department of Justice is also entering into contracts for support staff and mobilizing corporate services from the Department of Justice to support the operations of this new, temporary office to process claims and to pay compensation in a timely way.
-

Session Briefing Note

TAB# SC06
Fall 2025

Schools - Jack Hulland Elementary School
Settlement Agreement

Education / Justice

Approved by:

Mary Cameron

November 28, 2025

Deputy Minister, Department of Education

Date approved

Mark Radke

November 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, Department of Justice

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

Session Briefing Note
Eagle Gold MineEnergy, Mines and
Resources / Finance

Recommended response:

- There is no new funding required for the Eagle remediation.
- Our priorities are to ensure fiscal responsibility, site stability and safety, and protecting Yukoners and the environment.
- We are committed to implementing changes to the inspections and compliance regime to ensure that mines are operating safely, so future generations are left with strong economic legacies versus environmental liabilities.

Additional response:

- Actions taken on site have resulted in improved conditions in the downstream environment. We are confident that the ongoing work will further improve physical and environmental stability.
- The sales process is an important step in the response to the failure event. We are committed to ensure a responsible bidder is chosen for the site and that Yukoners' interests are addressed in a sales decision (see session note #2).

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is significant interest in the Government of Yukon's response to the Eagle Gold heap leach failure and the sales process for the mine.
- Supports platform theme: Revitalizing the development of our natural resources.

Background:

Session Briefing Note
Eagle Gold MineEnergy, Mines and
Resources / Finance

General:

- On June 24, 2024, the Eagle Gold Mine heap leach facility located in the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun's Traditional Territory failed, resulting in ore and cyanide solution leaving containment and flowing into the Dublin Gulch Valley.
- On August 14, 2024, PricewaterhouseCoopers was appointed as Receiver over Victoria Gold Corp's assets.
- The Receiver is accountable to the Court and reports to the Court periodically. To date there have been seven court reports, the most recent of which is dated November 20, 2025.
- The Receiver posts regular site progress updates to provide information on the site and remediation efforts. All information is publicly available on the Receiver's website.

Financial:

- The Ontario Superior Court of Justice approved the Government of Yukon to loan up to \$220 million to the court-appointed Receiver for the Victoria Gold Corp.
- To date, the Government of Yukon has advanced \$175 million, of which \$104 million was sourced from surety bonds held under mining licenses.
- The Receiver is also enabled to use company resources and proceeds from asset monetization efforts to fund the Receivership. To date, more than \$69 million has been monetized and used to offset the costs to the Government of Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon and the Receiver have a financial agreement that outlines how money is advanced and which source of funds are used to support the receivership, and the conditions that must be met to receive advances.
- The funding agreement with the Receiver emphasizes the importance of providing local benefits to the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, its development corporation, and Mayo and the Yukon's residents and businesses.

Session Briefing Note
Eagle Gold MineEnergy, Mines and
Resources / Finance

- The loan to the Receiver is secured by a court-ordered super-priority charge and is recorded as a loan receivable, offsetting the impact of the O&M appropriation and resulting in no impact on the surplus or net financial debt.
- Interest applies to all loan advances to the Receiver at a rate of 9 per cent per annum. Interest earned on the loan is recorded as revenue to the Government of Yukon, which has a positive impact on the budgetary surplus.

Sale and Assets:

- The Court approved a sales process for the mine. The Receiver began this process on June 30, 2025. The Sales Process timeline was recently amended to allow for refreshed non-binding proposals to be submitted on December 10, 2025. The publicly communicated closing date for a successful bid remains December 31, 2025, although it is expected that this date will be extended.
- The Government of Yukon provided criteria for interested parties within the Sales Process document; these criteria help inform the evaluation of qualified bidders.
- Economic Development is leading the sales process with support from Energy, Mines and Resources (see session note #2).

Remediation and environmental

- The Government of Yukon is the primary regulator and funder for the project and directs what work is required on site to achieve regulatory requirements and technical objectives.
- The Government of Yukon approves the Receiver's proposed budgets, reviews invoices, and ensures funds are used appropriately and that all activities on site do not limit future opportunities at the site.
- Work completed to date has improved the physical stability of the heap leach facility and improved conditions for workers' health and safety.
- Significant environmental management efforts have been successful in reducing environmental impacts and limiting further contamination.

Session Briefing Note
Eagle Gold MineEnergy, Mines and
Resources / Finance

- Environmental management systems put in place by the Receiver are anticipated to continue to limit additional contamination and improve conditions on site throughout winter.
- Work remains to be completed to meet regulatory requirements for physical and chemical stability at the mine site. This work includes repair of water storage ponds, and construction work on the heap leach facility.
- Construction work will be completed in the winter months. Ongoing monitoring and management will be required to maintain environmental and physical stability at the site.
- The Receiver continues to implement a comprehensive environmental monitoring program to identify effects on and off site.
- The Government of Yukon response team meets regularly with the technical staff of the FNNND and their technical consultants and with the Government of Canada to provide updates and coordinate responses.

Inspections and Compliance

- The Government of Yukon's role as regulator and enforcement body is to closely monitor the situation at the mine site and, when appropriate, issue directions to Victoria Gold Corp.
- The Receiver has implemented all the directed measures and continues to provide reports on the effectiveness of these measures.
- The Government of Yukon continues to inspect the Eagle Gold site on a weekly basis.
- FNNND regularly attends site with the Compliance Monitoring Inspections team.

FIN #07 / EMR #1
Fall 2025**Session Briefing Note**
Eagle Gold MineEnergy, Mines and
Resources / Finance

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

November 28, 2025

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Katherine White

November 28, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

ECO TAB #5/ EMR TAB #3/ JUS TAB #95

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2025

FNNND v. Yukon and Canada

Executive Council Office,
Justice and Energy, Mines
and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is aware that the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun filed a Statement of Claim in the Supreme Court of Yukon on December 9, 2025.
- We remain committed to working respectfully with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun on priorities critical to our government-to-government relationship.
- We continue working with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada to advance the implementation Final and Self-Government Agreements.

Additional response:

- The Statement of Claim identifies the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada as defendants.
- The Statement of Claim covers a range of issues including treaty interpretation, land use planning, mining authorizations and enforcement and fish and wildlife management.
- We are reviewing the Statement of Claim and have no further comments at this time.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun's Statement of Claim is likely to draw attention from industry as well as other Indigenous governments and groups.
- A Statement of Claim against YG on different matters was also filed by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on December 4, 2025.

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Background:

- According to the Statement of Claim, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) claims that the Crown has breached the FNNND Final Agreement (the "Treaty"), unjustifiably infringed upon FNNND's rights under the Treaty, and failed to fulfil constitutional duties flowing from the honour of the Crown.
- The Statement of Claim also alleges that the Government of Yukon has breached the *Environment Act* as well as other legislative requirements, and it is seeking damages as well as declaratory and injunctive relief.
- YG and FNNND have been engaged in challenging discussions on several matters, including:
 - The appropriateness of approving development in FNNND's Traditional Territory while land use planning is outstanding;
 - The policies underlying the draft framework for new minerals legislation;
 - The June 2024 Eagle Gold heap leach failure;
 - The resumption of consultations in the wake of the Eagle Gold heap leach failure;
 - The temporary regulations extending expired placer and quartz authorizations;
 - Withdrawing land from staking while land use planning and minerals legislation are under development; and
 - The implementation of the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan.

ECO TAB #5/ EMR TAB #3/ JUS TAB #95

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- Reference session briefing notes:
 - EMR #1 – Eagle Gold Mine (joint with Finance)
 - EMR #4 – Independent Review Board Response
 - EMR #5 – Permitting and Regulatory amendments
 - EMR #20 – Regional Land Use Planning

Approved by:

KL

December 10, 2025

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date approved

Approved by:

SVDM

December 10, 2025

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Approved by:

MR

December 10, 2025

Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved