

Community Services Legislative Briefing Notes Fall 2023 sitting

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CS Accomplishments

TAB CS-01

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Community Services

Regulatory and Consumer Affairs

PLRA- Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, **ESRT**- Employment Standards and Residential Tenancies, **PAT**- Property Assessment and Taxation, **CORP**- Corporate Affairs, **PL**- Public Libraries, **BS**- Building Safety

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
Sept 2023	Full review of <i>Residential Landlord and Tenant Act</i> began.	ESRT	CASA 2023
Sept 2023	Yukon Public Libraries abolished late fees	PL	Government Priority (red tape reduction)
July 2023	In July 2023, Yukon Public Libraries upgraded its online system. Changes include a new catalogue which will make navigating the online resources easier and introduces new features. Official launch in October during Library Month.	PL	
July 2023	Launched SEDAR+ with other jurisdictions. The new system is used by all market participants to file, disclose and search for securities issuer info in Canada's capital markets	CORP	Government Priority (red tape reduction)
Spring 2023	Established National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a Yukon statutory day	ESRT	TRC to Action
April 2023	In April 2023, Building Safety implemented the new National Building Code.	BS	Routine adoption of updates to <i>Building Standards Act</i> .
April 1, 2023	Effective April 1, 2023, Yukon's minimum wage increased from \$15.70 to \$16.77 per hour, the highest in the country. 2022: \$15.70, 2021: \$15.20, 2020: \$13.71	ESRT	Putting People First

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CS Accomplishments

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Feb 2023	Rent index renewed/capped at 5 per cent or 2% if inflation falls below 2%. (2021-22: 1%, 2022-2023:3.3%)	ESRT	CASA 2023
Feb 2023	Rent index renewed/capped at 5 per cent or 2% if inflation falls below 2%. (2021-22: 1%, 2022-2023:3.3%)	ESRT	CASA 2023
Oct. 2022	Better Building Program launched. Low-interest energy efficiency loan program for all Yukon property owners.	PAT	Mandate
April 2021	The New Societies Act and regulations come into force on April 1, 2021. Updated 30-year-old legislation. All existing societies have until March 32,2023 to transition to new legislation (deadline extended to August 13). New legislation follows other Canadian jurisdictions in shifting from a regulatory interventionalist model to a simpler registry model.	ESRT	Mandate
April 15, 2021	The Midwifery Regulation, standards of practice and code of ethics come into effect. The regulatory framework for the practice of Midwifery in the territory is a key step to regulate, fund, and integrate midwifery into the Yukon's health care system.	PLRA	Putting People First
2021	New leave in Employment Standards Act provides access to paid or unpaid leave for eligible victims of domestic or sexualized violence.	ESRT	October 2019 mandate letter
August 1, 2019 June 28, 2022	The Pharmacist Regulation came into effect under the Health Professions Act, and was a key step in modernizing the regulation of pharmacists and dispensing physicians. In 2022, the scope of a	PLRA	Putting People First

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CS Accomplishments

Community Services

	pharmacists was amended to allow prescribing for minor ailments.		
November 2022-September 2023	PLRA has launched an online licence and registration system for 22 professions. The final phase of the project will see physicians, and when regulated - psychologists, added to the system. This project was key to reducing red tape and streamlining processes for applicants and registrants.	PLRA	Putting People First

Community Development

CO - Community Development, **LD** - Land Development, **ID** - Infrastructure Development, **CA** - Community Affairs, **SR** - Sport and Recreation

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
August 2023	Completed new Carmacks fire hall	ID	
Summer 2023	Launched the online flood atlas in 2023 that improves the efficiency and speed of sharing flood information with the public.	Joint CS ENVI project	
Feb 2023	All 8 municipalities signed agreements that allowed residents to access the Better Buildings program.	CA	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
January 2023	The new municipal services building in Watson Lake opened this past winter, housing the town's fire hall, public works department and training facility.	ID	

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CS Accomplishments

Community Services

2023	Implemented organics composting programs at Carcross, Deep Creek, Marsh Lake, Tagish and Mount Lorne (Mount Lorne pilot project begun in 2021) waste management facilities.	CO	Our Clean Future
2023	Delivered 807 lots in Whitehorse and rural communities since 2016 for residential, commercial, and industrial development, and we are on track to delivering on the 1,000-lot mandate between 2021/22 and 2025/26.	LD	Mandate
2023	White River First Nations Community Centre has reached substantial completion, anticipated finished December 2023.	ID	
2023	Sent Yukon athletes to compete in the 2023 Arctic Winter Games, 2022 Canada Summer Games, 2023 Canada Winter Games, 2023 North American Indigenous Games	SR	
2023	Accepted the Arctic Winter Games International Committee request for support to host the 2026 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse.	SR	
March 2023	Construction on the new arena in Carmacks is now complete. The community hosted a grand opening event on March 11.	ID	
Sept 2022	Completed the Faro public works and firehall building.	ID	
2020-23 ongoing	Began modernizing the Yukon's waste management system, starting with introduction of tipping fees and regionalization of landfills.	CO	Ministerial Mandate - Streicker
Fall 2022	Amendment to Municipal Act – Change terms of office for municipal councils and local advisory councils from three to four years.	CA	AYC Resolution
2020-2021	The Yukon Government and Canada jointly provided \$4.35 in funding to Yukon municipalities to support COVID-19 related operating and	CA	Federal Priority - Commitment

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CS Accomplishments

Community Services

	maintenance costs incurred in the 2020-21 fiscal year. Of the 4.35 in funding, 500K was specifically allocated to support public transit.		by First Ministers (Government of Canada Safe Restart Agreement).
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Protective Services

EMO - Emergency Measures Organization, **FMO** - Fire Marshals Office (Fire & Life Safety),
WFM - Wildland Fire Management

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
2023	Launched the online Wildfire Hub to improve public access to information about wildfires and local wildfire impacts.	WFM	Mandate
2023	Successfully responded to floods and wildfires in partnership with other departments and all levels of government.	WFM	Mandate
2022-23	Significant progress on Whitehorse South Fuel Break, with 78,000 aspen seedlings planted in 2022 in areas of Whitehorse that had been treated for wildfire risk, and 90,000 planned to be planted in 2023 in Whitehorse and Haines Junction	WFM	-Our Clean Future (Phase 2 – To be confirmed) -2 billion Trees Contribution Agreement –

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CS Accomplishments

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			Yukon Wildfire Resiliency Aspen Plant
2022	Community Wildfire Protection Plans signed in HJ, Teslin	WFM	Our Clean Futures (item C9)
2021	Completed an independent review of the fire services in November 2021 and started implementing key recommendations.	FMO	Mandate

Approved by:



October 4th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Climate Change Resilience and
the National Building Code of
Canada**

Community Services

Recommended response:

- As of April 1, 2023, Yukon has put in place the 2020 National Building Code. The 2020 Code includes energy efficiency tiers, which provides incremental increases in energy efficiency to help address the climate change impacts of our buildings.
 - As with all changes to the National Building Code, we continue to assess how best to incorporate the changes within the context of our northern climate and our goals under the Climate Change, Energy and Green Economy Strategy.
 - Taking action to improve the standard of construction for our homes and buildings will bring many benefits for Yukoners - reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the consumption of heating fuel and electricity, not to mention potential savings, comfort and safety.
-

Context:

- This may be an issue because the 2020 National Building Code was published in March 2022, and enforcement in Yukon began on April 1, 2023.
 - In the spring of 2019, it was announced that changes were coming to the 2020 National Building Code of Canada to address climate change issues and make housing structures more resilient.
-

Background:

- In 2019, the Government of Canada announced it will spend an additional \$40 million over five years to integrate climate resilience into building codes and design-guides.
 - The 2020 National Building Code includes energy efficiency tiers, which provides incremental increases in energy efficiency. Yukon will need to decide what tier to
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Session Briefing Note**Climate Change Resilience and
the National Building Code of
Canada**

Community Services

enforce with a gradual increase of tiers over time in order to reach the goal of net zero energy ready by 2032.

- Net zero means a home produces the same amount of energy as it consumes, and a net zero ready home is one that is designed to be ultra-efficient, with the goal of being net zero at some point in the future.
- As per the *Building Standards Act*, Yukon automatically adopts the National Building Code when it is published. The changes to the National Building Code are of interest to the construction industry and the homeowners.
- In 2016, the Yukon government made amendments to the Regulation exempting the following from section 9.36 of the National Building Code:
 - Set a minimum eight inches' thickness for squared logs and ten inches' minimum diameter for round logs in exterior walls of log homes;
 - Reduce minimum insulation requirement in ceilings from R60 to R40;
 - Remove minimum insulation requirement of floors in heated crawl space; and,
 - Exempt residences 480 square feet or less from section 9.36 requirements.
- In December 2012, an 'energy efficiency' section, not in previous codes, was added to the National Building Code. This section requires new construction to have:
 - Minimum insulation requirements for, below the floor/slab or in floors, walls and ceilings;
 - Minimum U-values for all doors and windows;
 - Minimum performance ratings of all furnaces and water heaters;
 - Woodstoves must be Environment Protection Agency (EPA) approved (city bylaw requires this); and,
 - Building plans must pass an energy audit; to reduce the burden of this requirement, several Yukon government agencies worked together to create preapprovals of most common building methods used in Yukon.

Session Briefing Note**Climate Change Resilience and
the National Building Code of
Canada**

Community Services

- The National Building Code is not retroactive—existing buildings are not currently required to upgrade to new codes unless major renovation occurs. Pursuing options for existing buildings will require both incentives and enforcement.
- The City of Whitehorse sets some higher energy-efficiency requirements for new buildings than the Yukon. Nevertheless, any changes the Yukon proposes to make for existing commercial and residential buildings will affect the City of Whitehorse Lands and Building Services Department's resources and code enforcement.

Financial Implications:

- No associated financial implications until such time that the standards are adopted into the National Building Code.

Approved by:

September 5th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

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Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We are developing a framework of tools for exploration and mining in planned and zoned communities and to clarify land uses and help avoid potential conflicts.
- We worked with communities to develop a draft framework and we are finalizing the framework based on feedback received.
- Concurrently, we are working with municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and affected communities to help resolve land use conflicts when they occur.

Additional response:

- Mineral staking is prohibited in the City of Dawson and most of the City of Whitehorse. There are, however, existing mineral claims in these municipalities.
- Exploration and mining activities within community boundaries are subject to mineral development and environmental laws, official community plans, local area plans and zoning regulations.
- Areas without planning or zoning may require solutions to address land use conflicts.
- Part of the work to develop successor resource legislation is to address some of these issues through legislative change. (See BN #8)

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Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and Resources

-
- Public engagement and Yukon First Nations consultation on the draft framework concluded in November 2022.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Communities have expressed concern over the conflicts inherent in mineral development within community boundaries.
- There may be questions about the Gladiator Metals Ltd. activity areas near Cowley Creek, just outside of Whitehorse. (See BN #2)
- There is currently a lawsuit that has been brought against the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon by a placer claim holder, alleging a regulatory taking of their placer claims within the City of Dawson.

Background:

- Although there are pre-existing placer claims within some municipalities, the *Placer Mining Act* does not allow new placer claims within any of the Yukon's eight incorporated municipalities, including Dawson and Whitehorse.
- In summer 2022, the Government of Yukon extended a prohibition order for the City of Whitehorse until July 2027, restricting quartz mineral staking within most areas.
- A quartz claim staking prohibition order is in place for the City of Dawson until December 2023. We are working closely with the City to provide a renewed quartz staking prohibition within its municipal boundary.
- Several unincorporated communities have requested prohibitions in areas zoned for non-industrial use under their local area plans.
- The City of Dawson has a number of active mining operations that may conflict with community development interests. The municipality is making its best efforts to enable these operations and the Government of Yukon is providing support as required.

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Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Comprehensive Municipal Grant Community Services**

Recommended response:

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant provides core funding support to municipalities and is based on the principles of adequacy, certainty, equity, transparency and accountability.
- The Grant formula accounts for inflation. The calculations use data from two years prior, so it can take some time for inflation to be captured by the formula. Grant funding to municipalities has continued to increase annually under the current formula.
- For 2023, the Comprehensive Municipal Grant totaled more than \$22 million for municipal governments and is expected to continue to increase due to inflation, among other factors.

Context:

- This may become an issue because renewal of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant prior will generate interest from municipalities.

Background:

- The grant calculation involves a formula that considers a base amount per municipality; and factors in the population, number of homes, the infrastructure assets that provide services and the municipalities' own revenue generation capacity.
- The grant formula was last reviewed and updated by Yukon government and municipalities in 2018. Community Services is working in partnership with the Association of Yukon Communities to undertake a comprehensive review of the grant to ensure the core purpose of the formula is still being met.
- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant was last reviewed in 2017-18 and resulted in changes to factors within the grant formula including the establishment of a

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Fall 2023

Comprehensive Municipal Grant Community Services

funding floor at the 2017 funding levels from 2017-2022. These changes led to increased grant payments to municipalities for the 2018 to 2023 grant years and it is expected that the grant will continue to increase in 2024 and beyond.

- In 2020, the Community Affairs branch formed a joint CMG review working group with the AYC. Between 2020 and 2022, the group met 17 times to discuss the efficacy of the current Comprehensive Municipal Grant formula and its various components.
- In late 2022, the AYC Board identified the need to hire a consultant to assist in gathering, analyzing and summarizing the information developed by the review committee since 2020 and to develop recommendations for amendments.
- AYC hired a consultant to undertake this work. The Government of Yukon contributed \$8,000 towards this contract.
- The consultant's report was finalized in July 2023 and submitted to the Government for consideration. The department is reviewing the report.

Financial Implications:

- The formula includes lagging indicators that will result in increases to catch up to inflation. The grant is projected to grow from \$22.241m in 2023 to \$24.556 m in 2024; and upwards toward \$27m by 2026.

Approved by:


September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****AYC Resolutions and Status**Community Services

Recommended response:

- The recent Annual General Meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities in May of 2023 provided the Government of Yukon with valuable insights into the issues of importance to municipalities.
 - We have demonstrated our commitment to working with the Association of Yukon Communities to serve the interests of Yukoners, and look forward to ongoing collaboration.
 - Already this government has actioned resolutions where possible, and we are considering others alongside our government's mandate and priorities.
-

Context:

- AYC put forward several resolutions at its last Annual General Meeting.
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Background:

- Eight (8) resolutions were voted on and passed unanimously at the Annual General meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) in May 2023.
 - Resolutions passed include:
 - *Resolution 23-AT-01: Municipal Act Review*
 - Community Services is leading the response.
 - YG has responded by requesting AYC to share specific information and context on the issues municipalities would like addressed in the *Municipal Act*. This will be informed through ongoing dialogue between YG officials, CAOs and the Executive Director AYC.
 - YG has requested a jurisdictional scan on municipal best practices from national colleagues. The results will be shared with AYC once received.
 - *Resolution 23-AT-02: Allowing Permanent Residents to Vote.*
 - Community Services is leading the response.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****AYC Resolutions and Status****Community Services**

- YG has responded that research is underway to understand the Canadian legal context of permanent voter eligibility.
- YG has received a jurisdictional scan from national colleagues who have considered allowing permanent residents to vote and will work with AYC to determine next steps.
- *Resolution 23-AT-03: Increase of Canada Community Building Fund*
 - The Federal government is leading the response.
 - The federal response indicated that work to renew the administrative agreements is underway and encourages continued collaboration with the Department of Community Services
- *Resolution 23-AT-04: Disaster Financial Assistance Program*
 - Community Services is leading the response.
 - Our response has stated that a territorial disaster financial assistance policy is in development, guided by the *Our Clean Future* strategy.
- *Resolution 23-AT-05: Meaningful Consultation with Municipalities*
 - Community Services is leading the response.
 - Response has emphasized the importance of respectful collaboration for the benefit of all Yukoners.
- *Resolution 23-AT-06: EMS Service*
 - Health & Social Services is leading the response.
 - The HSS response indicated that the Director of EMS is working with the City of Dawson to address areas of concern, provides information about contingency plans when coverage is unavailable, and suggests that municipalities continue conversations with the Director of EMS.
- *Resolution 23-AT-07: Sustainable and Long-term Funding for the Humane Society*
 - Environment is leading the response.
 - Response indicated that YG provided bridge funding to sustain both Humane Societies (Dawson and Whitehorse), committing to work with both societies to determine their priorities and needs, and committing to equitable funding agreements.

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AYC Resolutions and Status

Community Services

- Resolution 23-AT-08: Peripheral Tax Rate
 - YG responded indicating that a review is planned.

Financial Implications:

- Not costed

Approved by:



September 7th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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Solid Waste Management, Regionalization and Transfer Stations

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is working toward a sustainable model for solid waste management in the Yukon. We are investing in waste management facilities that reflect modern and sustainable practices that benefit the environment and the economy.
- Once regionalization is fully implemented, all waste disposal facilities in Yukon will have gates, operating hours, tipping fees, and on-site staff to monitor and manage waste streams. This will reduce environmental risk and help to extend the life of landfills, and costs associated with liabilities.
- We thank the Association of Yukon Communities for their assistance and leadership in developing the regional agreements and for their support as we continue to implement the recommendations from the 2018 report: *Recommendations for Action towards a Sustainable Solid Waste Management System for Yukon*.
- As we continue implementation of these recommendations, we remain committed to working with affected communities to find local solutions for managing solid waste.
- See CO05 Note for details on consultation with the unincorporated areas and transfer stations.

Context:

- This may become an issue because of concerns about closure of transfer stations in Braeburn, Johnson's Crossing, Keno and Silver City.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Solid Waste Management,
Regionalization and Transfer
Stations**

Community Services

Background:

- A Ministerial Committee made recommendations for actions related to solid waste management in Yukon in April 2018. The Committee was co-chaired by the Association of Yukon Communities and the Government of Yukon. Membership included Municipal representatives and Government of Yukon staff. They produced a report on their recommendations that was provided to the Minister of Community Services at that time.
- The recommendations involved regionalization of landfills, a user-pay model that involves standardized tipping fees, and transfer station facility closures the recommendations are being implemented in three phases:
 - Phase 1 includes user pay model in the Whitehorse periphery (tipping fees) at Marsh Lake, Tagish, Carcross, Mt Lorne and Deep Creek;
 - Phase 2 includes introducing gates, staff, and tipping fees at YG sites (Destruction Bay, Champagne, and Pelly Crossing) and all municipal sites outside Whitehorse, as well as the closure of Braeburn, Johnson's Crossing, Keno and Silver City transfer stations; and
 - Phase 3 includes implementing gates, staff and tipping fees at the YG run Beaver Creek and Old Crow solid waste facilities.
- Ten-year Waste Management Plans have been completed by all municipalities and are under review by regional YESAB offices. This is a key milestone to allow municipal (ie: Regional) waste permits to be renewed and leases to be drafted.
- Illegal dumping has not increased as result of tipping fees introduced in the Southern Lakes / Deep Creek area. Fines for illegal dumping were increased to improve enforcement mechanisms if needed.

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**Solid Waste Management,
Regionalization and Transfer
Stations**

Community Services

Approved by:



September 6th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Extended Producer Responsibility**

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government is working to establish an Extended Producer Responsibility framework in the Yukon by 2025. We are on track to become the first territory to adopt such a framework, which will ensure Yukoners can continue to recycle and responsibly manage a variety of materials.
- Recent amendments to the *Environment Act* give us the ability to place the responsibility of waste management collection and processing on large national corporations rather than on Yukon's small businesses.
- Extended Producer Responsibility is a waste management framework that provides a long-lasting solution to the underlying structural issues facing the Yukon's recycling system and reduces the cost of recycling to the Yukon taxpayer.
- We have all noticed the impact to recycling services over the last year. Most recently, processors announced that they would no longer be accepting soft plastics. Under an Extended Producer Responsibility system, the government can require producers to collect products like soft plastics, glass and other hard-to-recycle materials to ensure they are designed out of the system, reused or recycled.
- We are aware of a recent decision by a federal court overturning aspects of the Government of Canada's ban on single use plastics.
- This decision is not expected to affect Yukon's single-use bag ban and we are waiting for the federal government to assess the impacts of this court decision on their single use plastics ban.

Additional response:

- While we heard widespread support for an Extended Producer Responsibility system during our public engagement period, respondents

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Extended Producer Responsibility**Environment

raised concerns about potential cost impacts to residents and Yukon businesses.

- Because Extended Producer Responsibility systems are already in place across Canada, national chains have already incorporated the cost of funding these systems into their prices.
- A recent economic analysis estimated that collectively Yukoners are already paying an estimated \$1.3M - \$2.9M annually for Extended Producer Responsibility services that the territory is not receiving.

Third response:

- We anticipate having an Extended Producer Responsibility regulation in place by this winter.
- Once the regulation is adopted, we will begin an implementation period of approximately two years, where we will work with Yukon producers to establish a functioning Extended Producer Responsibility system.
- The implementation period will start with stewardship plan development and approval, and end in 2025, with the producer-led waste diversion programs in operation.
- The stewardship plan review and approval stage will allow our government to ensure that plans align with service level expectations, recovery targets and our waste diversion objectives.
- To ensure concerned Yukon businesses and recycling stakeholders have the certainty they need, the Yukon government has maintained an ongoing dialogue to address concerns and inform the development and implementation of our system.
- We are committed to continuing this dialogue up to and beyond the implementation of an Extended Producer Responsibility system in the Yukon.

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Extended Producer Responsibility

Environment

Context—this may be an issue because:

- In April 2023 Raven ReCentre announced they will no longer accept soft plastics and Yukoners may want to know if Extended Producer Responsibility will restore those services.
- Yukon businesses may have questions about how an Extended Producer Responsibility framework may impact their operations and finances.

Background:

- From January to May 2022, the Department of Environment worked with an Advisory Committee to collect preliminary input on Extended Producer Responsibility. Public engagement on Extended Producer Responsibility was held from November 1, 2022, to February 17, 2023 (see Appendix A).
- In 2022, the Government of Yukon spent approximately one million dollars to support the recycling of non-refundable paper and packaging through diversion credits. The cost is expected to increase in 2023 to approximately \$1.5 million.
- In April 2023, Raven Recycling announced that they will close the public drop-off for non-refundables by the end of 2023 unless there is a budgeted blue box program being implemented.
- At the July meeting of the Canadian Ministers of the Environment, the Yukon delegation heard from the representative of large producers who expressed their support for Extended Producer Responsibility across Canada, including in the Yukon.
- On November 9, 2023, the City of Whitehorse announced that they would be launching a Request for Information to explore the feasibility of a curbside recycling program. The City estimates that a curbside recycling program would cost approximately \$960,000 in capital costs for the purchase of recycling containers and \$2.2 Million in yearly operating costs.
- On November 16, 2023, a Federal Court ruled against the federal government's 2021 decision to list plastic as toxic under federal pollution legislation. Listing plastics as toxic enabled the federal government to implement a single use plastics ban. The federal government is currently considering appealing the court decision.
- The Yukon's single use bag ban is unlikely to be impacted by the federal court decision as it is enabled through the Yukon's Environment Act. Under the Act, the

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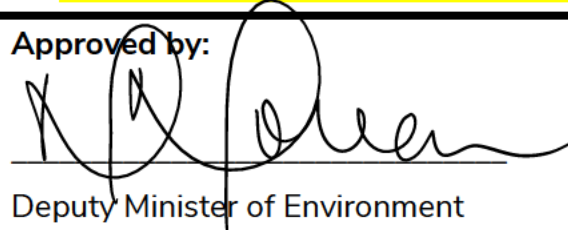
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Extended Producer Responsibility

Environment

Yukon's Minister of Environment can ban the sale of products or packaging that will cause a significant impairment of the natural environment.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Environment

2023-11-20

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Extended Producer Responsibility

Environment

Appendix A: Summary of public engagement on Extended Producer Responsibility

(November 1, 2022 – February 17, 2023)

EPR Advisory Committee (EPRAC) is composed of the City of Whitehorse, Association of Yukon Communities, Town of Watson Lake, Raven ReCentre, P&M Recycling, Blue Bin, Community Services, Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and Yukon Chamber of Commerce.

Date and time	Format	Audience	Participation
Pre-engagement Period (January 1, 2022 - October 31, 2022)			
Jan 26, 2022, 1pm-4pm	Zoom	EPRAC	8 EPRAC members, support from 4 Producer Responsibility Organizations and the BC and Alberta Ministries of Environment
Feb 17, 2022, 1pm-4pm	Zoom	EPRAC	8 EPRAC members, support from 5 Producer Responsibility Organizations and the BC Ministry of Environment
Mar 9, 2022, 1pm-4pm	Zoom	EPRAC	10 EPRAC members, support from 4 Producer Responsibility Organizations and the BC Ministry of Environment

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Extended Producer Responsibility

Environment

Date and time	Format	Audience	Participation
Apr 5, 2022, 1pm-4pm	Zoom	EPRAC	8 EPRAC members, support from 3 Producer Responsibility Organizations and the BC Ministry of Environment
May 31, 2022, 2:30pm-4:30pm	Zoom	EPRAC	EPRAC members
Oct 25, 2022, 10:30am-12pm	In-person, AYC office	AYC Executive Director	Direct information session
Oct 26, 2022, 2pm-3:30pm	In-person, Yukon Chamber of Commerce office	Executive Directors of Yukon Chamber of Commerce and Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce	Direct information session
Engagement Period (November 1, 2022 – February 17, 2023)			
Nov 2 at 2:15pm	In-person (KDCC) & Zoom	Yukon Recycling Summit participants	~40 in person and ~15 online participants
Nov 16, 9:30am-10:30am	Zoom	Food Producers of Canada	Direct information session
Nov 21, 12pm-1pm	Zoom	Retail Council of Canada	Information session to ~50 online participants
Nov 24, 6:30pm – 8pm	Zoom	Yukon stakeholders (aimed at potential obligated producers)	No attendance

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Extended Producer Responsibility**

Environment

Date and time	Format	Audience	Participation
Nov 25, 10am-11:30am	Zoom	Yukon stakeholders (aimed at potential obligated producers)	5 people
Nov 29, 6:30pm – 7:30pm	Zoom	General public	No attendance
Dec 2, 11:30am-12:30pm	In-person, Takhini Arena	Association of Yukon Communities administrators	Chief Administrative Officers and other AYC members
Dec 3, 1:45pm-2:30pm	In-person, Takhini Arena	Association of Yukon Communities elected officials	Chief Administrative Officers and elected officials
Dec 5, 1:30pm-3pm	Zoom	Yukon service providers sessions	2 people
Dec 6, 10:30am to 12pm	Zoom	Non-Yukon stakeholders	17 people
Dec 8, 2:30pm-4pm	Zoom	First Nations	6 people representing 3 First Nations, 1 transboundary First Nation, and CYFN
Dec 14, 5:30-7 pm	In-person, Whitehorse Library	General public	2 people
Dec 15, 10am-11:30am	Zoom	Yukon stakeholders (aimed at potential obligated producers)	5 people
Dec 12, 10am-11am	Microsoft Teams	Product Care	Direct meeting
Dec 13, 10am-11am	In-person, 10 Burns Rd	What's Up Yukon	Direct meeting

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Extended Producer Responsibility**

Environment

Date and time	Format	Audience	Participation
Dec 14, 11am-12pm	Microsoft Teams	Call2Recycle	Direct meeting
Jan 9, 9:30am-10:30am	Microsoft Teams	Klondike Placer Mining Association and Yukon Chamber of Mines	Only Yukon Chamber of Mines attended
Jan 9, 1pm-2pm	Microsoft Teams	Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association	Direct meeting
Jan 9 at 2:30pm-4pm	In-person, Whitehorse Library	Yukon stakeholders (aimed at potential obligated producers)	9 people
Jan 9, 6:30pm-7:15pm	Zoom	Village of Teslin, City Council Meeting	Teslin City Council
Jan 13, 3pm-4pm	Microsoft Teams	Circular Materials	Direct meeting
Jan 10, 1pm-2pm	Microsoft Teams	BC Used Oil Management Association	Direct meeting
Jan 16, 6pm-7pm	Zoom	General public	1 person
Jan 17, 9:30am-11am	Zoom	First Nations [additional session offered due to power outage on Dec 8]	No attendance
Jan 17, 1:30pm-3pm	Zoom	General stakeholders meeting	22 people
Jan 18, 9:30am-11am	Zoom	EPRAC (Presentations from Eunomia and Policy Integrity)	8 EPRAC members
Jan 25, 12pm-1pm	Zoom	General public	No attendance

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Extended Producer Responsibility

Environment

Date and time	Format	Audience	Participation
Jan 26, 9:30am-10:30am	Zoom	Yukon Chamber of Commerce and their member businesses	18 people, supported by Circular Materials (Producer Responsibility Organization)
Jan 31, 11am-12pm	Zoom	Info session - Opportunity for Yukon businesses to ask questions to Producer Responsibility Organizations	11 people, 3 representative of Circular Materials
Feb 2, 10am-11:30am	Zoom	General stakeholders meeting	11 people
Feb 3	In-person	Meeting between Minister Clarke and Yukon Chamber of Commerce, McDonalds, Tim Hortons, Canadian Tire, Whitehorse Motors, and Integraphics	Direct meeting
Feb 7, 3pm-4pm	Microsoft Teams	Retail Council of Canada	Direct meeting
Between Dec 16 and Jan 27	In-person, visiting stores to provide information about EPR and ongoing engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Real Canadian Superstore 2. Home Hardware 3. Walmart 4. Marks Work Warehouse 5. Save on Foods 6. Ashley Home Store 7. Staples 8. Wykes Your Independent Grocer 9. Shoppers Drug Mart (Qwanlin) 10. Shoppers Drug Mart (Downtown) 	Visits completed

Prepared for Minister Clarke
Department of Environment

Date prepared: August 11, 2023
Last Updated: October 16, 2023

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Community Water Delivery**Community Services

Recommended response

- We work closely with communities on the delivery of water. We organize training, and contract local businesses to see safe and timely water delivery to users in Yukon communities.
- We work in partnership with the private sector and other governments to deliver water and wastewater services. Together we ensure that staff are trained, the service is safe, sustainable, and cost-effective.
- Our focus too is on recruitment by offering water delivery training in Old Crow and in Carcross through Yukon University's Water and Wastewater Operators Program. Through this training, several individuals in each community obtained their Bulk Water Delivery Operators certification.
- Additional training and exam offerings continue to be organized including Small Water Certification in October 2023 and Bulk Water Certification in November 2023 to expand capacity in the communities.

Context:

- This may become an issue because periodic gaps in services over the past year have raised questions about the frequency and consistency of water delivery in both Carcross and Old Crow.

Background:

- All jurisdictions in Canada adopted the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality as the basis for establishing drinking water quality requirements. All public water supply and distribution systems in Yukon meet or exceed these guidelines.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Community Water Delivery****Community Services**

- Water delivery services are provided in Old Crow, Carcross and Ross River through Orders in Council passed in 1983-1985 which established water delivery rates between \$8.88 to \$16.65 per month depending on tank volume. Extra deliveries were set at \$5.00 each. These OIC's are still in effect.
- For the most part, these services are contracted to private companies service their communities, and in the case of Old Crow, we work closely with Vuntut Gwitchin Government who employs the water delivery drivers.
- An agreement between Canada, the Yukon government and Vuntut Gwitchin government (VGG) over 30 years ago outlined how these services would be delivered in Old Crow.
- The agreement stipulates that VGG trucks would be operated by Yukon government staff and the cost would be split 80-20 between VGG and the Yukon government respectively. Canada then reimburses VGG for their cost.
- Water delivery and sewer removal is provided to the residents of Old Crow three times per week. Most water tanks in homes are small capacity only ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 litres (250-500 gallons).
- A public tender issued for water delivery and sewer hauling in Old Crow in late 2022 yielded one bid far beyond the budget. The department adjusted its approach and worked closely with VGG to find solution where VGG agreed to staff water delivery positions. CS continues to provide technical and operational assistance as well as organizing training in the community.
- In Old Crow, Community Services oversees the operation of the water and sewer trucks, the water treatment plant and sewage lagoon. Highways and Public Works staff maintain and repair the water and sewer trucks.
- In Carcross, we have an interim contract for water delivery and are in the process of tendering water delivery services. A public tender closes September 25, 2023.
- Demand in Summer 2023 increased significantly as tourist traffic returned after low water usage through the pandemic. The Carcross Commons washrooms for instance required water delivery twice a day for much of the summer and adjustments had to be made to accommodate this increase.

Session Briefing Note
Community Water Delivery

Fall 2023
Community Services

Approved by:



September 7th, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Recycling in the Yukon &
Diversion Credits**Community Services

Recommended response:

- When Raven Recycling announced earlier this year its decision to close the free, public drop-off service, I immediately asked officials to look at how we can support sustainable solutions to recycling programs in the City of Whitehorse and across the territory.
- These officials have since been working in partnership with the City of Whitehorse and local recycling stakeholders to find solutions. This important work is ongoing.
- The working group will present options for a recycling system that could replace Raven's public drop off before the end of 2023. In the meantime, we continue to increase funding for diversion to support local processors.

Context:

- This may be an issue because Raven Recycling has asked for significant increases to funding of non-refundable recycling, and they have announced the closure of the free public drop off at their facilities by December 31st.

Background:

- We do not anticipate any changes to the recycling services currently in place for those outside of Whitehorse.
- Processing of non-refundable recycling is currently done by Raven and P&M, where materials such as cardboard, paper, plastic and tin are sorted, baled and shipped to markets out of the Yukon for recycling.
- The cost of diversion credits has increased dramatically in recent years, from approximately \$500,000 in 2018, to approximately \$1 million in 2022, and a projected doubling in 2023. After a thorough cost review in the first half of this

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits**Community Services

year, we are now providing approximately \$1.9 million in diversion credits for 2023.

- The City of Whitehorse provides \$150,000 in diversion credits to Raven Recycling and P&M each year. Dawson and Watson Lake contribute about \$200,000 and \$180,000 respectively each year and other municipalities contribute to local recycling through staff time, direct contributions or both.
- Some of Yukon's recycling is refundable through legislated fees:
 - The Beverage Container Regulation (BCR) sets the surcharges collected on ready to drink beverages at the time of purchase, and the amount that is returned (refunded) when an item is taken to a licensed recycling depot in the Yukon. The difference between surcharge and refund is deposited into the Recycling Fund.
 - The Designated Materials Regulation (DMR) sets the amount of surcharge collected on tires and electronic waste at time of purchase, where the full amount is deposited into the Recycling Fund in order to help pay for the item to be sent for recycling. The Recycling Fund is administered by Community Services and is used for recycling and waste diversion activities.
 - In late 2025, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) will replace Diversion Credits for non-refundable recycling. EPR is a waste management policy that shifts the responsibility for end-of-life management of product and packaging waste from municipalities, government, and taxpayers to the producers and consumers. EPR regulations have now been adopted by all provinces in Canada. Alberta, the last provinces to adopt EPR, anticipates having program up and running by April 2025.
- Additionally, there is non-refundable recycling in the Yukon for items such as cardboard, paper, tin and plastic. Diversion credits support these being managed responsibly and shipped to recycling centers rather than put in the landfill.
- Raven has stated publicly that they will close the free public drop off for non-refundable recycling on December 31, 2023. YG and the City of Whitehorse have

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Recycling in the Yukon &
Diversion Credits**

Community Services

been meeting with stakeholders since March to determine options to ensure recycling continues.

- Collections options under consideration including collection by the City, and curbside collection by contractor. A contract has been issued to Morrison Hershfield to develop options to inform decision makers. These are anticipated by the end of October, 2023.

Financial Implications:

- Community Services typically allocates \$1.75 million every year to support recycling, approximately \$1 million of this for Diversion Credits.
- In 2023 Diversion Credits increased to approximately \$1.9 million.

Approved by:

September 7th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Community Transfer Station
Consultations**

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is taking steps to ensure that waste management in the Yukon is sustainable from both a cost and environmental perspective. We are pleased with the progress so far and are pleased to support community-focused solutions for household waste management.
- As committed to under the Confidence and Supply Agreement, we have been engaging with Yukoners who may be affected by planned closures of solid waste facilities in Keno, Silver City, Johnson's Crossing and Braeburn, as we transition to a sustainable, regional service model.
- The consultations provided for active and engaged community discussion and will help us tailor the future of solid waste management in Yukon.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Government committed under CASA to consult with affected residents on household waste disposal options.

Background:

- The issue first came to light following public review of a YESAA application for landfill license renewal. YESAA applications must include all potential activities contemplated over the 10-year period (2023-2033) including closures and landfilling of household waste. It was not a YESAA application for closures.
- The landfilling of household waste is only contemplated at sites currently landfilling construction and demolition (C&D) waste and only if organics diversion

Session Briefing Note**Community Transfer Station
Consultations**Community Services

is successful. Once organics are removed, landfilled household waste does not pose a significant risk to the environment.

- The Yukon Government has signed interim regional agreements with our municipal partners in Mayo, Watson Lake, Carmacks and Teslin. Dawson has operated a regional solid waste facility for approximately twenty years. These municipalities will now have access to additional funding to upgrade and staff their facilities and introduce tipping fees for those who use their facilities. We continue to work on agreements with Faro and Haines Junction to address outstanding issues. This is in fulfillment of a commitment with AYC to help municipalities deal with solid waste.
- The regional YESAB offices are also reviewing unincorporated community 10-year waste management plans. Comments opposing the closures and landfilling of household waste have been posted on the North Alaska Highway (Beaver Creek, Destruction Bay, Silver City, Canyon Creek, and Champagne) area plans.

Approved by:October 4th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Transition to New *Societies Act***Community Services

Recommended response:

- I want to take a moment to thank Yukon's societies for all the work they've done to transition to the new Societies Act. Societies are vital to the Yukon, and we all reap the benefits of the vibrant arts, culture, and social programming that they provide.
- We are working hard to provide our non-profit community with tools and resources that will help them comply with the new Societies Act. We have updated our online resources, hosted monthly workshops, and resourced a Societies advisor who is dedicated to answering questions and providing guidance.
- If anyone involved with a Yukon society has any questions or needs a bit of assistance to navigate the new Act, I strongly encourage them to reach out to the Societies advisor. We want the folks who are dedicating their time and energy to supporting their community to know that we are there to help.

Context:

- This may become an issue because societies must transition to the new Societies Act. The process has not always been clearly communicated. There are still societies that have not completed the required transition and who may be unaware of the requirements.
 - The department is encouraging societies to contact Societies Advisor for support before their fiscal year-end so they can plan accordingly.
 - On July 31, 2023, the registrar sent letters with the intention to dissolve to 177 societies that have been in default for more than a year or who have failed to file their transition form. Societies can either apply for an extension, come back into compliance within 30 days, or choose to dissolve.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Transition to New *Societies Act***

Community Services

Background:

- The new Societies Act was proclaimed and came into force on April 1, 2021. New Societies Regulations also came into force on the same date. Under the new Act, societies had until March 31, 2023, to transition to the new legislation.
- Since the 1980s, when the prior legislation was last significantly updated, societies evolved from mainly small organizations primarily providing services to the community to the point where many significant service providers are often the recipients of substantial income from government funding.
- The prior legislation was created when there were far fewer societies than currently (over 600), and their structures and scope of activity tended to be less complex.
- The new Act empowers societies by providing them with more flexibility regarding incorporation and operation in accordance with clear rules. The Act also reduces reporting requirements and allows online filing, which will eventually help to reduce red tape.
- Canada's provinces and territories are shifting from a regulatory interventionist model to a simpler registry model for societies. The trend is to leave structural, governance and operational matters in the hands of societies (with directors accountable to members and other parties).
- Disputes, including governance disputes, which cannot be otherwise settled, will now be managed by application to court.

Approved by:September 5th, 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Community Emergency
Preparedness**Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization works with our emergency management partners in municipalities and First Nations to develop emergency management capacity and build emergency resilient Yukon communities.
 - We appreciate the efforts of municipal and First Nation governments to plan for emergencies, and the leadership of these government in managing the challenges that recent emergency situations have presented.
 - Preparing for emergencies includes personal preparedness. We encourage all Yukoners to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for emergency events. Resources are available through Yukon.ca.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because territorial flooding in recent years, along with wildfire evacuations in summer 2023 have raised public interest in Yukon's emergency preparedness.
-

Background:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) coordinates Yukon government departments and agencies involved in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
 - EMO facilitates emergency management capacity development, training and exercises for all Yukon communities, including municipalities and First Nations. This ensures a coordinated response to emergencies.
 - EMO has partnered with Holistic Preparedness and Response to offer emergency management training both internally to Yukon government employees as well as in the communities with First Nation governments.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Community Emergency
Preparedness**

Community Services

- Like last year, the Government of Yukon will again preposition sandbags, superbags and flood mitigation products through the territory to be ready for potential flooding. This planning in 2023 allowed Yukon government, in coordination with our First Nation and municipal government partners, to more efficiently respond to flooding within communities.
- In spring 2023, flooding occurred in the Klondike valley and the City of Dawson. The response was a coordinated effort between all levels of governments including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, Yukon government and the City of Dawson. All governments worked together and established an Incident Management Team to coordinate the response efforts.
- In alignment with Our Clean Futures strategy, EMO is working with communities to support the update of emergency coordination plans and support with carrying out Hazard Risk Assessments.
- In 2022 and 2023, EMO visited Dawson, Mayo and Old Crow to work on emergency plans and hazard risk and vulnerability assessments with municipal and First Nation governments. EMO will meet in Carcross with Carcross Tagish First Nation at the end of September.
- The Critical Infrastructure Team serves as Yukon government's response to possible shortages of critical infrastructure goods and services. This team works with our private industry partners to identify and mitigate risks to critical infrastructure in the Yukon.

Approved by:

September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****2023 Flood Recovery**Community Services

Recommended response:

- I want to thank the residents, volunteers, contractors, local governments, and dedicated emergency responders for their efforts to protect people and properties throughout the Klondike Valley flood disaster.
 - In June 2023, we implemented a disaster financial assistance program to support impacted Klondike Valley residents, farmers, agricultural producers, and businesses with recovery.
 - The response involved multiple partners with different areas of jurisdiction working together in the response, the Emergency Measures Organization is contracting a third party to conduct the after-action report. We expect this work to be complete in Fall 2023.
 - Details on the funding streams for the \$8.25 million disaster financial assistance recovery program have been communicated directly to residents and is also online at Yukon.ca.
-

Context:

- The 2023 Klondike Valley flood event was widely reported on, and many Yukoners experienced property damage due to the disaster.
-

Background:

- In May 2023, the Klondike Valley flood caused significant and widespread property damage when overflow from the Klondike and Yukon rivers near Dawson City caused flooding. Flooding was especially bad in Rock Creek and Henderson Corner subdivisions.
 - Families, small businesses, and farms were affected by the flood and an estimated 40 or more properties were damaged.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****2023 Flood Recovery**Community Services

- In response, Yukon government provided a public funding program, administered by three departments: Yukon Housing Corporation, Economic Development, and Energy Mines and Resources.
- The department of Community Services is leading program coordination and the process to seek reimbursement for eligible expenses from the Federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA).
- The Klondike Flood recovery program provides funds to restore:
 - Housing in the form of grants for eligible primary residences and loans for eligible primary and secondary residences, outbuildings, and mitigation work.
 - Eligible farmers and agricultural producers' property, destroyed harvested crops, field erosion and debris clean-up, infrastructure and fencing repairs and perished livestock.
 - Small business owners' property.
- The territory-wide program is expected to be complete by Spring 2024 and is anticipated to align closely with the federal DFAA to allow for recovery of eligible expenditures.
- The Klondike Flood Recovery Program compensates eligible Yukoners for their uninsured losses up to a maximum of \$250,000.
- There are three streams to the program: the housing stream is administered by Yukon Housing Corporation, the agriculture stream is administered by Energy, Mines & Resources, and the business stream administered by Economic Development. Community Services' role is to assist with coordination of the program.
- The program closed on October 3. The lead departments are now processing applications and finalizing the compensation to claimants.
- The housing stream had 25 claimants with an average claim amount of \$32,000.
- The agriculture stream had three completed applications, with one pending. The value of the agriculture stream totaled approximately \$120,000.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****2023 Flood Recovery**Community Services

- The small business stream had four completed applications. The final reimbursements are being calculated now.

Financial Implications:

- Federal recoveries are being requested under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA). Amount of potential recoveries are based on a formula.
- The one-time Klondike Flood Recovery Program has a total budget of \$8,250,000 (including personnel). Recoveries are estimated to be about \$7.1M.

Approved by:September 5th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023*****Civil Emergency Measures Act*
Review**Community Services

Recommended response:

- We have started a legislative review of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and the *Public Health and Safety Act* to identify challenges in existing legislation and options for further action.
 - The review will allow the Government of Yukon and our First Nations and municipal government partners to respond effectively to future epidemics and pandemics.
 - The review will ensure that Yukon's legislation meets our needs by providing the legislative framework for an efficient and effective approach to emergency management.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because in March 2022, a motion was tabled in the Legislature to introduce a review of *Civil Emergency Measures Act (CEMA)* and the commitment to review CEMA and the *Public Health & Safety Act* was made in mandate letters.
-

Background:

- The Yukon Legislative Assembly Special Committee on Civil Emergency Legislation was tasked with considering and identifying options for modernizing the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and making recommendations on possible amendments. This committee ended with the 34th Legislature and did not report findings.
 - Concurrent to the state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 a state of emergency for flooding in 2021 was also declared. These events brought public attention to the challenges to the existing *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Public Health and Safety Act*.
-

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Civil Emergency Measures Act
Review

Community Services

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment: Our Clean Futures

Community Services

Recommended response:

- We are working with First Nation and municipal governments to create the hazard identification and risk assessments for communities outlined in Our Clean Futures.
- The hazard identification and risk assessments will assist us, and our First Nation and municipal partners, in updating and creating emergency plans that are critical in guiding the government's response to emergency situations.
- Work is also underway to develop a territorial disaster financial assistance policy that will support recovery from natural disasters that result in extensive property damage or disruption to the delivery of essential goods and services. This policy and program will be implemented in Spring 2024.

Context:

- This may become an issue because there may be questions about the Yukon government's progress on Our Clean Future action items.

Background:

- Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) is responsible for three Our Clean Future action items:
 - Complete hazard identification and risk assessments (HIRAs) for all Yukon communities by 2022 that include climate change risks (C11);
 - Work with First Nations and municipalities to complete emergency management (EM) plans for all Yukon communities by 2022 informed by community hazard identification and risk assessments (HIRAs) (C12)
- Status of C11 (HIRAs) and C12 (EM plans):

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Hazard Identification and Risk
Assessment: Our Clean Futures**Community Services

- EMO visited priority communities this winter (2023) to begin HIRAs and update their EM plans;
- EMO is encouraging neighboring First Nations and municipalities to follow a joint approach to HIRAs and Emergency Management plan. A joint approach will increase improve coordination and resource-sharing between First Nations and municipalities during incidents; and,
- Priority communities were selected based on recent past incidents, future risk, and their interest. Current priority First Nations and communities for the winter of 2023 are (depending on community interest):
 - City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation;
 - Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation;
 - Village of Teslin and Teslin Tlingit Council;
 - Village of Carmacks and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation;
 - Watson Lake and Liard First Nation;
 - Ross River Dena Council and Village of Faro; and,
 - Village of Mayo and First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- Yukon government is also engaged with the City of Whitehorse on joint emergency preparedness, including collaborating on the Fall 2023 Operation NANOOK-TATIGIIT
- Status of C13 – Yukon disaster financial assistance policy/program:
 - A Yukon disaster financial assistance policy/program will facilitate individuals receiving funding for disaster-related costs from the Yukon government.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Hazard Identification and Risk
Assessment: Our Clean Futures**

Community Services

Financial Implications:

- Eligible expenses for the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement may be reimbursed to the territory under a cost-sharing formula that is based upon rates determined by the Government of Canada and prorated to the territorial population:
 - The first \$3.61 (per capita) of expenses will be borne by the territory. With an estimated population of 43,744, this equates to \$157,916;
 - The next \$7.24 (per capita) of expenses (approximately \$316,707) will be cost-shared. The Government of Canada will cover 50%;
 - The next \$7.24 (per capita) of expenses (approximately \$316,707) will be cost-shared. The Government of Canada will cover 75%;
- For the remainder of eligible expenses, the Government of Canada will cover 90%.

Approved by:September 5th, 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Disaster Financial Assistance
Program: Our Clean Future**

Community Services

Recommended response:

- We have seen the cost, both financial and personal, of climate change in the Yukon. This summer, Yukon and much of Canada have experienced unprecedented natural disasters, and our thoughts go out to everyone effected by wildfire and flood events.
- I want to thank the residents, volunteers, contractors, and dedicated emergency responders for their efforts to protect people and properties throughout these events.
- Work is underway to develop a territorial disaster financial assistance program that will support recovery from natural disasters. The program will outline how Yukon provides financial support for emergency disaster recovery.
Currently, Yukon creates programs to deal with specific events and aligns eligibility with the federal recovery program. The future policy is likely to take a similar approach.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- A territorial disaster financial assistance policy is a commitment under Our Clean Future for 2022. Little progress was made on this through the pandemic and so the delivery date is delayed.

Background:

- Status of Disaster Financial Assistance policy (C13):
 - The initial deadline of 2022 for the completion of a territorial Disaster Financial Assistance program was not met due to staff resources diverted to focus on Covid and flood emergency recovery.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Disaster Financial Assistance
Program: Our Clean Future**Community Services

- Work is now underway to develop a Disaster Financial Assistance program, which is scheduled to be ready in 2024.
- Emergency Measures Organization is coordinating with affected departments and the climate change secretariate to develop a comprehensive Disaster Financial Assistance for Yukon and to align it with relevant action items (e.g., mitigation funding for homes and buildings before a disaster).
- A Disaster Financial Assistance program aligned to the federal disaster financial assistance arrangement (DFAA) with Yukon would allow individuals, business, and communities to receive a refund for disaster-related costs from the Yukon government. The Yukon government would, in turn, receive a refund from the federal government through its DFAA.
- In spring 2023, the Association of Yukon Communities passed a resolution that government create a Disaster Financial Assistance program to help municipalities respond to natural disaster and work with Yukon municipalities on undertaking long-term mitigation projects to protect community infrastructure from natural disaster.

Financial Implications:

- Federal recoveries are available under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA).
- Eligible expenses for the DFAA may be reimbursed to the territory under a cost-sharing formula that is based upon rates determined by the Government of Canada and prorated to the territorial population.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

**Disaster Financial Assistance
Program: Our Clean Future**

Community Services

Approved by:



September 5, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Residential Landlord Tenant
Review**Community Services

Recommended response:

- We launched a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* in June 2023, and it is underway.
- Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the fall. We plan to begin public engagement early in the new year. Our aim is to be in position to table updated residential tenancy legislation in Spring 2025.
- I want to thank all of the participants of the ongoing solutions lab on the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*. These volunteers representing landlord and tenant interests have met more than 17 times, and their work is helping to narrow the policy issues that will help to shape the next stage of public engagement.
- This work is necessary to inform future revisions to the legislation, which we aim to table in Spring 2025.

Context:

- Under the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement, the Yukon government committed to initiating a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* in June of 2023.

Background:

- Independent contractors are working with our team to design and lead the engagement process. It began with one-on-one interviews and a group session to hear from individuals representing landlords and tenants. A series of workshops designed as a solutions lab continued throughout the fall with stakeholders who represent landlords and tenant groups. This work will help to inform policy considerations and design for the public engagement.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Residential Landlord Tenant
Review**

Community Services

- 17 solutions lab workshops and information sharing sessions have taken place since they began in late September.
- The Residential Tenancies Office will continue to provide information on the current Act and timely and fair dispute resolution. The office is enhancing public outreach materials as well as its technological interface to better serve Yukoners.
- Early themes that have arisen through interviews and the solutions lab include: the need for clear, unambiguous language; looking at accommodation types that should be considered rentals; compliance and enforcement; education on rights and responsibilities; housing inventory and supply; data collection; multi-residential considerations; how to end a tenancy; rental controls and affordability; and the dispute resolution process.
- Yukon's *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, which was passed in 2012, was drafted with the focus on housing as a business. For example, the Act does not speak to rental controls, it imposes strict deadlines for tenants to dispute evictions that are not mirrored for landlords and has allowed landlords to end tenancies without cause.
- The 2023 CASA limits the sections of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* that allow a landlord to end a tenancy "without cause". The intent of this change is to promote stability by requiring landlords to have a reason for ending a tenancy.

Approved by:

September 5th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Mobile Home Parks**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Mobile home parks are an important housing option for many Yukoners. The *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* applies when a mobile homeowner rents a pad. When conflicts arise, the Residential Tenancies Office is available to help resolve the dispute. The Office is a helpful resource for all tenants and landlords.
- Although mobile home pad tenancies are in many ways treated the same as renting an apartment or a house, there are important differences. The Residential Tenancies Office provides resources that are specific to mobile homes so that landlords and tenants are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the law.
- We have committed to a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*. We hope that mobile home pad renters and landlords will contribute their perspectives when we begin broad engagement this winter. We want to ensure that the Act reflects the needs of all Yukoners and that the unique circumstances of mobile homes are addressed.

Context:

- Concerns related to the risk of mobile homeownership in context of landlord and tenant relationships is often highlighted.

Background:

- Under the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, a landlord may end a tenancy with cause, for non-payment of rent, if the landlord or their immediate family member will occupy the site, or if the landlord is changing the use from a mobile home site. This applies to rental units such as apartments, secondary suites, and houses as well as mobile home sites.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Mobile Home Parks**

Community Services

- Mobile homeowners who are tenants of a mobile home site should contact the Residential Tenancies Office if they have concerns about the actions of their landlord. There are several protections in place, including but not limited to, prohibitions against landlords unreasonably interfering with the sale of a mobile home that occupies one of their sites.
- If a mobile home park landlord wishes to rely on the “no cause” sections of the Act to end a tenancy because they, or an immediate family member, will occupy the mobile home site, they must provide at least 12 months’ notice, and cannot have the tenancy end in December, January or February.
- If a landlord wishes to change the use of the mobile home park (i.e., for a condo development or a non-residential use), the landlord must give the tenant at least 18 clear months’ notice.
- If a landlord wishes to end a tenancy with cause, the normal rules apply. The landlord must use the approved form, serve it in one of the prescribed ways, and give the tenant at least 14 days’ notice.
- The Residential Tenancies Office has internal processes to encourage mediation and settlement and to render fair decisions that follow the law in cases where settlement cannot be reached. Their processes are confidential and include statutory mechanisms for review if a party takes issue with their decision. Due to the confidential nature of these proceedings, it is not appropriate to publicly comment on any particular case.

Approved by:

September 6th, 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Minimum Wage and Living Wage** Community Services

Recommended response:

- By the 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement and Order of the Employment Standards Board, the minimum wage in the Yukon increases on April 1 each year by the previous year's Consumer Price Index.
- The current minimum wage is \$16.77 per hour, following a \$1.07 increase on April 1, 2023, from \$15.70 per hour. This is based on the 2022 annual Consumer Price Index of 6.8%.
- A minimum wage tied to inflation, as with other social supports, aims to reduce poverty and increase affordability for the Yukon's wage earners.

Context:

- This may become an issue because the Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse for 2022 was unusually high at 6.8%.

Background

- The 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement includes provisions to increase the minimum wage. The Employment Standards Board was engaged to review the matter, and it ordered that the minimum wage increase to \$15.20 per hour effective August 1, 2021, and to be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse on April 1 of each year.
- The minimum wage is not a living wage. The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition released a report called "Living Wage in Whitehorse, Yukon: 2023." The report stated that the living wage had increased from \$18.28 per hour in 2022 to \$21.04 per hour in 2023. Notably, the living wage in 2022 was a decrease from the living wage of \$20.95 in 2021. The decrease was attributed to benefits such as Yukon Early Learning and the Child Care Funding Program.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Minimum Wage and Living Wage Community Services

- Yukon is one of many jurisdictions that use the Consumer Price Index for minimum wage increases. Other jurisdictions include: Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and British Columbia. In 2024, Nova Scotia's minimum wage will be tied to Consumer Price Index plus 1%.

Jurisdiction	Wage Jan 1 2023	Notes
NU	\$19.00	Effective as of January 1, 2024. The minimum wage in NU is reviewed annually on April 1.
Yukon	\$16.77	Effective as of April 1, 2023. The minimum wage is adjusted on April 1 of each year by the Consumer Price Index.
BC	\$16.75	Effective as of June 1, 2023 adjusted annually on June 1 of each year based on CPI.
NWT	\$16.05	Effective as of Sept 1, 2023, adjusted annually on CPI and the average hourly wage for the preceding calendar year.
AB	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2018.
ON	\$16.55	Effective as of October 1, 2023 and adjusted annually on October 1 of each year based on CPI.
QC	\$15.25	Effective as of May 1, 2023.
PEI	\$15.00	Effective as of Oct 1, 2023. The minimum wage will increase to \$15.40 on April 1, 2024, and \$16.00 on October 1, 2024.
NS	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2023.
NFLD+L	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2023.
MB	\$15.30	Effective as of October 1, 2023. The minimum wage is adjusted annually on October 1 st based on CPI.
SK	\$14.00	Effective as of October 1, 2023. The minimum wage will increase to \$15.00 on October 1, 2024. Generally increased by CPI and Average Hourly Wage, but alternative adjustments can be made.
NB	\$14.75	Effective as of April 1, 2023. Adjusted annually on April 1, based on CPI.
Federal	\$16.65	Effective as of April 1, 2023. Adjusted annually based on CPI.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Minimum Wage and Living Wage Community Services

Yukon's Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Year	Yukon	2016	1.0%
2022	6.8%	2015	-0.2%
2021	3.3%	2014	1.3%
2020	1.0%	2013	1.7%
2019	2.0%	2012	2.3%
2018	2.4%	2011	3.0%
2017	1.7%	2010	0.8%

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Former employees of Minto**Community Services

Recommended response:

- The closure of the Minto mine has affected many Yukoners across the country. This is one of the largest receiverships in the Yukon's history. All former employees of Minto who believed they were owed wages for their work, were encouraged to contact the Employment Standards Office for information about filing a wage complaint.
- Some former Minto employees were eligible to receive payments for wages through the federal Wage Earner Protection Program. The appointed receiver, PricewaterhouseCoopers, is tasked with helping employees navigate this federal program.
- Since the Minto mine closed, the Employment Standards Office has run several ads across news media, radio and social media outlets to educate the public about their services and encourage former employees to file a claim.
- The deadline for former Minto employees to file a wage complaint with the Employment Standards Office was on November 10, 2023.

Additional response:

- The Employment Standards Office helps employees who are owed wages from a current or former employer. The Office also provides public outreach and education to ensure that employers and employees know their rights and responsibilities.

Context:

- The closure of the Minto mine affected the livelihoods of many Yukoners. The Employment Standards Office wants to ensure that former employees understand the supports available.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Former employees of Minto**Community Services

Background:

- Yukon's Minto mine ceased operations on May 13. That same day, Minto Metals Corp. terminated the employment of their active employees. The number of employees affected by the closure was estimated to be between 200 – 350.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) was officially appointed as the receiver for Minto Metals Corp. on July 24, 2023, by the Supreme Court of British Columbia.
- The federal government has a separate program for providing employees with payments for wages owed to them by employers who are insolvent. This is called the Wage Earner Protection Program. Since Minto Metals Corp. entered a receivership, former employees have been able to avail themselves of this government program. Former employees were able to apply for the federal program until late September 2023.
- Under the Wage Earner Protection Program Act, PWC was responsible for contacting former employees to inform them if they are owed wages.
- The Employment Standards Office oversees a range of matters that affect employers and employees in the Yukon. Current or former employees can file wage complaints with the office if they believe they are owed wages. The Employment Standards Officers will conduct an investigation and issue a certificate for the amount of wages they believe the employer owes the employee.
- The Employment Standards Office issues certificates against the company, and if necessary, the Directors of the company, to try to recover wages owed to employees.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Former employees of Minto

Community Services

Approved by:



September 7th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Volunteer Fire Departments**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters is a challenge in the Yukon and across Canada, and we continue to work with communities to ensure volunteer emergency response coverage.
 - To address this issue, Yukon's Fire Marshal's Office has developed a levels of service model. In this model, one individual in a community can build fire resilience through prevention and education as a Fire Safety Champion. Four individuals can support a Scene Safety Response Unit program, and eight individuals can support a basic fire service.
 - The Fire Marshal's Office has been working on recruitment of volunteers in communities through community meetings and working with the local first nations, as well as local governments. I want to thank all emergency responders, especially the volunteers in the communities, who keep our citizens safe.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because many rural Yukon communities struggle to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters.
-

Background:

- Throughout the territory, the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) operates non-municipal community fire halls, maintains firefighting equipment and vehicles, provides training that meets national standards, presents public education campaigns for life-safety and fire prevention, and supports municipalities with training and resources.
 - The FMO provides oversight, training, honoraria and equipment for community fire departments and programs, but are only able to do so with a core of volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to train and be available.
-

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Volunteer Fire Departments

Community Services

- Declining volunteer levels is an issue across Canada. Small communities often struggle with volunteer membership and recruitment. They may achieve positive retention for a few years, but due to a limited population, volunteer levels sometimes decrease to the point that a fire hall becomes functionally inactive. The FMO has implemented a levels of service model to address this and is actively evaluating further options including enhanced community outreach and increased honoraria for volunteer firefighters.
- Occupational Health and Safety requirements for firefighters must be met to prevent responder injury or loss of life.
- In the 16 unincorporated communities, volunteer departments require interested community members and assistance to recruit and retain a minimum number of volunteer firefighters. The fire services that are provided by the FMO include the provision of all fire response equipment and vehicles, training and logistics, as well as the administration of the community volunteer fire halls (training records, honoraria and standard operational procedures).
- The eight municipal departments require interested community members and assistance from the municipality to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters to provide fire services. The Yukon government supports municipalities by providing funding and provisioning resources on an 'as needed' basis, and as capacity allows. This includes training for staff and volunteers as well as equipment on a case-by-case basis to cover areas not easily reachable by unincorporated halls.

Incident and Volunteer Stats

COMMUNITY	INCIDENT VOLUME (IN 2022)	# OF ACTIVE FIRE VOLUNTEERS (JAN 2023)	Est Community Pop. (2020)
BEAVER CREEK	0	1 (FSC)	120
BURWASH LANDING	1	4	106
CARCROSS	12	5	486
DESTRUCTION BAY	0	0	59
GOLDEN HORN	30	20	400+
HOOTALINQUA	36	19	No data
IBEX	46	15	483
KLONDIKE VALLEY	11	12	No data

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Volunteer Fire Departments

Community Services

COMMUNITY	INCIDENT VOLUME (IN 2022)	# OF ACTIVE FIRE VOLUNTEERS (JAN 2023)	Est Community Pop. (2020)
KENO	0	7 (SSRU)	24
MARSH LAKE	24	15	725
MT. LORNE	18	20	466
MENDENHALL	0	0	328
OLD CROW	0	0	267
PELLE CROSSING	0	4 (SSRU)	399
ROSS RIVER	0	8 (SSRU)	410
TAGISH	2	7	345
(SOMET) YUKON	0	31	42,429
(SHOT) YUKON	7	(22) In VFD's	42,429
UPPER LIARD	0	1 (FSC)	130
TOTAL	177	164	N/A

*FSC = Fire Safety Champion

**SSRU = Scene Safety Response Unit

Financial Implications:

- Approximately \$1.1 million is budgeted for the Fire Marshal's Office activities for 2023-24. This includes the operation of community fire halls, honoraria and travel for volunteers, as well as program administration costs.

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Rural Fire Services Progress****Community Services**

Recommended response:

- The delivery of fire services in Yukon's unincorporated communities is challenging given our remote and small population base. The Fire Marshal's Office remains committed to working with Yukon communities, and to ensuring a pragmatic level of service in each community.
 - We commissioned an independent review of fire services in rural Yukon, and I'm pleased to see that the Fire Marshal's Office is making good progress at implementing those recommendations to ensure safe and sustainable fire services across the territory.
 - In 2023, the Fire Marshal's Office has visited every unincorporated community to discuss the different levels of service that can be established. Many of these visits have resulted in establishing a Scene Safety Response Program in previously unserved areas.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because of the challenge of recruiting and retaining volunteer fire fighters.
-


Background:

- With 104 recommendations included in the review, there is still significant work to be done. Yukon government has taken immediate action on several of the short-term recommendations identified in the review, particularly as they pertain to firefighter safety and Occupational Health and Safety compliance.
 - Since the release of the review in December 2021, the Fire Marshal's Office presented the report and met with communities and fire service stakeholders.
 - The Fire Marshal's Office has acted on this feedback by developing a levels of service response model, formalizing mutual aid agreements and implementing a Fire Safety Champion program that focuses on fire prevention and education.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Rural Fire Services Progress****Community Services**

- The Scene Safety Response Unit has been implemented in Keno, Ross River, Pelly, Old Crow and Destruction Bay. Further training is currently being coordinated in Upper Liard and work is being done to establish programs in other unincorporated communities that do not have the capacity to maintain a traditional volunteer fire department such as Mendenhall and Beaver Creek.
- Implementation of the Levels of Service Model is expected to be complete by November 2024.
- This model will help unincorporated communities to deliver safe fire related programs that can be adjusted according to volunteer capacity and community participation. It consists of three types: Fire Safety Champion, Scene Safety Response Unit and Basic Fire Department.
- The development of the model was informed by a national cross jurisdictional scan along with engagement with key stakeholders, community organizations, and First Nation leaders.
- The Fire Marshal supports training of volunteers so the fire department meets Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and national standards to ensure the health and safety of firefighters and includes requisite training, qualifications and response protocols.

Approved by:

	September 5 th 2023
_____ Deputy Minister, Community Services	_____ Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Municipal Fire Service Support**Community Services

Recommended response:

- We value the important role municipalities have in supporting public safety and are committed to helping them build capacity and support development of fire and life safety programs and initiatives.
 - The Fire Marshal's Office offers training to municipal fire service members and employees so that they can perform life safety inspections and fire investigations. In municipalities where this training has not been taken, the Fire Marshal's Office works with municipalities to provide these services.
 - I want to thank all the municipal and volunteer firefighters, and those at the Fire Marshals Office for their extraordinary efforts and collaboration to protect our communities during this extreme wildfire season. And a big thank you to those who stepped up to assist with the evacuation and response in Yellowknife, NWT.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue as recruitment and retention of volunteers and career firefighters can be challenging in some communities.
-

Background:

- Municipalities are responsible for administering Fire and Life Safety programs under the *Municipal Act*.
 - The Fire Marshal's Office also supports municipalities by providing equipment, apparatus and recruitment support. The Fire Marshal's Office supports large scale incidents in municipalities by providing mutual aid to supplement local fire resources. This was evident during the Mayo fires where Deputy Fire Marshals and volunteer fire service members assisted with structure protection and evacuation efforts.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Municipal Fire Service Support**

Community Services

- Throughout 2023, the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) is working with Chief Administrative Officers and municipal Fire Chiefs to offer training and bolster internal capacity.
- 2023, the Fire Marshal's Office assisted with multiple fire investigations and Fire & Life Safety inspections in the municipalities at the request of the local area Fire Chiefs.
- The FMO supports municipalities with recruitment drives and continues to work with municipalities to provide fire prevention and education messaging.
- The Fire Marshal's Office supports Fire Prevention and Education in the municipalities by providing information resources and giving presentations at the schools when requested.
- Currently, the Fire Marshal's Office has 5 Fire Apparatus, 1 mini pumper, 2 rescue trucks and 1 suburban in municipalities.

Approved by:September 5th, 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Public Education on Fire Service**Community Services

Recommended response:

- One of the most effective methods of preventing fire and life safety incidents is through the delivery of public education and effective community outreach.
- To help reach communities, the Fire Marshal's Office has implemented a Fire Safety Champion program supported by a designated deputy fire marshal who serves as a public outreach and prevention coordinator. Fire Safety Champions help organize community events that promote fire and life safety initiatives such as fire extinguisher training and ensuring individuals have escape plans in the event of a house fire.
- I want to acknowledge and thank these community-minded champions who work with the Fire Marshal's Office to raise awareness about fire safety and prevention.

Additional response:

- Currently, there are Fire Safety Champions located in Old Crow, Keno, Ross River and Pelly Crossing. The Fire Marshal's Office will continue to work with municipalities and unincorporated communities to support the implementation of Fire Safety Champion programs throughout the territory.

Context:

- The program is a result of the 2021 Fire Services Review, which recommended more emphasis on public education.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Public Education on Fire Service**

Community Services

Background:

- Several unincorporated communities do not have the capacity to support a response-based fire service. It is especially important in these communities that the focus be on prevention and education.
- Prevention and education are proven to decrease property damage and loss of life secondary to fire.
- This fulfills Recommendation A from the Fire Service Review.

Approved by:September 5th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Over the last year, I have had several opportunities to meet with the Ministers of Local Government and the Ministers of Infrastructure. Premier Pillai and I met with the Honorable Sean Fraser, the new Minister of a now combined portfolio of Housing, Communities, and Infrastructure.
- I have conveyed the importance of flexible and predictable funding for the Yukon.
- We are also collaborating along with our territorial counterparts to jointly advocate the federal government for recognition of unique northern needs and interests to address the historical infrastructure gap that the three territories face.
- We have a strong voice with the northern territories, Yukon municipal and First Nation partners, advocating for a dedicated and substantial allocation for the North.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- This may become an issue because currently Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding is fully subscribed and there is ongoing pressure for infrastructure projects.

Background:

- Since the signing of the Small Communities Fund and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, the Yukon, with the support of the Government of Canada, has committed over \$772 million on 122 infrastructure projects.
- In the last year YG has completed a new pool in Pelly Crossing, a retrofit of the Watson Lake Administrative Building to make it more energy efficient, a new

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Infrastructure Programs and
Renewal**Community Services

municipal services building in Watson Lake, and a new Firehall and Arena in Carmacks.

- Many other projects are in development, such as refurbishment of the Mayo Geothermal heat exchange, development of a water treatment facility in Mount Lorne, and replacement of a number of boat ramps.
- Progress continues on the design and consultation work on the Dawson Recreation Centre and lagoons in Beaver Creek, Carmacks and Dawson.
- Community Services manages the federal infrastructure sources on behalf of other governments through a transfer payment agreement mechanism. These have been established for a number of other projects, such as the Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation Elders Complex in Old Crow, the Whitehorse Mount McIntyre Recreation Center Energy Upgrade and the Teslin Municipal Center Green Energy Retrofits.

INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (ICIP):

- The Yukon signed the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program in May 2018, with all spending to be completed by 2032.
- Deadline for final applications for the ICIP program – thus a finalization of priorities by the Government of Yukon – is March 31, 2025.
- ICIP funding is managed by the Infrastructure Development Branch.
- A temporary COVID-19 Resilience stream was enabled under ICIP, allowing for existing funding to be used for quick-start, short-term projects that might not otherwise be eligible. The Yukon was able to transfer \$16.4 million into this stream with a maximum federal contribution of 100%.
- Funding for ventilation improvement was added to ICIP. The Yukon was allocated \$9 million additional funding to support ventilation improvement projects in public buildings.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Infrastructure Programs and
Renewal**Community Services

SMALL COMMUNITIES FUND

- The Yukon signed the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Small Communities Fund (SCF) in Feb 2015, with all spending to be completed by 2027.

CANADA COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND (CCBF):

- The Canada Community Building Fund, signed in 2014, has seen \$196 million dollars transferred to Yukon First Nations and Municipalities over the last 10 years. These funds are distributed twice annually by the Government of Canada. They are received by Yukon and distributed to Municipalities and First Nations for their own projects.
- CCBF (formerly Gas Tax Fund) is a permanent, stable and indexed source of infrastructure funding that flows through the Government of Yukon to Municipalities and First Nations to plan for their current and future needs and build or improve their infrastructure. Unincorporated communities access funding through the Government of Yukon.
- The 2023/24 total funding is \$18M.
- Allocation of this funding to ultimate recipients is provided on a formula basis but held in trust by the Government of Yukon until projects are approved and reporting submitted.
- The trust's 21/22 fiscal year end closing balance was \$124 million.
- For the upcoming renewal, we will be engaging with the Government of Canada, Ultimate Recipients (municipalities and Yukon First Nations governments) as well as the Association of Yukon Communities. We look forward to continued work to enhance the next generation of this fund.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- Since 2018, Canada has announced a number of new, application-based funding programs for community infrastructure without a specific allocation to the Yukon. These include:

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

- Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program (GIBC)- supports green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings and the construction of new publicly accessible community buildings. Direct federal funding, application based. IDB has not made an application to this.
- Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) – supports investment in structural and natural infrastructure projects to increase the resilience of communities that are impacted by natural disasters triggered by climate change. For the July 2023 intake, IDB submitted one application for Carmacks flood mitigation, and supported application development by the City of Whitehorse for Robert Service Way landslides, and Village of Teslin for flood mitigation. There were also applications by Highways and Public Works.

Financial Implications:

- The Government of Yukon contributes 25% of all eligible expenditures under SCF. The Government of Yukon's contribution to SCF projects will be \$85,528,057 based on the full value of the agreement.
- Under ICIP, Canada will contribute a maximum of 75% unless otherwise agreed upon by Canada and the other 25% or more is funded from additional sources. The Government of Yukon's contribution to the ICIP funding agreement is expected to be around \$121M and the agreement has been extended to 2034.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

**Infrastructure Programs and
Renewal**

Community Services

Approved by:



October 3rd 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Infrastructure Projects

Community Services

Recommended response:

- We work closely with Yukon municipalities and First Nation governments to help local governments access available federal infrastructure funding, and in some cases manage community projects through planning and construction.
- A small sample of the projects the department has completed in the last year include: the White River Community Centre, a new Public Works and Fire Hall Building in Watson Lake, a new Pool Facility in Pelly Crossing and the Carmacks Municipal Arena replacement.
- Much of what we build is critical infrastructure that is underground or out of sight. The department recently completed the Mayo Water Treatment Plant Wellfield Expansion, facility upgrades at the Whitehorse Compost, and the Selkirk Street Stormwater replacement.
- Community Services is proud to work closely with Yukon municipalities, First Nations, and unincorporated areas to build infrastructure that provides services like drinking water, wastewater, clean energy, solid waste, and recreation facilities.

Context:

- There is an interest in community infrastructure and there may be questions on specific projects (listed below).

Background:

(Attachment / appendix: ICIP and capital plan projects)

Select projects status

- Dawson Sewage Lagoon:
 - The department continues to sample water; and a consultant is reviewing data gaps in previous reports completed on the current wastewater

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Infrastructure Projects****Community Services**

treatment plant. This will ensure project engineers have a complete picture of Dawson's wastewater situation.

- Close engagement with City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation to decide on a preferred location for the lagoon within Callison Subdivision.
- Dawson Recreation Centre
 - We're working to secure funding for this project through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, and it is identified in the Five-Year Capital Plan with a total cost estimate of \$65.6 million.
 - Preliminary schematic design options have been completed and discussed with Dawson City Council. More work continues to refine options to fit the existing budget and to ensure operating costs can be managed by the municipality.
 - Next steps include schematic design for the project with detailed design to follow in Fall 2023. The current schedule includes tendering to begin site preparation in 2024 and construction in 2025.
- Faro Phase 2 – Water, Sewer Road Upgrades
 - Year two of construction is underway of this 9.5m project to replace critical infrastructure in the community.
 - Substantial completion is anticipated for Fall 2024.
- Gymnastics and Climbing Facility:
 - 31m contract for construction of the facility has been awarded to Johnson Builders.
 - Construction at the Whistle Bend site has commenced.
 - Substantial completion is estimated for spring/summer 2025.
- Mayo Reservoirs:
 - A number of problems have been identified with the Mayo reservoirs, built in 2018, and the Government of Yukon has begun legal action against the project contractor.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Infrastructure Projects****Community Services**

- Community Services is working closely with the Village of Mayo to ensure the community has the necessary water supply while the issues are addressed.
- A tender for construction of new reservoirs, to replace the failed tanks will be issued this fall.
- Watson Lake Infrastructure – Phase 1
 - 10.3m was awarded to Norcope Construction Group in July 2023.
 - Construction is underway.
 - Substantial completion is anticipated for fall of 2024.

Financial Implications:

- Community Services' Infrastructure Development Branch operates with a capital budget of \$65 million for 2023/2024. This includes both branch expenditures and funding flows via transfer payment agreements.

Approved by:September 6th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Supply Chain Issues and
Program Costs**

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Businesses and organizations around the world are affected by shortages of skilled workers, stagnant supply of raw materials, and increased operational costs. All of these factors contributed to price growth for infrastructure and land development projects.
- We are taking steps to adapt to this new reality, including re-tendering with a modified scope or schedule. We continue to collaborate with our colleagues and contracting partners in the territory to help bring stability to our planning and implementation of infrastructure projects across Yukon.
- We look forward to working with the construction sector and the Yukon Contractors Association to address the rapidly growing demand for contractors that can implement our ambitious infrastructure and land development programs.

Context:

- There have been significant cost increases on projects, with scrutiny on projects that experience delays or increases.

Background:

- YG has had some consultants estimate an increase of 15% for labour and 30% for materials as compared to pre pandemic costs. Low interest rates plus rising population and consumer spending sent the development industry into a frenzy during the pandemic, and the fierce competition for raw materials was not met with a rise in production. Between Q1 2020 and Q1 2023 lumber production fell 11% and lime, a critical component in cement, fell by 20%.
- Canada's residential construction price index has soared 51% since the start of the pandemic. In 2022, wages in the construction sector grew by 9.4% alone,

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Supply Chain Issues and
Program Costs**Community Services

these are good indicators and baselines on why we are seeing these escalatory increases on all projects across the board.

- Worldwide supply chain issues are getting better since the pandemic, but volatility in the market can change quickly and prices can increase based on varying factors resulting in higher input costs (such as fuel and transportation) and geopolitical issues around the world can have immediate impacts on the markets.
- Delays have improved since the height of supply chain disruptions during the pandemic but in some cases continue to persist from extreme weather events, including heavy rain, flooding and wildfires. Several environmental challenges constrained lumber supply and temporary shutdowns of cement plants in Ontario, BC and Alberta also caused some delays this past year.
- Uncertainty in energy supplies and costs will continue as global instability due to conflict may influence the pricing of construction materials in the foreseeable future.

Approved by:September 5th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Engagement with Yukon
Contractor's Association**Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government is collaborating with the Yukon Contractor's Association to develop better processes and find greater efficiencies in tendering, procurement, and construction strategies.
- We are appreciative of their feedback for improvement opportunities and our officials are working together to respond to the challenge and bring more consistency to government programs.
- One important feature of this work will be to pilot a program to initiate a tender review process on major infrastructure projects. This initiative, done in collaboration between our Infrastructure Development Branch and Highways and Public Works' Property Management Division and Procurement Support Centre, aims to reduce the number of addendums.
- Another recommendation we are supporting is enhanced training of management on construction documentation, which will increase standardization and efficiency.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Contractors' Association has presented a number of areas for improvement in the area of government driven construction.

Background:

- YG and the Contractor's Association met a number of times over the past year to hear concerns and develop actions in response to key concerns.
- Community Services senior management met with YCA to debrief on concerns related to a tender review process and to find opportunities for improvement.
- This was followed up by a meeting with all YG procurement authorities and YCA.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Engagement with Yukon Contractor's Association

Community Services

- Directors with HPW and CS continued to work with YCA executives to develop a process that would lead to improvement for private sector vendors and YG procurement authorities.
- Agreed upon actions include:
 - Increasing consultant accountability by ensuring that tender drawings are complete and holding consultants accountable for any changes or delays to the schedule.
 - Implement a third party document review of a large vertical infrastructure project. This will be implemented on an upcoming project.
 - Payment terms on delivery – Community Services has confirmed it pays for materials once on site. YG to be consistent through enhanced training of Project Managers to ensure standard approach.

Financial Implications:

- No known financial implications.

Approved by:



October 3rd 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Fall 2023

Response to Office of Auditor General on COVID Vaccine Rollout

Executive Council Office
Health and Social Services

Recommended response:

- The Government of the Yukon is grateful to the Office of the Auditor General of Canada for their examination and constructive feedback on the Yukon's COVID-19 vaccine rollout.
- The Office of the Auditor General acknowledged our government's efforts in managing the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in a quick, fair and effective manner.
- Our united response played a significant role in protecting the lives of Yukoners and this reinforces our confidence in the effectiveness of our response to the pandemic.

Additional response:

- We are making progress on several of the recommendations contained in the Office of the Auditor General's report, including:
 - conducting a review of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*;
 - working with First Nations governments and municipalities to update their emergency plans;
 - reviewing and improving existing cultural competency training included in the Yukon Immunization Program's immunizer certification program; and
 - establishing and finalizing data-sharing protocols with First Nations governments.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- In June 2023, the Office of the Auditor General of Canada released a report on the Government of Yukon's COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

Fall 2023

Response to Office of Auditor General on COVID Vaccine Rollout

Executive Council Office
Health and Social Services

- The Government of Yukon submitted our work plan to the Public Accounts Committee by September 30, 2023, as required, outlining its response to the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's recommendations.

Background:

- The Office of the Auditor General of Canada's report found that the rollout was quick and effective but there were a few areas for improvement, including communication with First Nations.
- **Approved by:**



A/Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office



Deputy Minister
Health and Social Services

September 8, 2023
Date approved

September 12, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Whitehorse Land
Development**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Whitehorse is a vibrant and growing community and we expect long-term demand for housing. We work on behalf of our partners at the City of Whitehorse to meet this demand and help Whitehorse grow to its potential.
 - We also collaborate with Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to support their land development objectives in the City. We are expanding our partnerships with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dun First Nation to support their efforts to develop their own lands and advance joint projects like Range Point Road and site suitability work in the City's future growth areas.
 - When land development is complete in four to six years, Whistle Bend will provide for a full-service, sustainable neighborhood of over 2,000 lots (about 10,000 people) to accommodate our growing population.
-

Context:

- Increasing lot availability and addressing housing pressures in Whitehorse is of high interest to the public.
-

Background:

- Community Service's Land Development Branch (LDB) prepares lots and then Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch (LMB) takes them to market for sale.
 - LDB has a range of land development work underway in Whitehorse, including continued Whistle Bend development and we have started the feasibility,
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Whitehorse Land
Development**Community Services

planning, and design work for development on numerous Whitehorse sites identified in the City's new Official Community Plan. For more info see (TAB EMR #71 / CS LD 03) and a summary below:

- Whistle Bend:
 - Phases 6 and 8 (lots were sold in Spring 2023) work was completed this year.
 - Phases 7 and 9A are targeted for completion this fall and mid-summer 2024, respectively.
 - Phases 9B and lift stations are currently out for tender or were awarded this summer, with all work targeted for completion next year. Phase 12 and 13 along with a small lift station will be tendered in 2024 for targeted completion in mid-summer 2025.
 - Detailed design for Phases 10 and 11 will advance this winter with a tender target for later in 2024.
- Range Point Road: Council approved joint YG-KDFN master plan in September 2023. YESAA underway. Next steps: zoning/subdivision, detailed design, tender in 2024.
- South Access Highway Industrial Subdivision: City-led planning for joint KDFN-YG unserviced subdivision (by weigh station) early 2024. Tender target late 2024.
- Copper Ridge parcel for private sector developers: City-led master plan for late 2023. EMR release of lot parcel in 2024.
- Valleyview South Master Plan (including Tank Farm): City-led multi-owner master plan completion Fall 2023. City to complete infrastructure cost-sharing, zoning and granular use guidelines to provide critical foundation for private sector land development.
- Whistle Bend South Bench: advancing feasibility, then planning to allow for granular use for 2025+ area projects and future subdivision phases.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Whitehorse Land
Development**

Community Services

- North/South Future Growth Areas – YG coordination lead. Joint-KDFN-TKC-City-YG MOU and work plan and next stage of feasibility underway to enable a planning start in 2025.
- Other Industrial Areas – preparing vacant industrial infill lots and advancing feasibility for two other parcels to enable City planning to start in 2024.
- Hemlock Street extension: additional feasibility, then planning underway, YESAA, detailed design work, tender in 2024.
- Despite high prices and re-tenders of projects, the 2023 land development season has been productive. Sector issues such as, supply chain challenges, high demand for materials, labour shortages and limited pool of contractors, continue but are shifting. See CS SN ID-3 on supply chain issues and project delays for more details.

Approved by:

September 6th, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Rural Land Development
Projects**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Communities across the Yukon have identified a need for new lots to support increased housing demand. We are committed to collaborating with municipalities and Yukon First Nations to help meet this need.
- Community Services is advancing land development projects in every municipality in the Yukon, leading the process from feasibility to planning to construction.
- Construction projects we advanced or completed this year are Carmacks Prospector extension, Faro infill lots, Watson Lake Francis Avenue extension, and the Teslin area Lone Tree subdivision.
- Some planning and design projects underway include Willow Acres serviced expansion and Area 3 country residential subdivisions in Haines Junction, Lower Dome Road and Dredge Pond II in Dawson, Mayo's 7th Avenue North and the joint Yukon government-Teslin Tlingit Council-Village of Teslin Green subdivision in Teslin.

Additional response:

- In 2023-24 we have feasibility and/or planning work underway on about 25 parcels in rural communities and have or will advance about 12 of these projects to design or construction.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Rural Land Development
Projects**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

-
- We are preparing more than 60 lots, some in every municipality, to be ready for release in early 2024. In 2022, we released 5 rural lots and in 2023 we released 17 lots.
 - We strive to partner with Yukon First Nations wherever possible. We are currently working with five First Nations on joint land development planning processes and are in preliminary discussions with two other First Nations.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Many municipalities, communities, and First Nations have identified the need for affordable lots in the short term. The public wants increased lot availability.
-

Community Summaries**Carmacks:**

- Three (3) country residential lots were released in Spring 2023 and 6 urban lots ready for release in Spring 2024.
- Feasibility and pre-planning for multiple sites are completed and we are now working with Village of Carmacks and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation to start master planning for one or two sites.
- Construction of Prospector subdivision extension was completed in September 2023.

Dawson

- Four (4) infill lots were released in Spring 2023 and pending heritage and servicing work, we are targeting completion of three or four more infill lots in 2024.
 - Master plans of Lower Dome and Dredge Pond Road subdivisions are complete and near-completion, respectively. We are advancing through Yukon
-

Session Briefing Note**Rural Land Development
Projects****Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources**

Environmental and Socio-economic Act (YESAA) and design to target project tenders in 2024.

- We are in the early stages of joint Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in – Yukon government urban commercial-residential master planning and we are working through next steps on Bear Creek and industrial planning sites.

Faro

- We are working with Town of Faro to service 7 infill lots for targeted completion in Spring 2024 and to prioritize phases of infill lot development for the short/medium term.
- We have completed feasibility and will work with Town of Faro and Ross River Dena Council to plan industrial, country residential areas in the short to medium term.

Haines Junction

- Seven (7) urban lots were released in Spring 2023 and we're working on more vacant lots.
- Design and tender of the first phase of the serviced Willow Acres Expansion area (71 lots) is advancing for construction starting in 2024.
- The master plans for the long-term supply of both serviced and country residential lots will wrap up this fall and winter. Industrial planning will start next year if supported by the Village of Haines Junction.
- Champagne Aishihik, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)- Marshall Creek serviced subdivision expansion wrapped up this year providing 43 serviced lots for citizens.

Mayo

- Two (2) infill lots were released in spring 2023 and five low-cost infill lots are targeted for completion in Spring 2024.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Rural Land Development
Projects**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

- We are completing the 7th Ave North urban expansion master plan this year, followed by design, which could provide up to 50 lots. The first phase tender is targeted for 2024.
- We're exploring ways to work with First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Village of Mayo partners to advance planning on the Upper Bench near Mayo.

Teslin

- We are advancing subdivision approval of 23 Lone Tree and 2 large Airport industrial lots in preparation for release in Spring 2024. We will complete fire smarting and a walking trail in the Lone Tree area this winter.
- We are working with Teslin Tlingit Council and the Village of Teslin towards completion of a joint Green Subdivision Master Plan in Teslin and surrounding area by Spring 2024 for medium to long term supply of residential lots.

Watson Lake

- Five vacant infill lots were released in spring 2023 and a few more infill lots are being prepared for release in spring 2024.
- We started construction of the Francis Avenue 43 lot extension and lift station late this summer, which is targeted for completion in Fall 2024. This was the first project as part of a Yukon government-Liard First Nation non-UFA based Agreement.

Feasibility and planning have been advanced for numerous country residential, urban residential and industrial sites in the Watson Lake area. Projects may advance under future Yukon government - Liard First Nation Agreements

Background – Land Development Process

- Community Services' Land Development Branch program aims to:
 - create and maintain lot inventories in Whitehorse and the communities;
 - support opportunities for private sector land development projects; and,
 - support First Nations in developing their land.

Session Briefing Note**Rural Land Development
Projects**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

- Municipal and First Nation roles can vary by community. In general, Land Development Branch supports municipalities and First Nations governments during Official Community Planning or integrated planning processes to confirm areas of interest for development through feasibility studies.
- Where possible, joint processes with Yukon First Nations and municipal governments are undertaken to advance master plans and preliminary designs for approval by the municipal council.
- A key principle under the First Nation Land Development program, which also helps to promote the highest and best use of land, requires landowners to pay for development of their land and target all or partial cost recovery through lot sales/leases. Land Development Branch provides a range of supports and the Yukon Housing Corporation manages a loan program for viable First Nation (and private sector) land development projects.
- With increasing development costs, cost recovery in low-market rural communities is becoming even more challenging.
- Community Service's Land Development Branch (LDB) prepares lots and then Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch (LMB) takes them to market for sale.
- The land development process takes time. For example, additional engagement to work through conflicting land-use interests/visions and complex feasibility work often adds process time. The legal survey and lottery preparation require three months or more for Land Management Branch to complete.
- It can take three or more years to take raw land through feasibility, planning and design, construction and lot preparation for final lot sales.

Session Briefing Note

**Rural Land Development
Projects**

Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:



November 22, 2023

Deputy Minister
Department of Community Services

Date approved



November 23, 2023

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

EMR #71 /CS LD-03

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Lot Completion Targets and Lot Releases

Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We are aware of the current housing pressures faced by Yukoners and are committed to making land available for housing as one strategy to reduce this pressure.
- We continue to work in partnership with municipalities and First Nations on land development projects to meet lot supply needs.
- In Spring 2023, we released 117 new Whistle Bend lots and 17 new rural/community lots.
- In the 2023/2024 season, we are preparing up to 140 new Whitehorse area lots and up to 75 rural lots for completion and release in 2024.

Additional response:

- In addition, hundreds of future lots in rural and Whitehorse subdivisions are in the planning, design or construction stage to provide for short term supply.
- The 2023/24 Whitehorse and rural/community lotteries will be planned once the construction season wraps up in October.
- Once lot development has concluded, the lots are prepared for sale through completion of legal requirements and the development of lottery and tender information.
- Lots that are returned or that are not sold during a lottery are available over the counter. For those interested in available lots, please check

EMR #71 /CS LD-03

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Lot Completion Targets and Lot Releases

Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

online through our website at yukon.ca

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The demand for lots varies by community; most municipalities are asking for lots and may have concerns about the timing of lot deliveries.

Background:

Land Development Branch – Community Services

- Community Services' Land Development Branch (LDB) program aims to:
 - create and maintain lot inventories in Whitehorse and the communities;
 - support opportunities for private sector land development projects in addition to its ongoing role as primary land developer; and
 - support First Nations governments in developing their land for citizen housing and economic development opportunities.
- The land development process requires multiple steps. Depending on the development, it can take several years to complete lots. Different phases of development, from feasibility, planning, and preliminary design and construction work, are underway in and around all municipalities.
- A summary of LDB's current projects is available in the Session Notes: Whitehorse Land Development Projects (TAB EMR #73 / CS LD-01) and Rural Land Development Projects. (TAB EMR #72 / LD-02).

Land Management Branch – Energy, Mines and Resources

- The sale of developed lots occurs once the development is complete. Before lots can be sold, legal requirements such as registering the legal survey and titling the lot must be met. The legal survey fabric must be in the Yukon government's corporate spatial warehouse to ensure accurate mapping and database updates.

EMR #71 /CS LD-03**Session Briefing Note
Lot Completion Targets
and Lot Releases****Fall 2023**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

- The departments of Community Services and Energy, Mines and Resources work together to identify vacant lots in Yukon communities and re-develop and release them when possible.

New Lot Release Summary*

Location	2018 to 2021	1000 Lot Delivery Mandate Tracking						Approx. Housing Units (1000 lot mandate)
		2021-22 Actuals	2022-23 Actuals	2023-24 Forecast	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Forecast	Total Lots	
Whistle Bend	467	97	117	133	109	150	606	1100
Other Whitehorse	5	4	0	5	75	100	184	375
Rural	48	5	17	75	125	75	297	325
Totals	520	106	134	213	309	325	1087	1800

*First Nation leased lots and private sector parcel releases and lot contributions are not included.

Rural / Community Lots - Past and future lot development

	Location/Development	Lots Released	NEW Lots Completed / Fiscal
2016-17	Dutch Harbour Recreation	11	13
	Faro	1	
	Carmacks	1	
2017-18	Dawson misc.	10	10
2018-19	Grizzly Valley	20	43
	Mayo Country Residential	19	
	Dawson	4	
2021-22	Dawson	2	5
	Mayo	3	

EMR #71 /CS LD-03**Session Briefing Note
Lot Completion Targets
and Lot Releases****Fall 2023**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

2022-23	Carmacks – 3 Dawson – 4 (two re-sale) Haines Junction – 7 Mayo – 4 (two re-sale) Watson Lake – 5 (re-sale) Faro – 1 (re-sale) Destruction Bay – 1 (re-sale) Industrial: Dawson – 1 Ross River – 2	28	17
2023-24 Targets	Carmacks – 7 Dawson City – 0 to 4 Grizzly Valley – 12 to 15 Haines Junction – 5 to 7 Mayo – 5 Faro – 7 Teslin area – 21 to 23 Watson Lake – 2 to 4 Unincorporated – 1 to 4 Whitehorse Periphery – 1 to 3	61 to 78	TBD
2024-25 Targets	Carmacks – 0 to 2 Dawson City – 17 to 25 Haines Junction – 12 to 35 Mayo – 2 to 16 Faro – 2 to 10 Teslin area – 0 to 5 Watson Lake – 23 Unincorporated – 2 to 4 Whitehorse Periphery – 3 to 5	61 to 125	TBD

Whitehorse and Whistle Bend – Past and future lot releases

Year	Location/Development	Lots Released	Total Lots /Fiscal
2017-18	Whistle Bend Ph 3A	29	29
2018-19	Whistle Bend Ph 3C	76	76
2019-20	Whistle Bend Ph 3D1, 4A, 4B	129	129

EMR #71 /CS LD-03**Fall 2023****Session Briefing Note
Lot Completion Targets
and Lot Releases**Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

2020-21	Whistle Bend Ph 3D2, 3E1, 4C, 5	262	267
	Whitehorse Country Residential	5	
2021-22	Whistle Bend Ph 6A	70	101
	Whistle Bend 3E2	27	
	Whitehorse Logan subdivision lots	4	
2022-23	Whistle Bend 6B	102	117 1 parcel
	Whistle Bend 8	15	
	5 th & Rogers Parcel Release	1 parcel	
		Total Lots Released	720

Whitehorse and Whistle Bend Lot Completion Targets

Year	Location/Development	Lot Targets	Lottery Dates	Total Lots
2023-24	Whistle Bend Ph 7 Miscellaneous Infill	131-133 3-5	TBD	134-138
2024-25	Whistle Bend Ph 9A & 9B Whistle Bend Ph 12-13 Hemlock Road Hwy Industrial Subdivision (Other infill Copper Ridge (EMR)	99 10 large Potential up to 25-40 Potentially up to 30 1-5 1 parcel	TBD	110 - 184 1 parcel

EMR #71 /CS LD-03

Fall 2023

**Session Briefing Note
Lot Completion Targets
and Lot Releases**

Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:



November 10, 2023

Deputy Minister
Department of Community Services

Date approved



November 14, 2023

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Green Streets**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Green streets are an innovative concept in Whistle Bend, where neighbours can gather, play, and connect to a multi-use trail system free from vehicle traffic.
 - Last year construction on the green streets was paused to hear from residents who were concerned about some design features, including the widening of the pavement from three metres to six metres to allow for emergency vehicle access. We worked with our partners at the City of Whitehorse to engage residents and understand their ideas about the final design of the streets.
 - The City has approved a design that incorporates resident feedback, allows for emergency vehicle winter access, and adheres to the original intention of the green street concept. The Land Development Branch has added the additional fire hydrants, paving and other requirements of the updated plan. Final landscaping is underway, and the landscaping will wrap-up in 2024.
-

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Multiple property owners along the proposed green streets expressed concerns about a six-metre path not meeting the three-metre path concept that was included in earlier lottery packages and referenced in some Phase 4 agreements for sale.
-

Background:

- Green Streets information included in the land lottery documents for Phases 4 and 5 referenced a three metre-wide hard surface. The Green Street information provided with the lottery information for lots sold in March 2022 (Phase 6A) referenced a six metre-wide paved path.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Green Streets

Background:

- Green Streets information included in the land lottery documents for Phases 4 and 5 referenced a three metre-wide hard surface. The Green Street information provided with the lottery information for lots sold in March 2022 (Phase 6A) referenced a six metre-wide paved path.
- Green Streets were marketed as three-metre wide green spaces that would support and add a unique character to the neighbourhood, encourage active transportation and support strong social interaction to nurture a sense of community.
- Green Streets lots in Phases 4 and 5 were already sold when the City expanded the green street width to six metres from three metres in its detailed design process to allow for emergency vehicle access. Land Development Branch tendered the construction of the green streets in Phase 4 and 5 based on this new direction.
- Guidelines or regulations controlling activities or development such as path access from residences to the green street, laneway parking controls, winter snow clearing are to be determined by the City.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

September 5th, 2023

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Health Professions
Modernization**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Work is underway to revise the *Health Professions Act* and improve how we regulate healthcare service professionals. This multi-year project will ensure a high standard of regulation that responds to Yukon's unique needs and context.
- We are modernizing the regulation of health professions, in keeping with initiatives across Canada. This will make Yukon an even more attractive place for health professionals to work and allow us provide Yukoners with access to new and innovative ways of accessing health care.
- Regulation helps protect Yukoners by ensuring that health professionals are competent and safe to practice, as well as providing clear processes for dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues.

Additional responses:

- We are developing a Psychologists Regulation in the Yukon which is expected to be completed late Spring 2024. We know this is important to support Yukoners' access to safe mental and behavioural health services.

Context:

- This may become an issue because revising the *Health Professionals Act* is a mandate commitment.

Background:

- The Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch manages and supports registrants for 12 health professions and an additional 11 non-health professions totaling approximately 5,700 registrants a year. Only four of the 12 health

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Health Professions
Modernization**Community Services

professions are regulated under the *Health Professions Act*, while the others have stand-alone acts.

- The number of registrants varies. For example, denturists, optometrists, chiropractors and midwives each have under 10 registrants, requiring the same support and resource as a larger profession like licensed practical nurses which has 225 registrants.
- Moving professionals to the Health Profession framework is expected to bring more consistency to licensing and related process, improving services to professionals and bringing efficiencies for the regulator.
- Policy and the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch worked with consultants to establish the gaps in the current legislation for regulated health professionals. The report was finalized in the summer of 2022.
- Policy and the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs are beginning the in-depth policy work and determining appropriate engagement plans to determine options for addressing the gaps and improving the regulation of health professionals in the Yukon.

Approved by:September 5th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Department_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Increased Cost of Insurance**Community Services

Recommended response:

- We know some Yukoners are facing increasing costs and availability of insurance. We are working with licensed insurers and the Insurance Bureau of Canada to advocate for better options and affordability, and to promote improved consumer awareness of insurance products available in the Yukon.
- The Yukon is a member of the Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators. We are also working with the insurance industry to ensure that our insurance providers treat Yukoners fairly.
- Yukon's Superintendent of Insurance will be developing public education materials to advise Yukoners about additional insurance protections they should seek for their residential properties for perils such as fire, flood, and earthquake. The materials will also educate about how to reduce risks, mitigate damage, and prevent unnecessary insurance claims.

Additional response:

- Yukon's Superintendent of Insurance has prohibited the sale of insurance products that are sold on best terms pricing. Best term pricing allows a number of insurers to cover a portion of a product and the customer is charged the rate of the highest assessed risk. These initiatives are expected to improve the quality and pricing of insurance policies.

Context:

- This may become an issue because there have been numerous inquiries into actions the government can take to support Yukoners with regards to the increasing costs and availability of insurance, particularly for property insurance.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Increased Cost of Insurance**Community Services

- Recent environmental events, such as floods and forest fires, highlight the need for adequate insurance coverage.

Background:

- The *Insurance Act* and Regulations outlines what is required of a professional or a company including qualifications to practice as well as requirements for conduct and prevention of deceptive or unfair practices. The *Insurance Act* (the Act) also ensures that insurers are financially sound to operate within the territory and standards are in place when issuing insurance policies.
- Under the authority of the Act, the Superintendent of Insurance, through the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch, issues licenses to insurers (insurance companies) and to intermediaries (insurance agents, brokers, salespeople, etc.) authorizing them to sell insurance in the Yukon.
- As the regulator, the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch can address contraventions of the Act. However, insurance companies, as independent businesses, can decide which products to sell and to whom. As the regulator, the branch has no authority to specify the type or cost of the products that an insurer may offer.
- The Act and Regulations define and prescribe the classes of insurance that can be sold to customers in the Yukon and general provisions when issuing policies.
- Condominium insurance rate increases are consistent across Canada and not unique to the Yukon. In December 2020, the British Columbia Financial Services Authority released a report on Strata Property Insurance with the following non-exhaustive list of contributing factors associated to this increase: catastrophe exposure, risk model changes, increasing insured value, building construction, lack of premium increases, persistent low interest rate environment.
- The Insurance Bureau of Canada released a Condominium/Strata Action Plan which supports condo corporations by providing access to a risk manager to

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Increased Cost of Insurance**

Community Services

increase awareness around how insurers view risks, evaluate properties and how claims history, building materials and location can affect insurance rates.

- Flood insurance is an optional coverage a policy holder can opt in for. Most residential properties are ensured for flooding due to sewer backup or burst lines but not for overland flooding due to rising water levels. Areas deemed a 'high risk' by insurers, which are regions that have a historic record of flooding, are not eligible to apply for this additional coverage and pose a challenge to those living there.
- Residential property insurance covers all fire related damage, including forest fires. Unlike flood insurance, fire insurance is typically not an optional coverage and is included in most residential policies.
- The Insurance Bureau of Canada conducted research regarding flood insurance in the Yukon. The findings demonstrated that in general the Yukon is well within the average for premium costs, coverage and availability. The research determined that while costs in the Yukon are on average with the rest of Canada, Yukoners are less likely to purchase additional flood endorsements. Flood plain mapping is underway to assess high risk areas across the Yukon and is anticipated to be released in 2023.

Approved by:September 5th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Psychologists**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Yukon has declared a substance use health emergency, highlighting the importance of access to quality mental health services.
- We are in the process of developing regulations for psychologists. In the meantime, the department has rolled out a public awareness webpage on how to select a psychologist. This site includes a voluntary list of psychologists practicing in Yukon indicating who hold a valid license in another Canadian jurisdiction.
- Longer-term, the department is leading a comprehensive review of the *Health Professions Act* to support enhanced standards and safety of health care for Yukoners, with aim to improve the overall efficiencies for the regulatory system.

Additional response:

- We want to thank all the psychologists who have added their names to the voluntary list. We appreciate their willingness to work with us and their ongoing support as we proceed to regulation.
-

Context:

- Yukon is the last jurisdiction to regulate psychologists and the government committed to regulating the profession in the Speech from the Throne, May 2021.
 - As of October 29, 2023, there are 16 psychologists on the voluntary list.
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Background:

- The Government of Yukon committed to writing regulations for psychologists prior to the larger *Health Professions Act* project.
 - The regulations are to be completed in 2024.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Psychologists****Community Services**

- Policy and Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs are working with local psychologists and other psychologist regulators to develop the Regulation in a short timeline. Work is also underway on a Privacy Impact Assessment.
- Amendments and more complex considerations will be included in the larger *Health Professions Act* overhaul.
- Improving the way in which health professions are regulated under the *Health Professions Act* is a multi-year project. Regulation of health professions helps Yukoners receive services from competent professionals who practice according to the high standards and ethics of their profession. It also provides Yukoners with clear means and processes for dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues.
- As of March 2022 the Psychological Society of Yukon reported:
 - There were approximately 21 psychologists practicing in the territory;
 - 16 were members of the Society, which requires members to hold a license in another Canadian jurisdiction; and,
 - Approximately 5 were not licensed anywhere.
- Both Nunavut and Northwest Territories have territorial legislation in place requiring that psychologists be licensed by the territorial government to practice.
- Although a few [other Canadian jurisdictions](#) such as B.C. allow for different qualifications for psychologists and school psychologists, there is a movement towards one class of psychologists, in order to align with the Free Trade Agreement.
- Initial discussions with the Psychological Society of Yukon indicated that persons with appropriate training at a doctorate or Master's level will be sufficient, and in keeping with other jurisdictions such as Alberta.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Psychologists

Community Services

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Health Human Resources

Fall 2023Health and Social
Services

Government priority:

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

Key messages:

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

Key facts:

- **We** have committed to allocating **\$2M** during the 2023-24 fiscal year to enhance recruitment and retention of new healthcare professionals across the Yukon. This includes funding to support the following initiatives:

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Services

- **\$649K** (\$649,000) for Nurse Retention and Recruitment Incentives;
- **500K** (\$500,000) to develop a cross-sectoral Yukon Health Human Resources Strategy;
- **\$464K** (\$464,000) for Community Nursing and Nurse Practitioner funding for additional nursing FTEs; and,
- **\$387K** (\$387,000) for 3.8 FTEs for Human Resources. The new positions will help support the Health Human Resource Strategy and Internationally Educated Health Professionals, they will also work on recruitment initiatives for health professionals.
- Community Nursing is currently experiencing a vacancy rate of approximately 19% for Primary Health Care Nurses, which is an improvement of approximately 29% since fall 2022.
 - Prior to COVID-19, the vacancy rate amongst Primary Health Care Nurses was approximately 5%.
- On December 1, 2022, we announced a **\$6M** package of retention and signing bonuses for nurses employed by the Government of Yukon.
- Since December 1, 2022, the Department of Health and Social Services has recruited 60 nurses, including (44 Registered Nurses and 16 Licensed Practical Nurses.
- We have provided \$50,000 to the Yukon Medical Association to financially support a physician locum recruiter.

Health Human Resource Steering Committee:

- The Health Human Resources Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from across numerous Government of Yukon departments, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, as well as the Yukon University, Yukon Medical Council, Yukon Registered Nurses Association,

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

the Yukon Employees Union, the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada and First Nations representatives.

- The Committee is looking at all aspects of Health Human Resources including retention, recruitment, planning, learning and innovation. They are also working to help coordinate, support and influence Health Human Resource work underway in their respective organizations so that it aligns with the Committee's recommendations and priorities.
- The work of this committee aligns with the ongoing collaborative efforts of Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments, which are supported by the recent federal investments which identify health human resources as a shared priority.

Retention Bonuses:

- The retention and recruitment bonuses implemented December 1, 2022 are being provided to Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Licensed Practical Nurses, until March 31, 2024, who are in a position requiring a nursing designation and performing nursing duties for the Government of Yukon.
- This bonus package serves to address the wage gap we face with other Canadian jurisdictions and helps us with the ongoing recruitment and retention challenges we are facing by creating tools to effectively attract and retain staff to serve our communities.
- This is not a reflection of the appreciation for the hundreds of other frontline care workers who work tirelessly to contribute to the health, safety, wellbeing, and care of Yukoners.
 - These staff can never be replaced, and we thank each and every one of them.

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Services

- We understand that some of our nursing staff have raised questions about the administration of these allowances. This has been brought to the attention of the Department of Health and Social Services, who is working closely with the Public Service Commission to respond to these concerns as quickly as possible.
- The Public Service Commission has received four grievances associated with these bonuses and they will be managed through normal grievance processes.
- The administration of these allowances is consistent with our delivery of other allowances and in accordance with other nursing retention letters of understanding within the Yukon Employees Union Collective Agreement.
- Like the other compensable allowances for nurses, the recruitment and retention bonuses are based on work performed. Employees who are on leave without pay but return during the specified period of time to qualify for any bonuses will receive a prorated amount for the time they are actively performing a position that requires a nursing designation.
- Government of Yukon and the Public Service Alliance of Canada/Yukon Employees' Union ratified a new collective agreement on June 6, 2023, that is in effect until December 31, 2024.
- The new collective agreement contains new nurse pay grids as well as a new retention allowance, effective April 1, 2024, for a Primary Health Care Nurse \$8,000 and Primary Health Care Nurse In Charge \$18,000.

Education:

- In partnership with the Departments of Education and Economic Development, we also continue to work with Yukon University to expand programming to support Yukoners to pursue health-related careers.

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Services**

- The Government of Yukon funds Yukon University to offer a Practical Nurse Diploma whose graduates are a valuable addition to the health care work force in the Yukon.
- Yukon University also offers a Health Care Assistant program which provides Yukoners with the skills needed to be front-line caregivers.

Bursaries:

- As part of the 2023 Confidence Supply and Agreement, we will work to enhance recruitment and retention initiatives for health care professionals, including programs aimed at supporting students pursuing studies in health care fields and who commit to return to work in the Yukon.
- Our government currently provides funding for the Medical Education Bursary, the Nursing Education Bursary, and the Health Profession Education Bursary programs.
- During the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Department of Health and Social Services has budgeted **\$89K** (\$89,000) through the Medical Education Bursary, the Nursing Education Bursary, and the Health Profession Education Bursary programs to provide financial supports for up to 16 new recipients each year.
 - During the 2014-15 fiscal year, a total of **\$49K** (49,000) was budgeted for these bursaries to support up to 12 new recipients per year.
- In 2023-24, a total of 16 Yukoners received a bursary for studies in the healthcare field. These total **\$65K** (\$65,000) in bursaries being administered.
 - **\$30,000** went to 6 students pursuing nursing education;

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Services

- \$7,500 went to 1 medical student pursuing a family medicine residency; and,
 - \$27,500 went to 9 students in other health care professions including 3 students pursuing licensed practical nursing and 2 in nurse practitioner programs.
- Currently, our bursary programs do not include a Return of Service Agreement that requires graduates to return to the Yukon to deliver care.
- Our government is committed and working to expand our programs to create greater incentives for students to return to work in the Yukon, and to fulfilling our commitments as part of the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement.
- For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Department of Health and Social Services provided **\$150K** (\$150,000) to the Yukon Registered Nurses Association who administers the Continuing Nurse Education Fund.
- Yukon residents studying medicine or intending to study medicine can apply to other funding programs administered by the Canadian Medical Foundation, the First Nations Health Program at Whitehorse General Hospital, and the Yukon Foundation.
- The Government of Canada is also offering a student loan forgiveness program for doctors and nurses who reside in a community with a population of 50,000 or less to entice more doctors and nurses to rural communities.

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Services

India Trip:

- The trip to India was worth the time and effort and represents our first step in exploring possible partnerships within India, which will hopefully lead to an ongoing supply of qualified health care workers.
- There are significant costs and pressures on the Yukon's health care system today.
 - So far in 2023-24, the Health and Social Services has spent \$640,353 on agency nursing groups and the Yukon Hospital Corporation has spent \$6.1M on agency nursing groups.
 - Despite significant retention and recruitment efforts, there continues to be nursing shortages.
- Over the long term as we work to respond to health human resource challenges, India represents a significant opportunity to recruit health care providers.
 - According to Statistics Canada, approximately 1 in 5 recent immigrants to Canada listed India as their country of birth.
 - India has emerged as the second-largest source country for the Yukon Nominee Program since its inception. From 2007 to August 31, 2023, the Yukon has nominated a total of 772 principal applicants from India, along with over 200 dependents.
 - India's nursing programs accept approximately 23,000 new Registered Nursing students every year with a reported 750,000 prospective students taking a required entrance exam.
 - India has recently announced plans for over 150 new nursing programs, which could more than double the number of new Registered Nursing graduates.
- Many countries already have established partnerships in India and are seeing a return on investment for their efforts.

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Services**

- For the Yukon, this was a necessary first step. We are committed to continuing to explore this initiative and are confident that in the future, we will see a return on investment too.
- During the trip, representatives met with officials from the government of Kerala, with NORKA, which is a government emigration agency, and with nursing regulators, hospitals, and nursing schools.
- More work will need to be done with prospective partners in India, and here in the Yukon, before we see any nurses recruited directly from India.
- We want to ensure that internationally educated health professionals are well supported and integrated into our communities and our healthcare system and facilities to ensure their personal success and to ensure that Yukoners receive the high-quality care they deserve and respect.
- Our efforts within India are part of our medium- and longer-term approaches to respond to health human resource challenges. This is not an immediate fix and was never intended to be.
- In the coming weeks we will be releasing the Yukon's Health Human Resource Strategy, which will outline an intersectoral approach to addressing these challenges. The India trip is just one element of what will be a multi-faceted response.

Internationally Educated Health Professionals:

- Internationally educated health professionals have historically played an important role in the delivery of health care in Canada, and we recognize that best leveraging their expertise is a challenge being addressed by all governments across Canada.
- As part of our response to health human resource challenges, we are exploring ways to best support internationally educated health professionals to enter health professions in the Yukon.

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Services

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

Licensing:

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

Session Briefing Note
Health Human Resources

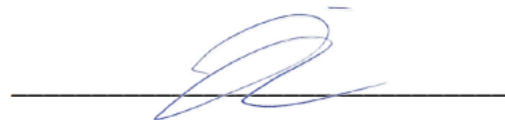
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Services

Letter of Intent with Nova Scotia:

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

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

October 26, 2023

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023*****Registered Nurses Profession Act*** Community Services
Legislative Amendments

Recommended response:

- Our government recognizes that nurses are critical to Yukon's health care system. We are committed to ensuring that Yukoners have reliable access to services that align with national standards and best practices, including for public and patient safety.
 - The health human resources crisis has underscored the need for efficient and effective health professional licensing processes. This is a fast-changing landscape and we need modern, nimble legislation to adapt to the needs of Yukoners and attract the best talent. This will provide for better access to care, and support recruitment and retention of nurses in the territory.
 - While we look for the best ways license nurses, we continue to work towards revising the *Health Professions Act* to improve how we regulate all healthcare professionals in the Yukon.
-

Context:

- The Health Human Resource crisis has identified the need for new licensing pathways and classes of licence for nurses. Specifically, there is a need for nurses to be able to apply directly to the Yukon and not through another jurisdiction.
 - Yukon Registered Nurses Association is interested in regulation changes.
-

Background:

- The Yukon Registered Nurses Association (YRNA) regulates Registered Nurses (RNs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in the Yukon, under the authority of the *Registered Nurses Profession Act* and *Registered Nurses Profession Regulation*.
 - In accordance with the Act, the YRNA Board has the authority to propose regulations that are not inconsistent with the Act, subject to Cabinet approval.
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***Registered Nurses Profession Act* Community Services
Legislative Amendments**

- YRNA has identified issues with its regulatory framework for RNs and NPs and requested changes to regulate these professions more effectively.
- YRNA has been working with Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to define a list of proposed changes to the Act and Regulation that will address the needs they have identified as urgent, and the remaining concerns raised by YRNA can be addressed as part of a broader health professional regulation initiative.
- The amendments are focused on the pathways to licensure, the classes of registration and expanding the prescribing powers of Nurse Practitioners.

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Property Assessment in Rural Yukon 2022**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Yukon properties are reassessed on a two-year cycle, alternating between municipalities and rural Yukon. Rural Yukon properties were reassessed in 2022 for the 2023 tax year and most rural Yukon properties did receive assessment increases for 2022.
 - By completing reassessments every two years, the assessors help to avoid larger changes that could occur if assessments were done less frequently.
 - We are committed to a property assessment system that keeps values current, accurate and equitable for Yukon property owners and municipalities. We support fair and transparent avenues for Yukoners to raise concerns about their own property assessment. There is a review process available to any property owner who does not agree with the value determined by the assessor.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because property owners, including First Nations, may be concerned about potential rising property taxes resulting from the 2022 rural Yukon reassessment.
-

Background:

- As part of the reassessment cycle, the fair value of land is reviewed and any changes in value noted from market evidence may lead to a change in land value. The replacement cost (cost to build) of improvements is also reviewed and any changes noted in building costs from the time of the last reassessment may necessitate a change in improvement (building assessment) value. This is why in some instances, while a property owner may not have done anything to improve or change their property, they may still realize a change in assessed value.
-

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Fall 2023

**Property Assessment in Rural
Yukon 2022**

Community Services

- The real estate market and new construction in and around Whitehorse continues to be active, which means that property values often increase. Property values vary depending on type and location of property.
- The Property Assessment & Taxation Branch is responsible for keeping values current, accurate and equitable for property tax purposes. A reassessment is an updating of land and improvement (buildings) values. Land value (fair market value) + Improvement value (replacement cost less depreciation) = Assessed value.

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Better Buildings Program**Community Services

Recommended response:

- The amendments to the *Assessment and Taxation Act* and Regulations for the Better Buildings Program were proclaimed on October 20, 2022.
 - The Better Buildings Program offers low-cost funding to eligible property owners to complete energy-efficiency retrofits. This means more property owners will have the means to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint. The funding is repayable by a local improvement charge attached to the property.
 - We have worked closely with municipal governments as partners in this program and have developed administrative processes to ensure its successful delivery. All municipalities have signed agreements indicating their participation in this program.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because an update about the eligibility parameters, progress with our municipal partners and uptake of the program may be of interest to the opposition.
-

Background:

- Eligible properties include property that is subject to a land and improvement tax, is located within a participating municipality or outside of a municipal boundary, has an existing home five years or older, has a mobile home situated on titled land permanently or for a minimum of one year.
 - Participating in the Better Buildings Programs also allows for property owners to apply for available energy efficiency grant and rebate programs offered through Yukon government and the federal government after making energy-efficiency retrofits to their properties.
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Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Better Buildings Program**Community Services

- This loan program makes funding available to eligible residential and commercial property owners at low-interest rates.
- This program is currently administered by the Energy Branch and the Property Assessment and Taxation Branch.
- The funding is recouped through local improvement taxes paid by the participant on an annual basis.
- The program was announced in the Speech from the Throne in October 2019 and the Minister made a Ministerial Statement on the home retrofit loan program on October 23, 2019.
- This loan program is in addition to current programs at the Yukon Housing Corporation that include the Home Repair Program, and the First Nations Energy Efficiency Program, which is funded through the federal Low Carbon Economy Fund. The Yukon Housing Corporation is also working on energy retrofits to government-owned housing throughout the territory, also funded by the Low Carbon Economy Fund.
- As of January 26th, 2023, Municipal Agreements were completed with all municipalities.
- Since the program launch on October 25, 2022, the Energy Branch has received applications from 55 clients wishing to participate.
- Uptake is not as high as had been hoped for the Better Buildings program. The rapid rise in interest rates has meant a decrease in Property Assessment and Taxation's programs generally. For example, applications for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program applications are the lowest since the 2019/2020 fiscal year. This is consistent with the interest rate increases from 0.75% in March 2022 to 5.25% in July 2023.
- In addition, inflation has increased the cost of materials and services. The Property Assessment and Taxation branch completes a cost study every two years to determine the replacement cost on improvements. It is based on the consumer price index, recent sale price of homes, cost of materials and other factors. Between 2021 and 2023 there was a marked increase in the results of the cost

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Better Buildings Program

Community Services

study, meaning it is more expensive to build a new home or improve an existing home.

- Budget was reduced in 2023/24 for the Better Buildings Program to reflect updated forecast of applications and projects anticipated for the current fiscal year.
- All applications received have been reviewed and approved by PAT. Most of our approved applications are sitting pending, waiting on the client to decide whether they are going to commit to the project or not. The following are our pending numbers by community:
 - 35 Whitehorse
 - 3 Dawson
 - 2 Faro
 - 3 Haines Junction
 - 6 rural Yukon not in a municipality
- Three new clients joined the program between July 1 and September 30, 2023.

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Book Reviews and Staff Picks**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Public libraries provide equal access to resources and support individuals' freedom to seek information and form their own opinions.
 - Yukon Public Libraries has made and will continue to make efforts to ensure the perspectives of equity-deserving groups are included in the various aspects of the library, including the collection, displays and programming.
 - Yukon Public Libraries' collection and resources include recent and relevant trans-affirming works, and beyond its collection will continue providing programming, displays and resources to engage with trans and other equity-deserving communities and public.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in how issues relating to YPL's collection are resolved.
-

Background:

- In spring 2023, a member of the public made a social media posting that was critical of the Yukon Public Libraries (YPL) carrying the book *Irreversible Damages*, by Abigail Shrier at its Whitehorse branch. The posting identified the book as trans-phobic and queried whether it should be available at the library. The photo attached to the posting showed that the book had a "Staff Pick" sticker on its cover.
 - The posting generated further concern in the community and throughout April and May, 2023, YPL received requests that the book be removed from its collection. The requests triggered a formal review of the book.
 - A review of the book was conducted by a committee composed of the Whitehorse Public Library Board and the Director of YPL. The committee found that the book did not violate YPL's standards and was not removed from circulation.
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Fall 2023

Book Reviews and Staff Picks

Community Services

- The decision letters and the public statement were released on June 16, 2023. The timing was well within the estimated 2-3 months for this type of process.
- YPL engaged directly in conversations with Queer Yukon as well as the Gender and Sexuality Alliance of Porter Creek Secondary School on this matter.
- The issue also generated discussion about the “Staff Pick” sticker on the book. In this case, the intention of the recommendation—highlighting a book of interest—did not match the impact it had on some members of the community.
- As a result of open, respectful dialogue with community members and groups, the sticker has been removed and the Staff Pick process has been updated to better meet the library’s goals of upholding freedom of expression and promoting inclusion and diversity.

Financial Implications:

- Yukon Public Libraries spends \$160,000 on collection development for physical materials annually.

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Elimination of Late Fees**Community Services

Recommended response:

- We are joining other libraries in Canada and North America in eliminating overdue fines and outstanding balances for late return. This removes an unnecessary barrier to accessing the wonderful services that Yukon Public Libraries has to offer.
- As part of maintaining a vibrant and relevant collection that all Yukoners can access, Yukon Public Libraries will only be invoicing for lost or damaged materials on a cost recovery basis going forward. They will refund payments for lost materials returned in good condition.
- Removing overdue fines allows library staff more time to provide valuable services and is a more effective use of the public purse. Administration costs to collect these fines are greater than the value of the fines themselves.

Additional response:

- Yukon Public Libraries is now in line with many other jurisdictions across Canada and the world in making library services in Yukon more accessible, especially to those who need them most.

Context:

- This may become an issue because during the COVID-19 emergency response, Yukon Public Libraries suspended all late fees and allowed users with blocked accounts to access library services. Yukon Public Libraries has not re-imposed late fees, which is out of compliance with its legislation.
- The *Public Libraries Act* does not address late fees, rather, this is a change to the Regulations of the *Financial Administration Act* and required an Order-In-Council for the amendment to come into effect.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Elimination of Late Fees**Community Services

Background:

- Research has shown that late fees do not encourage library users to return items on time. In addition, late fees disproportionately affect low-income and marginalized populations and act as a barrier to services.
- The pandemic demonstrated that library service was needed more than ever, especially in rural communities.
- Library users who lose or damage materials will still be invoiced for the cost of replacement.
- The Whitehorse Public Library Board advocates for the elimination of late fees.

Financial Implications:

- This move means YG will forgo a small amount (less than \$8000 annually) of fees that offset some operational costs.
- Staff hours spent on invoicing late fees and lost or damaged materials is approximately \$25,000 per year (800 hrs/year at the AR-06/09 pay rate).

Approved by:September 5th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Arctic Winter Games 2026**Community Services

Recommended response:

- We are excited that the Arctic Winter Games are returning to the Yukon, and we are pleased to be supporting the City of Whitehorse as the host city of the 2026 Games.
 - Our support will include financial and in-kind contributions of up to \$4.35 million and we will work with the City of Whitehorse and territorial sport organizations on formalizing roles and responsibilities. This will ensure a successful and memorable event that showcases the beauty and culture of our territory.
 - Hosting the Games will bring immediate benefits for the Yukon and create positive economic and social impacts for the territory. In addition to the boost to our economy, the Arctic Winter Games will strengthen sport development, promote fair play and the benefits of sport and healthy lifestyles, build partnerships, and promote cultural diversity, awareness and understanding.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- This may become an issue because the public could question the decision to host another major event from a cost priority perspective.
-

Background:

- The Arctic Winter Games (AWG) is a high-profile circumpolar sport competition for northern and arctic athletes, and a multi-cultural exposition for the circumpolar world.
 - Since their inception in 1970 and occurring every 2 years on a rotational basis, the AWG celebrate sport, social exchange, and culture while providing an opportunity for the developing athlete to compete in friendly competition and share cultural values of northern regions of the world.
-

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Arctic Winter Games 2026

Community Services

- The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) is made up of representatives from each of the permanent partners (Alberta, Alaska, Greenland, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon) and is responsible for implementing policies and providing leadership to the Games.
- The AWG were seeking a host jurisdiction for the 2026 Games as a result of Russia's (Yamal) suspension. The AWGIC sent a formal request to Premier Pillai on May 28, 2023, for the Yukon government (YG), in collaboration with municipal partners, to consider hosting the AWG in 2026.
- While the Yukon was not scheduled to host again until 2032, with the cancellation of the 2020 Arctic Winter Games due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the withdrawal of the 2027 Canada Winter Games Bid, both the City of Whitehorse and sport community have indicated unanimous support to hosting the AWG in 2026.
- A letter of support to host the 2026 Arctic Winter Games was received from Sport Yukon. The letter also indicated unanimous support from the 20 relevant sport governing bodies. Letters of support was also been received from Yukon University, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, the Yukon Convention Bureau, and the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Whitehorse and the Yukon government will formalize the relationship with respect to collaboration, communication, and roles and responsibilities for the 2026 AWG.
- The pandemic prevented us from hosting the 2020 Arctic Winter Games, but they were projected to contribute approximately \$6.1 million to Canada's GDP, a figure that includes \$5.7 million boost to the Yukon's GDP and a \$4.4 million increase in local Whitehorse GDP.

Financial Implications:

- Based on the preliminary budget put forward by the City of Whitehorse, the Government of Yukon has financially committed to the following
 - \$4M through a transfer payment agreement with the Host Society
 - \$350K in estimated in-kind supports
 - To work with the City of Whitehorse to secure federal funding for the games.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Arctic Winter Games 2026

Community Services

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Community Pools**Community Services

Recommended response:

- We are pleased to have invested in a new swimming pool in Pelly Crossing that was completed in 2022 and opened for the 2023 summer aquatics season. We congratulate the Selkirk First Nation on a successful aquatics program this season.
 - We were also pleased the Carcross pool was repaired and in operation this year thanks to the Carcross Recreation Committee.
 - The Sport and Recreation branch coordinates with communities and local First Nations on recruitment and training of seasonal staff, and these local governments hire specialized pool managers to run their aquatics programs.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because the pools in Ross River and Beaver Creek have not opened for several years due to required repairs and staffing shortages.
-

Background:

- Municipal pools in Dawson City, Watson Lake, Faro and Mayo are owned and operated by the municipality. Pools in Haines Junction and Carmacks are permanently closed and the municipalities are considering their options.
 - Pools in Pelly Crossing, Carcross, Ross River, and Beaver Creek are owned by the Government of Yukon.
 - Pelly's pool was funded through the Government of Canada's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (\$5.25M) and the Government of Yukon (\$4.566M).
 - The operation and maintenance of each Yukon government pool is a joint responsibility between Community Services, Property Management Division and the Local Authority for Recreation.
 - Pool closures due to COVID-19 impacted long-term availability of lifeguards and pool managers across Canada.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Community Pools**Community Services

Pool condition challenges

- It is a challenge to recruit qualified operators and lifeguards given our operating season and a national lifeguard shortage.
- Structural issues with the Government of Yukon seasonal pools were first identified in 2017.
- In July 2019, a study undertaken by Environmental Health Services identified design deficiencies in the facilities when compared to current standards of construction and design. Based on this report, the designated health officer issued an order to keep pools closed pending required repairs.
- The pool in Beaver Creek was last opened in 2018. Water is accumulating under the pool liner and a hydrogeological assessment of the soil is required to determine where the water is coming from and if it is impacting the septic system. Once this work is complete, an assessment of the circulation systems will be required, and repairs identified in the 2018 Stantec report will then be addressed. This work is being planned.
- The Ross River pool was last operational in the 2017 season. Constructed in 1999, the facility has significant foundation issues that could affect its continued operation.
- Ross River pool was anticipated to open this summer following completion of critical repairs to the pool systems, however additional areas of concerns were identified in the repair process preventing its opening. The department is looking at whether the facility can be safely renovated.
- Sport and Recreation and the Ross River Recreation Society looked at alternative options to support recreation in the community, including arranging special trips for local kids to neighbouring communities.
- Critical repairs were completed at the pool in Carcross in 2021, and the community experienced another successful aquatics season in 2023.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Community Pools

Community Services

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Funding Increases for Sport and Recreation Groups**Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is proud to contribute to the health, well-being and quality of life for all Yukon residents by supporting sport, recreation and active living in the territory.
- The Sport and Recreation Branch funds more than 100 Yukon organizations and athletes. This benefits over 25,000 Yukoners, including those in underrepresented groups and priority populations, such as Indigenous, 55 plus, girls, rural communities, and people with intellectual disabilities.
- This year we have increased funding for major games while providing investments in local sport and recreation:
 - We invested over \$1.3 million for active-living programs and Special Olympics Yukon, ElderActive Recreation Association, and the Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon;
 - Provided over \$1.7 million for 28 sport governing bodies, elite athletes, officials and 5 special recreation groups;
 - Invested \$858,000 for sport programs and initiatives including Aboriginal sport development and leadership'
 - And provided \$750,000 to support Major Games in 2023–24, including the 2023 North American Indigenous Games, 2024 Arctic Winter Games, and 2024 Canada 55+ Games.

Additional response:

- Yukon government continues to support sport governing bodies in meeting their national mandated requirements such as incorporating into their programs a focus on concussion awareness, the prevention of harassment, abuse and discrimination in sport, and gender equity.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Funding Increases for Sport and Recreation Groups**Community Services

Context:

- This may become an issue because numerous sport and recreation organizations have requested additional funding from the Yukon Government to help off-set increased costs for rent, wages, programming and demands from inflation and population growth; and the department is examining how best to support the sector in the short and longer term.
-

Background:

- The Sport and Recreation Branch (SARB) has a critical role in funding the territory's sport, recreation and active living sector to support the health, well-being and quality of life for Yukoners.
- SARB has been receiving many requests for increased operational funding from sport and recreation organizations in order to keep providing services to Yukoners. They describe added pressures of increased rent and wages, costs to provide programming, and demands from population growth.

Financial Implications:

- SARB provides a total of \$5.385 million in funding annually (2022-23 figures). Of this, 60% (\$3.205 million) goes to sport governing bodies and sport and recreation organizations through the Foundations and Podium Pathways Grants, as well as direct operational and programming funding.
- Of the \$3.205 million to sport and recreation organizations, \$1.917 million (60%) comes from the Government of Yukon. The remaining 40% comes from external sources including the Public Health Agency of Canada (\$404K), Sport Canada (\$194K) and Lotteries Yukon (\$690K).

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

**Funding Increases for Sport and
Recreation Groups**

Community Services

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Safe Sport**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Safety in sport has an impact on everyone, and we are committed to creating a positive culture that prioritizes respectful sport experiences that are safe for everyone.
- We recognize the importance of implementing safe sport policies and procedures and are currently working on options for adopting the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport.
- Safety in sport is a key priority across Canada and all jurisdictions are working towards ensuring processes are in place for reporting incidents of maltreatment in sport. We are committed to working with our sport and recreation organizations to protect athletes from all forms of maltreatment.

Additional response:

- The Yukon engaged with the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada to use the complaint management services of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commission for the 2022 Canada Summer Games, 2023 Canada Winter Games and the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.
- In addition, we have shared the Abuse Free Sport video with Team Yukon to ensure that everyone has the resources available if they wish to seek assistance.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest to know what the Yukon government is doing to address maltreatment in sport.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Safe Sport

Community Services

Background:

- At the 2019 Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Ministers Conference, Ministers endorsed the Red Deer Declaration for the Prevention of Harassment, Abuse, and Discrimination in Sport, committing to implementing a collaborative intergovernmental approach, with better harmonized commitments, mechanisms, principles, and actions to address harassment, abuse and discrimination in sport in the areas of awareness, policy, prevention, reporting, management, and monitoring. Ministers also agreed to a series of actions to be implemented by 2021.
- In 2019, Sport Canada supported the development of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent, and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). It includes general principles, definitions of maltreatment, prohibited behaviours, and an approach to sanctions.
- The Government of Canada requires that federally funded national-level sport organizations adopt or integrate the UCCMS into their organizational policies and procedures as a condition of funding.
- In February 2023, F-P/T Ministers responsible for sport, physical activity, and recreation agreed to work together to have all athletes and participants in Canada protected by an independent third-party mechanism. Yukon and other jurisdictions are working toward this and have first to overcome several challenges including cost, procurement and legislative constraints.
- A F-P/T Maltreatment in Sport Working Group was established to identify guiding principles and /or develop recommendations to support jurisdictions in the establishment of independent third-party mechanisms, to remain informed of ongoing work of other sector initiatives and to provide a forum for the sharing of best practices and key learnings from safe sport efforts across the country.

Financial Implications:

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Safe Sport

Community Services

- There is a cost to establishing mandatory 3rd party independent mechanism to address maltreatment in sport in the Yukon; however, costs are not known at this time.

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Funding for North American
Indigenous Games**Community Services

Recommended response:

- In July, Team Yukon, consisting of over 130 athletes, coaches, mission staff and supporters, travelled to the North American Indigenous Games in Halifax. Team Yukon proudly represented the territory and their home communities in 11 sports and brought home an amazing 39 medals: 20 gold, 10 silver and nine bronze.
- Community Services is pleased to support the Yukon Aboriginal Sports Circle and was pleased to provide \$585,000 to cover travel and other expenses directly related to the Games.
- While at the North American Indigenous Games, Sport Ministers from Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut had a productive meeting with the Federal Minister of Sport. We discussed our common interests of identifying meaningful ways to support increased Indigenous sport participation and the need to review funding support for future North American Indigenous Games team travel.

Additional response:

- The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action #88 calls of all governments to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the NAIG, including funding to host the games and for territorial team preparation and travel.

Context:

- This may be an issue because costs for travel have increased and when comparing the level of support for teams attending the Canada Games with that for travel to NAIG, a significant disparity is evident.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Funding for North American
Indigenous Games**Community Services

Background:

- The North American Indigenous Games is a key component in the development of Indigenous sport in Canada and it should be positioned accordingly. Canada and the Provinces/Territories have a shared responsibility to work with sport leaders to increase support for Indigenous athlete and sport development.
- In 2019, F-P/T Ministers responsible for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation requested that the Canada Games Council work with the Aboriginal Sport Circle, F-PT governments, and Indigenous communities to develop a Sustainable Strategy that promotes Indigenous athletes, coaches, and officials at the Canada Games across all sports.
- The north has a unique geography and culture; however, our people are challenged by living in small, isolated, and remote communities. The cost of travel to support sport development and Team participation in events such as the Canada Games and the North American Indigenous Games continue to be an increasing burden on Territorial governments to address.
- Sport Canada provides support to Canada Games host societies through an established Canada Games Funding Framework. In addition to supporting host societies, Canada also provides direct support to provinces and territories by covering participant travel expenses from a central departure point to the designated location where Canada Games are taking place. This direct travel support is provided every two years, aligning with the Canada Games hosting rotation.
- Sport Canada also provides support to the host community for North American Indigenous Games (when hosted in Canada) and does provide some financial support to provinces and territories for team development and travel. However, when comparing the level of support for teams attending the Canada Games with that for travel to the North American Indigenous Games, a significant disparity becomes evident.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action have made five recommendations (#87-91) specific to Indigenous sport. Recommendation 88

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Fall 2023

Funding for North American Indigenous Games

Community Services

calls upon all governments to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and the continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.

- In August 2023, the Government of Canada amended the 2022-24 bilateral agreement with the Government of Yukon to include the Indigenous Supplement for the 2023-24 fiscal year in an amount of \$101,300. The Government of Yukon provides a matching contribution of \$272,375 to the Indigenous Supplement Component.
- The current bilateral agreement with Canada ends in March 2024. There has been no confirmation that the Indigenous portion of the bilateral agreement will be renewed for 2024-2027.

Financial Implications:

- YG provides YASC \$50,000 annually in operational funding.
- YG contributed \$585,000 towards the 2023 NAIG Team Yukon. Team Yukon charter costs for the 2023 NAIG are \$454,500.
- Under the 2023-24 Bilateral Agreement, YASC is receiving \$317,125 in support from Canada and YG. The funding supports Indigenous participation in sport as well as leadership capacity and development.

Approved by:


September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Yukon First Nations Partnership**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Yukon relies on First Nations Initial Attack firefighting crews as a key component of the Wildland Fire Management program. The Government of Yukon and First Nations crews work side by side on the fire line and all are provided with the same level of training and type of equipment including personal protective equipment.
- The Government of Yukon has renewed agreements with all 14 First Nations for the Wildland Fire Management Initial Attack Program. This includes five government-to-government agreements and nine agreements administered by Yukon First Nation Wildfire Limited Partnership.
- I want to thank Yukon First Nation Fire, our First Nation government partners, and all initial attack and unit crew members for their efforts. They work hard to keep Yukoners safe, and to limit the impact of wildland fire in our communities.

Context:

- This may become an issue because there is general interest in fire management, and partnerships with Yukon First Nations in wildland fire management.

Background:

- The program consists of 10 Yukon government crews and 14 First Nations crews located in six fire centers across the territory.
- In 2023, several crews were not able to fully staff their three positions, leaving partial crews that could not be deployed on a wildfire. These challenges are not unique to Yukon as other jurisdictions across the country experience labour shortages due to challenges with recruitment and retention.
- In 2023, nine of 14 First Nations or their Development Corporations assigned the administration of their initial attack crew contracts to Yukon First Nations Wildfire

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Yukon First Nations Partnership**Community Services

Limited Partnership. This supports local employment, capacity building and economic development. The remaining five contracts are bilateral with the Wildland Fire Management Branch.

- Negotiations for the next iteration of the initial attack agreements began in 2022. This resulted in agreements with similar terms, but with significant cost increases due to employment market conditions, supply chain issues, and the high costs of goods and services.
- In addition to initial attack services provided by First Nations crews, Wildland Fire Management Branch also has a three-year agreement for Unit Crew Services with Yukon First Nations Wildfire.
- Under this agreement, the Unit Crew perform guaranteed work during wildfire season in order to be readily available for deployment to a wildfire or other incident. The agreement also provides support for training and capacity development to increase the amount of qualified wildland fire fighting resources that are available in Yukon.

Financial Implications:

- In 2023, approximately \$2.4 million is allocated for Yukon First Nations initial attack firefighter crew services.
- This number increased as a result of inflation rates, supply chain challenges, ongoing negotiations for a new collective agreement (associated wage rate increases) and increased costs for vehicles and fuel.
- In 2023, the Yukon government provided \$50,000 to Yukon First Nations Wildfire Limited Partnership for the Beat the Heat boot camp, and in-kind contributions to the program in staff time and training resources.
- The 2022 Unit Crew Services Agreement saw Yukon government provide \$830,000 in contracts and transfer payment agreements.
- In 2023, up to \$525,000 was available to Yukon First Nations Wildfire for the guaranteed work and training portions of the Unit Crew Services Agreement.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Yukon First Nations Partnership

Community Services

Approved by:



September 5th 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention**Community Services

Recommended response:

- We are taking proactive measures to limit the impact of wildfires through fuel management such as forest thinning, conversion of coniferous stands to deciduous stands, and prescribed burning. We are also promoting wildland fire prevention through education campaigns to reduce human-caused fire ignition and help property owners protect their homes from wildfire risk.
- As an important step we are developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, which will offer a road map for reducing community fire risk through forest fuel treatments and community FireSmart projects.
- Plans are prepared in partnership with community leaders and with public feedback to identify fuel management priorities and give guidance for addressing wildland fire hazards. We are proud to have endorsed Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Teslin and Haines Junction with five more communities engaged in the planning process.

Additional response:

- These plans will lead to landscape-scale projects such as the Whitehorse South Fuel Break currently underway. This partnership with the City of Whitehorse is treating 395 hectares of forest while providing opportunities for biomass industry growth. To date, 273 hectares have been worked. We expect to finish the Copper Haul Road Fuel Break in fall 2024 and the Mary Lake Shaded Fuel Break portion in fall 2026.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention**Community Services

Context:

- This may become an issue because the public remains concerned about the threat of wildfire to their communities.
-

Background:

- Four draft Community Wildfire Protection Plans are nearing completion for the Village of Mayo, the Town of Faro, Dawson City, as well as the communities of Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay together. These plans will be presented for engagement with the community and First Nations in early winter 2023.
- Through the FireSmart funding program, community groups can receive funding for local wildfire hazard reduction projects. In 2023/24, the Yukon government in partnership with the Government of Canada is investing a total of \$1.25 million in 35 projects.
- This total includes providing \$850,000 for FireSmart projects, with an additional \$400,000 to First Nation communities, thanks to a contribution from Indigenous Services Canada's Emergency Management Assistance Program.
- The Whitehorse South Fuel Break is a 395-hectare piece of strategic wildfire-resistant infrastructure. It is partially funded by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. It is expected to be completed in 2026 and includes manual treatments, mechanical treatments, prescribed burns and planting of aspen trees. 170,000 aspen seedlings have been planted in fuel treatment areas around Whitehorse to further improve the resilience of our forests and community.
- The Copper Haul Road North Fuelbreak project was successfully screened through YESAB in 2022. This 200-hectare project will create defensible space for firefighters to work safely and effectively along the Copper Haul Road from the Mt. Sima Bridge in the south to the McLean Lake Quarries in the north. Wildland Fire Management is leading Yukon government's participation in Canada's 2 Billion Trees program, which will provide \$747 thousand in federal funding between 2023-24 and 2025-26. Planning is currently underway to plant up to 480,000 aspen seedlings in strategic fuel breaks around Whitehorse and Haines Junction by 2026.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

- We work with the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Highways and Public Works, Economic Development and Environment to make the best use of wood salvaged from forest fuel treatment areas.

Financial Implications:

- In 2023/24, the Yukon government in partnership with the Government of Canada is investing \$1.25 million for FireSmart projects (\$850,000 for territorial FireSmart projects, with an additional \$400,000 specifically for First Nation communities)
- This year Wildland Fire Management budgeted a further \$1.8 million for landscape-level fuel treatments and supporting activities such as road maintenance, consultants etc.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

September 5th 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note
2023 Season in Review**Fall 2023**Community Services

Recommended response:

- 2023 is on record as the most severe wildfire season in Canadian history with significant fire activity in many jurisdictions.
- Our supplementary budget request for this year's fire season is \$19.6million; demonstrating the significant fire fighting activities that took place over the summer, from the Takhini Bridge fire in Ilex Valley, to the fires that threatened Mayo, Old Crow, Dawson City, large mines and many other community values.
- I want to thank the team in Yukon government, municipalities, First Nations, Yukon First Nation Wildfire, private companies and contractors, community members and the resources from across the country. What a tremendous effort to pull through a tough year while keeping our territory safe.
- We are grateful for the support of our partners in both the private and public sector, and I am very appreciative of the expertise and professionalism of our public service.

Context:

- This may become an issue because the public may have interest in Wildland Fire Management activities in 2023.

Background:

- This year, Wildland Fire Management responded to 218 fires, including 57 wildfires (27% of all fires) in the Critical or Full Zones (i.e. high risk to communities or critical infrastructure).
- The team was able to build internal capacity and provide support through the export of 146 individual deployment to support wildfire response in Alberta, Northwest Territories, Quebec, and British Columbia. Exports occurred in the early

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****2023 Season in Review**Community Services

and late season when Yukon weather conditions were favorable and there was a lack of notable fires on the landscape.

- Yukon has 75 initial attack firefighters in regional bases across the Yukon and another 40 staff managing crews and aircraft, leading prevention programs, and providing logistical support.
- When fully staffed, there are a maximum of 24 wildfire crews, which is comprised of 10 Yukon government and 14 Yukon First Nations crews. The 2023 season saw 5 of these contracts unfilled and single resources were joined together to maximize response capacity.
- The 2023 season of extreme wildfire activity showed the need for strong public fire information. An expanded fire map was launched in July to help people better understand the Yukon's fire situation while also learning more about fire activity in a given area.
- WFM prepares for the fire season by having resources in place ready to respond to incidents as required. During the season, WFM's meteorologist and fire behavior specialists actively monitor current and short-term forecast weather to ensure appropriate response to fires.
- When Yukon's wildland fire resources become overwhelmed, we are fortunate to draw on the support of personnel from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Ontario under our mutual aid resource sharing agreement through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center.
- When the Yukon Wildland Fire season subsides, WFM can export resources to other jurisdictions, as we did to Alberta, Northwest Territories and Quebec in 2023.
- In addition to hiring personnel, Wildland Fire Management prepares for the coming season by restocking and refurbishing equipment over the winter months. This includes procurement of consumable goods, wildfire fighting equipment and replacement or maintenance of specialized vehicles.

Session Briefing Note
2023 Season in Review**Fall 2023**

Community Services

Financial Implications:

In 2023:

- The WFM budget for 2023/24 is \$22.6million. This accounts for a typical fire year in the Yukon, recognizing that costs will be higher in an active fire year. An additional \$19.6 million is requested at Supplementary Estimates #1 due to the high number of fires and additional resources required. The revised forecast for 2023/24 is just over \$42.2 million.
- Over the past five years, total WFM expenditure has ranged from \$18 million (2020/21) to \$40 million (2019/20), and is typically updated through Supplementary Budgets where required.
- In the 2023/24 Main Estimates, \$3.3 million was budgeted for prevention and mitigation – hazard reduction, FireSmart projects, and resiliency; and, \$16.4 million was budgeted for preparedness – base personnel costs, expected costs like training and program delivery, and planned seasonal expenses.

Approved by:September 5th 2023_____
Deputy Minister, Community Services_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Finance

Recommended:

- All Yukon households continue to see their budgets stretched by higher prices, with lower-income households often feeling the worst effects.
- At the same time, our government continues to track inflation and its impact on Yukoners, so that we can take steps to ease the burden, as we have been doing for the last year.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work hard to make life more affordable for Yukoners and has announced an extension of the temporary \$150 Inflation Relief Rebate to reduce the impacts that inflation continues to have on Yukoners.
- All non-government residential and commercial electricity customers will see a \$50 credit on their bills starting in November 2023 and running through December 2023 and January 2024.
- Several other measures included in the 2023-24 Budget are helping to make life more affordable for Yukoners.
 - funding for food in Yukon schools;
 - the timber harvesting incentive and a support program for commercial fuelwood harvesters and retailers to boost the fuelwood supply;
 - a quarterly top-up of \$150 to eligible recipients of the Yukon Senior Income Supplement;

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

Finance

- o a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients;
 - o increasing the Yukon Child Benefit to \$867 per child and tying the benefit amount in future years to the rate of inflation; and
 - o a 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers with children in out of home care.
- The Government of Yukon has also made significant and ongoing financial investments in Early Learning and Child Care. The new Universal Child Care Program has reduced fees to less than \$10 per day on average.

Additional response:

- This government first established a strong record of making life more affordable for Yukoners with almost \$10 million-worth of inflation relief made available in last year's budget.
- This included more funding for Food Network Yukon, a 10 per cent top up to the Pioneer Utility Grant and rebates on the purchase of firewood.
- Yukoners are also receiving inflation relief from the federal government. This includes the accelerated Canada Workers' Benefit, the elimination of interest on student loans, a doubling of the GST tax credit, dental care and the Canada Housing Benefit for renters.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Finance

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Inflation has fallen from many decade highs but remains elevated in Canada and in the Yukon.
- Energy prices remain elevated, and higher costs for food and shelter have become prominent drivers of overall inflation in recent months. These are all areas where higher prices are more obvious to consumers.
- Housing affordability has been a concern in the Yukon for several years.
- While remaining above historic norms, inflation of 3.8 per cent in September matched the national figure and was the lowest year-over-year increase in the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index (CPI) since January 2022 (3.7 per cent).

Background:

Key government initiatives addressing inflation in the Yukon

- Our energy programs are successfully encouraging Yukon residents and local businesses to reduce their energy use, save money and choose low carbon options to live and move.
- A significant portion of the Government of Yukon's Five-Year Capital Plan is allocated to housing and land development in order to continue to help address the supply side of the housing equation.
- Yukon Housing Corporation is investing across all parts of the housing continuum, including increase to supportive housing, subsidized Community Housing, and rental subsidy programs.
- This builds on previous programs to improve affordability for Yukoners under previous budgets.
- Last year, the Government of Yukon announced almost \$10 million in new inflation relief measures targeted at vulnerable groups.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Finance

- The inflation relief rebate covered seven months at a total cost to Government of \$7.6 million. The inflation relief rebate automatically applied a \$50 credit to all residential and commercial ATCO Electric Yukon and Yukon Energy electricity bills.
- Yukoners on social assistance received a one-time payment of \$150.
- Seniors were supported by a 10 per cent top up in the Pioneer Utility grant and a one-time payment of \$150 to recipients of the Yukon Seniors Income Supplement.
- Yukoners who heat their homes with wood are eligible for a \$50 rebate per cord of fuel wood purchased from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Yukon also introduced the Timber Harvesting Incentive that gives commercial timber harvesters \$10 per cubic metre.
- The pilot program that gave an extra \$500 per month to Extended Family Caregiver agreement caregivers and foster caregivers was extended by 6 months to March 31, 2023.
- In June 2022, the Yukon government extended the Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement and Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement programs, administered through Economic Development.

Yukoners are also supported by Federal Government affordability programs:

- Accelerated Canada Workers Benefit payments and new minimum entitlement started in July 2023 (\$4 billion over six years, starting in 2022-23).
- All Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans became permanently interest-free starting in April 2023 (\$2.7 billion over five years and \$556.3 million ongoing).
- GST Tax Credit: The GST tax credit has doubled for six months in the current benefit year. Additional payment will be provided in one lump sum, before the end of the benefit year. Targeted to individuals and families with low incomes

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Finance

(below \$39,826, and gradually phased out above that level). Single Canadians without children will receive up to an extra \$234, and couples with two children will receive up to an extra \$467 this year. Seniors will receive an extra \$225 on average.

Government initiatives which are indexed to inflation:

- Higher inflation impacts various government of Yukon programs through indexation, (indexation is updated each April unless otherwise noted), including:
 - o Tobacco Tax is updated each January
 - o Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation (with a one-year lag).
 - o The minimum wage.
 - o Subsidies for medical travel.
 - o Pioneer Utility grant.
 - o Residential rent caps.
 - o Seniors benefits (updated each October)
 - o Social Assistance Payments (updated each November)
 - o Student Financial Assistance (updated each school year)

Inflation outlook

- Following record annual inflation for Whitehorse of 6.8 per cent in 2022, the same increase seen nationally, monthly inflation has remained elevated in 2023. September's inflation of 3.8 per cent was the lowest since January 2022 and matched the national increase. Prior to September, Whitehorse inflation had exceeded the Canadian figure for fourteen consecutive months.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Finance

- Early in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, some price pressures were slower to materialize in the Yukon than in other parts of the country, as inflation for Whitehorse was amongst the lowest in Canada in the first half of 2022.
- Robust price growth in the CPI components of food, shelter and recreation, education and reading material have been key drivers of overall inflation in 2023. Stronger growth in these three components in the Whitehorse CPI, account for much of the difference between the overall levels of inflation for Whitehorse and Canada in recent months.
- The Bank of Canada continues to be aggressive in trying to get inflation under control. With a 0.25 percentage point increase in July, the Bank has raised the target for its overnight rate 4.75 percentage points since January 2022. At 5.0 per cent, the overnight rate is at its highest level since early 2001.
- Most forecasters still expect inflation in Canada will move towards historic norms over the next couple of years as the effect of higher interest rates move through the economy. Canadian inflation is expected to decline from near 7 per cent in 2022, to 3.5-4.0 per cent in 2023. Inflation in 2024 is expected to return to within the Bank of Canada's target range of 1-3 per cent.
- While inflation in Whitehorse has been stronger in recent months, it generally follows the national trend. Current expectations are for inflation to come in at 5.5 per cent in 2023, before falling to 2.5 per cent in 2024.

Carbon Taxes and Grocery Prices

- The effect of the carbon tax on CPI has contributed to inflation, but only modestly and mostly through the direct effect on fuel prices.
- According to the Bank of Canada, the direct effect of carbon tax is adding 0.15 percentage points to inflation this year.

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Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Finance

- An economist at the University of Calgary¹, estimates that accounting for indirect effects brings this impact to 0.2 percentage points.
- For food in particular, the entire \$65 per tonne carbon tax increases monthly spending on groceries by at most \$20 per month, and likely closer to \$5 per month after accounting for emissions allowances provided by the federal Output Based Allocation system.²
- Overall, food price increases appear to be predominantly driven by other factors as prices have increased across North America independent of the implementation of a carbon tax.
- In the US, with no carbon tax system in place, food prices have increased by 26 per cent since the carbon tax came into effect in Canada in January 2018. In Canada the increase has been a similar 28 per cent.
- Whitehorse recorded an 18 per cent increase in food prices since January 2018 while Urban Alaska reported a 28 per cent increase.

INFLATION RELIEF ACROSS GOVERNMENT

Programs currently in place:

Tourism and Culture:

Community Tourism Destination Development Fund

- In October 2022, the Department of Tourism and Culture announced the creation of the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund, which is slated to run for an initial 3-year term.
- The new annual funding program is available to local businesses, First Nations governments, First Nation Development entities, municipalities and not-for-profit

¹ Trevor Tombe

² Energy and Environmental Policy Trends: Indirect Carbon Tax Costs Reduced By Policy Design, Kent Fellows and Trevor Tombe, University of Calgary

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Finance

organizations for projects that will improve tourism-related services and infrastructure.

- Projects can focus on infrastructure like accommodations, attractions, activities and amenities, and special consideration will be given to umbrella projects, where multiple organizations are working together.

Creative and Cultural Industries

- In November 2021, the Department of Tourism and Culture released Creative Potential; Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries, a 10-year strategy to support the growth and development of the creative and cultural industries in the Yukon.
- The CCIS identified 4 strategic objectives and 22 key actions, which reflect input gathered through extensive public and sector engagement.
- We also identified 10 actions in support of pandemic recovery to be completed over 3 years as Phase 1 implementation, which includes:
 - Modernizing existing funding;
 - Offering new funding streams;
 - Industry branding and promotion;
 - Marketing and export strategies;
 - Workshops; and
 - Labour market supports.
- In 2023-24, 3 new funding programs will provide \$450,000 annually to the creative and cultural sectors, including:
 - Express Micro-grant;
 - Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant; and
 - Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Finance

Additional Funding Programs

- Tourism and Culture also provides annual supports to the tourism and culture sectors through Transfer Payment Agreements (TPAs) with many NGOs across the Yukon and through a number of regular funding programs, including:
 - Advanced Artist Award;
 - Arts Fund;
 - Arts Operating Funds;
 - Cultural Industries Training Funds;
 - Culture Quest;
 - New Canadian Events Fund;
 - Touring Artist Fund;
 - Historic Properties Assistance Program;
 - Historic Resources Fund;
 - Museums Contribution Program;
 - Special Projects Capital Assistance Program (SPCAP); and
 - Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund;

Yukon Development Corporation:

Inflation Relief Rebate

- The Inflation Relief Rebate (IRR) provides \$50 per month to all non-government residential and commercial electricity customers to help ease the impacts of rising inflation.
- The IRR was subsequently extended for March, April, and May 2023. The budget in 2023-24 is comprised of:

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Finance

- \$2,056,000 for program costs in April and May 2023 (costs for March 2023 are included in the 2022-23 Supplementary Estimates #2).
- \$3,246,000 for a further 3 additional months. We will continue to monitor inflation and costs of living, and we anticipate this will show on electricity bills next winter when electricity bills are typically higher.

Economic Development:

Paid sick leave program

- On April 1, 2023, Economic Development launched the Paid Sick Leave Rebate. The program will run for two 12-month blocks:
 - April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024; and
 - April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate is a temporary program that offers up to 40 hours of paid sick leave to employees and self-employed Yukoners that earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94/hour. The program is available to employees regardless of whether their employer offers paid sick leave.

Energy, Mines and Resources:

Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency and offset costs

- Our energy programs are successfully encouraging Yukon residents and local businesses to reduce their energy use, save money and choose low carbon options to live and move.
- Energy efficiency programs are available for the transportation sector, renewable heating sector, and the construction sector focusing on high efficiency buildings.
- For existing homes, the Energy Branch offers the Good Energy rebate program for high performance heating systems and upgrades to thermal enclosures including insulation and windows, and high performance new homes. Taking these measures will save homeowners money on their energy costs.

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Finance

- For commercial and institutional buildings, the Energy Branch offers rebates for greenhouse gas-reducing retrofits and renewable heating.
- Between January 1, 2018, and June 30, 2023, 176 high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory.
- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits more accessible and affordable for Yukoners.
- For First Nation and municipal buildings, the Energy Branch offers retrofit and funding support through its Community Institutional Energy Efficiency Program.
- To help increase the supply of firewood, we distributed \$315,000 to 33 Yukon businesses under the Timber Harvest Incentive program in 2022-23. We are offering this program for another year as it increased timber harvest volumes and prompted new harvesting businesses to emerge. No new applications have been received yet for this year, but we did not anticipate to see them until the fall when the businesses start operating again.
- The Government of Yukon and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency combined financial contributions to launch a new \$200,000 support program offering funding for commercial harvesters and retailers.
- The program will help forest sector businesses with the cost of purchases and repairs from local suppliers for harvest equipment, vehicles and trailers, personal protective equipment, and other equipment. For larger harvesting businesses, the funds can also be used for things like planning and administrative costs.
- Applicants have until March 31, 2024, to apply or until available funds are exhausted.

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Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Finance

Yukon Housing Corporation:

Projects under the Five-Year Capital Plan which support housing affordability and those in need include:

- The 47-unit housing complex at 401 Jeckell Street in Whitehorse opened in January 2023. The building provides new homes to Yukoners, including 5 three-bedroom, 12 two-bedroom, 16 one-bedroom and 14 bachelor units.
- A Yukon Housing Corporation Housing Initiatives Fund recipient, Right On Property Group, has completed Boreal Commons, a new 87-unit rental development in Whitehorse's Whistle Bend neighbourhood. This large-scale housing project will help address the need for more rental housing in the Yukon, including for more affordable and accessible units.
- Normandy Living, the Yukon's first private seniors' supportive living community, has officially opened its doors in Whitehorse with 84 modern suites, including housing units for First Nations Elders and affordable units for low-income seniors.
- Triplex housing units in Watson Lake, Mayo and Whitehorse were completed in spring 2022 and are providing affordable homes to families in each of these communities.
- A 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing complex in Old Crow is under construction.
- Construction of a 10-Plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake started in the summer 2023 and is expected to be completed by fall 2024;
- Two accessible duplexes in Mayo and Carmacks were completed this summer and are now available for YHC clients.

Other highlights from the plan

- More homes will be created for Yukon families in rural communities through the construction of three duplexes in Dawson City and Faro. These homes are on track for completion in summer 2024.

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Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Finance

Health and Social Services:

- A 37.5 per cent top-up to eligible Yukon Senior Income Supplement recipients' monthly payment;
- a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients; and
- a 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers of children in out of home care.

Covid-19 and other temporary inflation relief measures no longer in place:

Tourism and Culture:

COVID-19 Business Relief Programs

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Yukon acted quickly and decisively by implementing one of the most robust business relief programs in the country. This began with the Yukon Business Relief Program (YBRP) in 2020, which was open to any business from any sector that experienced at least a 30 per cent revenue loss due to the pandemic.
- In that same year, Tourism and Culture (T&C) also launched the Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan (TRRP), which was reviewed and endorsed by the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) and industry.
- The Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan committed \$15 million over 3 years to support the tourism sector and was focused on 4 key themes:
 - Providing tourism sector leadership;
 - Rebuilding confidence and capabilities for tourism;
 - Supporting the recovery of tourism industry operators; and
 - Refining the brand and inspiring travelers to visit.
- Through the TRRP, various financial support programs were rolled out during the course of the pandemic to sustain the tourism industry and prepare it for the eventual reopening of borders, including:

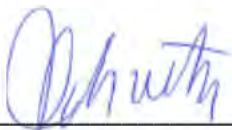
**Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
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Finance

- Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS);
- Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS);
- Culture and Tourism Non-profit Sector Supplement;
- Great Yukon Summer (GYS) program;
- Great Yukon Summer Freeze program;
- ELEVATE program; and
- A top-up to the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF).

Health and Social Services:

- a one-time \$150 payment to social assistance recipients;
- a one-time payment of \$150 to Yukon Seniors Income Supplement recipients;
- a one-time 10 per cent additional payment to Pioneer Utility Grant recipients;
- a 6-month extension of \$500 per month to caregivers of children in out of home care; and
- a commitment of \$100,000 to Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition to continue to support food security across the territory.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Finance

October 26, 2023

Approved

ENV #21 / EMR #36/ TAB 2

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Fall 2023

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Our Clean Future is the Government of Yukon's path to address the climate emergency.
- The strategy is continually being strengthened year after year as we assess our progress, review new research, consider the input of others and identify new and innovative solutions.
- We have committed to an ambitious target of reducing our emissions by 45 per cent below 2010 levels by 2030.
- We have also committed to ensuring the Yukon is highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030, because we know the North will face climate impacts.

Additional response:

- It is important to look back on our progress to date and remain diligent in implementation when it comes to addressing climate change.
- We have legislated greenhouse gas emissions targets and associated reporting through the Clean Energy Act. (See EMR BN #31 / ENV #23)
- We launched the five-year Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership this year which will enhance the agriculture sector's resiliency and adaptation to climate change. (See EMR BN # 20)
- In collaboration with Yukon's public utilities, we exceeded our target to install seven megawatts of renewable electricity capacity through the Micro-Generation program by 2030. (See EMR BN #37)
- We launched the Better Buildings program to offer affordable financing for energy retrofits on Yukoners' homes and buildings.

ENV #21 / EMR #36/ TAB 2

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Fall 2023

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- We established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors.
- We advanced emergency preparedness by progressing on Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Dawson City, Mayo, Watson Lake, Beaver Creek, the Town of Faro and the Kluane Lake Region.
- We have begun work on developing flood maps for all flood-prone Yukon communities. Flood maps for the Southern Lakes, Carmacks, and Teslin [are anticipated to be released in 2024](#). The next communities for flood hazard mapping will be Old Crow, Ross River and Dawson/Klondike, with work occurring in 2024-25.
- We completed the installation of a biomass heating system at Elijah Smith Elementary School in May 2023.

Third response:

- Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our 45 per cent greenhouse gas emissions target reduction by 2030.
- We are working with industry to establish a mining emissions intensity target for quartz and placer mining operations.
- We will continue to build on Our Clean Future as we learn more and implement new actions. This will be reflected in future annual reports.
- [Our 2022 Annual Report will be released in late 2023. We look forward to highlighting the good work that has been done in 2022.](#)
- [As this is an adaptative management strategy which involves 14 departments and agencies, it has taken some time to ensure that the report is strategically focused on helping us reach our targets.](#)

ENV #21 / EMR #36/ TAB 2

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Fall 2023

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- As a government, we continue to collaborate on implementation of actions.
- We will continue to work with experts, stakeholders and partner governments across the territory and beyond, to identify opportunities to accelerate and intensify our efforts to reach our ambitious targets.
- We established the Yukon Climate Leadership Council to provide advice and perspectives to support us in meeting our greenhouse gas emissions targets. We are working to integrate the work of the Council directly into Our Clean Future and continue to implement existing actions that align with their recommendations.
- With the end of the second Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change in 2022, we are exploring how to continue mentorship opportunities on climate change for the important voice of youth.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Climate change is of high interest to Yukoners; they will want to know the government's progress in delivering on Our Clean Future commitments.

Background:

- Our Clean Future was released on September 14, 2020.
- Our Clean Future contains 136 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030.
- The Our Clean Future 2020 Annual Report was publicly released on August 12, 2021. The 2021 Annual Report was publicly released on September 12, 2022.

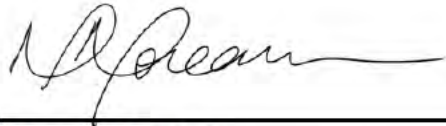
ENV #21 / EMR #36/ TAB 2

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Fall 2023

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

2023-11-14

Date approved



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 14, 2023

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 our society.
- Our government is deeply committed to advancing reconciliation through collaboration and partnership with Indigenous governments.
- While there is still more work to do, our efforts are resulting in meaningful change and creating better programs and services for all Yukoners.
- In honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation this year, we shared our progress toward addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action through the release of the Pathways magazine and an accompanying report.
- The magazine and report provide an update on our actions being taken across the Yukon government and in close collaboration with First Nations governments and organizations in areas including child welfare, health, education and justice.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations governments are leaders in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- We will continue our collaborative work to implement and report on the Calls to Action, including through work on Yukon Forum joint priorities and by implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023 mandate letters include a commitment to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action.
- CASA 2023 contains a commitment to work with First Nations to continue to implement the TRC recommendations through targeted investment.

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

- It is expected that the media and opposition will be interested in the fall 2023 public update, which will be the first comprehensive public update since 2016.

Background:

- The TRC report, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*, was released in June 2015. It contains 94 Calls to Action focused on redressing the harms resulting from Residential Schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. Thirty-two of the Calls to Action relate directly to YG.
- YG and Yukon First Nations (YFNs) have collaborated on addressing the Calls to Action under the 2017 Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan and through other reconciliation initiatives, such as supporting the important work of the YFN-led Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project.
- YG has taken additional steps to address the Calls to Action, including:
 - establishing the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations Initiatives at the Department of Education, signing an agreement to establish a YFN School Board, and entering into education agreements with all YFNs (speaks to Calls 7 and 10 directed to the federal government);
 - supporting Indigenous athletes and the North American Indigenous Games (Call 88);
 - implementing the YFN Procurement Policy (relates to Call 92) and the Representative Public Service Plan: *Breaking Trail Together* (relates to Call 7);
 - working with YFNs and Yukon Indigenous women's groups to implement the Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy* (MMIWG2S+ Strategy) (relates to Call 41);
 - participating at the Trilateral Table on the Wellbeing of YFN Children and Families to address gaps for culturally appropriate parenting programs (Call 5); and

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission
– Update on Calls to Action**

Executive Council
Office

- receiving input from YFNs on Health and Social Services programming through the Mental Health Advisory Committee (relates to Call 19).

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

October 10, 2023

Date

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

- There are challenges the Yukon's housing continuum, including:
 - a lack of affordable rental supply;
 - high house prices and mortgage rates; and
 - homelessness and a lack of access to housing with services.
- Exceptionally high building costs and rising interest rates are creating significant challenges for new housing projects, for both Yukon Housing Corporation and its partners.
- We continue working hard to move projects forward - through collaboration and strong partnerships - to provide relevant solutions to Yukoners' housing needs.

Additional response:

- Our government is seeking to increase housing options across the continuum and to make housing more affordable for Yukoners. (See Tab #0)
 - We continue to work to increase housing and land supply and to provide rental subsidies and support programs for homeowners to offer more affordable options for Yukoners.
 - Following the 2022 Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) report, the Corporation and Department of Health and Social Services continue to progress implementing the OAG's recommendations. (Tab #09)
-

Context:

- On a square footage basis, contractors' bids for YHC projects have more than doubled in the last two years alone.
- The rental vacancy rate in the Yukon for all building types is currently 2.2 per cent (YBS Spring Rental Survey).
- The Banks 5-year average mortgage interest rate increased from 4.75 per cent in February 2022 to 6.24 per cent in May 2023 (Weekly Updates).

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Background:

- In 2022-23, the Yukon Housing Corporation lapsed 34 per cent of its revised capital budget.
 - This was largely due to cancellation and scaling back of projects being supported through the corporation's loans and grants programs.
- New housing projects led by YHC's partners – including the Safe at Home Society and the Vimy Heritage Housing Society – continue to face delays.
- The 5th and Rogers RFP received only a single application. It is currently under review.

Approved by:



Colin McDowell
A/ President, Yukon Housing Corporation

September 8, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note (Corporate)**Fall 2023****2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #1**

Finance

Key Information

Recommended response:

- The 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates No. 1 forecasts an overall gross increase of \$132.7 million in O&M spending, with an offsetting increase of \$26.8 million in recoveries. The net increase in new O&M spending is forecast at \$105.9 million.
- Revenues are expected to increase by \$18.7 million, mainly to reflect an increase of \$2 million to the Canada Health Transfer and \$15 million for federal funding for Affordable Housing in the North.
- A large portion of the increase in O&M is for the new collective agreement between the Government of Yukon and Yukon Employee's Union. This new collective agreement was ratified in June and accounts for a \$36.9 million increase in O&M.
- The Supplementary Estimates also respond to several new or unanticipated challenges requiring funding. Some of these items include:
 - \$25.0 million for environmental care and maintenance work at the Minto Mine following the cessation of operations at the site in May, which will ensure that our environment remains protected;
 - \$19.6 million for wildland firefighting costs in response to the significant fire season experienced in the territory and which helped ensure the safety of Yukoners;
 - \$14.9 million in response to operational funding pressures at the Yukon Hospital Corporation to ensure that Yukoners have access to the health care services and supports they need;

Session Briefing Note (Corporate)**Fall 2023****2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #1**

Finance

Key Information

- \$9.8 million in response to cost pressures for Insured Health to support the wellbeing of Yukoners; and
- \$1.9 million to support the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy, and \$1.4 million for initiatives to support reconciliation with Yukon First Nations governments.
- The Supplementary Estimates also include a \$21.4 million capital allocation to support the development of a marine services platform in Skagway, which will create positive opportunities for Yukon's mining industry and its broader economy. We have identified offsetting adjustments based on timelines, loan program uptake, and the progress of various capital projects to accommodate this new project without any gross changes to capital spending.
- The Yukon government has maintained its surplus by making use of its contingency fund, included as part of Budget 2023-24. This \$50 million contingency fund helped shelter the government's fiscal position and allowed us to respond to emerging challenges throughout the year. The use of the contingency fund has allowed the government to present a revised surplus of \$3.6 million as part of these Supplementary Estimates.

Additional response:

- Changes in the Supplementary Estimates result in a revised year-end net debt of \$423.8 million.

Session Briefing Note (Corporate)**Fall 2023****2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #1**

Finance

Key Information

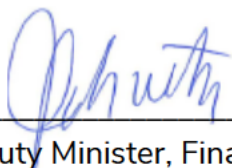
- The use of the contingency fund will cover the following emergency cost pressures:
 - \$25 million for unplanned maintenance costs at the Minto mine;
 - \$19.6 million for increased wildland firefighting activity.
 - \$2.3 million for other emergency response measures, like the Village of Mayo evacuation in response to the Talbot Creek fire;
 - and \$1.9 million for Substance Use Emergency response.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023-24 Second Appropriation Act is tabled in the fall session and will be the subject of debate.
-

Background:

- Supplementary Estimates are used annually by a government to account for spending that is unforeseen at the time of tabling the annual Budget. It is common to have one or two spending updates throughout the fiscal year.
- They are tabled during the fall and spring sessions, debated and voted on in the legislature and provide departments with increased spending authority for O&M and Capital for the current fiscal year.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Finance

September 29, 2023

[Date approved]