



Economic Development Briefing Notes

2023 Fall Sitting

Premier and Minister of Economic Development

Honorable Ranj Pillai



The DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
2023 Fall Session
DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING NOTES

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2023 Fall Session
DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING NOTES

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Department of Economic Development

Funding Program Actual Expenditures

From April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 (as at 05 October 2023)

	Community Development Fund	Economic Development Fund	Labour Market Development	Media Development Funds	Other Funding	Paid Sick Leave	Total All Programs	% of Total Paid
Funding by Sector (Based on North American Industry Classification System)								
Accommodation and Food Services	-	142,500	-	-	-	28,462	170,962	3%
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	-	4,325	1,340	-	-	2,479	8,144	0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	-	12,010	25,325	-	-	-	37,335	1%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	37,819	4,430	5,911	324,077	-	-	372,237	7%
Construction	-	16,050	4,695	-	-	8,265	29,009	1%
Educational Services	-	11,740	-	-	-	1,283	13,023	0%
Finance and Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Health and social assistance (includes daycares)	-	2,812	7,786	-	-	22,249	32,847	1%
Information and Cultural Industries	-	23,495	3,402	319,014	-	205	346,116	7%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	48,975	-	41,135	-	-	-	90,110	2%
Manufacturing	-	208,983	2,053	-	-	3,441	214,477	4%
Mining quarrying and oil and gas extraction	-	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000	0%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	797,833	67,740	1,284,389	112,003	436,843	1,290	2,700,098	52%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	-	68,466	478,604	69,391	103,600	3,900	723,960	14%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	-	-	-	-	-	840	840	0%
Retail Trade	35,613	-	9,925	-	-	50,932	96,470	2%
Transpiration and Warehousing	-	-	10,000	-	-	3,610	13,610	0%
Wholesale Trade	-	-	4,044	-	-	1,892	5,936	0%
Public Administration	167,542	77,939	-	-	95,065	-	340,546	7%
Total	1,087,782	655,490	1,878,610	824,485	635,507	128,847	5,210,720	100%
Funding by Community								
Beaver Creek	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Burwash Landing	45,465	-	-	-	-	-	45,465	0.9%
Carcross	-	-	41,135	-	-	-	41,135	0.8%
Carmacks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Dawson City	17,426	127,500	39,238	23,848	-	1,665	209,677	4.0%
Destruction Bay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Eagle Plains	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Faro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Haines Junction	57,797	5,776	-	-	-	-	63,573	1.2%
Keno City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Mayo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Old Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Pelly Crossing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Ross River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Tagish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Teslin	225,690	-	-	-	-	-	225,690	4.3%
Watson Lake	148,372	-	-	-	-	-	148,372	2.8%
Whitehorse	593,032	522,214	1,798,236	798,137	436,843	127,182	4,275,643	82.1%
Outside Yukon	-	-	-	2,500	198,665	-	201,165	3.9%
Total	1,087,782	655,490	1,878,610	824,485	635,507	128,847	5,210,720	100.0%

Number of organizations funded	45	29	36	41	7	62
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Department of Economic Development

COVID-19 Support Programs

From March 2020 to March 31, 2023

	Yukon Business Relief Program	Yukon Emergency Relief Program	Yukon Essential Workers Income Support	COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Rebate	Regional Relief and Recovery Fund	Tourism Sector Support (Oct 21 - Mar 22)	Tourism Sector Support Hospitality	Tourism Sector Support (April to July 22)	Temporary Support for Events Fund	Vaccine Verification Rebate	Total All Nine Programs	% of Total Paid
Funding by Sector (Based on North American Industry Classification System)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Accommodation and Food Services	5,851,227	61,800	1,899,610	331,446	960,000	2,204,922	1,113,998	521,884	790,673	5,101	13,740,661	42%
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	40,774	-	143,863	34,594	55,000	-	-	-	-	-	274,231	1%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	477,485	-	40,539	9,642	15,150	-	-	-	-	-	542,816	2%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	699,523	99,187	22,050	28,024	140,000	123,477	-	-	50,921	3,071	1,166,254	4%
Construction	365,998	-	12,412	599,049	377,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,354,458	4%
Educational Services	14,255	11,575	-	2,219	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,049	0%
Finance and Insurance	8,214	21,078	24,574	2,414	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,280	0%
Health and social assistance (includes daycares)	443,343	2,226	232,793	823,582	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,501,945	5%
Information and Cultural Industries	60,565	-	7,636	10,065	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	178,266	1%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	-	-	16,008	24,325	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,333	0%
Manufacturing	268,951	10,283	51,135	192,286	180,000	-	-	-	-	-	702,655	2%
Mining quarrying and oil and gas extraction	315,723	-	-	82,014	160,000	-	-	-	-	-	557,738	2%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	292,367	25,009	45,846	119,719	91,335	-	-	-	-	3,974	578,250	2%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	414,844	-	89,414	174,279	353,500	-	-	-	14,267	-	1,046,304	3%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	348,006	-	10,126	91,788	240,000	-	-	-	331,959	500	1,022,379	3%
Retail Trade	1,759,600	76,521	2,778,460	920,677	274,217	69,417	-	-	54,953	351	5,934,196	18%
Transpiration and Warehousing	1,960,194	-	71,095	136,160	460,000	618,810	-	215,278	422,596	-	3,884,133	12%
Wholesale Trade	143,823	-	24,839	81,444	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	290,106	1%
Total	13,464,894	307,679	5,470,399	3,663,728	3,446,202	3,016,626	1,113,998	737,162	1,665,369	12,997	32,899,054	100%
												-
Funding by Community	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	# of Businesses
Beaver Creek	111,936	-	-	8,653	-	150,772	24,335	23,112	-	-	318,808	1.0% 3
Burwash Landing	9,322	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,322	0.0% 2
Carcross	215,926	-	21,161	-	40,000	144,513	22,795	110,970	-	-	555,365	1.7% 8
Carmacks	143,459	-	4,129	24,595	100,000	60,000	10,000	-	-	432	342,615	1.0% 4
Dawson City	1,063,239	-	77,190	68,554	355,000	462,582	98,823	71,154	-	2,427	2,198,969	6.7% 27
Destruction Bay	67,543	-	-	-	-	113,807	16,193	40,000	-	-	237,543	0.7% 2
Eagle Plains	1,484	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,484	0.0% 1
Faro	109,988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,988	0.3% 3
Haines Junction	698,440	-	61,436	15,639	320,000	536,434	59,308	124,007	-	315	1,815,579	5.5% 20
Keno City	1,931	-	2,174	2,431	30,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	46,536	0.1% 1
Mayo	23,225	-	7,811	2,292	-	23,872	-	6,323	-	-	63,522	0.2% 3
Old Crow	27,896	20,311	1,846	-	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	90,053	0.3% 1
Pelly Crossing	-	-	-	15,816	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,816	0.0% 1
Ross River	140,216	-	-	4,720	80,000	120,000	-	33,273	-	-	378,209	1.1% 2
Tagish	83,643	-	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	143,643	0.4% 3
Teslin	46,096	-	37,016	4,650	100,000	31,963	10,000	-	-	-	229,725	0.7% 3
Watson Lake	596,809	-	54,338	20,259	70,000	214,556	-	91,095	-	-	1,047,058	3.2% 14
Whitehorse	10,123,741	287,368	5,203,299	3,496,119	2,311,202	1,098,128	862,544	237,228	1,665,369	9,823	25,294,821	76.9% 429
Total	13,464,894	307,679	5,470,399	3,663,728	3,446,202	3,016,626	1,113,998	737,162	1,665,369	12,997	32,899,054	100% 527

Department of Economic Development

Immigration Statistics (Departmental Programs Only)

For the calendar year ending December 31,
Updated as of: September 15th, 2023

Nominations by National Occupational Classification (NOC) Group

	2023		2022		2021		2020		2019		2018		Total over 5 years	
	No. of	% of	No. of	% of	No. of	% of	No. of	% of	No. of	% of	No. of	% of	No. of	% of
	Nominations		Nominations		Nominations		Nominations		Nominations		Nominations		Nominations	
Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers and Related Occupations	103	28%	100	25%	65	21%	67	31%	57	28%	51	31%	443	27%
Light Duty Cleaners	37	10%	52	13%			18	8%	21	10%	13	8%	141	8%
Cashiers	37	10%	34	8%	44	14%	15	7%			16	10%	146	9%
Grocery Clerks and Store Shelf Stockers	31	8%	26	6%	19	6%			14	7%	11	7%	101	6%
Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks	19	5%			24	8%	16	7%	13	6%			72	4%
Early Childhood Educators and Assistants	22	6%	32	8%	23	7%	26	12%	18	9%	13	8%	134	8%
Other Occupations	123	33%	162	40%	134	43%	75	35%	79	39%	60	37%	633	38%
Total Nominations	372	100%	406	100%	309	100%	217	100%	202	100%	164	100%	1,670	100%

Nominations by Country of Origin

India	134	36%	155	38%	182	59%	89	41%	40	20%	45	27%	645	39%
Philippines	136	37%	139	34%	51	17%	56	26%	82	41%	45	27%	509	30%
China	20	5%	20	5%	8	3%	11	5%	10	5%	11	7%	80	5%
Vietnam	7	2%	11	3%	7	2%	7	3%				0%	32	2%
Japan	8	2%					16	7%	18	9%	18	11%	60	4%
Germany	5	1%							9	4%	8	5%	22	1%
France	4	1%	8	2%	12	4%	7	3%					31	2%
Other Countries	58	16%	73	18%	49	16%	31	14%	43	21%	37	23%	291	17%
Total Nominations	372	100%	406	100%	309	100%	217	100%	202	100%	164	100%	1,670	100%

Nominations by Program Stream

Critical Impact Workers (CIW)	301	81%	313	77%	235	76%	167	77%	147	73%	129	79%	1,292	77%
Skilled Workers (SW)	46	12%	68	17%	51	17%	39	18%	42	21%	15	9%	261	16%
Express Entry (EE)	18	5%	25	6%	18	6%	9	4%	13	6%	20	12%	103	6%
Yukon Community Stream (YCP)	7	2%		0%	5	2%	2	1%					14	1%
	372	100%	406	100%	309	100%	217	100%	202	100%	164	100%	1,670	100%

Department of Economic Development

Immigration Statistics (Departmental Programs Only)

For the calendar year ending December 31,
Updated as of: September 15th, 2023

Nominations by Employer Community

	2023		2022		2021		2020		2019		2018		Total over 5 years	
	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of
Beaver Creek	1	0.3%	1	0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0%	-	0.0%	1	0.1%
Burwash Landing/Destruction Bay	2	0.5%	3	1%	4	1.3%	1	0.5%	-	0%	-	0.0%	8	0.5%
Carcross	-	0.0%	1	0%	3	1.0%	-	0.0%	2	1%	1	0.6%	7	0.4%
Carmacks	5	1.3%	2	0%	3	1.0%	-	0.0%	3	1%	2	1.2%	10	0.6%
Dawson City	9	2.4%	14	3%	11	3.6%	4	1.8%	6	3%	9	5.5%	44	2.6%
Eagle Plains	-	0.0%	-	0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Faro/Ross River	-	0.0%	4	0%	1	0.3%	-	0.0%	-	0%	1	0.6%	6	0.4%
Haines Junction	5	1.3%	7	2%	7	2.3%	2	0.9%	2	1%	5	3.0%	23	1.4%
Mayo/Keno City	2	0.5%	-	0%	4	1.3%	-	0.0%	1	0%	-	0.0%	5	0.3%
Marsh Lake	1	0.3%												
Old Crow	-	0.0%	-	0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Pelly Crossing	2	0.5%	-	0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Tagish	-	0.0%	1	0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0%	-	0.0%	1	0.1%
Teslin	-	0.0%	1	0%	1	0.3%	2	0.9%	4	2%	1	0.6%	9	0.5%
Watson Lake	13	3.5%	19	5%	11	3.6%	6	2.8%	14	7%	1	0.6%	51	3.1%
Communities other than Whitehorse	40	10.8%	53	12%	45	14.6%	15	6.9%	32	15.8%	20	12.2%	165	9.9%
Whitehorse (and periphery)	332	89.2%	353	87%	264	85.4%	202	93.1%	170	84%	144	88%	1,133	67.8%
Total Nominations	372	100.0%	406	99%	309	100.0%	217	100.0%	202	100.0%	164	100.0%	1,298	78%

Nominees by Gender

Female	173	46.5%	199	49%	145	46.9%	90	41.5%	108	53%	75	45.7%	617	36.9%
Male	199	53.5%	207	51%	164	53.1%	127	58.5%	94	47%	89	54.3%	681	40.8%
	372	100.0%	406	100%	309	100.0%	217	100.0%	202	100.0%	164	100.0%	1,298	77.7%

Department of Economic Development

Immigration Statistics (Departmental Programs Only)

For the calendar year ending December 31, Updated as of: September 15th, 2023	2023		2022		2021		2020		2019		2018		Total over 5 years	
	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of	No. of Nominations	% of
Other Data														
Total Employers	207		186		169		116		118		94			
Total Applications	439		468		353		242		270		192		1,964	
Total in Households, including nominees and declared dependents	694		759		467		347		365		264		-	
													2,896	
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Allocations														
Base	400		270		220		220		220		190			
Enhanced	30		30		30		30		30		60			
NOC C Initiative	-		-		50		50		50		-			
Total	430		300		300		300		300		250			

- Notes:
- Nominee means a foreign national who has been endorsed by the department for Permanent Residence under the Provincial Nominee Class on the basis of their ability to establish economically, and a demonstrated labour market need through an employer-driven application.
 - A nomination gives a nominee access to work permits which allow them to live, work and settle in the jurisdiction while they wait for a decision on their PR application.

Department of Economic Development

Paid Sick Leave Rebate - All Illnesses

From April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

By Sector (North American Industry Classification System)	Applications Processed (as at 21 Sep 2023)			Actual Expenditures (as at 03 Oct 2023)
	Hours	Applications	Employers	
Accommodation and Food Services	1,754	146	10	\$ 28,462
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	21	2	1	\$ 2,479
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	-	-	-	\$ -
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	-	-	-	\$ -
Construction	434	26	7	\$ 8,265
Educational Services	40	1	1	\$ 1,283
Finance and Insurance	-	-	-	\$ -
Health and social assistance (includes daycares)	881	65	9	\$ 19,279
Information and Cultural Industries	11	1	1	\$ 205
Management of Companies and Enterprises	-	-	-	\$ -
Manufacturing	136	14	3	\$ 3,441
Mining quarrying and oil and gas extraction	-	-	-	\$ -
Other Services (except Public Administration)	40	1	1	\$ 4,260
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	237	11	5	\$ 3,900
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	86	7	2	\$ 840
Retail Trade	3,080	259	23	\$ 50,932
Transpiration and Warehousing	128	7	2	\$ 3,610
Wholesale Trade	76	5	2	\$ 1,892
Total	6,924	545	67	\$ 128,847

By Community	Applications Processed (as at 21 Sep 2023)			Actual Expenditures (as at 03 Oct 2023)
	Hours	Applications	Employers	
Beaver Creek	-	-	-	\$ -
Burwash Landing	-	-	-	\$ -
Carcross	-	-	-	\$ -
Carmacks	-	-	-	\$ -
Dawson City	54	3	3	\$ 1,665
Destruction Bay	-	-	-	\$ -
Eagle Plains	-	-	-	\$ -
Faro	-	-	-	\$ -
Haines Junction	-	-	-	\$ -
Keno City	-	-	-	\$ -
Mayo	-	-	-	\$ -
Old Crow	-	-	-	\$ -
Pelly Crossing	-	-	-	\$ -
Ross River	-	-	-	\$ -
Tagish	-	-	-	\$ -
Teslin	-	-	-	\$ -
Watson Lake	-	-	-	\$ -
Whitehorse	6,870	542	64	\$ 127,182
Total	6,924	545	67	\$128,847

Department of Economic Development

Paid Sick Leave Rebate - COVID-Only

From March 2020 to March 31, 2023

By Sector (North American Industry Classification System)	Applications Processed	
	Days	Employers
Accommodation and Food Services	2,274	46
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	197	11
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	50	5
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	159	13
Construction	2,271	70
Educational Services	13	2
Finance and Insurance	10	1
Health and social assistance (includes daycares)	4,173	90
Information and Cultural Industries	54	4
Management of Companies and Enterprises	103	5
Manufacturing	900	22
Mining quarrying and oil and gas extraction	332	10
Other Services (except Public Administration)	646	27
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	797	40
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	384	7
Retail Trade	4,984	85
Transpiration and Warehousing	559	15
Wholesale Trade	340	11
Total	18,247	464

By Community	Applications Processed	
	Days	Employers
Beaver Creek	46	1
Burwash Landing		
Carcross		
Carmacks	132	2
Dawson City	393	21
Destruction Bay		
Eagle Plains		
Faro		
Haines Junction	86	8
Keno City	8	1
Mayo	20	1
Old Crow		
Pelly Crossing	61	1
Ross River	20	1
Tagish		
Teslin	41	1
Watson Lake	90	4
Whitehorse	17,351	423
Total	18,247	464

Session Briefing Note

Department of Economic Development Accomplishments

TAB 1

Fall 2023

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Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development aims to be a dynamic partner to First Nations, municipalities and the private sector with responsive resources for targeted opportunities that have measurable impacts on economic growth and diversification.
- The department provides a wide range of programs and investments aimed at driving growth, diversification and market expansion across the Yukon.
- The department continues to support Yukoners and their businesses to innovate and adapt as the recovery from the pandemic progresses.

Covid 19:

- *The Economic resilience plan: Building Yukon's COVID-19 economic resiliency* was released to the public on March 10, 2021, to guide the Yukon's economy back to pre-pandemic levels of productivity, and to chart a path beyond in a way that is consistent with our environmental and socio-economic commitments.
- Covid programs delivered by the department since 2020-21 included the Yukon Business Relief Program and the Yukon Emergency Relief Program, the Paid Sick Leave Rebate program, the Tourism Accommodation and Tourism Non-Accommodation Support Supplements program, the Yukon Essential Workers Income Support Program, the Vaccine Verification Rebate, the Regional Relief Loan Program and the Temporary Support for Cancelled Events Program.

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Department of Economic Development Accomplishments

TAB 1

Fall 2023

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Investment Attraction:

- The 2023 Asia Trade Mission focused on attracting foreign direct investment, promoting economic immigration and addressing the Yukon's health human resource challenges.
- From September 11-19, 2023, a five-person business delegation consisting of Tourism Industry Association of Yukon, Screen Production Yukon Association, Tech Yukon, and the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce joined government officials and traveled to Japan and India.
- Throughout the mission, business delegates and government officials collaboratively promoted the Yukon's critical mineral potential, as well as the territory's burgeoning tourism, film and media, and technology and innovation sectors.
- For six business days, the business delegation met with over 25 entities, including universities, tech hubs, businesses, commissions, chambers of commerce, and other industry and government representatives.

Mineral Exploration and Development:

- The department continues to promote responsible mining and investment to maximize benefits to the Yukon's economy by working collaboratively with mineral sector stakeholders and First Nations partners.
- By promoting the Yukon as a stable investment jurisdiction for mineral development, First Nations governments, communities and families will continue to benefit from investments in the industry.

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- Economic Development is working with relevant departments in consultation with other partners, including the federal government and industry, to support reliable tidewater access in Skagway for the Yukon's mining industry as Skagway advances its port redevelopment project.
- With a return to in-person events, the department has promoted the Yukon's investment potential at mining conferences and hosted one of the most extensive Yukon Property Tours with Yukon Mining Alliance (YMA) in July 2023.
- The department provides the Yukon Chamber of Mines and YMA with annual funding to support efforts to enhance Yukon's geological and investment potential.

Port of Skagway:

- The Yukon is negotiating the inclusion of a marine service platform capable of supporting ore loading equipment, as part of the Port of Skagway's redevelopment project.
- The Government of Yukon supported the Municipality of Skagway from 2022-23 with \$739,266 for design work and permitting requirements for the re-design of a Marine Services Platform.
- The Yukon government signed a non-binding Terms Sheet with Skagway on September 7, 2023, and will continue to work with the Municipality of Skagway to finalize the binding Export Cooperation Agreement.

Labour Market Development:

- To support strategic alignment and economic recovery, Economic Development became the lead department for Labour Market Development on April 1, 2022.

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- Labour Market Development expects to invest over \$6.8 million in administering programs and services in 2023-24 to help individuals meet their labour market goals and help employers recruit, train and retain the staff they need for their businesses to thrive.
- Within that budget, Labour Market Development has committed support for:
 - 11 organizations with an estimated value of \$1.6M that provide training, employment services and work placement opportunities for approximately 1,000 Yukon First Nation members;
 - 15 service providers to provide services to approximately 3,000 Yukoners to help them develop the foundational skills they need to attach to the labour market;
 - nine organizations to provide employment assistance services to help approximately 7,000 individuals obtain employment. This category includes needs determination, employment counselling and job search training, and providing labour market information;
 - four organizations to support and promote trades and apprenticeship and subsidies to provide work experience and on-the-job training to 30 Yukoners; and
 - nine organizations to provide supports for employers.
- With the support of the Government of Canada (ESDC), the Labour Market Development branch of Economic Development, along with a number of other Yukon government departments and external stakeholders, is developing a process to support internationally trained health care workers to be recruited to available positions in the Yukon.
 - Detailed negotiations are underway with a projected start date early in the new calendar year.

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Immigration:

- The department provides economic immigration programs to help businesses across the territory meet their labour needs.
- We anticipate releasing the strategy in the coming months. This strategy will guide us for the next decade, ensuring our immigration programs are responsive to the evolving needs of the Yukon's economy, employers and communities.
- In 2022, YNP utilized its full annual allocation of 300 spaces for the second time since the program was established in 2007.
- The department successfully worked with the federal government to raise the YNP allocation for 2023 to 430 people.
 - On November 16, 2023, as a result of our ongoing dialogue and advocacy with IRCC, the YNP received an additional 150 base allocations during the fall redistribution of allocation exercise.
- Between January 1, 2023, and October 30, 2023, 423 new candidates have been approved.
- Since 2001, 52 candidates have been nominated for permanent residence through the YBNP, establishing 32 businesses and investing \$25.3 million into their businesses.
- The governments of the Yukon and the Philippines signed a memorandum of understanding on March 18, 2022, to make it easier for Filipinos to immigrate to the Yukon under the territory's Yukon Nominee Program (YNP). The MOU will make it easier for Filipinos to come to the Yukon while reducing costs and red tape for employers.
- The Department of Economic Development is working to finalize the Implementation Guidelines for the MOU with the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers.

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- In 2020, the department launched a new stream, the Yukon Community Program (YCP), specifically designed to support employers and nominees in rural communities. The pilot project has been extended until June 2025.

Technology and Innovation:

- The department is committed to building a thriving innovation economy by supporting technological growth and entrepreneurship.
- The department is collaborating with business, industry and First Nations partners to make strategic investments and promote an entrepreneurial culture that attracts and supports start-ups.
- The strategy, *Innovation Yukon: Bringing Northern Ingenuity to the World*, was released on November 9, 2023 and outlines the Yukon's unique strengths and identifies actions to help Yukoners create, grow, and mature their business ideas in the Yukon.
- An Innovation Commission was established between August and November 2021 to advise on the development of the five-year innovation strategy that will attract technology start-ups and grow the Yukon's digital ecosystem.
- We partnered with the Government of Canada to support the implementation of the Canada Digital Adoption Program for the Yukon. This program will help up to 140 small and medium-sized businesses to go online. There are currently 26 Yukon businesses in the Canada Digital Adoption Program.
- Throughout the second half of 2022 and early 2023, we partnered with Yukon University and ComIT to deliver the first coding training for Yukon First Nations. 15 students completed stage one of the training.
- We continue to partner with the innovation ecosystem to deliver on programs such as:

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Development

- Yukonstruct's 12-week training program called Startup Bootcamp and its Pathfinding services, Yukon innovation week and the Hall of Innovators;
- TechYukon's North of AI [Artificial Intelligence] program which had three startup companies accepted into the Scale AI program in 2022 and is accepting additional companies in 2023;
- Investment readiness workshops for entrepreneurs and angel investors through a partnership between Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Vancouver-based Spring;
- Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship's innovation grant;
- Sponsoring the Mitacs Accelerate Research and Business Strategy Internship Program;
- ElevateIP [Intellectual Property] program; and
- Continued support for Yukon University's IncubateNorth program to provide space, tools and services to help market-ready startups grow faster.

Media Development:

- Four new media funding programs and their administrative business guidelines were announced on January 10, 2022, to support the production of professional film, television and digital media projects.
- Between April 1 and August 29, 2023, we have approved 16 film applications for \$506,438 with total anticipated spending in the Yukon of \$1,125,249, creating local jobs, building capacity while supporting Yukon businesses and entrepreneurs, and contributing to economic diversification.

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- The new Performing Musicians Fund has approved 25 applications between April 1 and October 3, 2023, providing funding of \$211,908 to seven established musicians and 18 emerging musicians.

Trade:

- The internal trade regime set out in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) supports the growth of local businesses beyond our territory, while ensuring the flow of goods and services from other parts of Canada into the Yukon.
- As Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade in 2022, Yukon facilitated an annual meeting of the CFTA Parties last year in Toronto.
- Key decisions related to trade in non-medical cannabis and financial services were adopted at the meeting.
- Saskatchewan is the 2023 Chair of the committee. Prince Edward Island will be the next Chair in 2024.
- We continue to engage with our federal, provincial and territorial counterparts in consultations related to Canada's international trading relationships and agreements.

Collaborative Initiatives with First Nations:

- Yukon First Nation governments and their respective development corporations are critical in the growth and diversification of the Yukon's economy.
- Supporting the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce and their membership in Trade Mission activities such as the recent trip to Asia.
- Through trade missions, such as the one to Japan and utilizing funding platforms such as the Economic Development Fund and Community Development Fund, the department continues to support First Nation governments and development corporations as they grow capacity,

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Department of Economic Development Accomplishments

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invest in new ventures, strengthen their communities and plan for the future, including:

- Building governance institutions through capacity development such as:
 - Supporting the Council of Yukon First Nations to hire an Economic Development Analyst to meet Yukon Forum priorities and address the Government of Yukon's commitment to the 1993 Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) – Chapter 22 – Economic Development Measures.
- Supporting strategic and economic planning efforts such as:
 - Supporting the Kluane Community Development Limited Partnership to explore opportunities for diverse activities that will promote the local use of resources and consider the viability of investing in wood product manufacturing based in Burwash Landing.
- Identifying and supporting projects that will provide lasting benefits to Yukoners such as:
 - Supporting the Liard First Nation to restore the Dena Cho Trail from Watson Lake towards Ross River to preserve traditional knowledge;
 - Providing support to First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun to create an all-inclusive multi-platform Northern Tutchone Language App that can be used to support language revitalization programming for all citizens; and
- Supporting and developing feasibility studies, and establishing business ventures such as:

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- Supporting Kluane Community Development Limited Partnership to upgrade the Dalan Campground to promote tourism activities in the community; and
 - Providing support to Yukon First Nation Wildfire LP to purchase equipment that will help them improve operational efficiency at scale and expand services to Atlin, BC.
-

Funding Supports:**Temporary Landlord Assistance Program:**

- The department introduced the Temporary Landlord Assistance Program (TLAP) in October 2023.
- TLAP provides Yukon residential landlords with a one-time, per-unit subsidy of \$338 to bridge the 1.8 percentage point gap between what landlords were expecting to be able to raise rent in 2023 (6.8% based on 2022 inflation) and the new cap of 5.0% imposed in January 2023.
- The program is intended to provide an incentive for residential landlords to keep their units as rentals.
- As of the end of day on November 15, 2023, 130 applications were received, which include 1271 units, representing \$429,598 currently being assessed by the department:
 - Whitehorse: 1251 units.
 - Dawson: 10 units.
 - Other Communities: 10 units

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Paid Sick Leave Rebate:

- The department introduced the Paid Sick Leave Rebate (PSLR) program in 2023 that provides 40 hours of leave per 12-month period to eligible workers.
- No other jurisdiction in Canada has a government-funded paid sick leave program for the private sector.
- PSLR started on April 1, 2023, and will run until March 31, 2025.
- As of November 16, 2023, 495 people from 83 businesses have been approved for \$236,526 in rebates through PLSR.

Klondike Valley Flood Program:

- Yukon government launched the Flood Recovery Funding Program in June 2023, to provide financial assistance to Yukoners for uninsured damages to their property and possessions caused by the flooding in the Klondike Valley and the Klondike area.
- The funding program has three streams: housing, agriculture and small business.
- Under the small business stream that Economic Development administers, eligible businesses can reclaim damage costs up to a maximum of \$500,000.

Economic Development Fund:

- We have streamlined our funding support programs by amalgamating the Enterprise Trade Fund (ETF), Regional Economic Development Fund (REDF) and Strategic Industries Development Fund (SIDF) into a single Economic Development Fund (EDF), launched on April 1, 2021.

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- During the 2021-22 fiscal year, EDF supported 54 projects with a total contribution commitment of over \$1.4 million.
- During the 2022-23 fiscal year, 52 projects were approved through EDF with a total contribution commitment of \$2,263,118.
- From April 1 to November 10, 2023, 42 projects have been supported through the EDF, with a total contribution commitment of \$2,006,483.

Community Development Fund:

- Projects funded by the Community Development Fund have continued to support events and initiatives that provide long-term, sustainable economic and social benefits to communities across the Yukon
- From April 1, 2023, to November 10, 2023, 42 projects have been supported through the Community Development Fund, with a total contribution commitment of \$2,619,700.
- During the 2022-23 fiscal year, 65 Community Development Fund projects were approved for a total of \$3,200,369.
- During the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Community Development Fund supported 59 projects year with a total contribution commitment of \$2,931,497.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the tangible outcomes resulting from the work of the department across its various branches.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Department of Economic
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Background:

- Economic Development's current Strategic Plan (2022-23 to 2024-25) identifies a vision of:

The Department of Economic Development aims to be a dynamic partner to First Nations, municipalities and the private sector with responsive resources for targeted opportunities that have measurable impacts on economic growth and diversification.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 23, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Japan Chambers Trade Mission**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- During the September 2023 mission to Japan, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) and organizers of the Team Canada Trade Mission (TCTM) recommended that the Yukon return with a trade delegation to participate in the October 2023 Team Canada mission program in Japan.
- The October delegation led by the Department of Economic Development included four of Yukon's Chambers representing the business interests of their members.
- The Yukon delegation also met with key Japanese organizations outside of the Team Canada Trade Mission program and participated in the Japan-Canada Chambers Council forum in Tokyo.
- Yukon's Chambers indicated that they had many productive engagements with chamber colleagues, Japanese companies and Team Canada Trade Mission participants, and exchanged valuable information to bring back to their members.

Additional response:

- Japan is a priority international trade jurisdiction for Canada and the Yukon.
- The interest generated during the September trade mission to Japan supported another mission with greater representation to leverage opportunities provided by the Team Canada Trade Mission and the Japan-Canada Chambers Council forum in Tokyo.
- The Yukon chambers were there to promote the Yukon and their member businesses.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Japan Chambers Trade Mission**Economic
Development

- Topics of interest for the Yukon delegation included mineral development, renewable energy, clean technology, agriculture and agri-foods, export development, immigration and labour market issues, and opportunities to advance economic reconciliation.
 - More than 250 delegates attended the Team Canada Trade Mission.
 - Our government will continue to support Yukon businesses and the Yukon Chambers in developing their trade readiness as opportunities present themselves.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The mission is expected to attract public attention.
-

Background:

- The Yukon delegation was encouraged to attend the October event co-hosted by the Japan Canada Chambers Council and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce as a part of the Team Canada Trade Missions program.
 - In addition to the Yukon Chambers, one business from the Yukon participated in the Team Canada Trade Mission to Japan (October 29 to November 2, 2023)
 - The Yukon delegation participated in the general program of the Team Canada Trade Mission, including the Team Canada Reception on October 31, the Japan-Canada Chambers Council forum on November 1 and other official events.
 - The Yukon Delegation to Japan consisted of seven people:
 - Michael Prochazka – A/Deputy Minister of Economic Development;
 - Andrew Carne, 1st VP - Yukon Chamber of Mines;
 - Kyla Barker, Chair - Yukon Chamber of Commerce (YCC);
 - Luke Pantin, Executive Director - YCC;
 - Melissa Murray, Executive Director - Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce (YFNCC);
-

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Development

- Les Wilson, Executive Director – YFNCC; and
 - Richard Eden, Director - Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce.
- The delegation was composed of Yukon Chambers, which were able to represent the interests of their members (vastly SMEs) who were not ready to attend any Team Canada Trade Mission programming in 2023.
- In addition to the Team Canada Trade Mission programming, the Yukon delegation met with the following organizations to exchange information about their memberships and to promote Yukon and its business.
 - Marubeni Corporation;
 - Japan Community Power Association;
 - Cambridge Innovation Centre (CIC);
 - Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI);
 - Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ)
 - Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC); and
 - Japan Mining Industry Association, including representatives from DOWA Metals, JX Metals, Mitsubishi Materials, Nittetsu Mining, Sumitomo Metal Mining, and TOHO Zinc.
- The Delegation also met with the Federal partners organizing Canada's Pavilion for the Osaka Expo 2025.
- Each Chamber was provided a one-time \$10,000 contribution for marketing/promotion/travel.
- This was incorporated into their existing TPAs and could be used towards this mission or potential travel in the future.

Japan-Canada Trade:

- In 2022, bilateral trade between Canada and Japan exceeded \$35 billion in merchandise.
- Japan is the 6th-most popular export market for Indigenous small businesses.
- The share of women-owned SME exporters exporting to Japan has doubled – from 4.5% in 2017 to 9.6% in 2020.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Japan Chambers Trade Mission**Economic
Development**Japan-Yukon Trade:***Direct exports from the Yukon to Japan*:*

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
\$59,519	\$126,272	\$184,908	\$157,600	--

Direct imports from Japan to the Yukon:*

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
\$1,799,302	\$1,384,681	\$776	\$451,342	\$259,328

*Note that these numbers do not include the largest export, copper concentrates that show up separately.

Export of copper concentrates from Yukon to Japan

2018	\$69,982,742
2019	\$6,417,198
2020	\$61,199,280
2021	\$112,129,298
2022	\$163,076,164

Approved by:Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentNovember 8, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Economic Overview

TAB 3
Fall 2023
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Recommended response:

- The Yukon's economy continues to perform well with positive indicators in many areas.
 - The Yukon's revised real GDP growth rate was a very solid 5.8% in 2022, while the Yukon's labour market (labour force participation, unemployment, job vacancies and average pay) continues to outpace Canadian averages with among the lowest unemployment rates in Canada.
 - The population continues to grow, average weekly earnings are up and retail sales are still strong and rising.
 - In 2022, the Yukon's retail sales topped one billion for the first time at \$1.03 billion, an increase of 16.4% over 2021. Retail sales continue to grow in 2023.
 - Despite the abrupt closure of the Minto mine, the industry continues to be a significant contributor to the Yukon's economy. Victoria Gold continues operations and the Keno Hill silver mine resumed milling stockpiles of ore in June 2023. This means more mining jobs in the Yukon, more money for local businesses and more partnerships that bring jobs and training to our communities.
 - The latest year-over-year inflation number for Whitehorse is 3.8% for September 2023, down sharply from 7.0% in February 2023, and now matching the Canadian CPI:

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Economic Overview

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- Increases in mortgage interest cost, traveler accommodation and food from restaurants are the biggest current drivers of the Yukon's inflation.
- Key points:
 - After dramatic real GDP growth in 2021, recently revised down to 8.4% from 10.0%, but still far more than Canada's growth.
 - The Yukon's GDP growth slowed to a still-robust 5.8% in 2022, the second highest in Canada; The Yukon continues to have among the lowest unemployment rates in Canada (averaging 3.7% in 2022) and currently at 4.0% for October 2023 (well under the Canadian average of 5.7%);
 - There are many available jobs in the Yukon, 1,330 in the second quarter of 2023. The average wage offered for these jobs was \$28.90 per hour. Particularly encouraging is that the average wage offered for the 495 vacant jobs in sales and service occupations has risen to \$19.85 per hour;
 - Construction, particularly residential construction, is a sector showing significant strength; and
 - For all of 2022, inflation averaged 6.8% both in Whitehorse and nationally.

Additional response:

- Tourism, in the Yukon as in the rest of Canada, has been rebounding strongly but Yukon border-crossing data shows visitor numbers have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

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Development

- For 2022, Yukon's Canada Customs crossings total 170,913, up by 416% over 2021, but still only about one-third of crossings reported in 2018 and 2019.
 - For January through August of 2023, crossings are up again, by 178% over the same period in 2022. This is approximately 89% of crossings for the same period in 2019.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is heightened interest in the state of the economy due to concerns over inflation and the potential for a recession both nationally and globally.
 - The issue has been raised in the house that more should be done to help mitigate inflationary pressure for individuals.
-

Background:**Real GDP:**

- For 2022, the Yukon's GDP growth rate slowed to 5.8%, which is still the second highest in the country.
- Statistics Canada's revised GDP numbers show the Yukon's economy grew by 8.4% in 2021, while Canada's GDP grew by 5.2% over the year.
- Two big drivers of the Yukon's GDP growth in 2021 were:
 - Mining, responsible for 45.4% of the growth; and
 - Construction, responsible for 16.8% of the growth.

Population:

- The Yukon's population has continued to grow, reaching a new high of 45,169 at the end of June 2023.

Labour Market:

- The Yukon continues to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada (averaging 4.5% in 2022, and 3.6% year-to-date through September 2023).
 - In 2022, the labour force has averaged 24,400, up by 400 over the 2021 average.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Economic Overview**Economic
Development

- In 2022, the average number of employed Yukoners increased by 800 over the 2021 number.
- For January through September 2023, there has been a small increase in the size of the labour force, further growth in the average number of employed, and a significant drop (-13.0%) in the average number of unemployed compared to the same period in 2022.
- The Yukon's average weekly earnings increased by 3.4% in 2021, compared to 2020 and were up by another 2.8% in 2022.
- The January through August 2023 period shows continued growth in earnings, up by 2.3% over the same period in 2022.

Retail Sales:

- Numbers for 2021 show retail sales continuing strong growth, up 7.0% over 2020 to another record of \$963.4 million.
- In 2022, the Yukon's retail sales topped one billion for the first time at \$1.03 billion, an increase of 16.4% over 2021.
- January through August 2023 showed retail sales continuing their upward trend, rising 8.8% over the same period in 2022.

Real Estate:

- The value of real estate transactions and the average price of homes have been on a steep upward trend to a peak in Q3 of 2022. However, the value of transactions and average home prices began declining in the first half of 2023.
 - In 2022, the value of real estate transactions rose 8.5% over 2021;
 - For the January through June 2023 period, value of transactions is down by 19.8% over the same period in 2022;
 - In 2022, the average weighted price of a single-detached house in Whitehorse was \$676,700, up from \$645,000 in 2021 and \$564,700 in 2020; and
 - In the first half of 2023, the average weighted price of a single-detached house in Whitehorse dropped to \$630,600, down by 6.7% from the same period in 2022.

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Economic Overview

TAB 3

Fall 2023

Economic Development

- Residential construction remains strong.
 - In 2020, permits were issued for 657 new or converted dwelling units, up by more than 70% over 2019;
 - In 2021, the number of permits issued for new or converted dwelling units fell slightly to 639, down 2.7% from 2020;
 - In 2022, the number of permits fell sharply, down 35% to 414 (about the average level in 2018 and 2019); and
 - For the January through September period in 2023, the number of residential permits has rebounded somewhat, up 11.1% over the same period in 2022.

Mining:

- The Yukon's mining sector continues to contribute significantly to the economy:
 - Victoria Gold's Eagle Gold Mine, the largest gold mine in the Yukon's history, achieved full commercial production as of July 1, 2020:
 - Total gold production in 2020 was 116,644 ounces;
 - In 2021, production rose to 164,222 ounces;
 - Production in 2022 fell to 150,182 ounces due in large part to a 4.5-week pause in milling in the first half of the year due to excess water in the mine due to a heavy spring thaw, along with a 2.5-week shutdown of the mine's conveyer system in the fall; and
 - The mine produced 83,188 ounces of gold over the first six months of 2023.
 - The Minto Mine, under the ownership of Pembrige Resources, resumed producing copper concentrate in late 2019. Ownership was transferred to Minto Metals Corporation:
 - Copper production rose from 17.8 million pounds in 2020 to 25.6 million pounds in 2021;
 - Copper production rose to 28.9 million pounds in 2022 and the mine produced 5.7 million pounds in Q1 2023;

Session Briefing Note

Economic Overview

Fall 2023**Economic
Development**

- The company abruptly ceased production and abandoned the property in May 2023; and
- Minto Metals is now in receivership, the site is under the care of the Yukon government and various creditors claiming millions in unpaid bills.
- Alexco Resource Corporation resumed production at Keno Hill in late 2020 and production levels ramped up sharply in 2021, with annual production of:
 - 621,601 ounces silver;
 - 4.8 million pounds lead; and
 - 1.7 million pounds zinc.
- Keno Hill continued to produce in the first half of 2022 but suspended mining and milling in June 2022.
- Alexco was officially acquired by Hecla Mining Company in early September 2022, and Hecla has announced plans to keep operations at Keno Hill suspended for 18 months, as they work to redesign the mine plan, accelerate development, and open up sufficient working faces.
- Milling operations were restarted in June 2023, and 184,264 ounces of silver were produced in Q2 2023 from stockpiled ore.
- Newmont's proposed Coffee Creek mine has cleared its initial environmental assessment, a significant advance for the project.
- Preliminary 2022 data show that the industry spent \$163.1 million on exploration and deposit appraisal, up from the \$153.9 million spent in 2021.
- The industry expects exploration and deposit appraisal spending of \$144.7 million in 2023.

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Economic Overview

TAB 3

Fall 2023

Economic
Development

	2020	2021	2022
Real GDP			
Annual per cent change	5.2	10.0	3.3
Population			
Population (persons)	42,292	43,263	44,028
Annual per cent change	1.9	2.2	1.8
Labour Market			
Average labour force	22,900	23,700	24,300
Average employed	21,700	22,400	23,400
Average unemployment rate (%)	5.2	5.5	3.7
Consumers			
Inflation (per cent)	1.0	3.3	6.8
Retail sales (\$millions)	900.5	963.5	1,026
Real Estate (Whitehorse)			
Total sales (\$millions)	342.1	386.9	403.4
Average detached house price (\$)	564,700	645,000	676,700

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 8, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Klondike Valley Flood Program - SME Stream

Tab 4

Fall 2023

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Government launched the Flood Recovery Funding Program in June 2023, to provide financial assistance to Yukoners for uninsured damages to their property and possessions caused by the flooding in the Klondike Valley and the surrounding area.
- The funding program has three streams: housing, agriculture and small business. The small business stream is administered by the Department of Economic Development.
- Under the small business stream, eligible businesses can reclaim damage costs up to a maximum of \$500,000. The deadline for applications was October 3, 2023.

Additional response:

- Self-employed fishers, trappers, loggers and other harvesters of natural resources are eligible under the small business stream.
- Other expenses eligible under the program include hiring contractors to repair structural damages, cleanup costs, and replacing eligible business materials and business structures.
- To date, the department has received five applications.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be posed related to the government's response to flooding in the Klondike region.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Klondike Valley Flood Program -
SME Stream**Economic
Development

Background:**Small Business Stream Eligibility:**

Yukon small business is eligible if it meets the following requirements:

- The owner or operator owns at least 50 per cent of the business.
- The owner or operator works as the day-to-day manager of the business.
- The business must have been in operation at the time of the May 2023 flood.
- The business must have a yearly gross revenue that is at least \$10,000, but less than \$2 million in the year immediately preceding the flood.
- The business must employ no more than 20 full-time employees at any one time.
- The business is in good standing with Yukon Corporate Registry and Workers' Health and Safety Board Yukon.
- Self-employed fishers, trappers, loggers and other harvesters of natural resources are also eligible.
- For those who did not have insurance, only those losses for which they could not obtain insurance at a reasonable cost will be eligible.

Klondike Valley Flood Details:

- 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, especially in Rock Creek and Henderson Corner subdivisions.
- Families, small businesses, and farms were affected by the flood and over 20 properties were damaged.
- The Yukon government delivered a public funding program to address flood damage, administered by three departments: Yukon Housing Corporation, Economic Development, and Energy Mines and Resources. The department of Community Services is leading program coordination.

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Klondike Valley Flood Program - SME Stream

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- Under Yukon's program, support is being offered to restore:
 - Housing in the form of grants for eligible primary residences and loans for eligible secondary residences, outbuildings, mitigation work;
 - Eligible farmers and agricultural producers' property, destroyed harvested crops, field erosion and debris clean-up, infrastructure and fencing repairs and perished livestock; and
 - Small business owners' property and flood-related costs deemed essential to the business.

<u>Approved</u>	<u>October 3, 2023</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Labour Market Conditions

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Fall 2023
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Recommended response:

- The Yukon is experiencing the effects of a nationwide labour shortage in which many employers are having difficulty finding suitable workers to maintain or grow their businesses.
- The department of Economic Development through its Labour Market Development Branch expects to invest over \$6.8 million in 2023-24 to help individuals meet their labour market goals and help employers recruit, train and retain staff they need for their businesses to thrive.
- We are working on the development of a new Yukon Labour Market Strategy to guide our future investments in the workforce.
- As part of that strategy development process, we look forward to engaging with Yukoners to gather their input and perspective on Yukon's Labour Market.

Additional response:

- Labour mobility is an important tool for addressing the shortage of professional and skilled workers in the territory, however, the credential recognition process between jurisdictions can complicate matters.
- With the support of the Government of Canada (ESDC), the department is developing a process to support internationally trained health care workers to be recruited to available positions in the Yukon.
- Detailed negotiations are underway with a projected start date of early in the new calendar year.
- Labour Market Development programming includes Building Up and Staffing Up.

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Labour Market Conditions

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- Projects under Building UP are designed to strengthen labour market participation of those not in the labour market, including foundational skills, Skills for Success and vocational skills, disability supports and employment assistance services;
 - Wage and training subsidies through the Staffing Up program are designed to help employers find, hire and keep suitable workers that they need for their businesses to thrive.
- Within the budget of \$6.8 million, Labour Market Development has committed:
 - Support for 11 organizations providing labour market programs for First Nations, benefitting nearly 1,000 individuals;
 - Support for 15 service providers to provide services to approximately 3,000 Yukoners to help them develop the foundational skills they need to attach to the labour market;
 - Support for nine organizations to provide employment assistance services to help approximately 7,000 individuals to obtain employment. This category includes needs determination and employment counselling and job search training and providing labour market information;
 - Support for four organizations to support and promote trades and apprenticeship including subsidies to provide work experience and on-the-job training to 30 Yukoners; and
 - Support for nine organizations to provide support for employers.
- Our data consistently demonstrates that the number of unfilled jobs is exceeded by the number of working-age Yukoners who are not in the labour force for a variety of reasons.

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Labour Market Conditions

Tab 5
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- Work is underway to determine:
 - Who are those working-age Yukoners who are not participating in the labour market?
 - What are the available skill sets of those Yukoners? and
 - What supports and incentives (employer and program) should be employed to engage or re-engage these individuals?
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Employers across Canada, including Whitehorse and the communities, continue to have trouble finding and retaining staff.
- The Yukon continues to have a higher job vacancy rate than Canada as a whole, indicating continued tightness in the local labour market.

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Labour Market Conditions

Tab 5

Fall 2023

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Background:

- Revised data for June 2023 show that there were 24,832 filled jobs. There were 19,295 payroll employees and 1,450 vacant jobs in the Yukon, indicating a job vacancy rate of 7.0%, which is higher than Canada's 4.4% rate.
- The table below summarizes key data from the 2022 Yukon Employment and Skills Survey carried out by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics in the fall of 2022. For the purposes of labour market development, it is far better to rely on this annual survey rather than the more volatile data sets such as the monthly Labour Force Survey or the monthly number of EI recipients.

Working- age (18-65) population	30,061
Labour force	24,290
Employed or self-employed and currently working	21,802
Unemployed	809
Not in the labour force	5,465
Not currently working or looking for work but able to work	3,657
Number citing retirement as reason for not working while able to work	2,058
Unable to work for a variety of reasons	1,683

- Statistics Canada's Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours provides a more granular look at how many payroll jobs are filled (and vacant) in the Yukon each month (note that it does not cover the self-employed).
- On April 22, 2022, IRCC announced several measures to ease labour shortages being experienced across Canada, including:
 - Resuming Express Entry draws with invitations for candidates to apply for permanent residence;

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- Resuming invitations to apply for federal high-skilled streams, including the Canadian experience class, federal skilled worker class and federal skilled trades class;
 - Implementing a temporary policy to provide additional work permits of up to 18 months to post-graduation international students currently on a work permit expiring between January and December 2022; and
 - Several measures to facilitate applications made before the November 2021 deadline to transition from temporary to permanent residency.
- Economic Development's Labour Market Development supports the Government of Canada Job Bank, which created in March 2022 a dedicated resource called "Jobs for Ukraine" to help connect Ukrainian job seekers with employment opportunities in Canada.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 23, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Mandate Commitments

TAB 6
Fall 2023
Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development is taking action on its mandate commitments to support local jobs and diversify our economy.
- These initiatives will create opportunities for innovation in the Yukon and support economic development and diversification.
- Priority initiatives include continuing to support community and economic development initiatives and addressing the Yukon's workforce needs through immigration and labour market development programs.
- We anticipate releasing our new Immigration Strategy in the fall of 2023 that will guide policy and program development over the next decade to be responsive to the needs of the Yukon's employers.
- Economic Development will continue to align the department's work with the needs of the business community through the development of a labour market strategy and supporting immigration of francophone and skilled workers.
- On November 9, 2023, we released our new Innovation Strategy, *Innovation Yukon: Bringing Northern Ingenuity to the World*, to support and drive innovation forward.
 - The Innovation Commission played a key role in the development of the strategy.
- These commitments focus on supporting local entrepreneurs and innovators and providing Yukon businesses with the assistance they need now and into the future.

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Mandate Commitments

TAB 6
Fall 2023
Economic
Development

Additional response:

- Other commitments include: exploring the feasibility of commercial and passenger rail in the Yukon, and; ensuring the Port of Skagway remains a viable export option for the Yukon's mining industry.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions may arise about the timing for completion of commitments already underway and funding and resources for new commitments.
-

Background:

Key mandate commitments:

Complete an **Innovation Strategy** that will guide our work in creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs:

- The five-year strategy was announced on November 9, 2023, outlines the Yukon's unique strengths, and identifies actions, programs and services that will achieve our vision of attracting technology start-ups and growing the Yukon's digital ecosystem.
- Development of the Innovation Strategy considered and incorporated the input provided by the Innovation Commission.
- Engagement for the development of the innovation plan was completed and the *What We Heard* report was issued in August 2021.

Introduce a new **Immigration strategy** to address labour challenges facing the private sector and our healthcare and education systems:

- We anticipate releasing this strategy in fall 2023, and it will guide policy and program development over the next decade to be responsive to the needs of the Yukon's employers.
 - The *What We Heard* report on the engagement for the Immigration Strategy was released to the public in July 2021.
-

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Mandate Commitments

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Work with the French Language Services Directorate to support **Francophone Immigration**:

- We will work to support francophone immigration to meet the needs of Yukon employers and communities.

Begin consultation on a **Labour Market Strategy**:

- The previous *Yukon Labour Market Framework* was a 10-year initiative that expired in 2020.
- The department is beginning to develop a consultation plan for a Labour Market Strategy.
- The department anticipates beginning engagement on the development of a new Labour Market Strategy in Q4 of 2023.

Work in partnership with other levels of government and Yukon University to identify opportunities to streamline and support **recognition of foreign credentials**:

- Foreign credential recognition is key to meeting labour needs, particularly in skilled trades, education and health care.
- Our government is taking steps to streamline FCR in the Yukon, particularly for foreign-trained healthcare workers.
- Economic Development will work with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts to identify ways to streamline processes with licensing bodies.
- On January 30, 2023, Labour Market Development, in consultation with Health and Social Services, submitted an application to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) for funding to create a system for recognizing the credentials of internationally trained workers, specifically for the healthcare sector.
- Canada has expressed interest in the proposal and detailed discussions are now underway.

Investigate the feasibility of **commercial and passenger rail** in the Yukon:

- The department is working with partners, including the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway, to evaluate the feasibility of bringing back commercial and passenger rail to the Yukon.

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Mandate Commitments

Fall 2023**Economic
Development**

- Reopening the railway to regular freight and passenger service would provide an alternative supply chain route in the event of a closure of the Alaska Highway south of Whitehorse.
- Economic Development has held two meetings with White Pass and Yukon Route and one meeting with Blackstone Infrastructure Partners for high-level conceptual discussions.
- Follow up discussions have resulted in information sharing with a view to developing a terms of reference for a feasibility study.

Ensure the **Port of Skagway** remains accessible as an export option for the Yukon mining industry:

- Skagway is undertaking a port redevelopment project that would have eliminated its ore export capability after March 2023. Yukon proposed an alternative that would result in the construction of a marine services platform capable of supporting ore loading equipment as part of the redevelopment project.
- In furtherance of this initiative, Skagway and the Government of Yukon started developing a non-binding terms sheet that would provide the parameters for a binding agreement.
- The Skagway Assembly voted on March 2, 2023, to approve a resolution authorizing the Borough Manager to both finalize the non-binding terms sheet and subsequently to conclude a binding agreement on the basis of that terms sheet. A summary of the terms sheet was published on Skagway's website along with the resolution.
- The terms sheet was signed on September 7, 2023. The department is working with Skagway on responding to a current bid for the project as negotiations proceed. The marine services platform was included as an additive alternative for Skagway's larger port redevelopment.

2021 Mandate Commitments:

For reference purposes, the following items were identified in the 2021 Mandate Letter for Minister Pillai and were actioned as follows:

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Mandate Commitments

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COVID support programs:

- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate program was extended to March 31, 2023.
- The Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS) and the Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS) were transferred from Tourism to Economic Development. Both programs have ended (TASS ended on March 31, 2022, and TNASS ended on July 31, 2022).
- The Vaccine Verification Rebate program and the Yukon Emergency Business Relief program were developed in response to CEMA that was declared on November 8, 2021. Both programs have ended.

Establish an **Innovation Commission** to attract new technology start-ups and grow the Yukon's digital ecosystem:

- The Innovation Commission was established and met six times between August and November 2021. The work of the Commission has now concluded.

Foster the growth of the **Yukon's film industry**:

- Four new media programs, including administrative business guidelines, were announced on January 10, 2022, to support the production of professional film, television and digital media projects.
- The new budget to support the four funds within the program (Predevelopment, Development, Media Production and Training) totals \$1,160,000.

Working with Yukon University to investigate the feasibility of a **varsity sports program**:

- The department worked on this project in collaboration with the Department of Education, Yukon University, Sport Yukon and Aboriginal Sport Circle.
- A feasibility study and roadmap for how YukonU might develop a varsity sports program including estimated costs for each stage was completed.
- Department of Education is now considering next steps for this program.

Creating a **Mineral Exploration Fund** to support junior mining companies operating in the Yukon:

- The department completed a preliminary review for a number of fund models and tendered a contract for fund design in February 2022. Three proponents

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submitted bids by April 2022, but only one bid met the technical requirements for the project. The bid was rejected due to a substantially higher cost than the RFP budget.

- The department will continue to be open to potential opportunities related to the establishment of a Mineral Exploration Fund.

Investigating, in partnership with the private sector, the potential to develop a **flexible fieldhouse complex** for athletes and large public conferences and events:

- Preliminary scoping and background research was completed on the feasibility of building a flexible fieldhouse complex for athletes and large public events.
- The research considered inflatable dome, insulated fabric building structure, and standard building designs. For various reasons, including cost and lack of suitability to the Yukon's climate, all options posed significant challenges to implementation.
- The Department is not moving forward with further research at this time.

Working with the **non-profit sector** to ensure that this important industry is able to recover from COVID-19 by enhancing opportunities for collaboration and shared services:

- This was a shared mandate commitment with Community Services.
- The department designed a short-term COVID response and recovery program in collaboration with the non-profit sector, which was administered by Volunteer Bénévoles Yukon. This program provided a fund of \$250,000 to help address the impacts of Covid-19 that are still having an effect on Yukon's NGOs.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 14, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Northern Food Working Group
(NFWG)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Northern Food Working Group (NFWG) was established in 2017, under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, and it includes the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Government of Canada.
- The NFWG produced a final report in 2018, with recommendations to support the territorial food sector, but due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts to fully explore those recommendations were paused.
- As Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) in 2022, Yukon tabled a recommendation to renew the activities of the NFWG and set a timeframe for establishing the next working group on northern food priorities under the CFTA that would include the provinces.
- The CIT agreed to renew the NFWG, and work is now underway among officials to revisit the 2018 Final Report in light of current northern food priorities.
- The NFWG will report back to the CIT in 2023, with a set of new recommendations on a path forward to improve food security in the territories.

Additional response:

- The NFWG's 2018 final report identified recommendations for advancing the development of the territorial food sector. Those recommendations addressed challenges related to four key areas: (1) access to capital, (2) innovation and research, (3) regulatory development, and (4) local food production.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Northern Food Working Group
(NFWG)**Economic
Development

- Several federal funding programs support the development of the food sector across Canada, including:
 - AgriDiversity Program;
 - Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership;
 - Canadian Agricultural Partnership Cost-Shared Program; and
 - Northern Isolated Community Initiatives Fund.
- Officials from each jurisdiction are currently evaluating the status of the recommended actions from the 2018 Final Report to better understand the challenges faced by the sector.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon was Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade for 2022 and hosted the Committee's annual meeting in Toronto on December 8, 2022.
- The activities of the NFWG were put on hold due to COVID-19. Officials have been directed to renew the working group's initiatives.

Background:

- Under Article 1103 of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), the Parties agreed to establish two working groups focused on developing the food sector in the Territories.
- The NFWG is the first of the two working groups to be established. Consisting of only the Government of Canada and the three territories, its mandate is to identify economic development opportunities for the respective territorial food sectors.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Northern Food Working Group
(NFWG)**Economic
Development

- The establishment of the second working is pending a recommendation to do so from the NFWG. This forthcoming working group will include the provinces and prioritize the following:
 - identify ways in which the provinces and the Government of Canada could work with the Territories to better direct the innovation strengths of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector to provide for economic benefits and improved access to healthy foods in the Territories; and
 - assess and consider the role of supply management, including the quota allocation process, in economic development in the Territories.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 5, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Paid Sick Leave Rebate (PSLR)

Tab 8

Fall 2023

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate (PSLR) program supports eligible Yukon workers (employees and self-employed) who earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94 per hour.
- The program provides 40 hours of leave per 12-month period and includes all illnesses (and injuries not covered by any other Act, benefit, or program).
- PSLR started on April 1, 2023, and will run until March 31, 2025.
- As of November 16, 2023, 495 people from 83 businesses have been approved for \$236,526 in rebates through PSLR.
- Over 80% of claimants are from front line occupations: 48% retail, 24% accommodation and food services, and 12% from health and social assistance.
- Average hours per claim are 12.63 (approximately 1.5 days) while the average wage of those claiming is \$22.62.
- The department has seen a steady increase in applications since the program launched—approximately 13% each month—and anticipates greater increased uptake over the fall and winter months.

Additional response:

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

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Paid Sick Leave Rebate (PSLR)

Tab 8

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- That demographic also tends to interact directly with the public, which increases their risk of spreading illness.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the performance of the new program.

Background:

- On May 10, 2023, the Premier responded to a casework from a Yukon company who expressed concern that the program—which only offered sick leave to employees with less than 40 hours of leave through their employer—was unfair to employers with more generous sick leave programs.
 - In the Premier's response, he confirmed that PSLR would be amended to now offer 40 hours of sick leave to all eligible employers, regardless of how many hours they offer through their own program.
- The program's estimated budget is \$750,000 per fiscal year, totaling \$1.5 million over two years.
- No other jurisdiction in Canada has a government-funded paid sick leave program for the private sector. However, British Columbia does require employers to pay an annual maximum of 5 days sick leave to each employee, while Quebec and PEI require 2 days and 1 day paid respectively.
- The department is working with employers to ensure they understand the program and its benefits.
- The department administered a COVID-19 paid sick leave rebate program for employees and self-employed Yukoners at the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. The program ran until March 31, 2023.
- The original COVID-19 PSLR program offered 10 days of sick leave in accordance with self-isolation.
- The Making Work Safe Panel (MWSP) conducted engagement on paid sick leave in the Yukon and published its findings and 22 recommendations in January 2022.

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Paid Sick Leave Rebate (PSLR)

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Key MWSP Recommendations	TPSLR
Cover employees and self-employed	Covers employees and self-employed
Provide 100% coverage	Covers those making less than the average private sector wage of \$33.94.
Provide equivalent to 10 days paid sick leave	Provides coverage for 40 hours per 12-month period.
Workers not experience a delay or disruption in their regular income.	Workers will not experience a delay or disruption in their regular income: employers continue regular pay and apply for a rebate.
That there be no qualification period for the benefit.	There is a 90-day qualification period but seasonal workers may count days from previous season toward the total.
That no medical notes be required.	No medical notes are currently required.
That options for a co-funded (employer and Yukon government) model be explored.	This is 100% funded by YG.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 20, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Russian Invasion of Ukraine and Canadian Response

Tab 9

Fall 2023

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Yukon remains steadfast in its condemnation of Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. This is a blatant violation of international law, of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and of the Ukrainian people's right to determine their own future.
- The Ukrainian Family Support Desk was launched in March 2022 to help Ukrainians seek residency and employment in the Yukon.
- As of October 23, 2023, the Support Desk has received 408 inquiries.
- The Government of Yukon provided one-night of accommodation and food vouchers to Ukrainians transiting through Whitehorse via seasonal Condor flights.
 - In 2022, we assisted 45 Ukrainians; and
 - In 2023, to date we have assisted 13 Ukrainians.
- As of October 23, 2023, at least 95 Ukrainians have chosen to settle in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Economic Development's Labour Market Development branch supports the "Jobs for Ukraine" program launched in March 2022 by the Government of Canada Job Bank, to support Ukrainians seeking jobs in Canada.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation has ended the sale of Russian-produced products in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.
- The Yukon supports Canadian sanctions against senior Russian officials and institutions, as well as export controls.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Russian Invasion of Ukraine and
Canadian Response**Economic
Development

- We support all efforts by Canada, alongside NATO Allies and other likeminded countries, to bring an end to the fighting.
 - This unjustified invasion has created a humanitarian disaster. The fighting has caused nearly eight million people to flee the country, nearly six million are internally displaced, and there have been over twenty thousand civilian casualties.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Russian invasion of Ukraine has created a major humanitarian crisis. It has significant implications for NATO, the European security order, and global security. Yukoners may want to know the Government of Yukon's position.
-

Background:

- On February 24, 2022, Russia launched an unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine.
- The invasion created a humanitarian crisis. The following are current UNHCR estimates, with real figures inside Ukraine likely much higher.
 - 5.8 million have fled to other European countries (October 10, 2023);
 - 369,000 refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (August 19, 2023);
 - 6.2 million refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (September 26, 2023);
 - At least 5.0 million are internally displaced (May 25, 2023); and
 - At least 26,015 civilian casualties, including 9,369 deaths (July 30, 2023).

Canada's Response:

- **Immigration and Refugees:** Canada's new immigration measures include:
 - One-time financial support of \$3,000 per Ukrainian adult in Canada (18 years and older) and \$1,500 per child (17 years and under):

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Russian Invasion of Ukraine and Canadian Response

Tab 9

Fall 2023

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-
- The announcement of two new immigration streams for Ukrainians to come to Canada temporarily or permanently:
 - The Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) for Ukrainian nationals fleeing Ukraine. It has received 943,730 applications, with 616,429 approved as of March 16, 2023:
 - On March 22, 2023, Canada announced an extension of CUAET from March 31, 2023 to July 15, 2023:
 - Ukrainians and their family members have until July 15, 2023, to apply overseas for CUAET free of charge;
 - Overseas CUAET holders have until March 31, 2024, to travel to Canada under special measures;
 - CUAET holders already here in Canada have until March 31, 2024, to extend or adjust their temporary status through these measures, free of charge;
 - CUAET holders already here in Canada can access settlement services until March 31, 2025;
 - As of July 16, 2023, Ukrainians must apply for the existing temporary resident programs subject to everyday processes, fees and standard requirements;
 - Between March 17, 2022, and August 19, 2023, Canada has received 1.2 million CUAET applications and processed and approved 875,105 applications with a 99% approval rate; and
 - Between March 17, 2022, and August 19, 2023, 175,729 CUAET holders have arrived in Canada from overseas;
 - Settlement services, one-time transitional financial support and emergency accommodation remain available.
 - Increased newcomer services for Ukrainians Arriving in Canada;
 - Waiving of fees;
 - Support for flights for Ukrainians to Canada;

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Russian Invasion of Ukraine and Canadian Response

Tab 9

Fall 2023

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- Adding new ways for people to contact IRCC, including:
 - A dedicated channel for Ukraine for immigration inquiries accepting collect calls at 613-321-4243; and
 - A web page and email signup for current information on measures, including Ukrainian-language content for ease of reference; and
- In April 2022, the Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance (CISSA-ACSEL) launched Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven (ukrainiansafehaven.ca). Canadians can support arrived Ukrainians with donations, housing, employment and volunteering.
- On October 23, 2023, IRCC launched a temporary pathway to allow eligible Ukrainians to apply for permanent residence until October 22, 2024. To be eligible, Ukrainians must be a family member of a Canadian citizen or permanent resident including their:
 - spouse or common-law partner;
 - child (regardless of age);
 - grandchild;
 - parent;
 - grandparent; and/or
 - sibling (or half-sibling).
- **Other measures:** Canada has implemented a range of economic measures, including targeted sanctions against officials and organizations, and trade restrictions.
- Canada has also provided humanitarian, economic and military assistance packages, as well as diplomatic support for Ukraine.

Approved by:

Approved

A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 26, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Skagway Port Redevelopment
Project**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is negotiating for secure tidewater access in the Port of Skagway for the Yukon mining industry.
- Our objective is to secure waterfront space to ensure that Skagway remains an export option for Yukon industry in the future:
 - Maintaining an ore export option in Yukon's nearest deep water port supports mine development, mineral exploration, and investment in Yukon; and
 - Yukon and Skagway both benefit from a port that supports both tourism and industrial use. We are seeking a solution that works for industry and the community of Skagway.
- Skagway has launched a port redevelopment project to expand its cruise ship capacity. This will eliminate its ore export capability. The ore loader will be demolished as part of Skagway's project.
- Yukon is proposing that a marine services platform capable of supporting ore-loading equipment be included in its port redevelopment project in Skagway's redevelopment project.
- We welcome the decision of the Skagway Assembly in March 2023 to approve proceeding with an export cooperation agreement.
- Yukon has funded the design for the platform, totaling \$739,266.
- Skagway put its project out to tender and included the proposed marine services platform as an optional addition, contingent on a final agreement being reached. There was one bidder on the project.
- Skagway has accepted the bid for its main project, and we are working together on how to respond to the bid for the Yukon portion.

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Skagway Port Redevelopment Project

Economic Development

- We signed a non-binding terms sheet on September 7, 2023, that outlines the general terms of an Export Cooperation Agreement between Yukon and Skagway.
- We are working towards finalizing the Export Cooperation Agreement, under which Yukon will fund the construction of a marine services platform in exchange for preferential access and fee discounts for Yukon mining companies using a future ore terminal.

Additional response:

- We respect the priorities and responsibilities of the Municipality of Skagway as they plan for the future of the ore peninsula post-2023, including the need to modernize the port for cruise ship traffic.
- We believe that we are working toward a solution that will secure long-term tidewater access for Yukon's industry and work for the community of Skagway.

If asked about economic rationale for the initiative:

- Mining remains an important part of Yukon's economy. In 2021, it constituted 13.9% of GDP and provided significant indirect benefits to other sectors. In 2020, for example, 5.1% of the gross revenue of Yukon's retail sector was attributable to mining.
- Reliable access to Skagway's port helps attract investment, supports mine development and encourages mineral exploration in the Yukon.
- **Mine Development.** The nearest alternative export option to Skagway is Stewart, BC. For many potential mine projects in Yukon, this would greatly increase trucking costs and directly impacts mine viability.
 - For Minto, shipping to Stewart instead of Skagway would have increased its trucking expenses by roughly 327%.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Skagway Port Redevelopment Project**Economic
Development

- The lack of an export option in Skagway would have a similar impact on the proposed Casino project given its location. This would directly affect the project's viability.
- Were Casino unable to be developed due to the lack of an export option, Yukon could lose out on significant benefits. The Department estimates the nominal economic impact on Yukon's economy of a single year of construction for Casino as:
 - Average annual spending on construction of \$723.5 million;
 - The total (direct, indirect and induced) GDP impact would be \$455 million; and
 - The total (direct, indirect and induced) jobs impact would be 3,316 jobs for that year.
- **Investment and Exploration.** The lack of a secure export option in Skagway would also have an impact on investment in Yukon. It would make our jurisdiction less attractive and make it more difficult for junior companies to market their projects at a time when investment is likely to rise.
- This could have a significant impact on the sector's contribution to the economy:
 - Exploration spending makes up a significant part of total mining activity in Yukon. In 2020, exploration spending was at \$75.8 million and in 2021, it totaled \$113 million.
 - Over the five years from 2018 through 2022, mineral exploration and development appraisal expenditures have averaged \$154.2 million annually in the Yukon. This represents a total (direct, indirect and induced) GDP impact of \$128 million and 893 jobs.

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Skagway Port Redevelopment Project

Economic
Development

- **Critical Minerals.** Additionally, Yukon benefits from a wealth of critical minerals. Losing secure tidewater access could directly impact our ability to contribute to the national critical minerals strategy or to develop our own.
- Yukon has known occurrences of 25 of the 31 critical minerals on Canada's critical minerals list, including known primary deposits of copper, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, tin, nickel and platinum group elements.
- These minerals are essential for the green and digital economy, and support key technologies like clean energy zero emission vehicles, and advanced manufacturing.
- Yukon's ability to contribute to this generational transition will depend on us developing our contribution, mining, to become integrated upstream in the national value chain for critical minerals.

If asked about the draft Export Cooperation Agreement:

- Negotiations toward the draft terms sheet took longer than expected, primarily because the document went into significantly more detail than initially anticipated.
- Most contentious issues have been resolved in developing the non-binding text, which should greatly speed work on the binding agreement.
- We are pleased that the parties signed the non-binding terms sheet on September 7, 2023, and we look forward to finalizing the Export Cooperation Agreement.
- The terms sheet proposes that the Government of Yukon will fund Skagway to construct a marine services platform.
- In exchange, Yukon would designate mining companies to receive:

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Skagway Port Redevelopment
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- Preferential access to ore export facilities for 35 years, with an option to extend for an additional 15 years, including uplands space for preferential use by industry; and
 - A 25% discount on all fees associated with using the platform for 20 years.
- The designation process is procedural and would not be discriminatory. This process would confirm to the Port of Skagway that these companies are operating in Yukon.
- The Municipality would at all times own, operate, and manage the platform.
- The platform is planned to be a 227-foot fixed concrete T-shaped dock. It would be capable of supporting multiple ore loading methods, as well as the loading and unloading of other heavy goods.
- The agreement would include approval rights for Yukon and continuing consultation during the construction process to help ensure that money is properly spent and the project meets specifications.

If asked about ore loading methods:

- The selection of loading method depends on both acceptability in Skagway and industry needs. To maximize flexibility, this will be best determined through conversations between Skagway and specific users.
- On October 5, the Municipality of Skagway passed an ordinance mandating that any ore shipped out of Skagway must be transported in sealed containers and loaded using a containerized bulk-ore handling system.
- Our work aims at creating a footprint that can support and enables whatever ore loading method Skagway and industry require. This includes containerized bulk-ore handling, but could include alternative

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Development

environmentally friendly systems, should Skagway and industry come to a different decision in future.

Industry Engagement:

- We have regularly engaged industry throughout the process, and have repeatedly been informed by stakeholders that they view access to the port as critical to the future of Yukon's mining industry.
 - Economic Development has met regularly with the Joint Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which represents Chambers and mining companies' interests, to provide updates and seek input on platform design.
 - Just this year, we have held the following meetings with JTIC:
 - Feb 7, 2023- a briefing was provided to the Joint Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (JTIC) on the 60% design.
 - March 1, 2023- a follow up meeting took place to answer industry questions.
 - April 12, 2023- a scheduled briefing to JTIC with a commitment to move to quarterly meetings.
 - September 22, 2023- a presentation to JTIC on Terms Sheet and update on negotiations.
 - October 4, 2023- a presentation to JTIC on Terms Sheet and update on negotiations.
 - October 23, 2023- a meeting with JTIC took place to discuss the Term Sheet and MSP design.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Skagway's planned port redevelopment project would have eliminated its ore export capability after it took control of the ore terminal in March 2023. Yukon is negotiating with Skagway to secure replacement infrastructure in the port.

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Skagway Port Redevelopment Project

Economic Development

- The tender and bidding process undertaken by Skagway for its project was public. This includes the bid price and other references to the proposed marine services platform.

Background:

- The Port of Skagway is the closest ice-free, deep-water port to most of the Yukon. Skagway plans to demolish the current ore loader as part of a port redevelopment project, which would eliminate its ore export capability.
- Skagway took control of the ore terminal in March 2023, and has since tendered its port redevelopment project beginning fall 2023. It received one bid, which came in significantly over design estimates.
- Skagway has signed a contract with the sole bidder for its portion of the port redevelopment project, but at a substantially reduced scope of this base project to keep it within the Municipality's budget. This contract includes the demolition of the existing ore loader.
- The Yukon is negotiating the inclusion of a marine service platform capable of supporting ore loading equipment, as part of the redevelopment project. This platform was included as an additive alternative in the bid documents.
- The Government of Yukon signed a non-binding terms sheet with Skagway on September 7, 2023, and is working to finalize an Export Cooperation Agreement that will enable the construction of the marine services platform.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 26, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Türkiye and Syria Response

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Recommended response:

- The Yukon sends its deepest condolences to Turkish and Syrian families who have been affected by the deadly earthquake that has killed more than 50,000 people and displaced millions.
- On September 29, 2023, Canada announced the extension of its temporary measure to support Turkish and Syrian temporary residents to January 3, 2024.
- In April 2023, we announced the expansion of our support services for affected families and individuals that began with the Ukrainian Family Support Desk in 2022.
 - As of October 19, 2023, the Support Desk has received 21 inquiries from Turkish and Syrian families.
 - The Türkiye and Syria Support Desk will continue operating until the Canada's temporary measure ends.
- Our response to the humanitarian crisis in Türkiye and Syria has three main pillars:
 - A Türkiye and Syria Support Desk and dedicated web page with information on federal programs to assist with immigration and family reunification and connect those in need with local programs, services, humanitarian aid and jobs;
 - Prioritization of Yukon Nominee Program applications for Turkish and Syrian immigrants seeking employment and Canadian permanent residence in the Yukon; and

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Türkiye and Syria Response

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- A donation of \$25,000 was made to Yukon Cares to assist with the resettlement of Turkish and Syrian nationals arriving in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Canada has provided support for Turkish and Syrian temporary residents through a temporary measure since March 29, 2023. This has allowed Turkish and Syrian nationals to:
 - continue to study, work or visit family in Canada;
 - receive prioritized processing for immigration applications;
 - be approved for a permanent resident visa without a passport or travel document;
 - utilize a streamlined process for work permit applications; and
 - acquire necessary travel documents free of charge.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 7.8-magnitude earthquake and several powerful aftershocks created a major humanitarian crisis. Yukoners may want to know how the Government of Yukon is supporting those displaced by the disaster.

Background:

- On February 6, 2023, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake and several powerful aftershocks hit the border of Türkiye and Syria.
- The earthquake in Syria has affected at least 8.8 million people. Before the earthquake hit, an estimated 15.3 million people in Syria were already in need of humanitarian assistance.

Session Briefing Note

Türkiye and Syria Response

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Canada's Response:

- In February 2023, Canada announced it would provide \$50 million in humanitarian support for the earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria.
- Temporary measures put in place in March, 2023 include:
 - Turkish and Syrian nationals can continue to study, work or visit family by applying for an extension of their status free of charge;
 - Prioritized processing for immigration applications submitted by those impacted by the earthquake, including refugee applications;
 - An open work permit pathway for Turkish and Syrian nationals already in Canada;
 - Waiving of the requirement to hold a passport or travel document to be approved for a permanent resident visa to come to Canada; and
 - Waiving of fees for temporary passports, limited-validity passports or emergency travel documents as well as Canadian citizenship certificates and permanent resident travel documents for Canadian citizens and permanent residents from Türkiye and Syria to return to Canada planning to return to Canada.

Approved by:

Approved _____
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 26, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Yukon Labour Market & Health
Foreign Credential Recognition**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Foreign Credential Recognition (FCR) affects international worker mobility across Canada in a wide range of occupations.
- Our government is taking steps to streamline FCR in the Yukon, particularly for foreign trained healthcare workers.
- On January 30, 2023, Labour Market Development, in consultation with Health and Social Services, submitted an application to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) for funding to create a system for recognizing the credentials of internationally trained workers, specifically for the healthcare sector.
- Canada has expressed interest in the proposal and detailed discussions are now underway.

Additional response:

- The project proposed includes four phases:
 - **Phase 1: Understand the current state:**
 - Make quick recommendations for recruiting internationally trained workers who currently reside in the Yukon to available positions they can qualify for now; and
 - Engage a consultant to look at the entire health sector regulatory regime and make recommendations to simplify and unify processes to limit barriers to hiring and developing internationally trained workers.
 - **Phase 2: Develop Actions in Response to Phase 1, including:**
 - Establish a central hub to support newcomer health professionals and employers in navigating career pathways and regulatory processes;
 - Provide career advice and support for assessments; and

Session Briefing Note**Yukon Labour Market & Health
Foreign Credential Recognition**Economic
Development

- Establish partnerships with national assessment services.
- **Phase 3: Deliver a Bridging Program Pilot:**
 - The program will refer assessed participants to the appropriate program or service that will address the gaps identified in the assessment and prepare the participants for national exams leading to certification.
- **Phase 4: Program and Service Evaluation:**
 - Evaluate the service objectives, identify best practices and extend the offering to sectors other than health care.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Foreign Credential Recognition is a high profile issue, especially as it relates to Health Human Resources.

Background:

- Health care in the Yukon is regulated under four separate pieces of legislation and numerous regulatory regimes, with different processes for each discipline. An internationally trained worker will need assistance in navigating those and at this time, no such assistance is available.
- While Health & Social Services staff have long identified this growing issue, they would benefit from additional resources and labour market settlement expertise.
- Economic Development has the expertise, but would benefit from additional resources to develop a solution.
- Both departments currently co-chair the Technical Working Group formed under CASA to address health care training opportunities in communities in the Yukon. This working group is an ideal steering committee for the work required to address the FCR issue.

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**Yukon Labour Market & Health
Foreign Credential Recognition**

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- The work will also support the Health Human Resources Strategy development currently underway.

<u>Approved</u>	<u>October 3, 2023</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Temporary Landlord Assistance Program**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Vacancy rates in our territory's rental market remain very low. We want to encourage landlords to remain in the residential market, continuing their valuable contributions to housing in our communities.
- The department of Economic Development has therefore introduced a temporary Landlord Assistance Program.
- The program is available to all Yukon residential landlords who rent out accommodations to which the Yukon's Residential Landlord and Tenant Act applies and who rented out accommodation in 2023.
- The program provides a one-time, per-unit payment of \$338 for 2023.

Additional response:

- Access to safe, affordable housing is essential to the well-being of Yukoners. Through measures such as these, we are striving to keep Yukoners in their homes.
- The program does not apply to units advertised and/or available as vacation or travel accommodation unless they have been rented to the same tenant for 6 months or more.
- As of the end of day on November 15, 2023, 130 applications were received, which include 1271 units, representing \$429,598 currently being assessed by the department:
 - Whitehorse: 1251 units.
 - Dawson: 10 units.
 - Other Communities: 10 units.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Temporary Landlord Assistance Program**Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Housing and homelessness are high-profile topics. Media coverage has focused on the lack of affordable housing in Whitehorse and communities, and the high average prices for rental units across Canada.
 - There is a \$1.014 million budget allocation for the program in the Supplementary Estimates #1.
-

Background:

- We have launched an assistance program for Yukon landlords that provides a one-time, per-unit payment for 2023.
 - The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA) included a limit to rent increases that were linked to inflation (based on CPI for Whitehorse) with a minimum of 2% and a maximum of 5% annually for the duration of the CASA.
 - This year, regulation changes set the rent cap at a maximum of 5%. However, the 2022 CPI was 6.8%. Because this change in regulation was announced after 2023 had already begun, landlords weren't able to include it in their planning and it has affected their expected income for the year. Given that the 2022 CPI rose by 6.8 percent, some landlords feel they have suffered a financial loss that they are unable to recover via rent increases.
 - This per-unit payment will help to cover the difference between the expected rental rate rise of 6.8% and the 2023 regulated cap of 5%.
 - Administration:
 - Applicants will be required to submit proof of valid property insurance for each rental unit that covers at least part of the 2023 calendar year. If landlords do not hold rental property insurance the department will work with the applicant to confirm their status as an eligible applicant.
 - Applicants will be required to affirm that each unit meets the requirements of the minimum rental standards schedule to the Residential Tenancies Regulation.
 - Applicants will be able to submit applications from program start up through February 29, 2024.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Temporary Landlord Assistance Program**Economic
Development

- The program will:
 - Be available to all Yukon residential landlords who rent out accommodations to which the *Yukon's Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* applies;
 - Not apply to units advertised and/or available as vacation or travel accommodation unless they have been rented to the same tenant for 6 months or more;
 - The program will exclude residential units owned by:
 - The federal government and its corporations;
 - The Yukon government and its corporations;
 - First Nation governments;
 - Municipal governments; and
 - Specifically exclude residential units to which the Yukon government has provided operational subsidies in the 2023 calendar year.
 - The program will include units that have received capital subsidies in the past. Excluding these units would introduce too much complexity to the program.
 - The types of accommodation covered by the program is aligned with the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* and therefore the program will not cover:
 - a) living accommodation included with premises that,
 - (i) are occupied for business purposes, and
 - (ii) are rented under a single agreement;
 - (b) living accommodation owned or operated by an educational institution and provided by that institution to its students;
 - (c) living accommodation in which the tenant shares bathroom or kitchen facilities with the owner of that accommodation;
 - (d) living accommodation provided for emergency shelter or transitional housing if the person resides there for less than six consecutive months;
 - (e) living accommodation occupied as vacation or travel accommodation;
 - (f) living accommodation,

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Temporary Landlord Assistance
Program****Economic
Development**

(i) in a residential care and treatment facility or continuing care residential facility where 24 hour care, support or supervision is provided on-site to the residents,

(ii) in a community health centre or other facility for supplying medical or health services and programs that is owned and operated by the Government of Yukon, or

(iii) in a hospital or other facility for supplying medical services and programs that is established and maintained by the Yukon Hospital Corporation under the Hospital Act;

(g) living accommodation in a residence or other similar facility owned by the Yukon Hospital Corporation under the Hospital Act for persons involved in the provision of medical or health services and programs;

(h) living accommodation in a correctional institution, in a facility used for re-integrating offenders into the community or in a facility used to house persons on judicial interim release; or

(i) any tenancy agreement, rental unit or residential property prescribed in the regulations.

- Community Services has begun the mandated review of the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (RLTA). As part of this review, the department is working closely with over 15 community representatives. This one-time rebate does not affect the Act.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 20, 2023
Date approved

Security Contract for the 405 Alexander Area

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- 405 Alexander Street provides essential life-saving services for members of our community.
- Our government is also taking action to address immediate safety and security concerns for businesses and citizens in the area surrounding 405 Alexander.
- One of these actions is contracting a private security service to patrol the area immediately surrounding 405 Alexander, providing a visible deterrent to behaviors and incidents that have created insecurity and safety issues in the neighbourhood.
- This initial two-month pilot project will also gather valuable information on the behaviors and incidents that create insecurity and safety issues, helping government agencies and community partners continue to develop medium- and longer-term solutions.

Additional response:

- Sirius Security will patrol the area of Black Street to Strickland Street (including alleys) between 3rd Avenue and 5th Avenue. Patrols will operate from November 1 to December 31, Sunday to Thursday from 6pm to 2am and Friday to Saturday 7pm to 3am.
- Patrol guards are encouraged to interact with individuals during their tours in a friendly manner, but not in an enforcement capacity.
- Patrol guards will be actively observing for signs of trespassers, illegal drug use, and building emergencies or security issues.
- In addressing any situations involving individuals, patrol guards will respond with non-violent interventions informed by the company's

Security Contract for the 405 Alexander Area

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Social Safety Mandate and Yukon-specific non-violent conflict resolution training.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Safety and security of businesses and citizens in the area surrounding 405 Alexander has received significant attention in the media and Legislative Assembly during the 2023 Fall Session.
 - On November 2, 2023, the Premier delivered a Ministerial Statement that referenced the security services in the area surrounding 405 Alexander.
-

Background:

- On October 12, 2023, the Government of Yukon hosted a Downtown Whitehorse Community Partners Roundtable Discussion.
 - Following this discussion, on October 20, Premier Pillai issued a statement committing to a number of actions, including increased oversight and outreach presence in downtown Whitehorse through hiring private security services for businesses in proximity to Alexander Street.
 - The Department of Economic Development, working in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services, signed a contract with Sirius Security to deliver security services for a specified area of downtown Whitehorse during the hours of concern for businesses and citizens.
 - Sirius Security staff (patrol guards) will conduct patrol tours of the area, during which they will observe, report on, and act as a visible deterrent against loitering on private property, vandalism, and illegal drug use.
 - Patrol guards may report on locations and general descriptions of incidents, but do not typically collect personal or identifying information. At times higher levels of detail may be described in patrol reports if required to relay information on serious incidents to other agencies, such as the RCMP.
 - Patrol guards will be encouraged to check in with staff at 405 Alexander and with businesses during closing time where opportunities present.
-

Security Contract for the 405 Alexander Area

Economic Development

- While businesses will be given contact information for Sirius Security dispatch, the intention is not for businesses to direct the operation of the patrols, but rather to report, advise on safety or security concerns, or provide general information that will aide patrol guards.
- Sirius Security has an established line of communication with the RCMP, in addition to any calls that patrol guards may make to the RCMP in response to specific incidents.
- Patrols consist of a two-person team in recognizable uniforms, both on foot and in a vehicle. Patrol guards carry naloxone spray kits, and patrol vehicles are equipped with first aid kits.
- Patrol guard training:
 - Completion of a 40–60-hour Basic Security Training course through the Canadian Academy of Guard Training (based on the standard in Ontario).
 - Initial and ongoing training on, and adherence to, the company’s Social Safety Mandate, including Mental Health Awareness and De-escalation Training.
 - Yukon-specific de-escalation training developed by Sirius Security and based on ten years of Yukon experience, including history and culture of Yukon First Nations, as well as strategies to ensure that all security guard interactions and engagement with First Nations individuals is done with respect and acknowledgement of their traditional territories and way of life.
- To provide service for this two-month pilot, the maximum amount of this contract is \$50,000.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 6, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Business Incentive Program (BIP)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Business Incentive Program supports local economic activity by providing rebates to businesses working on eligible Government of Yukon contracts.
- Rebates are available for hiring Yukon youth, apprentices and adults and also for Yukon-made goods and services.
- Since April 1, 2023, BIP has processed three applications totaling \$62,776 in rebates.

Additional response:

- BIP must comply with the Yukon's domestic and international free trade procurement thresholds.
- The department is exploring options to modernize BIP in response to changing labour market conditions and low unemployment.
- Any changes to BIP would have to comply with the rules and spirit of trade agreements, which work to reduce barriers to trade.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Not all contractors are aware of the free trade threshold limitations on BIP which were introduced in 2017 with the signing of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Background:

- BIP provides two types of rebates for eligible Yukon government procurements:
 - Construction contracts: rebates for labour and apprentice costs, youth employment, and Yukon materials; and
 - Goods and Services: rebates for items produced locally and sold directly.

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Fall 2023

Business Incentive Program (BIP)

Economic
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BIP and Trade Agreements:

- BIP's preference for local content discriminates against other Canadian and international jurisdictions.
- The Yukon has an exception for BIP in the Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), allowing BIP to deviate from CFTA procurement obligations.
- There are no exceptions for BIP in Canada's international trade agreements, but two carve-outs do exist:
 - The Yukon does not include school boards or municipalities as covered entities in Canadian FTAs; their procurement is not bound by treaty; and
 - The Yukon has access to ten regional economic development exceptions per year for contracts of up to \$1 million. The Yukon must formally notify Global Affairs Canada when it intends to use one of these exceptions.
- The Yukon cannot apply BIP to contracts exceeding \$238,000 for goods and services and \$9.1 million for construction.

Aboriginal Exceptions in Trade Agreements:

- Canada maintains indigenous exceptions and reservations in all its major trade agreements to meet its constitutional and statutory obligations. BIP can be applied to favour Yukon First Nations over other Yukoners, Canadians or foreigners without contravening trade obligations.

Expenditures:

- \$39,779 in BIP rebates were paid for the 2022-23 fiscal year.
- It is estimated that \$101,391 will be paid on three pending BIP claims by March 31, 2024. This would bring the total payout for 2023-24 to \$164,167.

Approved by:

<u>Approved</u> A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	<u>September 5, 2023</u> Date approved
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Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Economic Development Fund (EDF)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Economic Development Fund is intended to support economic growth and diversification by providing funding for the broadest possible range of initiatives.
- From April 1 to November 10, 2023, 42 projects have been supported through the EDF, with a total contribution commitment of \$2,006,483. Several projects are multi-year initiatives.
- These projects are located throughout the Yukon and include, among others:
 - Fireweed Plumbing and Heating Limited supported to complete a feasibility study to develop a Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) manufacturing facility to mill and engineer prefabricated housing in the Yukon.
 - Yukon Spaces supported to construct a day spa facility that will promote winter tourism in Dawson City.
 - Elements Esthetics Academy supported to market and promote the new academy that offers esthetics training to rural communities.
- Annual Reports for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 fiscal years will soon be available on Yukon.ca.

Additional response:

- During the 2022-23 fiscal year, 52 projects were approved for a total commitment of \$2,263,118.
- Eligible projects include those that:
 - support business innovation, sustainability and planning;

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Economic Development Fund (EDF)**Economic
Development

- encourage economic diversification through market support; and
 - increase business competitiveness through capacity and capital development.
 - All EDF applications are reviewed and assessed to ensure they meet fund eligibility and evaluation criteria.
 - The program enables businesses to make improvements through capital purchases in order to enhance competitiveness.
 - Capital investments will be considered where the applicant can show that the project has real potential for a positive long-term impact on the broader Yukon economy, not solely on an individual business.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The EDF is a competitive program that is often oversubscribed.
-

Background:

- The fund provides support to Yukon businesses, First Nation governments, First Nation development entities, municipalities, community societies or industry associations and non-profits. It invests in projects focused on local or regional economic and business development, job creation, or economic planning.
 - The 2023-24 funding intakes for the following tiers:
 - Tier 1 – A rolling intake for applications up to \$30,000;
 - Tier 2 – Applications between \$30,001 and \$100,000 with intakes on April 15 and September 15; and
 - Tier 3 – Applications over \$100,000 with a \$500,000 per project cap, with an intake on January 15.
 - Contributions from all Government of Yukon sources for the same project may be up to 75% of the total project costs.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Economic Development Fund (EDF)**Economic
Development

- Contributions from the EDF may not exceed 50% of eligible capital expenditures.
- The total allocation for the fund is \$1.96 million.

Other Examples of Supported Projects in 2023-24:

- Business innovation, sustainability and planning:
 - Balance Biogas received funding to investigate the financial feasibility of using an anaerobic digester to generate biogas that will then be used to incinerate solid inorganic waste, the energy from which could be used for heat energy or to generate electricity.
- Market support and diversification:
 - Funding was provided to Oliver-Beebe Customs to expand its manufacturing capacity to meet the demands of the local market and extend the product sales market to include Western Canada and Alaska.
- Capacity and capital development:
 - RAB Energy LP was provided funding to invest in automated equipment to expand its production capacity and market opportunities.
 - Green Screen Printing received funding to purchase an automatic screen printing press to increase efficiency and scale up printing capabilities.

Approved by:Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentNovember 23, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Investment Attraction

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Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development's investment attraction efforts support the growth of Yukon businesses and creates opportunities for employment, diversification and market expansion.
- The department supports initiatives aimed at broadening the Yukon's economic base and increasing competitiveness to attract investment by providing two investment attraction funding programs.
- In addition, the department works to attract domestic and foreign direct investment through its mining investment attraction strategy and Yukon Business Nominee Program.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Investment into the Yukon is an important factor in Yukon's economic growth.

Background:

- The Department operates two principal investment attraction programs, in addition to its regular work on investment attraction.
 - **Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Program:** A partnership between the Government of Yukon and participating financial institutions that supports private sector to attract investment by allowing lending institutions to partially guarantee a business loan in the event of loss; and
 - **Yukon Small Business Investment Tax Credit:** A 25% individual tax credit for Yukon investors that allows Yukon entities to issue shares in exchange for an agreed upon return and the tax credit. The program supports businesses to attract investment.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to attracting responsible mining investment that incorporates the views of local communities.

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Investment Attraction

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- The Department's mining investment attraction work includes:
 - relationship-oriented approach that emphasizes face-to-face attendance at mining trade shows and investment conferences;
 - supporting the Yukon Mining Alliance to promote Yukon;
 - supporting the Yukon Chamber of Mines for the Yukon Geoscience Forum, Yukon Mining & Geology Week, and the Association of Mineral Exploration Round-Up; and
 - expanding joint initiatives with federal partners such as: Invest in Canada to attract Foreign Direct Investment.
- In addition, delivery of the **Yukon Business Nominee Program**, attracts investment into Yukon companies from around the world.
 - Between January 1, 2022, and August 29, 2023, ten business concepts have been accepted into the Yukon Business Nominee Program's selection pool with a total potential investment of \$6.6 million

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 5, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Mining Sector Supports**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Government of Yukon is proud to attract mining investment and maximize benefits to the Yukon's economy by working collaboratively with mineral sector stakeholders and First Nations partners.
- By promoting the Yukon as a stable investment jurisdiction for mineral development, First Nations governments, communities and families will continue to benefit from investments in the industry.
- The department is working with industry partners to identify and undertake new initiatives for the upcoming 2023 season.
- We are in negotiations with the Municipality of Skagway, to secure tidewater access by supporting the development of a marine services platform for industrial use in the Port of Skagway.

Additional response:

- Yukon Mineral Exploration Program (YMEP) provided \$1.4M to 44 projects for the 2023 field season. These projects are anticipated to generate more than \$4.6 million in exploration spending.
- The department continues to promote Yukon's investment potential at mining forums such as AME RoundUP, the Vancouver Resource Investment Conference (VRIC), the Prospector's & Developers Association of Canada annual conference, and through the Yukon Property Tours.

Session Briefing Note

Mining Sector Supports

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Context—this may be an issue because:

- The mineral sector is a key contributor to the Yukon's economy and there is ongoing interest expressed in the level of government support to the sector and permitting delays are affecting industry certainty.
-

Background:

Yukon Mining Alliance (YMA):

- The department had a one-year TPA with YMA for \$300,000, which expired on March 31, 2023.
- The department signed a new one-year TPA with YMA for \$176,200 exclusive to Property Tours 2023.
- In July 2023, the Yukon Property Tours and Investment Forum celebrated the 125th year of the Yukon joining confederation with expanded delegate attendance.
- The department is drafting a second TPA with YMA that will focus on collaborative participation in VRIC and PDAC in 2023-24.

Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM):

- The department signed a three-year TPA with YCM for \$195,000 (\$65,000 annually).
- The TPA covers the delivery of the 51st, 52nd, and 53rd Annual Yukon Geoscience and Tradeshows to be held respectively in November 2023, 2024 and 2025; and
- Yukon Night to be held during AME BC Mineral Exploration Round-up in Vancouver, BC in January 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Pan-Territorial Marketing Initiative:

- The three territories have submitted an application to CanNor for a three-year pan-territorial marketing initiative. The focus will be on mining investment and attraction for the North.

Session Briefing Note

Mining Sector Supports

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Fall 2023
Economic
Development

Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC):

- Economic Development and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources jointly coordinate participation in the annual PDAC convention. Activities include:
 - advertising and promotional material;
 - hosting events to generate interest in the Yukon; and
 - attracting resource-focused media interest in the Yukon.
- PDAC helps international investors learn about northern mining. It highlights competitive advantages in each jurisdiction including geological potential, political stability, Indigenous partnerships and leaders in exploration and mining.
- Yukon government will attend PDAC 2024, scheduled March 3-6 in Toronto.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 5, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****First Nations Collaboration
Initiatives**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Yukon First Nation governments and their respective development corporations play a critical role in growing and diversifying the Yukon's economy.
- Through funds like the Economic Development Fund and Community Development Fund, we are supporting First Nation governments and development corporations as they grow capacity, invest in new ventures, strengthen their communities, and plan for the future.
- First Nation governments and development corporations are pillars of the Yukon's economic and social development.

Additional response:

- Some of the ways we are supporting First Nations to build capacity and identify economic priorities in their Traditional Territories are:
 - Supporting the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Development Corporation to hire a contractor to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a gravel extraction business operating within the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory; and
 - Supporting the Kluane Community Development Limited Partnership to explore opportunities for diverse activities that will promote the local use of resources and consider the viability of investing in wood product manufacturing based in Burwash Landing.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****First Nations Collaboration
Initiatives**Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon government is committed to increasing entrepreneurial opportunities for First Nation development corporations and working collaboratively with First Nations for their benefit and the benefit of all Yukoners.
 - It also supports Government of Yukon obligations under Chapter 22 of Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.
-

Background:

- First Nations and their development corporations can access funding support from the Economic Development Fund and Community Development Fund.
- The department works both with individual development corporations and on territory-wide initiatives.
- The Yukon government provides advisory and funding support for First Nations' economic development, from business planning to project evaluation, including:
 - Building governance institutions through capacity development such as:
 - Supporting the Council of Yukon First Nations to hire an Economic Development Analyst to meet Yukon Forum priorities and address the Government of Yukon's commitment to the 1993 Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) – Chapter 22 – Economic Development Measures.
 - Supporting strategic and economic planning efforts such as:
 - Supporting the Kluane Community Development Limited Partnership to explore opportunities for diverse activities that will promote the local use of resources and consider the viability of investing in wood product manufacturing based in Burwash Landing.
 - Identifying and supporting projects that will provide lasting benefits to Yukoners such as:
 - Supporting the Liard First Nation to restore the Dena Cho Trail from Watson Lake towards Ross River to preserve traditional knowledge;

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****First Nations Collaboration
Initiatives****Economic
Development**

- Providing support to First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun to create an all-inclusive multi-platform Northern Tutchone Language App that can be used to support language revitalization programming for all citizens;
 - Providing support to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to celebrate their 25th anniversary of self-governance; and
 - Supporting the Council of Yukon First Nations to complete a feasibility study for a CYFN Administration Building. A new facility will assist Yukon First Nation citizens in accessing more programs all in one building, thus providing more effective and efficient client service.
- Supporting and developing feasibility studies, and establishing business ventures such as:
 - Supporting Kluane Community Development Limited Partnership to upgrade the Dalan Campground to promote tourism activities in the community; and
 - Providing support to Yukon First Nation Wildfire LP to purchase equipment that will help them improve operational efficiency at scale and expand services to Atlin, BC.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 5, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy (YFNPP)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Labour Market Development unit works with First Nations on labour market and workforce development projects that contribute to the implementation of the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy.
- Since April 1, 2022, we have committed to over \$7.0 million in labour market activity to support Workforce Development, with in excess of \$1.6 million committed to First Nations and First Nation-serving organizations in 2023-24.
- Economic Development has worked with the Department of Highways and Public Works, YFNPP oversight committees and the Council of Yukon First Nations to support the implementation of the YFNPP.

Additional Response:

- An example of activity directly supporting the YFNPP is a three-year, \$650,000 investment in the SPARK project with Teslin Tlingit Council in support of local, First Nation and Yukon procurement projects such as the Nisutlin Bay Bridge project.
- Additional activity supporting First Nations workforce development, but not directly tied to procurement, includes:
 - A one-year \$153,000 agreement to support Liard First Nation to provide participant action planning, case management, training opportunities and a job fair.
 - A three-year, \$211,000 agreement to support First Nations youth to explore healthcare careers via work experience placements at Whitehorse General Hospital.
 - A one-year, \$384,000 agreement with Selkirk First Nation to provide work experience for citizens facing multiple issues to labour market success.

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Fall 2023

Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy (YFNPP)

Economic Development

- A three-year, \$900,000 agreement with Carcross/Tagish First Nation to provide a complete suite of labour market programs including training support, case management and referral and on-the-land development of Skills for Success.
- A three-year, \$700,000 agreement with Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, providing labour market support for Youth, principally Yukon First Nations.
- A one-year, \$400,000 agreement with Yukon First Nation Wildfire Warrior Program, providing Skills for Success and vocational skill enhancement for Yukon First Nations Youth.
- A one-year, \$95,000 agreement with Champaign Aishihik First Nation to support 19 entrepreneurs to develop business plans and register as contractors to benefit from procurement activity.
- We continue to work with Yukon First Nations to develop new support activity.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Industry stakeholders and First Nations are keenly interested in workforce development as an important component of the YFNPP.

Background:

- YFNPP came into force on February 9, 2022.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works was the lead department in developing the policy and is the lead department in coordinating implementation.

Approved by:

Approved	October 24, 2023
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Entrepreneurial & Innovation
Support**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- We are collaborating with business, industry, and First Nations partners to make strategic investments and promote an entrepreneurial culture that attracts and supports startups.
- We have released our five-year Innovation strategy in November 2023. The strategy includes actions that are intended to support businesses and entrepreneurs, strengthen connections between academia, governments, First Nations, private capital, grow the domestic technology sector and attract local talent.
- We have valued partnerships with TechYukon, Yukonstruct and Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship to deliver the physical spaces, educational programming and networking opportunities that promote and grow innovation experience and knowledge.
- We partnered with the Government of Canada to support the implementation of the Canada Digital Adoption Program for the Yukon. This program will help up to 140 small and medium-sized businesses to go online over the next three years. There are currently 26 Yukon businesses in the Canada Digital Adoption Program.
- Throughout the second half of 2022 and early 2023, we partnered with Yukon University and ComIT to deliver the first coding training for Yukon First Nations. Fifteen students completed stage one of the training.
- We will continue to work with ComIT to customize the offering for the next round based on the needs of our local tech businesses.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Entrepreneurial & Innovation
Support**Economic
Development

- We continue to partner with the innovation ecosystem to deliver on programs such as:
 - Yukonstruct's 12-week training program called Startup Bootcamp, Pathfinding services, Yukon innovation week, and the Hall of Innovators;
 - TechYukon's North of AI [Artificial Intelligence] program which had three startup companies accepted into the Scale AI program in 2022 and are accepting additional companies in 2023;
 - Investment readiness workshops for entrepreneurs and angel investors through a partnership between Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Vancouver-based Spring;
 - Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship's innovation grant;
 - Sponsoring the Mitacs Accelerate Research and Business Strategy Internship Program;
 - ElevateIP [intellectual property] program;
 - Continued support for Yukon University's IncubateNorth program to provide space, tools and services to help market-ready startups grow faster; and
 - In addition, we are evaluating new programs with our partners for providing entrepreneurial support in Yukon communities and targeted under-represented groups.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Entrepreneurial & Innovation
Support**Economic
Development

Additional response:

- We continue to support the growth and attraction of startups and innovators in the Yukon through a wide range of programs and partnerships.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The technology and innovation sector is a key area for diversification in the Yukon's economy.
- Economic Development's 2023 mandate letter includes a commitment to complete a Yukon Innovation Strategy.

Background:

- The Technology and Innovation (TI) Branch is tasked with supporting the technology and innovation sector in the Yukon.
- Over the past five years, the Yukon's tech sector has continued to grow and represented approximately 3.5 per cent of the Yukon's GDP.
- The department provides financial support to the following organizations:
 - Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship – \$835,000 in F23-24;
 - Yukonstruct – \$290,000 in F23-24; and
 - TechYukon – \$320,000 in F23-24.
- Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship is focused on areas of innovation that will contribute to the social and economic prosperity of the Yukon. The unit aims to provide living laboratories for learners, innovators and entrepreneurs to lead work on the focus areas including technology development, social justice, climate action, community development and sustainable resource development.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Entrepreneurial & Innovation
Support**Economic
Development

- TechYukon is the technology industry association for the Yukon, with a mission to grow the technology industry in the Yukon. The society represents 27 Yukon technology companies.
- Yukonstruct is a non-profit society based at Northlight Innovation in downtown Whitehorse. Members include innovators, freelancers, startups, developers, students, inventors and creatives. A community workshop, including wood and metal shops and digital fabrication provide space teaching nights and mentorship programs while a shared workspace offers hotdesking and offices. Yukonstruct offers entrepreneur programming to help Yukoners launch and grow their businesses.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 20, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Innovation Strategy

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to building a thriving innovation economy by supporting technological growth and entrepreneurship.
- A five-year strategy, “*Innovation Yukon: Bringing Northern Ingenuity to the World*”, was released on November 9, 2023. The strategy outlines the Yukon’s unique strengths and identifies actions to help Yukoners create, grow and mature their business ideas in the Yukon.
- Innovation Yukon focuses on five strategic objectives that will foster awareness of technology and innovation, cultivate connections within the Yukon and outside jurisdictions, grow talent, increase market access for Yukon’s entrepreneurs and focus our resources to support and drive innovation forward over the coming five years.
- Within these five objectives, we have 24 actions to achieve these goals over the next five years, such as:
 - Growing local talent by partnering with sector organizations to provide training in technology, innovation and entrepreneurship;
 - Fostering youth, rural, and place-based entrepreneurship;
 - Increasing access to private capital; and
 - Economic reconciliation with First Nations by partnering with key organizations to offer Indigenous-focused training and investment programs.
- We are committed to building upon the Yukon’s unique strengths and opportunities through actions that are reflective of the feedback received from Yukoners.

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Innovation Strategy

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Additional response:

- To support the development of the strategy, in fall 2020 over 160 stakeholders were invited, from across 13 sectors, to participate in interviews and focus groups during engagement.
- These sectors included academia, technology development, agriculture, mining, energy, climate change research, consultancy and entrepreneurship, tourism, media, First Nations Development Corporations and Yukon University.
- We also sought input from organizations from outside the territory to better understand how to attract investment, support research and further develop our innovation ecosystem.
- In 2021, we established the Innovation Commission to provide technical and professional input on the development of the strategy to expand opportunities for local entrepreneurs, diversify the economy, and create jobs.
- Over the past five years, the Yukon's tech sector has continued to grow, on average representing approximately 3.5% of the Yukon's GDP.
- Our strong innovation and entrepreneurial culture in the Yukon will continue providing momentum to expand and diversify our economy.
- By supporting innovation across sectors, we are creating jobs and building a strong, diverse Yukon economy for current and future generations.

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Innovation Strategy

Fall 2023

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Context—this may be an issue because:

- Minister Pillai's 2021 and 2023 mandate letter identified the direction to develop an innovation strategy to create opportunities for local entrepreneurs and to establish an Innovation Commission.
- The May 2021 Speech from the Throne highlighted the importance of innovation to the Yukon in the coming years.

Background:

- Technology and innovation is the fastest growing sector across the globe. The global technology sector accounts for 4.5% of global GDP and is expected to double within the next 15 to 20 years.
- A public engagement period that included interviews, focus groups and surveys, ran from September 28, 2020, to October 28, 2020. The What We Heard was released in August 2021 in conjunction with the establishment of the Innovation Commission.

Innovation Commission:

- An Innovation Commission was formed in 2021 to provide technical and professional input on the development of the five-year innovation strategy. Made up of members and advisors from within the Yukon, across Canada and in Europe, the commission was convened to advise on topics such as attracting startups, building a digital ecosystem and fostering innovation and sharing networks across communities.
- The Innovation Commission members were chosen for their experience, diversity and interest in innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. Between August and November 2021, the commission met six times, considering key actions and priorities that would provide the foundation for the development of a thriving and diverse economy.
- Commission members included:
 - Astrid Grawehr, Kryotek Arctic Innovation Inc.;
 - Cherish Clarke, Digital Engine Technology;

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Innovation Strategy

- Chris Lane, Make IT Solutions; Northmark Ventures; TechYukon;
 - Curtis Shaw, Northwestel;
 - Inga Petri, Strategic Moves;
 - John Jensen, MGrid Energy; and
 - Melaina Sheldon, Melaina Sheldon Consulting.
- Commission advisors included:
 - Bernd Petak, Northmark Ventures;
 - David Larkin, Northmark Ventures;
 - Dr. Alexandra Greenhill, Careteam Technologies Inc.;
 - Micheal Mooney, Creative Lab North;
 - Norm Fraser, Softlron;
 - Patrick Lor, Panache Ventures;
 - Thomas Park, BDC Deep Tech Fund; and
 - Véronique Herry, Startup Palace.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 14, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Panache Ventures**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- In 2019, the Government of Yukon provided \$2 million to the Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation to support their overall investment of \$5 million in Panache Ventures, a Canadian venture capital fund.
- Panache has met and/or coached over 16 Yukon firms, invested in one Yukon enterprise and participated in the Innovation Commission.
- This investment and support for the Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation is one-step towards growing our innovation ecosystem and it aligns with the intent of Chapter 22 to provide Yukon First Nations with opportunities to fully participate in the Yukon's economy.

Additional response:

- The investment in Panache Ventures by the Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation helps diversify their investments and return benefits to Yukon communities.
- The value of the Government of Yukon's partnership with the First Nation Investment Corporation is in the capital and mentorship opportunities that it will bring to Yukon businesses. The government does not receive a financial return from its contribution.
- Panache Ventures participated in multiple events during Innovation Week in November 2023. Analyst Nadia Lachman led a workshop at Northlight on "The Basics of Pitching" and spoke on a panel that included the Government of Yukon's Department of Economic Development, the CEO of Kluane Dana Shaw LP, a local business founder and the President of Yukon Venture Angels. Panache also

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Panache Ventures

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hosted a meeting with members of Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation (YFNIC) and other local innovation partners during the week to discuss capacity building opportunities.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The deal is a unique arrangement that does not have any recent comparable prospect. At two million dollars, the scale of the Yukon government's contribution is significant.
- During budget debate in April 2023, the Official Opposition raised concerns about the value of the investment to Yukon businesses.

Background:

- Government of Yukon transferred \$2 million, matched by a \$3 million contribution from the Yukon First Nation Investment Limited Partnership (the investment vehicle), for the purposes of a \$5 million investment in Panache Ventures Investment Fund Limited, 2018.
- The Yukon First Nation Investment Limited Partnership is comprised of seven Yukon First Nations development corporations.
- Panache Ventures Investment Fund Limited, 2018, was launched in March 2018 with \$25 million in capital and a commitment to focus on seed-stage companies.
- As of June 30, 2023, the Fund has \$58M in committed capital, and includes 94 companies in its portfolio.
- The portfolio has seen multiple successful exits to date and has returned 12% of called capital to Limited Partners. It is performing well.

Panache's commitment towards investment in Yukon:

- This is a 10-year fund, from 2018-2028. We are in the fifth year of the fund and working to develop investment ready Yukon opportunities.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Panache Ventures****Economic
Development**

- Panache noted that it is targeting to invest a minimum of 3% of \$58 million in the Yukon over the life of the fund, which is approximately \$2 million. They have also committed to use commercially reasonable efforts to identify and make investments in a minimum of three more Yukon companies over the life of the fund. Panache has invested in one Yukon-based company to date (Proof Data Technology).
- In 2021, Panache Ventures participated in the Yukon entrepreneurial ecosystem through the following actions:
 - joined the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce (YFNCC) and attended monthly CEO breakfast meetings to help screen presenting businesses. In addition, they nominated multiple organizations to present at YFNCC meetings;
 - organizer & panelist;
 - attended several Yukonstruct Demo Days events to offer feedback and encouragement to program participants;
 - coached and mentored in Yukonstruct STEM and Local Leaders Business Bootcamps, including the delivery of specific advice for developing company pitches, as well as product development and go-to-market strategies;
 - consulted with Yukon University and Yukonstruct on the development of entrepreneurship programs;
 - attended monthly check-ins with the CEOs of Yukon First Nations Business Development Corporations to discuss investment deal flow; and
 - participated as an advisor of the Innovation Commission (Patrick Lor).
- We met with partners from Panache multiple times throughout the summer of 2023, and we are planning additional capacity building activities to benefit Yukon investors, business founders and First Nations Development Corporations.
- The keynote event that is being coordinated is a CEO forum that will be held in Whitehorse during the life of the fund.

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Panache Ventures

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Investment in Proof Data Technology:

- The exact investment amount is confidential and cannot be disclosed. The investment was leveraged to support Proof Data Technology to raise more significant capital from additional investment pools.

Assessment and Due Diligence:

- The Department of Economic Development contracted an independent consultant on venture capital, to assess the fund. The consultant's track record includes advising the Government of Nova Scotia on setting up its own venture capital fund.
- The assessment included the fund, the investment strategy, the team, the investors, the financial and economic development benefits for Yukon, and the risks of the investment and recommended that the department pursue this opportunity for the benefit of Yukoners.

Approved by:

<u>Approved</u>	<u>November 20, 2023</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Suspension of SDTC Funding**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- We do not expect the temporary suspension of new project funding through Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) to have an impact on Yukon businesses or clean energy initiatives;
- This funding is geared towards projects for developing pre-commercial stage technologies that support clean and sustainable objectives in Canada;
- Although we encourage our business community to raise capital and seek funding from public and private organizations across Canada, no Yukon-based businesses are listed as having received recent funding from SDTC, and we are not aware of any that are pursuing SDTC grants at this time.

Additional response:

- Our Clean Future highlights new and emerging technology as a key tool for meeting our climate objectives, and accessing resources from programs like SDTC may be important for Yukon technology companies in the future;
 - While government funding programs are effective at stimulating business ideas and spurring innovation, effective oversight and good governance are essential for maintaining the integrity of these programs.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The SDTC funding program has just been suspended by the federal government while it undergoes an internal review relating to its governance;
 - There may be clean-tech companies in the Yukon, or those looking to supply to the Yukon, that were interested in federal funding sources, and this announcement means they will have one fewer option for now;
-

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Suspension of SDTC Funding

Economic
Development

- Our Clean Future puts emphasis on clean energy and adopting new technologies for the Yukon, and companies trying to raise funds to meet some of these goals will have to seek additional funding from other sources, which may include the Government of Yukon.

Background:

- SDTC is a federal funding agency under Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (ISED);
- SDTC provides funding to Canadian companies that are developing, demonstrating, and commercializing new technologies with the potential to provide green/environmentally sustainable benefits to Canadians; many of which are related to clean energy;
- SDTC funded projects are typically targeted towards advancing technologies at low to medium Technology Readiness Levels (i.e. post proof of concept, but pre-commercial). The median project size is approximately \$5M, and SDTC funds 33% of eligible project costs, on average;
- In October 2023, ISED suspended the program indefinitely in response to findings relating to conflict-of-interest breaches and poor governance around the granting of funds. SDTC will not be approving new projects or accepting new applications until these deficiencies have been addressed. However, active projects will not be impacted and disbursement of funds for existing projects will continue. SDTC expects to resume normal operations by year-end.
- Eavor Technologies out of Alberta previously received funding from SDTC and continues to develop its geothermal technology. Eavor Yukon, which has an exclusive license to market this technology throughout the Yukon, would potentially be impacted if SDTC funds were being considered for additional development scope.

Approved by: Approved

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 12, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Performing Musicians Fund**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development launched the Performing Musicians Fund in 2022. It is a comprehensive new funding program for Yukon musicians to foster continued growth in this vibrant creative industry.
- The annual funding for performing musicians is \$300,000, up from \$50,000 for the previous Sound Recording Fund.
- Between April 1 and October 3, 2023, the department has approved 25 applications, including seven established musicians and 18 emerging musicians, for a total contribution of \$211,908.

Additional response:

- The program expands the range of activities eligible under the fund to include:
 - Music video content and sound recordings;
 - Marketing activities such as touring and showcasing; and
 - Training and development of Yukon musicians.
- The program increases the funding available to Yukon musicians:
 - Up to \$10,000 for emerging musicians; and
 - Up to \$30,000 for established musicians.
- The music industry creates local jobs and builds capacity, supports Yukon businesses and entrepreneurs and contributes to economic diversification.
- Creators can find information on programs online at Yukon.ca or by contacting our Media Development team at Economic Development.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Performing Musicians Fund**Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Minister's 2016-20 mandate included a commitment to review economic funding programs to make programming more responsive with less red tape.
-

Background:

- The Department undertook engagement with Yukon stakeholders and consulted with program managers of provincial and territorial funding programs for music when developing the new program.
- The Performing Musicians Fund (PMF) replaced the Yukon Sound Recording Program.
- The changes to the program are intended to broaden the spectrum of supports offered through the department to better meet the needs of Yukon musicians.
- The application process mirrors that of federal and provincial funding programs for the music industry. Applications are not accepted verbally.
- Eligible activities under the PMF include:
 - Activities that help musicians improve their skills, such as preproduction activities or workshop registration;
 - Professional sound recordings intended for commercial release, applying to showcases and for auditions to secure bookings; and
 - Costs associated with marketing newly-released music and developing opportunities that contribute substantially to their income.

Eligible transportation expenses include:

- Assistance with travel costs for touring and showcase opportunities outside the Yukon, including:
 - Applicants may choose to fly or drive to a touring area, but the total cost may not exceed the cost of a return economy airfare from Whitehorse to the nearest international airport in the touring area, per musician;
 - Within the touring area, rental vehicle expenses (including fuel) may not exceed the cost of rental of one passenger van (plus fuel); and

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Performing Musicians Fund**Economic
Development

- Where accommodation is not provided in the performance contract, accommodation will be based on double occupancy of standard rooms required at each performance location.
- Specific expense coverage for each approved application is outlined within a transfer payment agreement. All applicants are encouraged to discuss their specific project needs with a Media Advisor.

Approved

A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 3, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Screen Media Funding Programs**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Four new media funding programs were launched in 2022, to support the production of professional film, television and digital media projects.
- The new programs streamline production funding, strengthen support for development, simplify access to training supports and standardize business policies.
- Between April 1 and August 29, 2023, the department has approved 16 applications for \$506,438, including:
 - four applications for \$361,163 total under the Media Production Fund;
 - two applications for \$62,095 total under the Development Fund;
 - two applications for \$30,000 total under the Pre-Development Fund; and
 - eight applications for \$53,180 under the Training Fund.
- 16 current projects anticipate spending \$1,125,249 in the Yukon, creating local jobs and building capacity while supporting Yukon businesses and entrepreneurs and contributing to economic diversification.

Additional response:

- Local stakeholders and industry experts were extensively engaged during the development of the new programs.
- The budget to support these new programs was increased by \$500,000 to \$1,160,000.

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Fall 2023

Screen Media Funding Programs

Economic
Development

- Creators can find information on programs online at Yukon.ca or by contacting our Media Development team at Economic Development.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Screen Production Yukon Association was highly involved in and supported the development of the new funding programs.

Background:

- The Media funding programs' annual intake dates are announced online. Each program may be closed once funding has been fully subscribed.
 - This is consistent with federal funding programs.
 - Closing these programs allows the department to allocate resources to the year the activity occurs and manage its budget appropriately.
- The development of the new programs included:
 - Identification of best practices and development of terms of reference and project charter;
 - Public engagement;
 - Development of Recommendations for Change and release to industry stakeholders;
 - Development and release of a What We Heard document; and
 - Public information sessions to review each program and application process with stakeholders.
- The application process mirrors that of federal funding programs for the media industries. Applications are not accepted verbally.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 5, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Community Development Fund
(CDF)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Projects funded by the Community Development Fund support events and initiatives that provide long-term, sustainable economic and social benefits to communities across the Yukon.
- From April 1, 2023 to August 28, 2023, 42 projects have been supported through the CDF, with a total contribution commitment of \$2,619,700.
- These projects are located throughout the Yukon and include, among others:
 - \$54,000 to the Town of Faro to construct a new animal shelter to assist in controlling the number of loose animals in the community;
 - \$57,469 to the Champagne Community Association to renovate and enhance Shadhāla Ku Community Recreation Centre to use as a recreation and drop-in center for the community;
 - \$27,319 to the Yukon Little League to purchase equipment to facilitate the opening of a Yukon-wide Little League Chapter; and
 - \$13,329 to the Whitehorse Disc Golf Association to improve the Mount McIntyre disc golf course with professional grade baskets.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Community Development Fund
(CDF)**Economic
Development

Additional response:

- During the 2022-23 fiscal year, 65 projects were approved for a total of \$3,200,369, with over 50% of that money going to communities outside of Whitehorse.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The CDF is well-known and well-regarded, and demand for program funding is high.
 - Questions may be asked on how CDF was distributed to communities across the territory.
 - COVID-19 affected clients' ability to complete projects on time due to supply chain challenges, lockdowns and staffing shortages.
-

Background:

- The Community Development Fund is for projects that:
 - Create economic benefits such as generating local spending, creating employment opportunities, building needed infrastructure and bringing new money into the Yukon from outside sources;
 - Develop skills, knowledge and experience;
 - Create social benefits such as strengthening social and community networks, building partnerships and facilitating community involvement;
 - Support the community's long-term well-being; and
 - Have measurable social, cultural and economic benefits for Yukon residents and communities.
 - Funding is dispersed across three tiers:
 - Tier 1 for projects less than \$20,000 (four intakes per year);
 - Tier 2 for projects between \$20,001 and \$75,000 (two intakes per year); and
 - Tier 3 for projects over \$75,000 (one intake per year).
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Community Development Fund
(CDF)**Economic
Development

Other Major Projects from 2023-24:

- **Kaushee's Place Housing Society – \$250,000** - To upgrade the kitchens, bathroom, and flooring in five apartments at the Kaushee's Place building in order to provide continued provision of second-stage housing to victims of violence.
- **Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation - \$102,000** – To upgrade the existing ballfield situated on the north side of the Yukon River and install an adjacent playground.
- **Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - \$110,000** – To complete upgrades to the Helen's Fish Camp to host cultural gatherings and carry out activities and programming to bring TKC citizens together as a community.

Approved by:ApprovedA/Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentSeptember 5, 2023Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Regional Accomplishments

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has made significant investments across all communities in the Yukon.
- Communities have benefitted from a variety of funds administered by the Department of Economic Development, most significantly the Community Development Fund (CDF) and the Economic Development Fund (EDF).
- Community funding is broken down by region. From April 1 to November 10, 2023, the department has approved CDF and EDF funding for communities outside of Whitehorse totaling \$2,052,593., as follows:
 - North region: \$764,082;
 - West region: \$293,064;
 - Central region: \$308,947; and
 - Southeast region: \$686,500.
- Communities also benefit from Media Development funding programs. While the majority of applicants to media programs are from Whitehorse, various projects have positive impacts in the communities. Many screen-based media projects film in locations throughout the Yukon and spend portions of their production budgets in multiple communities.
- Some notable projects that have contributed significantly to Yukon communities in 2022 – 23 include Discovery Channel's *Gold Rush* Season 13, the Yukon documentary series *Au Couer Du Yukon*, and the Yukon documentary *The Ballad of Caveman Bill*.
- The Government of Yukon provides economic immigration programs to help businesses across the territory meet their labour needs. The

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Regional Accomplishments**Economic
Development

Department of Economic Development administers two immigration programs in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC): The Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP) and the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).

- In 2020, the department launched a new stream, the Yukon Community Program (YCP), specifically designed to support employers and nominees in rural communities.
 - Since its inception on June 1, 2020, 25 candidates have been approved through the program.
 - This pilot project has been extended until June 2025.
- Labour Market Development expects to distribute \$6.8 million in 2023-24 for programs and services across the Yukon that will help individuals meet their labour market goals and help employers recruit, train and retain the staff they need for their businesses to thrive.
- As of October 3, 2023, Labour Market Development has approved agreements with three First Nations: Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Teslin Tlingit Council, and Carcross Tagish First Nation with a total value of \$1.47 million. Labour Market Development continues to develop agreements with other First Nation governments.
- Support to rural communities has also been provided through programs such as the Skills for Success program that is supporting projects such as:
 - Western Arctic Youth Collective, with a contribution of \$200,000, to provide mentorship programming for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Youth in various communities
 - First Kaska (owned by Liard First Nations) with a contribution of \$250,000 to provide on-site training and mentoring for Liard

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First Nation community members in the manufacturing and construction of timber homes, to improve vocational skills in a way that is culturally meaningful and encourages and supports projects planned or underway in the community.

- Champagne Aishihik First Nation - Shāwthān Nāhzi, with a contribution up to \$150,000, to support land-based healing programs in communities.

Additional response:

- From April 2022 to March 31, 2023, \$1,845,428 in financial assistance from CDF and EDF was provided to communities outside of Whitehorse, as follows:
 - North region: \$839,857;
 - West region: \$143,591;
 - Central region: \$362,940; and
 - Southeast region: \$499,040.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- Between CDF and EDF, Whitehorse received 56% of total approved contributions (24% CDF, 32% EDF) from April 1, 2023, to November 10, 2023.
 - To date in the 2023 fiscal year, projects based in Whitehorse received a total contribution of \$2,573,590.
 - The regional funding overview provides a breakdown of Economic Development funding to clients and projects within communities outside of Whitehorse from April 2023 to November 10, 2023.
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Regional Accomplishments

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- North Region: Dawson City, Eagle Plains, Keno, Mayo, Old Crow.
 - Ten organizations received combined total funding of \$764,082;
 - Economic Development Fund: five organizations, \$289,703;
 - Community Development Fund: six organizations, \$474,379.
- West Region: Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction.
 - Nine organizations received combined total funding of \$293,064;
 - Economic Development Fund: Seven organizations, \$120,917;
 - Community Development Fund: four organizations, \$172,147.
- Central Region: Carmacks, Faro, Pelly Crossing, Ross River.
 - Seven organizations received combined total funding of \$308,947.
 - Economic Development Fund: one organization, \$120,707;
 - Community Development Fund: four organizations, \$188,240.
- Southeast Region: Carcross, Southern Lakes, Teslin, Watson Lake.
 - Three organizations received combined total funding of \$686,500
 - Community Development Fund: three organizations, \$686,500.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 23, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Labour Market Programs**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- On April 1, 2022, Economic Development became the lead department for Labour Market Programs with the creation of the Labour Market Development Branch.
- Labour Market Development supports the delivery of services to adult learners and job seekers and those under-represented in the workforce to increase the pool of appropriately skilled workers in the Yukon's labour market.
- The Branch also works directly with employers to develop solutions to address capacity issues and staff unfilled jobs.
- Economic Development is the lead for employer and organization support through the Staffing UP and Building UP programs.
- Education retains the lead for individual support provided under the Working UP program.
- Labour Market Development is working with stakeholders to determine annual labour market priorities. This will support Workforce Development activities under the First Nations Procurement Policy.

Additional response:

- Labour Market Development expects to distribute \$6.8 million in 2023-24 for programs and services that will help individuals meet their labour market goals and help employers recruit, train and retain the staff they need for their businesses to thrive.
- This includes \$300,000 transferred from Health and Social Services for fiscal year 2023-24 as Labour Market Development assumed responsibility for the Head Start program on April 1, 2023. The Head Start program is now delivered as part of Staffing UP.
 - Within that budget, Labour Market Development has committed:

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Development

- Support for 11 organizations providing labour market programs for First Nations, benefitting nearly 1,000 individuals; Support to 15 service providers to provide services to approximately 3,000 Yukoners to help them develop the foundational skills they need to attach to the labour market;
- Support to nine organizations to provide employment assistance services to help approximately 7,000 individuals to obtain employment. This category includes needs determination and employment counselling and job search training, and providing labour market information;
- Support for four organizations to support and promote trades and apprenticeship;
- Subsidies to provide work experience and on-the-job training to 40 Yukoners; (including those under the former Head Start program which is now delivered as part of Staffing UP); and
- Support for nine organizations to provide assistance for employers.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There are unfilled jobs in all sectors across Canada, which is a concern for businesses in the Yukon.
- Some working-age Yukoners are either on work-ready Employment Insurance claims or not in the labour market.

Background:

- Economic Development is the strategic lead for Yukon with Canada on the Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTAs), the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM), and for F/P/T strategic engagement.

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- The Department of Economic Development has responsibility for the Canada – Yukon Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTAs), which include:
 - Canada – Yukon Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA):
 - To assist individuals in preparing for, obtaining and maintaining employment; and
 - To reduce individuals' dependency on government forms of income support.
 - Canada – Yukon Workforce Development Agreement (WDA):
 - To foster labour market participation;
 - To align skills with labour market needs; and
 - To create efficient labour markets.
- Together these agreements account for 75% of the annual labour market program budget for Yukon.
- The LMTAs are scheduled to be renewed in all jurisdictions. Negotiations with the Government of Canada are pending a mandate from the Federal Minister. The recent Federal Budget (March 28, 2023) has allocated additional funds to the LMTAs for FY 2023-24 to maintain current funding levels. The amendment to boost FY 2023-24 allocation to 2022-23 levels was signed in April of 2023.
- In addition to the LMTAs and also included in the overall budget for the Labour Market Development Branch, the Canada-Yukon Skills for Success (SFS) is a two-year funding agreement providing \$2,224,000 to Government of Yukon to strengthen adult literacy and essential skills for individuals furthest removed from employment.
- This funding is distributed through existing programming, primarily Building UP.
- The annual allocation towards LMD is as follows:
 - 2022-23 - \$741,000.
 - 2023-24 - \$1,483,000.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 26, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Labour Mobility

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Recommended response:

- The Yukon is experiencing the effects of a nationwide labour market shortage in which many employers are experiencing difficulty finding suitable workers to maintain or grow their businesses.
- Labour mobility is an important tool for addressing the shortage of professional and skilled workers in the territory, however, the credential recognition process between jurisdictions can complicate matters.
- Most certified workers in the Yukon are credentialed in other jurisdictions and only require licensing in the Yukon.
- The sectors that continue to drive the growth in professional and certified job vacancies are health care, construction and manufacturing.
- Government of Yukon continues to participate in the Forum of Labour Mobility Ministers (FLMM) and its Working Groups to support measures to streamline application requirements, align occupational standards and improve the communication and transparency of labour mobility opportunities across Canada.

Additional response:

- The following initiatives are being developed by the Government of Yukon to support the health care sector in the territory:
 - With the support of the Government of Canada (ESDC), develop a process to support internationally trained health care workers to be recruited to available positions in the Yukon.

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- Detailed negotiations are underway with a projected start date of early in the new calendar year.
- Additional funding for practical nurse training at Yukon University (via Alberta-based Bow Valley College);
- Joint initiatives with other jurisdictions to mobilize health care workers for virtual services; and
- Funding incentives to provide Yukon First Nation citizens with introductory experiences in careers in the health care sector.
- Labour Market Development expects to invest over \$6.8 million in 2023-24 to help individuals meet their labour market goals and help employers recruit, train and retain staff they need for their businesses to thrive.
- That funding can be leveraged to strengthen labour mobility; for instance, employers can apply to support workers looking to upgrade or attain recognition for credentials earned outside of the territory.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The issue of labour market shortages may be raised during the legislative session, and questions asked about the Yukon government's plans to mitigate impacts to the territorial economy.
- Labour mobility initiatives were presented by the co-chairs of the FLMM (Canada and Northwest Territories) at the annual meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade on December 8, 2022. The meeting was followed up with an overview paper published on May 2, 2023, containing proposed next steps.

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Labour Mobility

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Background:

- Housing is a major impediment to attracting workers from outside the territory. The Yukon Housing Corporation's Housing Initiatives Fund aims to increase the supply of affordable housing across Yukon, which could have a positive spillover effect on labour flows to the territory.
- The Yukon does not have a designated Labour Mobility Coordinator. Economic Development, Community Services, and Health and Social Services oversee issues related to mobility in a collaborative manner.
- The Yukon has flexibility in obtaining regulated workers from other jurisdictions, however, with the absence of regulators in the territory, it has no authority when it comes to foreign credentials. Many new permanent residents with a professional designation leave the territory to have credentials recognized in other jurisdictions.
- A national review is underway of several occupations that have exceptions to mobility, mostly in health care. The only identified exception for the Yukon is lawyers.
- The Yukon regulates only three trades: oil burner mechanics, gas fitters and electricians, which eases the pathway for other trades specialists to enter the Yukon.

Approved by:	
<u>Approved</u>	<u>November 23, 2023</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Francophone Immigration**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Francophone immigration is a priority for the Yukon and we recognize the economic, social, cultural and demographic opportunities that French-speaking immigrants represent for the territory.
- The department has been working on a new immigration strategy and will continue to recognize and prioritize francophone immigration as a valued and important contributor to supporting the needs of Yukon employers and communities.
- The Yukon is the third most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, making us an attractive settlement destination for francophone immigrants.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work in partnership with the Government of Canada and L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) to recruit bilingual immigrants and help them integrate into Yukon communities.
- AFY was an active participant in our stakeholder engagement for the new Immigration Strategy and provided meaningful feedback.

Additional response:

- In 2022, 20 francophones (and their households), were approved under the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- Between 2016 and 2021, the Yukon was the only Canadian jurisdiction to increase the number and proportion of those who speak predominantly French at home (up from 2.4% to 2.6%).
 - The number of Yukon residents who identified French as their exclusive first official language grew by more than 200.
 - In 2021, French was the first official language spoken by 4.5% of the Yukon's population.

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Francophone Immigration

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- In 2021, the rate of English-French bilingualism in the Yukon was 14.2%.
 - Since 2007 when the YNP was established, 131 nominees (including their households) from French-speaking countries have been approved through the program.
 - As part of the 2024-26 Immigration Levels Plan, Canada announced an increase to French-speaking permanent resident targets outside Quebec to: 6% in 2024, 7% in 2025 and 8% in 2026, building on the achievement of a 4.4% target in 2022.
 - To date, the Yukon has exceeded the 4.4% target by welcoming francophones making up approximately 5.8% of the total number of Yukon nominees.
 - We will continue to support businesses using the Yukon Nominee Program to bring French-speaking newcomers to our territory to fill labour gaps and recognize the importance of francophones to our communities and our economy.
 - In fall 2023, the Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) will attend Paris and Rabat at the Destination Canada recruitment event and Department staff will attend virtually.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Government of Canada has recently released the *Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-28*.

Background:

- Provinces and Territories met with IRCC on August 22, 2022, for consultations on the *Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-28*. Themes included:
 - A new policy on francophone immigration and the demographic weight of francophone minority communities;

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Francophone Immigration

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- Promotion and recruitment support in Canada and overseas;
- Francophone and French-language teacher shortages;
- The francophone integration pathway; and
- The Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative.
- Increasing francophone immigration is a high priority of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Vision Action Plan (VAP). The VAP outlines shared goals for immigration based on FPT collaboration, consultation, and cooperation.
- Whitehorse was selected as one of 14 communities across Canada under the three-year Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative. Under the initiative, AFY receives \$102,079 per year (2020-24) to create programs and activities to help French-speaking newcomers feel welcomed and integrate into the community.
- The Immigration Unit has attended Destination Canada, an annual francophone recruitment fair in Paris and Brussels, since 2017, to fill labour market needs in the Yukon. Program staff participated in a virtual booth in partnership with AFY in 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- The Immigration Unit offers bilingual services for clients and is represented on the “Réseau d’immigration francophone au Yukon”.
- AFY receives federal funding to provide settlement services including language instruction, orientation to healthcare, education and information on the employment sector.
- The Yukon’s top source francophone countries are France, Belgium, Switzerland and Morocco.
- In addition to the YNP, some skilled francophone workers arrive through the federally administered Mobilité Francophone stream, while young francophones may arrive with federal, temporary working holiday permits.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 14, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon provides economic immigration programs to help businesses across the territory meet their labour needs.
- The Department of Economic Development administers two immigration programs in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC): The Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP) and the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- In 2020, the department launched a new stream, the Yukon Community Program (YCP), specifically designed to support employers and nominees in rural communities. The pilot project has been extended until June 2025.
- The YNP allocation for 2023 is 430 people (400 Base and 30 Enhanced).
 - On November 16, 2023, as a result of our ongoing dialogue and advocacy with IRCC, the YNP received an additional 150 base allocations during the fall redistribution of allocation exercise.
 - Between January 1 and October 30, 2023, 423 new nominees have been approved; 340 Critical Impact Workers, 53 Skilled Workers, 21 Express Entry and 9 Yukon Community Program; and
 - Because of the high number of received applications this year, which was projected to exceed the Yukon's allotment, YNP introduced a temporary system to prioritize applications for visa holders already within Canada and those with current work permits. This was communicated to employers via email and posted on the website in July.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs**Economic
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Additional response:

- In 2022, YNP utilized its full annual allocation of 300 spaces for the second time since the program was established in 2007.
 - For the fourth consecutive year, we utilized the entire base allocation of 270 nominations, showing the demand from both employers and nominees for this program.
- Due to the Yukon's advocacy with IRCC, there has been an 82% increase in the Yukon's base allocations in the last two years (from 220 in 2021, 270 in 2022, to 400 in 2023).

Application Processing Times:

- The typical processing time by the Government of Yukon from receipt of a complete application is 12-14 weeks. Processing times vary with the volume of applications received and the complexity of the application. The current average processing time is 89 days.
- Following YNP approval, a nominee may need to apply to IRCC for a work permit. As of October 30, 2023:
 - Overseas nominees are subject to the processing times of the local visa office which varies greatly by location, present capacity or priorities, taking from as little as seven weeks to 71 weeks; and
 - Processing of work permit applications from inside Canada are 137 days for online applications and 17 days for paper applications.
- Permanent Residence application review by IRCC for provincial and territorial nominees is 15 months (8 months for the Express Entry stream).

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs**Economic
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Canada's 2024-26 Immigration Levels Plan:

- The Government of Canada's Immigration Levels Plan for 2024-26 aims to welcome 485,000 new permanent residents in 2024, 500,000 in 2025 and plateau at 500,000 in 2026, following the trajectory of the 2023-25 Plan.
- By stabilizing the number of newcomers after 2025, Canada will seek to properly consider and balance housing, infrastructure planning and sustainable population growth into the future.
- The Yukon will continue to advocate for YNP positions to meet the needs of the Yukon's business community.
- We expect to receive the Yukon's 2024 allocations for the nominee program in February.

Program Assessment:

- In 2010, the Government of Yukon undertook a nominee and employer survey to evaluate satisfaction with various aspects of the nominee program.
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada conducted an evaluation of the Provincial Nominee Program across Canada in 2016.
- In 2020, as part of the preparation of a new immigration strategy, we engaged with program users, municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, settlement agencies and cultural associations. Their feedback on the program was thoroughly considered in determining the direction the program will take over the next ten years, including any gaps or areas of improvement that should be addressed.
- In August 2022, the Ombudsman provided a recommendation for the department to evaluate its application of the YNP program including its policy, operations manual and tri-partite agreement to ensure it is

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs**Economic
Development

complying with fairness standards. The department is currently engaged in this evaluation.

- Economic Development is planning on reviewing the program policies and procedures over the coming three years to increase application and program efficiency to respond to the needs of businesses and nominees and for better protection of newcomers.
- The Department takes employer and nominee feedback seriously and we are continually seeking ways to improve the client experience for our immigration programs.

The Yukon Business Nominee Program:

- The YBNP aims to attract and retain skilled international entrepreneurs who inject new capital and business expertise into the Yukon's economy, creating job opportunities and enhancing economic diversification and growth within the territory.
- The program has successfully attracted entrepreneurs to the hospitality, service, tourism, arts and agricultural sectors in Dawson City, Mayo, Faro, Haines Junction and Whitehorse.
- Between January 1, 2022, and November 16, 2023, ten business concepts have been accepted into the selection pool with a total potential investment of \$6.6 million.

The Yukon Nominee Program:

- The YNP helps employers fill crucial positions with foreign nationals who intend to settle in the Yukon and gain Permanent Resident status.
- In 2022, 312 Critical Impact Workers, 68 Skilled Workers and 25 Express Entry were approved through the program. This represents a 100% increase compared to 2019.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs**Economic
Development

The Yukon Community Program (YCP):

- The YCP was launched in June 2020 as a new pilot stream of the YNP to provide flexibility to employers in rural communities where seasonal and part-time work is a fundamental part of the local economy and essential for local economic development.
- Up to 50 candidates can be nominated through the program enabling them to work in one of the participating communities of Dawson City, Carmacks, Carcross, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.
- Between June 1, 2020, and October 30, 2023, 25 candidates have been approved through the program – 11 in Whitehorse, one in Carcross, seven in Dawson City, four in Carmacks and two in Haines Junction.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- The IRCC has implemented several measures to ease labour shortages being experienced across Canada, including:
 - Resuming Express Entry draws in 2022 with invitations for candidates to apply for permanent residence;
 - Providing additional work permits for post-graduation international students and extending those work permits for up to 18 months;
 - Extending temporary policy allowing visitors to apply for work permits inside Canada to February 28, 2025;
 - Extending current open work permits expiring between August 1 and the end of 2023 for 18 months;

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs****Economic Development**

- Resuming invitations to apply for federal high-skilled streams, including the Canadian experience class, federal skilled worker class and federal skilled trades class;
- Launching Category-based Selection in the Express Entry Program to target skilled workers;
- Implementing new arrangements to expand work opportunities for Canadians, British and South Korea Youth;
- Implementing a new youth mobility agreement with Finland for youth to receive Working Holiday Open Work Permits; and
- Implementing several measures to facilitate applications made before the November 2021 deadline to transition from temporary to permanent residency.

Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot:

- In 2018, IRCC launched EMPP (Phase One) to identify possible candidates registered with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to facilitate recruitment through existing economic immigration pathways.
- The Yukon was one of five jurisdictions that partnered with IRCC in the creation and implementation of EMPP.
- During Phase One, 25 candidates were referred to the Yukon but with no successful matches.
- The Yukon's role in EMPP is to assist IRCC with facilitating job matching where possible, identifying the labour market needs, and building awareness among employers of refugees as a talent pool.
- Phase Two has a goal of admitting up to 500 applicants. The current stage started on July 1, 2022.

Vital Stats:

- There are currently four streams under the YNP: Critical Impact Worker, Skilled Worker, Express Entry and the YCP (extended to June 2025).
- The YNP 2022 allocation was 300 persons -270 Base, 30 Enhanced

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs****Economic Development**

- An additional two base spaces were received in November 2022 through the fall redistribution of allocation exercise, bringing the total for the year to 302.
- The average application processing time for nominee applications by the Immigration Branch in 2022 was 60 days.
- Top five countries of origin for the YNP in 2022:
 - India – 155;
 - Philippines – 139;
 - China – 20;
 - Vietnam – 11; and
 - France – 8.
- Top five occupations filled by nominees in 2022:
 - Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers and Related Occupations – 99;
 - Light Duty Cleaners – 52;
 - Cashiers – 34;
 - Early Childhood Educators – 32; and
 - Grocery Clerks and Store Shelf Stockers – 26.
- Since 2007, the YNP has received applications from over 611 employers to address labour shortages, approving 2,625 principal nominees to date and approximately 2031 dependents.
- Between 2018 and 2022, the number of employers who welcomed workers utilizing the YNP almost doubled:
 - 2018 – 94 employers;
 - 2019 – 118 employers;
 - 2020 – 116 employers;
 - 2021 – 169 employers; and
 - 2022 – 186 employers.
- Since 2001, 52 candidates have been nominated for Permanent Residence through the YBNP, establishing 32 businesses and investing \$25.3 million into their businesses in the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Government of Yukon Immigration
Programs**Economic
Development

- YBNP participants are required to contribute a minimum of \$300,000 to their business in the Yukon and have a minimum verifiable net worth of \$500,000 to ensure their business' viability.
- Although immigration may be a factor in resolving seasonal labour shortages in the Yukon, there are other challenges, such as housing and community retention, which may constrain the availability of seasonal workers.
- Once a nominee has received their Permanent Resident status, they are no longer part of the YNP and the Yukon does not actively collect information on whether nominees remain within the territory.

Approved by:Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentNovember 20, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Immigration Strategy

Fall 2023

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- We look forward to releasing “*Stronger Together: Immigration, Thriving Communities and a Growing Economy*” in the coming months. This strategy will guide us over the next decade, ensuring our immigration programs are responsive to the evolving needs of the Yukon’s economy, employers and communities.
- Economic immigration is an essential tool for attracting workers and developing a labour force that supports investment and economic growth while meeting the needs of Yukon businesses.
- Immigrants contribute to the modernization and diversification of the Yukon’s economy, invest in businesses that create jobs and enrich the culture of the territory.

Additional response:

- The department has worked with stakeholders and government partners to ensure the new strategy will meet the territory’s needs now and into the future.
- Public engagement that asked Yukoners for their ideas and experiences with the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP) and Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP) concluded in December 2020.
 - The Government of Yukon published the *What We Heard* report in July 2021.
- The feedback from engagement is helping the Government of Yukon position the territory as a northern leader with immigration programs that reflect the values and priorities of Yukoners.

Session Briefing Note

Immigration Strategy

Fall 2023

Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Minister's mandate letter includes introducing a new immigration strategy to support workforce requirements of business and industry.
- Labour shortage has been a concern for many employers as the Yukon's unemployment rate remains well below the national average.

Background:

- The engagement ran from October 20 to December 4, 2020, and included an online survey and discussion document, phone interview and virtual meetings.
- The engaged stakeholders included nominee program users (employers and nominees), municipalities, chambers of commerce, settlement agencies (Association franco-yukonnaise, the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon) and other cultural associations.
- The previous 10-year immigration strategy was developed in 2010 by the Immigration Strategy Working Group.

Approved by:

<u>Approved</u>	<u>November 20, 2023</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Philippines MOU**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- On March 18, 2022, the Yukon and the Philippines signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Employment and Protection of Filipinos under the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- The Philippines reorganized its departments following a general election. Work on MOU implementation continues with the new Department of Migrant Workers, formed in February 2022.
- The Department of Economic Development is working to finalize the Implementation Guidelines for the MOU with the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers.
- The MOU will make it easier for Filipinos to come to the Yukon while reducing costs and red tape for employers.

Additional response:

- The Filipino community greatly contributes to the Yukon's diverse culture and economy.

If asked about the status of negotiations:

- Implementation guidelines are still being negotiated between the governments of Yukon and the Philippines.
- Unfortunately, the Secretary for Migrant Workers, Susan Ople, whose Department is responsible for the agreement, passed away in August 2023. Philippine officials have indicated they expect this will result in further delays in finalizing the implementation guidelines.
- A Yukon-Philippines working committee to develop implementation guidelines has been in contact regularly since September 2022. The guidelines have undergone several revisions.
- Yukon officials last met with counterparts at the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver on March 2, 2023. The talks were productive.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Philippines MOU**Economic
Development

- Consul General Arlene Magno visited the Yukon in August 2023 and met with Yukon officials, including Premier Pillai.
- Economic Development received new text proposals from the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers on October 12, 2023. The Department is currently reviewing the document.

If asked about the implementation guidelines text:

- The text is still under draft, and has not been finalized and approved by either the Government of Yukon or the Philippines.
 - The MOU is a government-to-government mechanism.
 - The implementation guidelines include an activities plan for the Government of Yukon and the Philippines, as well as terms of reference for a Joint Committee that will monitor and advise on the implementation of the MOU.
 - Under the current draft, the Joint Committee would be co-chaired by the Yukon and the Philippines, with three members from each side. Membership has not yet been finalized.
 - The implementation guidelines cannot be made public until final text has been confirmed by both the Yukon and the Philippines.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Implementation Guidelines have taken longer than expected to complete, primarily due to logistical challenges. This was raised in the Spring 2023 sitting.
-

Background:

- On July 15, 2022, the Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines provided a copy of the Instrument of Ratification (IoR) signed by then President Rodrigo Duterte on June 29, 2022. Premier Pillai provided a letter confirming that the Yukon had completed its internal processes for the MOU in response.
-

Session Briefing Note

Philippines MOU

Fall 2023**Economic
Development**

- Since a Letter of Intent was signed in 2019 the Government of Yukon and the Government of the Philippines have been negotiating an MOU aimed at improving the system of recruitment and employment for Filipino workers in the Yukon.
- In February 2022, the Department of Migrant Workers was formed, absorbing the responsibilities of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, and certain offices of the Departments of Labor and Foreign Affairs.
- On March 18, 2022, the MOU was signed by both Parties.
- The MOU focuses on the YNP. It exempts Filipino nominees from fees in the Philippines that would otherwise apply to Filipino Temporary Workers.
- The MOU improves coordination between the Yukon and the Philippines on labour mobility and specifically:
 - improves the ability for Filipinos to be identified and recruited through the YNP process;
 - supports the safety of Filipino nominees coming to the Yukon through requirements for Yukon employers under the YNP;
 - formalizes Yukon-Philippines cooperation on labour mobility and the YNP through the creation of a Joint Committee;
 - waives existing fees applied by the Philippines to Filipino YNP applicants; and
 - clarifies the interaction between the YNP and the Philippines pre-screened and vetted pool of qualified Filipino workers.

Implementation Guidelines:

- The Department began the process of negotiating implementation guidelines with the Philippines in fall 2021 and provided the Philippines with proposed text.
- On July 15, 2022, the Philippines provided proposed revisions to the draft implementation guidelines.
- The Department is currently awaiting a response to its counterproposal, which was shared with the Philippines in November 2022.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Philippines MOU

Economic
Development

- Department officials met with counterparts at the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver on March 2, 2023.
 - The Philippines indicated they had prepared a counterproposal that was currently going through the Philippines' approval process. Once approved, it will convey the proposed changes to Yukon.
 - The Consulate's Labor Attaché covered the Department of Migrant Workers' substantive proposals at a high level. Economic Development will need to review the proposals in text form.
- The Philippine Consul General in Vancouver, Arlene Magno, visited the Yukon in August 2023 to discuss Yukon-Philippine relations, people-to-people ties, and the Filipino Community in the Yukon. She met with Yukon officials, including Premier Pillai.
- The Secretary for Migrant Workers, Susan Ople, passed away on August 22, 2023. The Department of Migrant Workers, which is responsible for the MOU, is now headed by Acting Secretary Bernard Olalia. Philippine officials have indicated this transition may result in delays in finalizing the implementation guidelines.
- On October 12, the Department of Migrant Workers provided new text proposals for the implementation guidelines. The Department of Economic Development is currently reviewing the proposals.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 16, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Settlement Services**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Settlement services are an important part of welcoming and integrating newcomers to the Yukon into our communities.
- The Department of Economic Development provides settlement support to Yukon Nominees in the form of information sessions, worksite monitoring and community outreach.
- L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) and the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon (MCY) provide settlement assistance through a wide range of integration services and programs on behalf of the Government of Canada.
- Settlement services include support in finding housing, employment language instruction (tutoring) and referrals to government services such as early childcare, education and health care. The Government of Canada invested \$1.57 million for settlement services for permanent residents (PR) in the Yukon in 2022-23, and \$1.70 million dollars in 2023-24.
- In 2023, the Government of Yukon has delivered six information sessions and seven monitoring sessions in Whitehorse, Dawson City, Watson Lake, Tagish, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction and Carmacks with a total of 214 nominees and 61 employers participating.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Settlement services and the ability of newcomers to integrate into society remains an area of topical interest.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Settlement Services**Economic
Development

- Retention is a key interest of many Yukon communities. The Yukon Community Program draws additional focus on settlement and retention in rural Yukon.
 - Limited affordable housing options can be a challenge for some newcomers settling in the Yukon.
-

Background:

- Settlement services are generally funded by the federal government to support permanent residents to integrate and establish themselves in the economic, social, political and cultural aspects of their chosen community, whereas Temporary Residents (international students, foreign workers, refugee claimants) are usually supported by the province or territory.
 - In spring 2023, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) assessed national settlement services to inform the upcoming Call-For-Proposals for settlement service providers in 2024.
 - The B.C.-Yukon region reported improved Indigenous-newcomer relationships and improved supports in settlement with the employment of subject matter experts, such as services for mental health.
 - The Yukon's interests for the 2024 Call-For-Proposals for settlement service providers are to expand services to include foreign workers and international students, specialized language employment programs, and specialized services such as mental health and settlement workers in schools.
 - The Immigration Unit provides the following settlement services directly to its Yukon Nominee Program clients (foreign workers and employers):
 - Review and interpretation of the Nominee Tri-Partite Agreement;
 - Employee and employer worksite monitoring;
 - Mandatory workplace standards information sessions; and
 - Community Outreach visits, including a weekly drop-in session.
 - The Canada-Yukon Local Coordination Working Group, a group made up of government and non-government organization representatives, meets regularly to
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Settlement Services**Economic
Development

oversee settlement within the Yukon and promote effective communication and collaboration between Canada and the Yukon on settlement outcomes, pre-arrival services, integration programs and policy issues.

Settlement Agencies:

- In 2023-24, MCY received \$1.5 million in funding from IRCC through Yukon Tourism Education Council in support of Canada's Settlement Program (ends in 2025) for people who have permanent resident status and refugees.
- MCY offers the following services and programs:
 - Needs and Assets Assessment and Referral Services;
 - Information and Orientation;
 - Community Connections;
 - Employment Related Services;
 - Language Assessment;
 - Language Training;
 - Literacy Programs;
 - Settlement Worker in School program and support services;
 - Local Immigration Partnership; and
 - Outreach services.
- Over the past five years, MCY has provided services to 1161 clients.
- L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) received \$205,872 in 2023-24.
- AFY offers the following services and programs:
 - Needs and Assets Assessment and Referral Services;
 - Information and Orientation;
 - Community Connections; and
 - Employment Related Services.
- Agreements AFY has with IRCC:
 - Francophone Welcoming Community (pilot project), 2020-24 \$102,079/year:
 - Indirect (resource development);
 - Promo and publications (raise awareness, inform);

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Settlement Services**Economic
Development

- Community connections (community dinners, film presentations, cultural activities, networking opportunities);
 - Information sessions; and
 - Employers' connections.
- Francophone Settlement, 2020-25 \$65,000/year:
 - Information sessions and orientation;
 - Employment and settlement services;
 - Community connections (community dinners, film presentation, cultural activities, networking opportunities); and
 - Indirect (meet with employers, tournée de liaison nationale de l'IRCC, participate in virtual job fair organized by RDÉE Canada).
- Réseau en immigration francophone du Yukon (RIFY), 2020-25 \$25,000/year
 - Mobilize, share, discuss and work on immigration issues;
 - Meet and lead a group of Francophone partners (organizations);
 - Educate RIFY members and raise awareness in the community;
 - Implement the group strategic and action plans; and
 - Conduct research.
- In fall 2023, Yukon University has 114 international students from the following countries: India (55), Philippines (24), Japan (4), Mexico (4) and various other countries.
- Yukon University and Yukon Cares sponsor refugees.
 - Yukon University sponsored five refugees in 2021-22;
 - Yukon University has formed an Intercultural Services team and are point of contact for support for international students and sponsored refugees; and
 - Yukon Cares sponsored two families from Sierra Leone through the Family Reunification Program.

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Settlement Services

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- Since 2014, refugees have arrived in the Yukon from the following countries:
 - Syria – 11;
 - Sudan – 8;
 - Liberia – 2;
 - Eritrea – 6;
 - Iraq – 4;
 - Congo – 4; and
 - Pakistan – 2.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 17, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Canada-United States Trade**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- We work closely with federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts on supporting trade with the United States that secures Canadian interests through advocacy, trade agreement implementation, and promotion.
- We work actively with counterparts on Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) implementation. CUSMA preserves key elements of the long-lasting Canada-US trading relationship, with new and updated provisions that address modern trade issues.
- We support the federal commitment to rules-based international trade and a trading relationship with the US that protects Yukon interests.

Additional response:

- Alaska is our most important international trading partner. We work closely with our counterparts there to benefit both our economies.
- The Yukon's two-way merchandise trade with the US for 2022 was \$240.5 million. Two-way merchandise trade with Alaska for the same period was \$210.9 million.
- In December 2022, department officials participated in a trade mission to Alaska with the Senior Trade Commissioner from the Consulate General of Canada in Seattle to strengthen bilateral relations and promote the interests of Yukon businesses.
- The Yukon continues to promote greater cross-border trade and collaboration that advances and protects Yukoners' interests.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Canada-United States Trade**Economic
Development

- Rules-based trade is the cornerstone of a healthy Canada-US relationship.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Canadian jurisdictions, including the Yukon, are monitoring protectionist trends in the US, such as “Buy American” policies in federal infrastructure projects.
- The third CUSMA dispute resolution panel published its decision on January 11, 2023. It supported the position of Mexico and Canada that US valuation of regional content for automobiles violated its commitments to rules of origin under CUSMA.
- CUSMA parties are undertaking several implementation efforts on certain CUSMA chapters. This includes a review of CUSMA Annex 22-C, relating to the potential application of Chapter 22 (State-owned enterprises and designated monopolies) to sub-national entities, as well as Chapter 20 (Intellectual Property), Chapter 23 (Labour), and Chapter 24 (Environment).

Background:

- Trade between Canada and the United States is governed by the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement. CUSMA replaced NAFTA, and entered into force on July 1, 2020.
- CUSMA applies to the Yukon, except in areas where there is exclusive federal jurisdiction. The Yukon is not a signatory, but as a member of the WTO, Canada must take reasonable measures to ensure observance by provinces and territories.
- US-Yukon Trade in 2021 stood at \$240.5 million, up 13.2% from 2021.
- The vast majority of the Yukon’s trade with the US is with the State of Alaska, constituting roughly 85-95% of the Yukon’s trade with the US. Trade with Alaska

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fell substantially in 2018-20, to a low of \$56.5 million in 2019. It recovered to pre-COVID levels in 2021, and stood at \$210.9 million in 2022.

- Skagway, AK is a key port for Yukon-US trade relations, and is the primary gateway for Yukon ore exports. The Department of Economic Development has a representative that sits on Skagway's Ports and Harbors Advisory Board, and is in negotiations with the municipality on the future of the ore loading terminal in Skagway.

Approved by:ApprovedA/Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentSeptember 5, 2023Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Canadian Free Trade Agreement
Implementation (CFTA)**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- As a Party to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, we are ensuring Yukon businesses have access to markets, procurement and investment opportunities across Canada.
- We are creating opportunities for Yukon businesses to expand beyond our territory while utilizing the Yukon's exceptions to increase local employment, support small businesses and strengthen our regional economies.
- In December 2022, Yukon chaired the annual meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade and advanced key decisions related to the movement of goods, services, investments and labour within Canada.
- We look forward to continuing the progress made last year as the role of Chair transitions to Saskatchewan in 2023 and Prince Edward Island in 2024.

Additional response:

- To promote greater transparency on doing business in the Yukon, and to demonstrate our support for liberalizing interprovincial trade within Canada, our government removed five of the Yukon's exceptions to the CFTA in 2022, based on a technical review that identified those exceptions as having no practical force or effect.
- The following five exceptions were removed:
 - One government procurement exception with a transitional timeline that has since expired;

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Canadian Free Trade Agreement
Implementation (CFTA)**Economic
Development

- Three exceptions for authorizations relating to agriculture, grazing and forestry, respectively. There are no references to residency or other discriminatory criteria in relevant Yukon measures (e.g. regulations); and
 - One exception for recycling services as there is no existing policy or future intention to restrict market access for recycling services in the Yukon.
- During the 2022 Committee on Internal Trade meeting that the Yukon chaired, a number of key decisions were taken to drive the internal trade agenda forward, including:
 - Ministers declared the negotiations to cover trade in non-medical cannabis under the rules of the CFTA as being successfully completed; and
 - Ministers agreed on a path forward to complete negotiations towards a Financial Services Chapter for inclusion in the CFTA.
- Ministers recommended renewing initiatives to increase economic opportunities in the Territories related to growing, harvesting and processing healthy food.
- We continue to work with our provincial, territorial and federal colleagues at the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT) to identify and address non-tariff barriers to trade within Canada.
- The table has completed 14 reconciliation agreements and two regulatory cooperation items to date, and the Yukon has signed onto all agreements for which it has relevant measures.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Canadian Free Trade Agreement
Implementation (CFTA)**Economic
Development

- By signing these agreements, we are streamlining interprovincial regulatory requirements in areas such as health and safety, transportation and construction to the benefit of Yukon businesses and consumers.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukon was Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade for 2022 and hosted last year's annual meeting in Toronto on December 8, 2022.
 - The Canadian Federation of Independent Business released its 2023 State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card. This report ranks provinces, territories and the federal government on their openness to trade. The Yukon was ranked 11th among the 14 jurisdictions.
 - The Second Protocol of Amendment to the CFTA, which is expected to enter into force this winter, officially incorporates non-medical cannabis within Canada's internal trade regime.
-

Background:

- Since 2017, the CFTA has applied to all government measures affecting trade unless explicitly excluded. Parties can retain exclusions through general and party-specific exceptions.
- The CFTA makes it easier and more profitable for businesses to operate inter-provincially because its Parties commit to:
 - Transparency about measures affecting trade;
 - Non-discriminatory treatment and access to their markets, investment opportunities and government tenders;
 - Reducing regulatory barriers to trade; and
 - Dispute settlement processes.

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Fall 2023

Canadian Free Trade Agreement Implementation (CFTA)

Economic
Development

- CFTA does not impact territorial legislation or protections related to Indigenous peoples, language, their environment, culture or health care. These areas are exempt from the rules of the agreement.

Exceptions:

- All parties share general exceptions that exclude measures for Indigenous Peoples, social services, language, culture, gambling and betting, and other sensitive areas. Parties have taken party-specific exceptions reflecting local economic priorities.
- In 2021, the Yukon had 33 exceptions, comprising 13 Annex I, nine Annex II, and 11 procurement exceptions, more than all parties except Quebec. However, given the size of our economy, these exceptions have little negative impact on Canada's overall growth in practice.
- Yukon exceptions include:
 - Annex I: Exceptions for Existing Measures:
 - The Yukon is able to undertake certain discriminatory actions that provide preference to Yukon residents including preference to Yukon resident real estate agents and authorizations related to agricultural land use;
 - limit market access for wilderness and outfitter tourism operations and land lotteries; and
 - impose performance requirements under the *Yukon Income Tax Act* as it relates to investment tax credits; the *Waters Act* as it relates to electrical energy; the *Corporate Governance Act* as it relates to regulating energy; the *Public Utilities Act* as it relates to energy transportation, among others.
 - Annex II: Exceptions for Future Measures:
 - The Yukon has maintained the ability to control the right of entry or exit of goods and to limit market access in advertising, storage,

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Canadian Free Trade Agreement
Implementation (CFTA)**Economic
Development

manufacture, distribution, transport, sale and trade of alcoholic beverages;

- the ability to limit market access in areas such as oil and gas development; commercial and industrial water uses; forestry activities; agricultural land; fisheries and recycling services; and
 - has a broad exception for measures for Regional Economic Development. Non-discrimination and Performance requirements do not apply to the general framework of the Yukon's regional economic development.
- The Yukon has a number of procurement exceptions as well.
 - Regional, local, district or other forms of municipal governments; Francophone School Board and publicly funded academic institutions and health and social service entities are not covered by the CFTA procurement chapter;
 - The procurement chapter does not cover the Yukon Business Incentive Policy or any successor policy having similar objectives; and
 - Yukon may detract from the procurement chapter in order to promote regional economic development, up to ten times per year and up to \$1 million per occasion.
 - A Party may unilaterally remove any of its exceptions or, with the consent of other parties, narrow any of its exceptions.

Technical Review of Exceptions:

- Parties undertook technical reviews to verify the accuracy of their current exceptions. This review considers the accuracy of each element of each exception: sector, sub-sector, industry classification, type of exception, measure and description.

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Implementation (CFTA)**Economic
Development

- The technical review was directed by the Committee on Internal Trade in May 2019, and reaffirmed in December 2019. Some parties anticipated the technical review would support a subsequent renegotiation and liberalization of exceptions. However, this is not a consensus view, and parties have not exchanged any information regarding their technical reviews, partly due to the onset of COVID-19.
- The Yukon's technical review identified five party-specific exceptions that could be removed with limited impact on operations. Cabinet discussed and approved the removal of these exceptions from the CFTA in September 2022. The five exceptions are as follows:
 - YT-520.1, Part C: "Procurement – Transitional Measures";
 - YT-I-06: "Grazing Agreement";
 - YT-I-07: "Regulate and issue various authorizations relating to agriculture";
 - YT-I-08: "Forestry and Logging Products"; and
 - YT-II-07: "Limiting market access in recycling services".

Other Issues:

- The RCT reduces barriers to trade by reconciling existing regulatory measures and cooperating in the development of future regulatory measures.
- The RCT has endorsed 14 reconciliation agreements since 2018 and individual parties implement only those agreements for which they have relevant regulations.
- The Yukon has signed all agreements for which it has measures (seven agreements), which includes occupational health and equipment, pressure vessel registration, construction codes, corporate registries, fall protection equipment, wide-base single tires and entry-level training for commercial drivers.
- Article 1205 commits parties to negotiating the inclusion of Financial Services. Negotiations have been underway since 2018, however several substantive

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Fall 2023

Canadian Free Trade Agreement Implementation (CFTA)

Economic
Development

issues remain to be resolved. The Committee on Internal Trade directed parties to exchange final offers in 2023.

- Article 1206 commits parties to negotiating the inclusion of Cannabis for Non-Medical Purposes. As of December 2022, negotiations have been completed and Parties now look to ratifying the Second Protocol of Amendment that will embed the provisions relevant to cannabis into the CFTA.
- In September 2020, rules and party-specific exceptions pursuant to Annex 309 Electricity Transmission Service Providers and Trade in Electricity Transmission Services came into effect. The Yukon took a broad exception to electricity obligations, to be reviewed within two years of any future connection to the North American electricity grid.
- Parties have developed several recommendations to facilitate trade in alcohol. The Yukon is:
 - Already compliant with recommendations relating to improved sales channels, information transparency, and listing and pricing practices;
 - Contributing information on its alcohol regime to alcohollaws.ca, a new website aimed at manufacturers and distributors; and
 - Participating on the task force to investigate the implementation of a direct-to-consumer model.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 23, 2023
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

International Trade & Agreements

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Increasing market access for Yukon businesses and investments helps grow the economy and provides good jobs for Yukoners.
- The Yukon participates in federal-provincial-territorial consultations on international trade, including implementation, and new initiatives. We advocate that Canada's efforts reflect the Yukon's trade interests.
- We promote the Yukon's trade interests, including regional economic development, small business and government procurement.

Additional response:

- We work with Global Affairs Canada and the Trade Commissioner Service to identify opportunities for Yukoners and Yukon companies.
- Trade liberalization opens foreign markets and creates economic opportunity for Yukoners, Yukon businesses and Canadians.
- In December 2022, department officials participated in a trade mission to Alaska with the Senior Trade Commissioner from the Consulate General of Canada in Seattle to strengthen relations between the Yukon and Alaska.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Canada is undertaking a number of international trade initiatives that may impact Yukon's interest. This includes exploring new agreements with India, Indonesia and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), creating a successor FTA with the UK, and modernizing the Canada-Ukraine FTA.

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Fall 2023

International Trade & Agreements

Economic
Development

Background:

- The Government of Canada is the only order of government that can negotiate international trade agreements. Canada consults provinces and territories, as modern agreements include commitments within provincial/territorial jurisdiction.

Trade Initiatives:

- **Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement (CUSMA):** Canada is currently consulting PTs on the subnational application of the State-Owned Enterprises (SOE) chapter and on the Environment chapter implementation.
- **Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA):** Canada is engaging provinces and territories on implementation, including the first mutual recognition agreement (MRA) under CETA, on architects, the work of the CETA Committee of Wines and Spirits, and on a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. As of December 2022, 17 of 27 EU members have ratified CETA.
- **Canada–UK Free Trade Agreement:** Canada-UK trade is currently governed by a Trade Continuity Agreement entered into force in April 2021, as a bridge until a full FTA is negotiated. FTA negotiations began in April 2022. Six rounds of negotiations have been held to date, with Round 7 scheduled for September 2023. A Yukon official attended Round 6 in Ottawa in July 2023 and met with the UK's Chief Negotiator.
- **Canada-India CEPA Negotiations:** Canada has been in negotiations with India on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) since 2010, and the tenth full round of negotiations took place in 2017.
 - In March 2022, Canada and India agreed to work towards an “early harvest” agreement (EPTA). The sides have held nine rounds on the EPTA, with the most recent taking place in July 2023; and
 - As of August 2023, negotiations toward an EPTA have halted after Canada requested a pause in negotiations.

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International Trade & Agreements

Economic
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- **Canada-Indonesia CEPA Negotiations:** Canada and Indonesia launched negotiations toward a CEPA on June 20, 2021. There have been five rounds, in March, August, and November 2022, as well as March and June 2023.
- **Canada-ASEAN FTA Negotiations:** Canada and ASEAN launched negotiations toward an FTA in November 2021, with rounds beginning in 2022. The Trade Negotiating Committee held rounds in August and November 2022, as well as April and June 2023.
- **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP):** Canada is one of eleven members of the CPTPP Free Trade Agreement. The UK is in the process of acceding to the CPTPP, and signed a Protocol of Accession in July 2023. It is expected to formally become a member in late 2024, after all current members ratify its accession.
- **Canada-Ecuador FTA Exploratory Talks:** On November 24, 2022, Canada and Ecuador launched exploratory discussions toward an FTA. Canada launched a public consultation in January 2023, including consultations with provinces and territories.

Approved by:

Approved

A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 5, 2023

Date approved

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office
Economic Development

Recommended response:

- The Yukon and the United States, in particular Alaska, share many common interests and challenges. The future of the Yukon and Alaska are linked.
- Our interests in Arctic security, a healthy environment, critical minerals, robust transportation infrastructure, and access to tidewater serve both our jurisdictions as investment and geopolitical focus remains on the North.
- We regularly engage with our American and Alaskan counterparts as part of our long-standing positive relations.
- I was happy to speak with newly installed Consul General in Vancouver, Jim DeHart, in August, and had a call with Governor Dunleavy in September.

Additional response (Shakwak/Alcan Highway):

- The Alaska Highway is a critical component of highway infrastructure for life in the North and the tourism sector. The Shakwak project encompasses the Haines Road and the Alaska Highway north of Haines Junction.
- This stretch of highway is essential to supplying Alaskan and Yukon communities and is integral to the security of the North and the continent.
- We continue to work in collaboration with the State of Alaska to identify short- and long-term funding solutions for this critical infrastructure.

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office
Economic Development

- Supporting the good repair and safety of this road advances Canadian and U.S. priorities, including resilience to climate change, economic development, supporting communities and people in the Arctic, and maintaining Indigenous connections that span borders.
- With our Alaskan counterparts, we are refining the application seeking approximately \$25 million USD of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or “RAISE”, grant program.
- This grant will allow our government to restore some of the most degraded sections of the north Alaska Highway in the Yukon to improve this critical overland route that is adversely affected by thawing permafrost and exacerbated by climate change.

Additional response (Port of Skagway):

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the Skagway ore terminal as a valuable export option for the Yukon mining industry.
- We are in negotiations with Skagway about the potential for new infrastructure capable of supporting ore-loading equipment to be included in its port redevelopment project.
- We believe that our interests are broadly aligned with Skagway and will continue to work towards a solution that addresses the needs of Yukon’s current and future ore terminal users.
- We signed a non-binding term sheet with Skagway on September 7th that outlines the general terms of the Export Cooperation Agreement,
- We are finalizing the binding Export Cooperation Agreement that will fully define our benefits and the funding that Yukon government will

Alaska Relations

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Economic Development

provide for the construction of the marine services platform in Skagway.

- **[Response—Higher Bid Price:** We are taking into account the higher-than-expected current bid and working with Skagway to determine a path forward that works for both parties.]

Additional response (Borders):

- A return to normal at our borders is good for both the Yukon and the Alaskan economies. We look forward to seeing more visitors from the U.S. this year, as well as Yukoners visiting our neighbours in Skagway, Haines and beyond.
- Our government is continuing to work with the federal government and Alaskan elected officials to get the Little Gold border crossing near Dawson back to its pre-pandemic operating window. I urge strong cooperation between Canadian and U.S. authorities on this issue.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in our efforts to secure funding for the Shikwak highway and explore why our 2022 application was not approved.
- The redevelopment of the Port of Skagway will start in 2023. Skagway plans to demolish the current ore loader and does not plan to replace it without financial support from the Yukon. Interested parties may want to ensure the Yukon does not lose access to the ore export terminal.
- Little Gold/Poker Creek did not open in 2020 or 2021 and was open for a shorter operating window in 2022 than was typical pre-pandemic. Stakeholders in Dawson City have expressed concern that this has resulted in loss of business for local tourism operators and suppliers.

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office
Economic Development

Background:

US relations:

- The Canada/US Roadmap announced by Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden in February 2021, is guiding relationships across borders. We are seeing more engagement with US officials since the Roadmap was announced.
- Consul General Hardt (Vancouver) has visited the Yukon twice since October 2021. Consular staff also visited the Yukon and met with YG officials.
- Premier Pillai met with the newly installed Consul General Jim DeHart on August 22, 2023, to discuss the Yukon-US relationship.
- Premier Pillai met with Alaska Governor Mike Duneavy on September 26, 2023 and discussed a number of areas for intergovernmental collaboration. The discussion was wide-ranging and included share infrastructure, physician assistants training, Arctic security, fish and wildlife, and wildfire management.

Shakwak:

- A new funding opportunity for the Shakwak project was identified in the US government's *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. The Haines Road and the Alaska Highway north of Haines Junction are now eligible for competitive grants administered by the US Department of Transportation.
- The Yukon government worked closely with Alaska in 2022 and 2023 to apply to the RAISE grant program for USD \$25 million over five years, the maximum available for an individual project. The proposal would have funded reconstruction of permafrost-affected areas in an 80-kilometre stretch of the highway.
- The application was not successful in 2022 or 2023. While the proposal was rated "recommended", it fell short of the "highly recommended" rating that is required to get funding. Even then, only one quarter of the "highly recommended" projects were awarded funding.

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office Economic Development

- Ambassador Cohen had a follow-up call with the undersecretary after the 2023 decision was made not to fund this project. The key gap in the application that was identified is related to insufficient evidence and data to support the claims related to quality of life, mobility, and connectivity.
- The Yukon government is continuing to work with Alaska to advance the project through the RAISE program, as the program runs until 2028 with a further five-year funding window.
- The total project cost is USD \$31.25 million. RAISE is proposed to make up 80 per cent of that cost, with Alaska and the Yukon covering 10 per cent each.
- There is strong communication and support for our application in both the US Consulate in Vancouver and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Skagway Port redevelopment:

- The Port of Skagway is the closest ice-free, deep-water port to most of the Yukon. Skagway plans to demolish the current ore loader as part of a port redevelopment project, which would eliminate its ore export capability.
- Skagway took control of the ore terminal in March 2023 and has tendered its port redevelopment project beginning fall 2023. It received one bid, which came in significantly over design estimates.
- Skagway signed a contract with the sole bidder for its portion of the port redevelopment project but at a substantially reduced scope of this base project to keep it roughly within the municipality's budget.
- The Yukon is negotiating the inclusion of a marine service platform capable of supporting ore loading equipment, as part of the redevelopment project.
- The Department of Economic Development has concluded a "terms sheet" and has begun negotiations on a final Export Cooperation Agreement, which is anticipated to be completed this fall.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 3
Fall 2023

Alaska Relations

Executive Council Office
Economic Development

- The non-binding terms sheet will outline the conditions and structure of a final agreement. Negotiations on this document have taken longer than anticipated, in part to resolve more detailed questions that would otherwise be raised in discussions for the final agreement.

Approved by:

<u>Approved by DM J. Ferbey</u>	<u>October 3, 2023</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	Date
<u>Approved DM M. Prochazka</u>	<u>October 3, 2023</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	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

ENV #21 / EMR #36

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note **Our Clean Future** **Implementation**

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.

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Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

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.](#)

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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.

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Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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.
 - o funding for food in Yukon schools;
 - o the timber harvesting incentive and a support program for commercial fuelwood harvesters and retailers to boost the fuelwood supply;
 - o a quarterly top-up of \$150 to eligible recipients of the Yukon Senior Income Supplement;

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

- 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)

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)

- 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

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

(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.](#)

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

- 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

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- 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

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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.

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Inflation and Affordability

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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:

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Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

- \$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.

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- 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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(Corporate Note)

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.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

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:

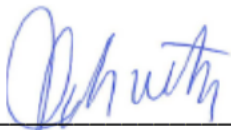
Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
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- Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS);
- Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS);
- Culture and Tourism Non-profit Sector Supplement;
- Great Yukon Summer (GYS) program;
- Great 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

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

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)**2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #1****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]

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Creative and cultural industries are an essential part of the Yukon's economy, well-being, and northern way of life.
- Our strategy, *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries*, is aimed at growing and developing Yukon's creative and cultural industries.
- The strategy identifies 4 strategic objectives and 22 key actions which reflect input gathered through extensive public and sector engagement. We have identified 10 actions to be completed over three years as Phase 1 implementation.
- These priority actions include: modernizing existing funding; offering new funding streams; industry branding and promotion; marketing and export strategies; workshops; and labour market supports.

Additional response:

- Approximately \$500,000 was allocated to new initiatives starting in fiscal year 2022/23, and we have implemented or are midstream implementing seven actions, with more underway. A progress report was released in May 2023.
- We launched three new programs which provide an additional \$450,000 to the creative and cultural sectors. These are the: Express Micro-grant, the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant, and the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund. **(see DPT 4 Funding Programs)**
- The budget for new acquisitions to the Yukon Permanent Art Collection will be doubled in 2023-24. This will be announced in fall 2023.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy

Tourism and Culture

- Over 25 professional development workshops for the creative and cultural sector have been offered by the department since 2022.
- Government of Yukon, along with museums, cultural centres, and Yukon First Nations have a new Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums Policy, identified as a priority action in Creative Potential.
 - (see also C7 Museums and First Nations Cultural Centres Policy and Funding)

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Action 1.4 (sector specific fund) has not yet been delivered, and there may be questions on its status.
- Some members of the public may be interested in the implementation status of the strategy.

Background:

- The Yukon's 2021 Culture GDP was \$67.7 million, representing 2.3% of the total territorial economy. Canada's 2021 Culture GDP was \$54.8 billion, representing 2.3% of Canada's total economy.
- The creative and cultural industries sector encompasses the creation, production, promotion, distribution and commercialization of cultural goods, as well as the labour force and institutions required to support it.
- The share of culture jobs accounted for 3.3% of all jobs in Canada. Yukon culture jobs have increased 1.8% from 2020 to 2021 for a total of 782 culture jobs (2021).

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

____August 25, 2023____

Date approved

Session Briefing Note Critical Minerals

Fall 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response

- In 2021, the Government of Canada released a list of 31 critical minerals that are essential to Canada's economic security and transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Through our 2021 Yukon Critical Minerals Inventory, we understand the Yukon has known deposits for nine critical minerals and documented occurrences for 16 critical minerals.
- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, we updated the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals as the primary exploration goal.

Additional response

- We are working with Natural Resources Canada on the implementation of Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and considering other made-in-Yukon solutions to advance critical minerals opportunities in the territory.
- In 2022, the Yukon saw exploration activity for the following critical minerals: copper, zinc, tungsten, nickel, cobalt, platinum group metals, and rare earth elements.
- Starting in the 2022/23 fiscal year, the Government of Canada is investing \$3.8 billion over eight years to implement the Critical Mineral Strategy, with funding available to support critical metals infrastructure, geoscience research, and an exploration tax credit.

Session Briefing Note Critical Minerals

Fall 2023Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Recent geopolitical tensions have increased the focus on securing domestic supply chains for critical minerals. Questions may be raised on whether the development of critical minerals is prioritized in the Yukon.
-

Background:

- Critical minerals are important for economic prosperity and supplies are vulnerable to disruption due to geopolitical events.
- In 2021, Canada released a list of 31 critical minerals, of which the Yukon has deposits for nine, including copper (electrical transmission), zinc (anode in material batteries), tungsten (strengthening metals), nickel (metal coatings), cobalt (batteries), platinum group metals (catalytic agents), molybdenum (alloy steel), antimony (batteries) and tin (protective metal coatings).
- The Yukon's endowment of critical minerals represents both economic opportunities and an opportunity to contribute to renewable energy/green economy in Canada.
- The federal government's budget commitments include \$103.4 million to promote sustainable mining and extraction processing that targets benefit sharing with Indigenous groups. At least \$25 million of this amount will be dedicated to early engagement and capacity building.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 28, 2023

Date

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Regional Economic Development
Exceptions (10x\$1M)**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government is helping boost economic development across the territory through trade agreement exceptions.
- The exceptions allow us to restrict procurement competitions exclusively to invited, qualified Yukon businesses for up to ten projects per year in order to keep government dollars in the territory and support local businesses.
- Over the past six years, manufacturing, construction, and consulting contracts have been awarded for work in communities across the Yukon.
- Since 2018, Yukon businesses have competed for and secured 55 Yukon-exclusive government contracts worth \$28 million.

Additional response: This year's projects

- Thus far for the 2023-24 fiscal year, we have awarded two projects to Yukon businesses, totaling \$1.2 million.
- The Yukon government strives to maximize its allocation of 10 projects every year.
- We post details of awarded contracts on Yukon.ca.
- When selecting Regional Economic Development Exceptions, we consider many factors including the dollar value of economic opportunities created in the Yukon and whether the project supports the territory's industries and suppliers.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Regional Economic Development
Exceptions (10x\$1M)**Highways and
Public Works

- At the end of a project, suppliers are now required to report on the total dollar value spent on Yukon labour and materials to quantify the direct positive impact these projects have on Yukoners.
 - Since the new reporting requirement came into effect, suppliers have reported on 14 completed contracts. Eight of these projects used 100 per cent Yukon labour and Yukon materials.
 - These reports also confirms that over \$1.1 million was spent on employing Yukoners, through those 14 projects.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Regional Economic Development Exceptions are important tools to support the Yukon's economy.
-

Background:

- The following two contracts were awarded for the 2023-4 fiscal year:
 - Village of Carmacks – Rowlinson/Prospector Lot Development; and
 - Northern Digital Message Sign Realignment along the North Klondike Highway and Dempster Highway.
 - The total value of the contracts is \$1.2 million.
 - A third RED has been submitted, with an estimated tender date of late October.
 - Ghùch Tlâ Community School- ACM Abatement.
 - It can be challenging to find tenders to maximize the use of these exceptions. Issues such as inflation, supply chain shortages and a tight labour market can impact the use of exceptions.
 - It should be noted that over this six-year period, there have been significant changes to the project landscape and fewer projects fall under the \$1 million threshold.
-

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2023

Regional Economic Development Exceptions (10x\$1M)

Highways and
Public Works

- Highways and Public Works continues to work alongside departments to find projects which are suitable for the exception.

Approved by:

C. Harwood

September 29, 2023

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Size of Government/
FTE Growth**Public Service Commission

Recommended response:

- Based on actual hours worked, there were approximately 5,250 FTEs across the Yukon government workforce over the 2022 calendar year.
- This is a decrease of nearly 74 FTEs, or a 1.3 per cent decrease, over the previous calendar year.
- The decrease in FTEs is mainly due to the government's changed response to COVID-19.

Additional response:

- While the size of the Yukon government has increased in recent years, it's grown at a rate consistent with trends over the last two decades as government has adapted to serve a changing society.
- Growth in the departments of Education and Health and Social Services accounts for most of the overall growth in FTEs in the past decade, as the Yukon government has expanded and improved services for Yukoners.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 'size of government' is a topic of consistent media and opposition interest.
-

Background:

- The Yukon Financial Advisory Panel report devoted several pages to the "size of government" and growth in spending as a share of GDP (gross domestic product). The report did not provide details that may account for the growth trends. For example:

Session Briefing Note**Size of Government/
FTE Growth****Public Service Commission**

- Growth in government spending as a share of GDP between 1980 and 2015 is partly explained by a notable drop in Yukon's GDP after the 1982 shut-down of the Faro mine.
- Growth in the number of YG jobs as a percentage of the Yukon population is partly attributable to devolution of federal programs.
- Since 2003, 250 federal employees have transferred to YG through devolution of the Northern Affairs Program (246) and a component of Human Resources and Skills Development (4).
- Aside from growth related to devolution, YG has responded to pressures to both expand services and improve service standards in a number of areas, particularly in health care and education.
- The Yukon Bureau of Statistics (YBS) reports monthly on Yukon employment, including a breakdown of employment by public and private sector. This data is based on estimates from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.
- Public and private sector employment in the YBS monthly reports is measured by the number of employed persons in each sector and includes full-time, part-time, permanent, and temporary employees.
- The YBS data for public sector employees includes employees of territorial, federal, municipal and First Nation governments, as well as employees of organizations that are publicly funded such as schools, post-secondary institutions, and hospitals. The YBS data is not broken down by public sector employer. Growth in public sector employment in Yukon is sometimes mistakenly attributed wholly to growth in the Yukon government.

Measuring FTEs

- The FTEs tracked and reported through PSC are based on actual hours worked, measured after the fact. They are determined by looking at all staffed positions, taking part-time jobs and unconventional working hours into account, and calculating how many full-time hours have been worked. Total FTEs are therefore impacted by the number of positions that are vacant within the reporting period.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

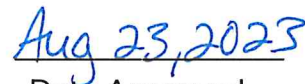
**Size of Government/
FTE Growth**

Public Service Commission

- These FTEs are not equivalent to the projected FTEs reported in the Main and Supplementary budgets.
- The Public Service Commission and the Department of Finance are working together to review both approaches to reporting and to explore further options for improvements in the future.
- See attached Appendix for the number of FTEs by department from 2012-2022.

Approved by:


Public Service Commissioner


Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: General program overview

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting critical mineral exploration and development in the Yukon.
- Improving infrastructure to Yukon's most mineral-rich areas will set us on course for a more prosperous future.
- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program has several infrastructure projects that are going through various stages of planning, design, assessment, and construction.
- In the upcoming year, in collaboration with the First Nations in whose traditional territory the projects are planned, we aim to tender work for the Robert Campbell Highway, and begin design work on the Silver Trail project.

Additional response: Program structure

- The Government of Yukon has committed to working with Yukon First Nations to build meaningful and collaborative relationships to support the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's success for all parties.
- For each component identified, Energy, Mines and Resources negotiates a project agreement with the affected Yukon First Nation in whose Traditional Territory the project resides.
- These agreements provide a process by which the Yukon government and Yukon First Nations will work collaboratively.
- They also outline how we will structure procurements to align with the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy and to ensure there are benefits for each community.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

- Once an agreement is signed, Highways and Public Works starts implementing the agreement.
- This process involves continued planning and collaboration with the affected Yukon First Nation.
- It encompasses key steps like project planning and design, YESAB assessment, regulatory review and permitting.
- Implementation work may not be visible, but it is crucial.
- Once the foundational work is complete, project procurement and construction can begin.

Additional response: Yukon First Nations involvement

- The Yukon government is working in collaboration with Yukon First Nations to seek input and finalize Project Agreements for components of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program within their respective Traditional Territories.
- Six Project Agreements have been signed with Yukon First Nations for seven components to date.
- The program will provide opportunities to Yukon First Nations through short and long-term employment opportunities, training, and benefit agreements.

Additional response: Funding

- The Yukon government has worked to increase the flexibility of the Gateway funding program with the Government of Canada. The funding program now includes additional flexibility to focus on projects that First Nations and communities have requested.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

- This flexibility allowed us to include additional road components on the Silver Trail, North Canol, and sections of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- The Yukon government was successful in negotiating a Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada that resulted in the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's completion date being extended from 2025 to March 2031.

Recommended response: Carmacks Bypass

- The Carmacks Bypass officially opened on Friday October 27, 2023. This project is the first to be completed under the Yukon Resource Gateway Program and is jointly funded by the Government of Canada.
- The new road connects the existing Freegold Road with the Klondike Highway.
- The project was a collaborative effort between Pelly Construction, the Yukon government and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- Pelly Construction was awarded the \$29.6 million contract to construct the new road and bridge on November 3, 2021.
- The project was successfully finished a year in advance of the designated timeframe and within budget.

Additional response:

- In the spring of 2019, a Project Agreement for the Carmacks Bypass component was signed with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- This contract had specific commitments for total labour hours to be done by First Nations persons. I'm happy to report that as of August 31, the total labour hours performed by Yukon First Nations persons

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

was 99,175 – 3 per cent more than the labour hour commitment made at the time of bid submission by the contractor.

- The construction of the new road and bridge allows industrial vehicles to bypass the community of Carmacks, creating a safer flow of traffic for residents.
- The Carmacks Bypass will provide improved access to mining activities while enabling the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation to benefit from contracting, education and training associated with the project.

Recommended response: Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 (Ross River to Faro)

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement for this component of the Robert Campbell Highway was signed with the Ross River Dena Council.
- This road rehabilitation project runs from Ross River to Faro (km 354.9 to km 414.4).
- Right-of-way clearing contracts have been awarded for this component of the Robert Campbell Highway. This was a direct award contract to a Ross River Dena Council citizen-owned company. This portion of clearing work has been completed.
- The YESAB assessment is complete and permitting is in place for a portion of the project near Ross River (km 363.6 to km 367.5), which will allow work to proceed for this section of the component.
- In 2023, the Yukon government has continued to work with Ross River Dena Council to implement the Project Agreement and determine the next steps of this project together.
- The aim is to tender this work this fiscal year.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: Silver Trail

- A Project Agreement for the Silver Trail component was signed with the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun in February 2021.
- The Silver Trail component includes rehabilitation of the Mayo River bridge, road reconstruction and spot repairs from km 0 to km 110 between Mayo and Keno City.
- In the coming year, the department will be advancing the implementation of the agreement with the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, with design and assessment activities planned to occur in 2024-25.
- Officials from the Department of Highways and Public Works are in regular contact with the Executive Director of the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, and the next meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2023.

Recommended response: Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171

- In June 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Liard First Nation for this section of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- This project, which runs from just past the Tuchtua River Bridge to the Frances Lake campground (km 114 to km 171), includes road reconstruction and sight-line improvements. It has an estimated capital construction cost of \$50 million.
- In 2022, we worked to develop the environmental baseline work plan and anticipate entering into a funding contribution with Liard First Nation later this year. Additionally, we underwent preliminary project planning and developed the scope of work.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

- The department is making progress on identification of granular resources, developing the work plan for the environmental assessment processes, as well as planning further phases of the project.
- Officials have been in regular contact with Liard First Nation this summer and fall.

Recommended response: Freegold Road Phase II

- In October 2020, a Project Agreement with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation for the Freegold Road Phase II component was signed.
- The Freegold Road Phase II component includes replacement of three bridges, two of which are in an area where the Traditional Territories of Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation overlap.
- As such, a Project Agreement with Selkirk First Nation is required, and discussions are being led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Recommended response: Nahanni Range Road Phase 1

- In January 2020, a Project Agreement with Liard First Nation was signed for the first phase of the Nahanni Range Road component.
- Clearing of the right-of-way to improve lines of sight began in 2020, with two direct-award contracts to First Kaska Limited, and work has continued with two additional contracts awarded in fall 2023.
- The Yukon government and the Liard First Nation entered into an additional agreement to provide heavy equipment operator training for Liard First Nation citizens.
- This training was completed in November 2021, and successfully certified eight Liard First Nation citizens. The training objective is to

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

help increase capacity for the Liard First Nation to participate in road construction projects in the future.

- Environmental baseline information for this project will be collected in collaboration with the Liard First Nation.
- We continue to engage with the Yukon Resource Gateway Project Committee, which includes Liard First Nation and Yukon government representatives, on this project.
- This work includes identifying clearing and brushing work, completing the draft environmental assessment, project planning and design work.

Recommended response: North Canol Phase 1

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Ross River Dena Council for the North Canol component of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program.
- This project would include bridge replacements, line of sight improvements and vegetation clearing on the North Canol Road.
- We are working with Ross River Dene Council on advancing the agreement.
- Officials from the Department of Highways and Public Works are planning a visit to Ross River this fall to discuss the Gateway projects.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders and First Nations involvement.
-

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2023****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works**Background:****First Nation Involvement**

- Implementation of Project Agreements is happening between the department's Major Programs Unit and the Yukon First Nations with Project Agreements.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is leading the Project Agreement negotiations with Selkirk First Nation for the Freegold Road component. However, the Department of Highways and Public Works is involved in these discussions.
- Federal government support has been confirmed through the Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada.

Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council	Ongoing
Design (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Spring 2020 – Complete
YESAB Submission (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Fall 2020 – Complete
Construction (right-of-way clearing) (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Fall 2020 – Complete
Procurement (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council.
Construction (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council. Anticipate in summer 2024.

Silver Trail Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2023

Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and Public Works

Silver Trail Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun	Ongoing
Design, planning and assessment - first projects	2024-25
Construction of Silver Trail - first projects	2026-27

Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Liard First Nation	Ongoing
Preliminary Design	2021
YESAB Submission	To be determined in collaboration with Liard First Nation. Anticipate by fall 2024.
Procurement – sub project	2024.
Construction of Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 – sub project	2025

Freegold Road Phase II	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
A Project Agreement with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation for the Freegold Road Phase II component was signed.	Fall 2020
Project Agreement negotiations are ongoing with Selkirk First nation, led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.	Ongoing

Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timeline

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2023

Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and Public Works

Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Liard First Nation	Ongoing
Construction (right-of-way clearing)	October 2020
YESAB and other regulatory submissions – bridges at km 143 and Upper Frances River	Winter 2024-25
Construction of bridge replacement and rehabilitation	To be determined

North Canol Phase 1 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timeline
North Canol Phase 1 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council	Ongoing
YESAB submission	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council
Procurement	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council
Construction	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council

Approved by:

C. Harwood

November 20, 2023

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Sector Status and
Supports**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon continues to attract interest from investors, explorers and miners due to the territory's mineral potential, identified resources and stability as a jurisdiction.
- Natural Resources Canada's Spring 2023 preliminary forecast for mineral exploration spending in the Yukon is \$145 million. \$163 million was spent on exploration in 2022.
- The reported placer gold production for 2022 was 82,388 crude ounces worth \$157.3 million. This is an increase from the 2021 production of 77,696 crude ounces worth \$139 million.
- Already in 2023, there are more quartz and placer claims that have been staked than in all of 2022.

Additional response:

- Year over year, the Yukon places very well in surveys such as the Fraser Institute's annual rankings. The territory ranked 20th in the world for desirable mining jurisdictions according to the Fraser Institute survey for 2022.
- We continue to fund exploration through the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program which leverages private sector funding at a ratio of more than 2:1 and is leading to many new discoveries and significant investments in our territory, including in critical minerals.
- We are also working with First Nations partners to develop new minerals legislation, one outcome of which will be increased certainty for industry on rules and processes that are better aligned with Final Agreements and best practices.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Sector Status and Supports

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the health of the mineral and exploration sector in the Yukon, and what the Government of Yukon is doing to support the sector.
-

Background:

- Indicators of the general health of the quartz and placer mining sector include exploration expenditures, increases in mineral and metal production, new mineral claims staked, total number of existing claims, and strong commodity prices.

Yukon Mineral Exploration Program Funding

- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program provides part of the risk capital to support early-stage exploration for both hard rock and placer exploration projects.
- In 2023, \$1.4 million has been committed to support 44 exploration projects. This investment is expected to leverage an additional \$3.2 million in private sector spending on these projects.
- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program was recently updated to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals as the primary exploration goal.

Mineral Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditure Statistics

- Junior exploration companies conduct the majority of mineral exploration in the Yukon. Exploration activities contribute significantly to the Yukon's annual economic activity.
 - Companies with advanced exploration programs having the largest estimated exploration budgets (\$10 million and over) in 2023 are expected to be Banyan Gold Corp., Newmont, Fireweed Zinc, Western Copper and Gold, and Alexco Resource Corp (Hecla Mining).
 - In 2023, companies with medium-sized exploration programs (\$6 million to \$10 million) include Seabridge Gold Inc, Snowline Gold Corp, and Victoria Gold Corporation.
 - Approximately 47 companies reported smaller exploration programs (under \$6 million) for the 2023 season.
-

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Sector Status and
Supports**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Placer and Quartz Production**

- In recent years, annual placer production has been approximately 80,000 ounces of gold.
- Increased quartz production was documented through 2022 with operations at Eagle Gold and Keno Hill mines continuing to expand within their licence limits.
- Natural Resources Canada valued quartz mineral and metal production in 2022 at approximately \$491 million. This is less than \$499 million in 2021, but more than previous years: \$458 million in 2020, \$157 million in 2019 and \$218 million in 2018.

Staking Activity —2022 and 2023 Comparison (January 1 – July 31)

- There have been 4,064 quartz claims staked between January 1 and July 3 2023, and 161,424 total quartz claims are in good standing. This is already more than in 2022, where there were 3,178 quartz claims staked.
- There have been 823 placer claims staked in between January 1 and July 3, 2023 and 29,245 total placer claims are in good standing. This is already more than in 2022, where there were 327 placer claims staked.

Approved by:


August 30, 2023

 A/Deputy Minister
 Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

 Date approved

Asia Mission and Costs

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- The mission to Asia built on the significant engagement we have had with Japan and India through their diplomatic corps in Canada over the last few years.
- This trip to Asia was arranged with an eye to efficiency of time and money, and to receive good value for the money we spent.
- Our extensive program of meetings with government and business officials was the next step in strengthening these relationships.
- I am pleased that we were able to bring some Yukon business organizations with us, to help them get exposure to new markets and opportunities.
- The business delegation portion of the mission aimed to support the Yukon's burgeoning tourism, film and media, and technology and innovation sectors while also bolstering the territory's established mining sector.

Additional response (outcomes):

- Japan and India are major international markets that are projected to grow significantly in the coming years.
- In Tokyo, we signed a letter of intent to support more Japanese tourism in the Yukon. We are very excited to continue working with Japanese agencies to get more people interested in visiting the Yukon.
- I can report that the interest in Canada and the Yukon is high in Japan, which is seeking stable, secure and values-aligned partnerships. I believe that the Yukon can satisfy some of their needs.
- I met with large Japanese corporations, industry organizations and government agencies to promote economic opportunities in the Yukon, including investments in critical minerals.

Asia Mission and Costs

Executive Council Office

- The Tourism and Culture Minister also had several meetings with tourism stakeholders, which helps to build the Yukon's profile in Japan as a top-tier destination.
- In Trivandrum, our key focus was recruitment of health care professionals. To that end, we engaged with the state government ministers on their training and recruitment systems.
- This included discussion on building recruitment programs specifically for the Yukon in health care and other sectors. They have the people, skills, and willingness to help meet our labour needs.
- Also in Trivandrum, we met with the leaders and businesses of Technopark – India's longest-established tech incubator – and discussed opportunities to connect developing Indian tech companies into the Yukon and the North American market.
- In New Delhi, we continued conversations on investment in the Yukon and on health human resources.
- We met with a broad range of leaders from the Indian business community and have created a significant number of new contacts for Yukon businesses, as well as promoted the Yukon as a growing part of Canada that is looking for skilled people and investment across all sectors.
- We acknowledge the ongoing diplomatic dispute between the Governments of Canada and India and continue to monitor the situation.

Additional response (India diplomatic relations):

- On our last day in India, we learned about the Government of Canada's allegations regarding the Indian government's involvement in the murder of Canadian Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar.
- No meetings with the Government of India were held after this news broke.

Asia Mission and Costs

Executive Council Office

- I have since raised concerns directly with federal leaders regarding communications on emerging risks in Canada's relationship with India in advance of, and during, this mission.
- This is a very challenging time for Canada-India relations. My focus now is to ensure that the Yukon's Indian community is safe and supported as the diplomatic situation unfolds.
- We are confident that the RCMP investigation underway will bring all the relevant facts to light and that the perpetrators will be held accountable.
- We cannot lose sight of the fact that Yukon has strong people-to-people ties to India. We continue to seek a constructive dialogue to support these connections at a subnational level.

Additional response (costs):

- Government travel is essential to developing our relationships, enhancing the Yukon's profile and promoting new opportunities abroad.
- Travel is managed under our longstanding government policy, the travel directive, which sets out the authorities required for travel by government officials, is based on principles of economy and efficiency, and establishes rates for certain costs.
- Airfares are booked at the best rate through our travel desk and the travel agents we work with.
- Our choices for hotels are based firstly on whether those facilities have been vetted and approved by the Global Affairs missions in each country. We take their recommendations, and in many cases, we get preferred rates or negotiate group rates.

Asia Mission and Costs

Executive Council Office

- The vast majority of the budget for the trip included travel, hotel and per diems. The remaining budget lines were costs associated with hosting meetings and events in each city.
- The total cost of the trip was **\$170,899.54**, broken down as follows:
 - ECO (travel, gifts and hospitality, charge-backs for embassy services, Canada-India Business Coalition support): \$111,556.53;
 - Economic Development (travel, hospitality): \$26,542.71;
 - Tourism and Culture (travel, Tokyo event venue): \$16,802.69; and
 - Health and Social Services (travel): \$15,997.61.
- Ministerial travel expenses will be posted online as soon as they are finalized. This normally takes around 90 days.

Additional response (advance):

- Over the summer, Yukon government officials undertook an advance to targeted locations to support the delegation's September mission.
- Advance trips are a common planning tool for international missions, particularly in new environments and markets.
- This trip helped to foster the in-country connections that lead to productive, outcome-oriented discussions for leaders on the ground, ensuring that Ministers' time spent abroad was used effectively and efficiently.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- This mission to Asia is expected to attract public attention.
- The opposition may criticize the use of funds for international government travel.
- The allegations regarding the involvement of the Indian government in the murder of a Canadian citizen were announced during the India trip and have been widely reported on.

Background:

- A Yukon delegation made a visit to Japan and India September 8 to 20, 2023.
- Outcomes and engagements in Tokyo included:
 - Meetings with private companies (Mitsubishi Materials, DOWA Metals) and government (JOGMEC, JOIN) on critical minerals investment;
 - General business development with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan;
 - Meeting with Japanese Arctic interests to discuss clean energy and climate change;
 - Signing a letter of intent to support another special Aurora flight and tourism to the Yukon; and
 - Several tourism engagements with Japanese companies.
- Outcomes and engagements in Trivandrum:
 - Meetings with the Chief Minister and several state Cabinet ministers on health care, training and commerce;
 - A letter of intent from the Yukon government to work with NORKA on a targeted recruitment program; and
 - In-depth tour of Technopark Trivandrum and exposure to many tech companies working there.
- Outcomes and engagements in New Delhi:
 - Meeting with the federal minister of mines;
 - Engagement with Indian business leaders, including in tech; and
 - Exposure to health training institutions.
- The government delegation consisted of nine people in Japan, and nine people in India:
 - Premier Ranj Pillai;

Asia Mission and Costs

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- Minister John Streicker, Minister of Tourism and Culture and Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Japan only);
 - Jason Cunning, Chief of Staff;
 - Aurora Bicudo, Ministerial Advisor to the Premier;
 - Justin Ferbey, Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office (Japan only);
 - Michael Prochazka, Deputy Minister, Economic Development;
 - Intergovernmental Relations Officer, Executive Council Office;
 - Sierra Van Der Meer, Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture (Japan only);
 - Market Manager, Asia Pacific, Tourism and Culture (Japan only);
 - Systems Specialist and temporary support to Intergovernmental Relations (India only);
 - Director, Immigration, Economic Development;
 - Tiffany Boyd, Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services (India only); and
 - Senior Policy Advisor, Health and Social Services (India only)
- The Department of Economic Development supported participation of a number of business organizations to attend a parallel program in Asia, which included:
 - Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon;
 - Tech Yukon;
 - Screen Production Yukon Association; and
 - Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce.

Advance mission

- Prior to the mission, an officials-level advance trip from July 21 to August 5 laid the groundwork for the delegation's September engagements. This trip included stops in Tokyo, Trivandrum, New Delhi, and Manila, as the Philippines was originally contemplated as a potential target for the mission as well.

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- The advance trip was led by one Yukon government official (Intergovernmental Relations); a second official joined for the India portion of the advance only.
- Advance trips have been previously undertaken for international missions. For example, in 2017, three Intergovernmental Relations officials participated in an advance program to Washington, D.C.

India diplomatic relations

- On September 18, the Prime Minister announced that Canadian national security authorities are in possession of credible intelligence that “agents of the government of India” carried out the fatal shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Sikh leader in British Columbia, earlier this year.
- The Yukon government had not been briefed in on this intelligence or the timing of the announcement before it was made. Planned meetings with Indian federal ministers the following day were cancelled.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Expired COVID Relief Programs

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Yukon Business Relief Program:
 - Ran from the onset of the pandemic through to September 2021, helping Yukon businesses cover their eligible fixed costs.
 - Provided almost \$13.5 million to over 500 businesses.
 - The accommodation and food services sector received 43.5% of the total funding.
 - Funding went to businesses in every Yukon community.
- Yukon Essential Workers Income Support Program:
 - Provided a top-up to wages of up to \$4.00 per hour to essential workers until February 2021.
 - Paid out \$5.4 million (of which the federal government provided \$4.3 million) to more than 2,000 workers employed by 160 businesses.

Top-up Level	No. of Employees	Percentage of Employees
\$4.00 per hour	1,678	59.0%
\$3.00 per hour to \$3.99 per hour	569	20.0%
\$2.00 per hour to \$2.99 per hour	331	11.6%
\$1.00 per hour to \$1.99 per hour	211	7.4%
Less than \$1.00 per hour	56	2.0%
Total	2,845	100.0%

- Temporary Support for Cancelled Events:
 - Ran from March to July of 2020.
 - Provided \$1.87 million in relief to 43 businesses connected to 31 cancelled events.

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Development

- Regional Relief Loan Program:
 - Program announced February 2021 with applications for low or no interest, partially forgivable business loans accepted until June 30, 2021.
 - Total funding of \$3.93 million provided by CanNor.
 - 62 applicants received \$3,446,202 in loans.
 - Loans are interest-free and repayable at 75% of the total loan if repaid by the deadline.
 - The deadline interest-free and partial forgiveness deadline was December 31, 2023. On September 14, 2023, the federal government announced an extension for loan repayment until January 18, 2024.
 - To November 8, 2023, 27 loans have been repaid, totaling \$1,048,988 in repayments. This represents \$1,398,650 in total loans, since only 75% is repayable if paid by the January 18, 2024 deadline;
 - \$349,662 has been forgiven for the 27 that have been repaid in full.
 - 35 loans remain outstanding, totaling \$2,047,552.
- Vaccine Verification Rebate:
 - Program launched on November 25, 2021, to support eligible businesses and non-governmental organizations directly impacted by the Civil Emergency Measures Act (CEMA) orders and restrictions put in place on November 8, 2021.
 - Provided a 50% rebate (to a maximum of \$500) towards the purchase of equipment required for the efficient and accurate checking of vaccine statuses.

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Development

- At the program's conclusion on January 31, 2022, 48 inquiries were received resulting in rebates to 34 organizations.
 - The total rebates issued were \$12,997.
- Yukon Emergency Relief Program:
 - The Yukon Emergency Relief Program supported Yukon businesses and non-government organizations directly affected by restrictions under the CEMA.
 - The program focused on funding eligible fixed costs for businesses, and non-recoverable financial commitments or incremental expenses incurred by non-government organizations for events cancelled or significantly altered due to CEMA orders.
 - Between November 8, 2021 and March 31, 2022, 25 organizations received \$307,679 in support through the Yukon Emergency Relief Program.
- Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement and Non-Accommodation (TASS/TNASS):
 - The program ran from October 1, 2020 to August 31, 2022, and was initially administered by Tourism and Culture until September 2021.
 - Tourism and Culture report that, approximately 94 Yukon tourism businesses submitted 140 applications under TASS and TNASS from October 2020 to September 2021. These applications have resulted in funding agreements totaling \$4.1M.
 - From October 1, 2021, the Department of Economic Development administered these two programs.

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Development

- From October 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022, 102 businesses received support through TASS/TNASS resulting in a total contribution of approximately \$3,833,595.
- On February 10, 2022, the department announced the enhanced TNASS stream for restaurants and bars.
- Restaurants and bars were eligible to apply for the Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement for the period from November 8, 2021, to March 31, 2022, and/or also receive a One-Time- Sector supplement of \$10,000.
- During this time, 59 restaurants/bars received financial assistance through the enhanced TNASS stream with a total contribution of \$1,056,494.
- The COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Rebate program was in place from March 2020 to March 31, 2023.
 - The Paid Sick Leave Rebate program helped employers and workers without paid sick leave benefits to meet their financial needs while staying home with specific COVID-19 illness.
 - Over the duration of the program employees had received \$3,663,453 in rebates through the Paid Sick Leave Rebate program.
 - The retail trade sector was the largest user of the program at approximately 25% of the funding.
 - The health and social services sector, which includes day care operators and the construction sector, were also significant users of the program, receiving approximately 22% and 16% of funding respectively.

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Development

- Non-Profit Relief and Recovery Fund:
 - Working with the non-profit sector to ensure that this important industry is able to recover from COVID-19 by enhancing opportunities for collaboration and shared services.
 - This is a shared mandate commitment with Community Services.
 - The department of Economic Development designed a short-term COVID response and recovery program in collaboration with the non-profit sector that was administered by Volunteer Bénévoles Yukon. This program provided a fund of \$250,000 to help address the impacts of Covid-19 that were still having an effect on the Yukon's NGOs.

Approved by:

Approved
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

November 8, 2023
Date approved