



Legislative Assembly Briefing Binder

Fall 2023

**French Language
Services Directorate**



FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Legislative assembly briefing notes

FALL 2023

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Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Increased services in French**FLSD

Key Messages:

- We are committed to increasing access to all public services in French.
- We are working with our partners to develop a new range of solutions that will empower employees to provide specific services and information in French to the public.
- We are continuing to support access to bilingual healthcare services, especially at the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre.
- We are deploying a new live video interpretation service. This service supports immediate and seamless French-language services when bilingual employees are unavailable.

Additional response:

- We have equipped all Yukon Hospitals with the video interpretation tool.
- We have also provided Whitehorse-based ambulances with the same tool.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Expectations from the Francophone community have increased with the signature of a \$28M agreement with the Government of Canada to fund French-language services in Yukon from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Background:

- In the last two years, FLSD focused on streamlining its processes with departments and redesigning its programs and services to better fulfill its mandate and support departments in complying with the Yukon Languages Act:
 - We are working with departments to identify and develop plans for piloting designated points of service (DPS) to provide consistent services in French (e.g., reception desks and transactional services).

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Increased services in French**

FLSD

- DPSs complement the designated bilingual positions (DBP), which are essential for delivering in-depth services (e.g., counselling services).
- A total of 73 DBPs strategically located across departments* provide a wide range of services in French to the public.
- We have improved the effectiveness of DBP by identifying public-facing positions for designation and reallocating designations to ensure these positions are prioritized for designation in alignment with FLSD's mandate.
- FLSD commits \$350,000 annually to the Yukon Hospital Corporation to support French-language services. There are designated bilingual staff (22) working in both the Whitehorse General and Dawson City Community hospitals.
- We refocused our French language training and linguistic support offer exclusively on the Government of Yukon employees to better empower them in providing service and information in French to the public.
- We are introducing a new French-language proficiency assessment to better support departments' staffing efforts. The new language skills assessment model is more flexible and based on the duties and needs of designated bilingual positions.

*Excluding FLSD and Whitehorse General Hospital

Approved by:_____
Manon Moreau, FLSD_____
[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Improved bilingual communications**FLSD

Key Messages:

- We are committed to keeping people safe and informed in French; this is precisely what we did all summer.
- We continued to increase our bilingual emergency communications responsiveness by translating and publishing time-sensitive information in French, including flood and wildfire, in near real-time, even on weekends and evenings.
- Yukoners can access our latest news and information about our program and services in French faster than ever on our corporate social media channel @LeYukonFr.

Additional response:

- We almost doubled the number of French-language public safety and emergency communications publications this summer compared to last summer.
- One-third of our emergency publications in 2023 were made outside regular business hours.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Keeping people safe and increasing our bilingual emergency responsiveness is one of the priorities identified during the public engagement about French-language services and communications held in December 2022. It is one of the strategies of the 2023-25 Strategic Framework on French-language services released this fall.

Background:

- In the last few years, FLSD has worked on streamlining its processes with departments and redesigning its programs and services to better support departments in complying with the Yukon Languages Act.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Improved bilingual communications**

FLSD

- To improve access to government information in French, we prioritized:
 - modernizing our translation software and workflows;
 - streamlining French-language translation into existing processes related to emergency communications;
 - proactively working with departments to plan the translation, design and proofing of bilingual large-scale projects and campaigns; and
 - seizing every opportunity to publish information simultaneously in English and French.

Translation	2022-23	2023-24 (Apr-Aug)
Public safety and emergency publications (during business hours)	99	181
Public safety and emergency publications (outside business hours)	27	63
Total safety and emergency publications	126	244

Approved by:_____
Manon Moreau, FLSD_____
[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Strategic Framework on
French-language services and
communications 2022-25**

FLSD

Key Messages:

- Our government released a new Strategic framework for French-language services on November 14.
- Thanks to the work accomplished over the last years, we are in a strong position to build on our success and expand the delivery of bilingual services and information to all Yukoners. The new framework will help direct our efforts to best meet the evolving needs of the growing Yukon Francophone community.

Additional responses:

- The new framework echoes the results of the public engagement conducted in December 2022 with French-speaking Yukoners and stakeholders.
- We received a lot of constructive feedback on areas of success, potential improvements, and future actions needed to enhance access to French-language services and communication.
- Our new roadmap focuses on the following four priorities:
 1. Leveraging technology to overcome language barriers.
 2. Keeping people safe by increasing access to timely emergency, primary care, and legal services in French.
 3. Recruiting and supporting bilingual employees who are experts in their fields.Supporting a thriving Francophone community to foster its vitality for generations to come.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The new Strategic Framework is part of Minister Streicker's mandate to guide investments in services for the community in the coming years (2022-2025).

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Strategic Framework on
French-language services and
communications 2022-25**

FLSD

- The previous strategic framework ended on March 31, 2022, and guided our actions and decisions in 2022-23.

Background:

- In 2013, the Government of Yukon developed its first strategic framework in collaboration with the Association franco-yukonnaise (l'AFY) to clarify where we needed to focus our efforts.
- The first framework helped us set the direction and strategically work toward providing more services in French.
- In May 2018, the Government of Yukon expanded the consultation process and launched a public engagement to inform its second strategic framework.
- We delivered on our objectives set out in the 2018-2022 strategic framework:
 - We improved our bilingual emergency communications responsiveness.
 - We revamped our policy and guidelines on French-language services and communications.
 - We significantly bolstered the delivery of online and in-person services.
- The new strategic framework will help us map the needs of the Francophone community with the government's priorities and the funding allocated by the Government of Canada.
- We engaged in a meaningful conversation with the Francophone community in December 2022 to identify what is working well and what could be improved.
- We published a *What We Heard* report in June 2023.

Approved by:_____
Manon Moreau, FLSD_____
[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Canada's Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-2028**

FLSD

Key Messages:

- The new Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028 was unveiled in April 2023. One of its primary goals is to promote the vitality of our official-language minority communities.
- The Action Plan includes new investments of \$1.4 billion over the next five years, for a total of \$4.1 billion, the largest amount ever provided by a government in the area of official languages.
- We are discussing the implementation of the Action Plan for Official Languages with Canada and our provincial and territorial counterparts.
- We will continue to work with the Government of Canada to map our investments on our Francophone community's priorities.

Additional responses:

- I am grateful to the Government of Canada for its support in the provision of services in French in the Yukon.
- Canada recently passed Bill C-13, *An Act to amend the Official Languages Act, to enact the Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act*. This opens opportunities for new partnerships between the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada (FCFA) and its members, including l'Association franco-yukonnaise (l'AFY), have high expectations for the new Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-2028.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Canada's Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-2028**

FLSD

Background:

- The new Action Plan brings the total Government of Canada investment in official languages for the 2023–2028 period up to \$4.1 billion. This is the largest investment for official languages ever made by a Canadian government in the history of the country.
- The \$1.4 billion added in the new Action Plan 2023-2028 supports the implementation of 32 new or enhanced measures around four pillars:
 - Francophone immigration: Towards the re-establishment of the demographic weight of Francophones
 - Promoting lifelong learning opportunities
 - Strong measures in support of community vitality
 - Leading by example: Acting and collaborating to strengthen communities
- As part of implementing the new Action Plan, Les Essentielles, a francophone NGO dedicated to supporting women and LGBTQ+ acquired a commercial property in Whitehorse. The acquisition was jointly funded by the Federal Government (\$2.4 M) and the Government of Yukon (\$300,000). It will strengthen Les Essentielles' ability to support French-speaking women.
- We are looking forward to developing a collaborative framework to coordinate specific agreements between the governments of Canada and Yukon to improve the effectiveness of our services and programs and their impact on the Yukon Francophone community.
- We anticipate more opportunities to work collaboratively with the Government of Canada regarding the possible development of regulations to better define the positive measures and public consultation requirements as set out in Part 7 – Advancement of English and French of the *OLA*.

The current Canada-Yukon Agreement on French Language Services, totaling \$28 million over 5 years, is valid until 2025. It represents one of the largest funding agreements ever secured by a provincial or territorial government for French-language services.

CONFIDENTIAL

TAB 04

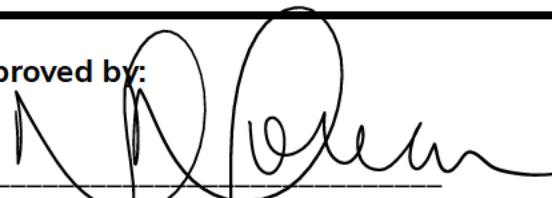
Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

**Canada's Action Plan for Official
Languages 2023-2028**

FLSD

Approved by:



Manon Moreau, FLSD

2023.09.01

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2023

Clinics

Health and Social
Services

Government priority:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to improving health care for all Yukoners and expanding access to primary health care services in the territory.

Key Messages:

- We are working with our partners to expand access to both primary care services and mental health services across the territory.
- In November 2022, we opened the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre to increase the number of Yukoners connected with a primary care provider and to provide Francophone Yukoners with better access to French-speaking providers.
- We are working to create a new medical walk-in clinic to provide Yukoners with more access to primary care providers and same-day services.
- We continue to work to connect every Yukoner to a primary care provider as per recommendation 2.2 of the *Putting People First* report.

Key facts:

- In 2023-24, we budgeted **\$2.34M** (\$2,341,913) for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre.
- Since October 2022, there have been 1,978 eligible applications for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre.
 - 875 clients received their first appointment and have been connected with a primary care provider.
 - 53 others have been offered access to the clinic but have not yet completed their intake form and/or signed their service agreement.
 - 73 individuals were offered a position and later declined.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Clinics**Health and Social
Services

- At present, the clinic is prepared to take on 2,250 patients but is taking a triaged approach to ensure that those requiring immediate access receive it.
 - Clients who are not being given immediate access to the clinic are notified of their waitlist status and will be called as soon as possible.
- Once fully staffed, the clinic's staff complement will include 1 Clinic Manager, 5 Nurse Practitioners, 1 Registered Nurse, 1 Licensed Practical Nurse, 2 Medical Office Assistants, 1 Social Worker, 1 Mental Wellness Counselor, and 1 full-time contract physician.
- The clinic is currently staffed by 3 Nurse Practitioners, 2 Medical Office Assistants, 1 Licensed Practical Nurse, 1 Registered Nurse, 1 Social Worker, 1 Administrative Assistant and 1 Clinic Manager.
 - Recruitment for 2 additional Nurse Practitioners and the equivalent of 1 FTE Medical Doctor (expected to be split between multiple physicians) is underway.
 - The clinic is also supported by 1 consultant physician.
 - There are currently 5 full-time bilingual staff and 1 bilingual AOC at Constellation Health Centre with recruitment underway for additional bilingual full-time and AOC staff.

Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre:

- The bilingual health center opened its doors to its interim location on November 7, 2022, at 102 – 4149 4th Avenue in Whitehorse (Nuvo Building).
- As of September 13, 2023, the health centre is now operating in its permanent location within 9010 Quartz Road.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Clinics**Health and Social
Services

- In addition to delivering high quality health and wellness services in both French and English, the clinic provides an additional access point for primary health care services.
- Registered clients can access primary health care services by booking an appointment in advance, or by accessing same-day appointments that will be set aside for urgent or emerging primary health care needs.
- An application process was set up for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre to ensure that all Yukoners wanting the opportunity to obtain primary health care services have the chance to provide relevant information and give their informed consent.
- There continues to be a triaged and gradual intake of individuals from the waitlist as we work to recruit additional primary care providers.
- Applications continue to be reviewed and prioritized by a team of healthcare professionals at the clinic. Acceptance or waitlist status are determined by the capacity of the clinic's primary care providers, as well as pre-established population health determinants.
 - The population health determinants include several considerations such as current attachment to a primary care provider, complexity of care needs, and their primary language and need for services in French or interpretation support amongst others.
 - If someone is not initially accepted, they will be added to the waitlist and notified when the opportunity for an intake is available.
- The Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre is supported by a physician who provides consultation services.
- Work continues with physician partners to identify primary care providers to deliver contracted services at the Clinic.
- We are currently in discussions with an additional physician who has expressed interest in providing primary care at the Constellation clinic.

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Clinics

Health and Social
Services

Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic:

- In January 2023, as part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement, we committed to improving the delivery of and access to health care/across the territory.
- Work is underway through the Department of Health and Social Services and with our physician community to have walk-in clinic services available to Yukoners in Whitehorse by 2024.
- Opening a new walk-in clinic in Whitehorse will help provide Yukoners with a new access point for primary care and decrease pressures on the hospital emergency department for non-urgent medical needs.
- While renovations are completed at the Clinic's permanent location at Mah's Point we will open the walk-in clinic at a temporary location at 9010 Quartz Road.
 - This temporary location will be located in the same building as the Whitehorse Health Centre, the Yukon's Midwifery Program, and the Centre de Sante Constellation Health Centre, but will operate as an independent clinic.
- At full capacity we anticipate the clinic could be staffed by providers such as Nurse Practitioners, Licensed Practical Nurses, Medical Office Assistants, and Social Workers, as well as serviced by Physicians on contract hours.
 - We are working with three consultant physicians from the medical community to identify physicians to provide primary care at the walk-in clinic.
- The Expression of Interest for the clinic has been drafted and sent to the Yukon Medical Association to provide to their membership on November 9, 2023.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2023****Clinics**Health and Social
Services

Canadian Mental Health Association – Yukon (CMHA-Y):

- We have provided funding to the Canadian Mental Health Association – Yukon to increase access to mental health services as part of our commitment to introducing a seven day per week walk-in/call-in mental health clinic in Whitehorse as outlined in the 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement.
- In 2023-24, we budgeted **\$1.62M** (\$1,615,000) for the Canadian Mental Health Association – Yukon.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association – Yukon offers a variety of programs, services, counselling supports and resources, including free programs like the Bounceback program.
- Yukoners can contact the Canadian Mental Health Association – Yukon to book an appointment to access free counselling services.
- Our government has supported the Canadian Mental Health Association – Yukon to offer seven day per week counselling services. Based on current staffing levels and uptake, services are currently operating six days per week Monday through Saturday.
- Yukoners can contact the Canadian Mental Health Association – Yukon to access free drop-in counselling services by calling (867) 668-6429.

Vaccine Clinic Contract:

- Throughout the COVID-19 response, the Whitehorse Vaccine Clinic was based at the Yukon Convention Centre.
- As of September 27, 2023, the vaccine clinic has relocated to its new location on the corner of 4th and Ogilvie at the NVD Place Mall.
- This move will support our ongoing efforts to integrate COVID-19 vaccinations into our ongoing health service operations while supporting

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Clinics

Health and Social
Services

our immunization team to offer vaccines through a location that best meets our programming needs.

- The clinic is a satellite location for the Whitehorse Health Centre and is operating as the Whitehorse Health Centre – NVD Place.
 - The Whitehorse Health Centre – NVD Place is offering COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccinations, as well as offer appointments for publicly funded vaccines for people over the age of five.
 - Routine publicly funded vaccines and programming continues to be offered at the Whitehorse Health Centre – 9010 Quartz Road location with a focus on clients under five years of age.
 - Yukoners are encouraged to contact a pharmacy, which have COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccination appointments available.
- The lease for the Yukon Convention Centre was tendered through a sole source contract as allowed under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and began on March 19, 2020 with a number of successive leases. The most recent ran from April 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023 and had a total value of \$30,000 per month.
- The lease for the space at NVD Place runs from March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2026 at a reduced lease rate during renovations and was valued at \$49,682.
 - Once renovations were completed and the space occupied on October 1, 2023, the full rental rate of \$324,730 annually came into effect, for a total value of \$374,412.50.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

November 14, 2023

[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.

Session Briefing Note

Francophone Immigration

Fall 2023

Economic
Development

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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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Fall 2023

Francophone Immigration

Economic
Development

- 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****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.
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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
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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

Fall 2023Economic
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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

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

French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing

Value:

- The Department of Education offers excellent French second language programs to students, and we are working with our partners and school communities to address the long-term needs of these programs.

Recommended response:

Programming

- Currently, the overall student demand for French Immersion programming is being met.
- The Government of Yukon plans to continue École Selkirk Elementary School as a 'dual track' English program/French Immersion school.
- We have committed to long-term planning for French as a second language programs.
- In Spring 2023, I approved a vision statement created in collaboration with the French Second Language Advisory Committee that will enable graduates to be inspired, proud and confident to live, learn and work in French.
- The French Second Language Advisory Committee includes representation from the Department of Education, School Councils, Canadian Parents for French, school administrators and teachers.

French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing

Early French Immersion (Kindergarten):

- Early French Immersion is a popular program in Whitehorse, offered at Whitehorse Elementary school and Selkirk Elementary school.
- In the 2023-24 school year we committed to offer 18 Kindergarten seats at Selkirk Elementary school and 54 seats at Whitehorse Elementary school, for a total of 72 seats.
- We also have capacity to accept additional applications if needed.

French Immersion teacher recruitment:

- We continue to monitor and plan for enrolment in French Immersion including the recruitment of qualified French language teachers. French language teachers are in high demand across Canada. Recruiting for these positions remains a challenge.
- We continue to attend job fairs both in person and virtually at post-secondary institutes where we know there are qualified French language teachers, to help with targeting our recruitment efforts.
- We have also increased advertising on job boards in post-secondary institutions that offer French language education programming.
- We have continued with pooled competitions and early posting for teaching positions in French Immersion Elementary schools for the 2023-24 school year, thanks to the dedication of our school administrators and superintendents.

French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is considerable interest in French second language programming.
-

Background:

Programming

- The additional funding for French as a Second Language recently reflected in the Legislative Assembly was provided by the Government of Canada through the Canada-Yukon Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction for the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. This \$899 000 funding is 100% recoverable.
- The Explore program is an intensive, immersion program for 13-18 year olds, offered during the spring and summer in locations across Canada. The sessions are taught at Universities/Colleges, and students live on campus or with local host families. This \$28 000 funding is 100% recoverable.
- The total \$927,000 debated in the Legislative Assembly is for French Language Programs, including the French Immersion program and the increase in the Explore program.
- French Immersion is a popular program in Whitehorse, and is offered at Whitehorse Elementary School, Selkirk Elementary School and F. H. Collins Secondary School.
- Whitehorse Elementary School is a 'single track' school offering only French Immersion programs. Selkirk Elementary School and F. H. Collins Secondary School are 'dual track' schools meaning that both French Immersion and English language programs are available.
- The balance of instructional time between the two languages may differ at Selkirk versus Whitehorse Elementary, but the long-term outcomes are the same.

Early French Immersion (Kindergarten)

- The Kindergarten registration information night was held virtually on January 25, 2023.

French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing

- Kindergarten French Immersion Pre-registration was open from February 1st to February 22nd, 2023.
 - A lottery system was not necessary this year because the demand for Early French Immersion registration did not exceed capacity.
- French Immersion seats are available to families wishing to enroll their child at the Grade 1 level.
- Since 2015-16, when the demand for Early French Immersion registration exceeded capacity, the department has used a lottery system for admission to these programs, run with Canadian Parents for French, a national network of parents, volunteers, and advocates dedicated to the promotion and creation of French-second-language learning opportunities for young Canadians.
- Every year since the lottery process has been in place, all students have been able to enroll in French Immersion in Kindergarten or Grade 1.

French Immersion teacher recruitment

- Part of the hiring process includes language testing by the French Language Services Directorate. They work closely with the Department of Education to ensure this testing is prioritized.
- As of October 17, 2023, we have 1 French Immersion teacher vacancy at Whitehorse Elementary School and 0.75 teacher vacancy at Selkirk Elementary School. These teaching assignments are being covered by other staff on a temporary basis.
- Retention in French Immersion drops in high school, so the demand for French Immersion is currently forecasted to be met by the program at F.H. Collins Secondary.

French Second Language Advisory Committee:

- The French Second Language Advisory Committee was formed in 2010 to strengthen French as a Second Language education in Yukon.
- This advisory body includes representation from the Department of Education, School Councils, Canadian Parents for French, school administrators and teachers.

Session Briefing Note

TAB#SP05

Fall 2023

Education

French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing

- Education has committed to long-term planning for French as a second language programs and a vision statement has been created in Spring 2023 in collaboration with the French Second Language Advisory Committee.

Approved by:

Mary Cameron

2023-10-18

Deputy Minister, Education

[Date approved]

CSFY Request for School in Dawson

Education

Value:

- We work collaboratively with the commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY) to support the learning needs of French First Language students and the path for the administration of French First Language education in the territory.

Recommended response:

- I am happy to report that this school year, French First Language students have access to an in-person French-language program of instruction in Dawson.
- This is a priority for the Francophone school board and Francophone parents in Dawson.
- We are continuing to work with the CSFY and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, as the CSFY moves forward with their implementation of the French First Language program in Dawson.

Additional response:

- The CSFY, the Department of Education, and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have established an effective working relationship and officials will continue to navigate and approach the work ahead in a good way.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is currently an in-person French First Language program of instruction being offered in Dawson.

Background:

- The name of the program is **Programme francophone de Dawson**.

CSFY Request for School in Dawson

Education

- The CSFY is currently renting space located at 486 King Street in Dawson City. The parties are currently reviewing the possibility of moving it into Robert Service School in the future.
- As of **October 31, 2023, 12 students** are enrolled in the program.
- On the week of September 18, CBC-Radio-Canada reporters will be in Dawson to build a story about the French First Language program of instruction in Dawson.
- Under the terms of the mediation agreement, the CSFY will provide an in-person French First Language instruction program in Dawson City for the period 2023-2024 to 2025-2026.
- As it is a program rather than a school, it would be a scaled down financial model including two teachers and an EA.
- The program is funded as part of the 2023-2024 Transfer Payment Agreement with the CSFY.

Teachers	\$292,023.00
Ed Assistants	\$74,985.00
Program Delivery Costs	\$234,292.00
Francophone Administration	\$21,000.00
Innovation Support	\$5,000.00
Cultural Inclusion Support	\$7,500.00
Tutor Support	\$1,700.00
Francophone Recognition (20% of base funding)	\$20,000.00
Rent and Utilities	\$74,000.00
Custodial Services	\$23,500.00
Program Related Capital Repairs	\$9,000.00
Total	\$763,000.00

- The government has not agreed to construct a school facility for the CSFY in Dawson City as part of the mediation agreement.
- This program will run for a minimum of three years, during which time an assessment will be undertaken of the ongoing need and suitability of the program.
- On February 28, 2022, CSFY requested the establishment of a French First Language School in Dawson for the 2022-2023 school year.

Session Briefing Note

TAB#EP02

Fall 2023

CSFY Request for School in Dawson

Education

- In May 2023, the Department of Education and CSFY engaged in a mediation process regarding the establishment of an in-person French language program of instruction in Dawson for the 2023-24 school year.
- On May 8, 2023, Dawson francophone parents filed an injunction to the Supreme Court of Yukon to approve and fund the establishment of a full-time, in-person French as a first language program in Dawson for the 2023-2024 school year.
- On July 10, 2023, a mediation agreement was reached and the Dawson's parents' injunction has been formally discontinued.
- Department officials continue to meet with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and CSFY's officials regularly.

Approved by:

Mary Cameron

2023-11-09

Deputy Minister, Education

[Date approved]

CONFIDENTIAL

Session Briefing Note

TAB 11
Fall 2023

Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

FLSD works in partnership with YG departments and other government agencies to support the delivery of publicly accessible services and information in French. Our accomplishments are shared accomplishments with these partners.

Accomplishment	Significance
October 2023 In partnership with CS <i>L'heure du conte</i> , a new activity for Whitehorse library clients	The Whitehorse Public Library offers songs, stories, play and movement in French for children aged 2 to 4 and their families through the new weekly <i>L'heure du conte</i> (Story time).
October 2023 In partnership with HSS Bilingual services available through the Health Promotion Unit	Students in schools have access to bilingual sexual health prevention sessions. All Yukoners have access to bilingual smoking cessation services.
June 2023 In partnership with HSS and CS Increased access to Emergency and Primary healthcare in French	We have equipped all Yukon Hospitals and Whitehorse-based ambulances with interpretation services.
May 2023 In partnership with Environment Bilingual services available in Tombstone Territorial Park	The Tombstone Interpretive Centre staff delivers services and information in French to visitors.

CONFIDENTIAL

Session Briefing Note

TAB 11
Fall 2023

Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

December 2022 Public engagement on French-language services and communications	We gathered valuable input regarding areas of success, potential improvements, and future actions to enhance access to French-language services and information across YG. The results informed the 2023-25 Strategic framework on French-language services to be released this fall. <i>What We Heard</i> report was published in June 2023.
November 2022 In partnership with HSS Opening of the <i>Centre de santé</i> Constellation Health centre.	The Centre is a pivotal milestone towards improving access to services and communications for both Francophone and non-Francophone Yukoners. The new collaborative care clinic is a recommendation of the Putting People First report.
May 2021 Policy and Guidelines on French-language services and communications – GAM 1.7	The Policy and its associated Guidelines aim at helping departments fulfil their responsibilities under the <i>Languages Act</i> and provide guidance for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• offering, delivering and promoting services in French; and• informing and communicating with the public in French.

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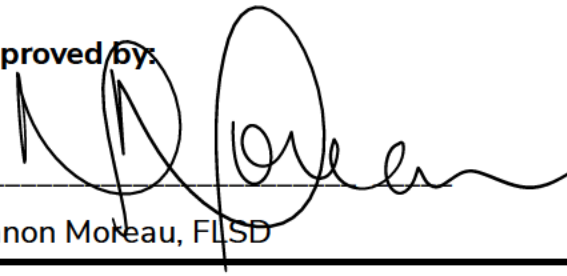
Session Briefing Note

**TAB 11
Fall 2023**

Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

Approved by:



Manon Moreau, FLSD

2023.09.01

[Date approved]

FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

VOTE 27
FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

MINISTER

Hon. J. Streicker

DEPUTY MINISTER

M. Moreau

- Support, empower and collaborate with departments and other public bodies to provide services and information to the public in French.

SUMMARY (\$000s)	2023-24 VOTED TO DATE	SUPPLE- MENTARY NO. 1	2023-24 REVISED VOTE
Supplementary Amounts to be Appropriated			
Operation and Maintenance (Vote 27-1)	6,805	548	7,353
Capital (Vote 27-2)	0	0	0
Total Appropriations	6,805	548	7,353

FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

DETAILS (\$000s)	2023-24 VOTED TO DATE	SUPPLE- MENTARY NO. 1	2023-24 REVISED VOTE
<u>Supplementary Amounts to be Appropriated</u>			
Operation and Maintenance (Vote 27-1)			
French Language Services	6,805	548	7,353
Total Operation and Maintenance (Vote 27-1)	6,805	548	7,353
Total Appropriations	6,805	548	7,353

FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

BRIEFING FALL SESSION 2023

SUPPLEMENTARY #1 - 2023-24

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Personnel **\$548,000**

	2023-24 Main Estimates	2023-24 Supp #1	2023-24 Revised
FLSD staff (25 FTE)	\$2,462	\$548	\$3,010
Other Departments (18.2 FTE)	\$2,386	\$0	\$2,386
	\$4,848	\$548	\$5,396

- FLSD reorganization started June 1, 2021 was completed in 2023.
Retro-pay for the two-year period was incurred in 2023-24 fiscal year as well as increase in current salaries due to reclassification of positions.
- Salaries for FLSD also increased due to ratification of the Collective Agreement.
- No additional FTEs.



French Language Services Directorate 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #1

BUDGET SUMMARY

(000s)	2023-24 Mains	2023-24 Supp #1	2023-24 Revised	Change (%)
Operations and Maintenance	\$6,805	\$548	\$7,353	8.1%
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total	\$6,805	\$548	\$7,353	

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

By Program

(000s)	2023-24 Mains	2023-24 Supp #1	2023-24 Revised	Change (%)
French Language Services	\$6,805	\$548	\$7,353	8.1%
Total	\$6,805	\$548	\$7,353	

By Allotment

2023-24 Revised Vote (000s)	Personnel	Other	Transfers	Total
French Language Services	\$5,396	\$1,339	\$618	\$7,353
Total	\$5,396	\$1,339	\$618	\$7,353
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)	43.2	-	-	-

Highlights and Main Drivers of Changes

- Personnel increases
 - Personnel budget has been updated to account for current salaries.
 - Overall, salaries have increased due to ratification of the collective agreement and completion of the FLSD reorganization in 2023.
 - No additional FTEs.

Revenue and Recoveries

(000s)	2023-24 Mains	2023-24 Supp #1	2023-24 Revised	Change (%)
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	
O&M Recoveries	\$5,750	\$0	\$5,750	0%
Capital Recoveries	\$0	\$0	\$0	

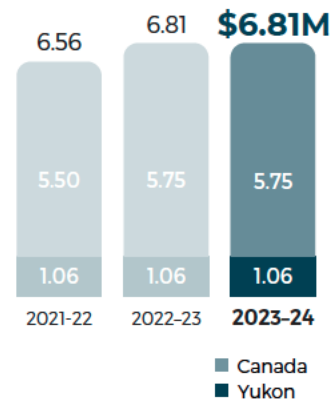
Increasing access to services in French

French-language service model



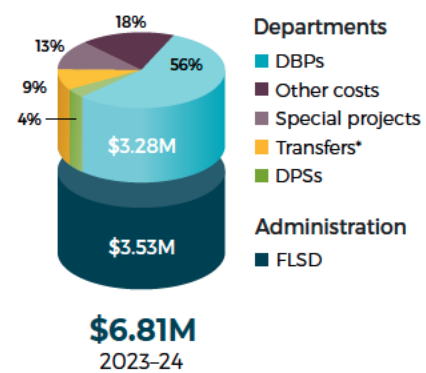
Funding

for French-language services



Allocation

of funding



* Yukon Hospital Corporation

DBP

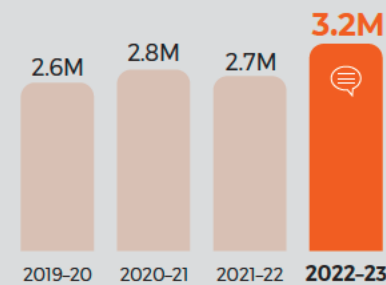
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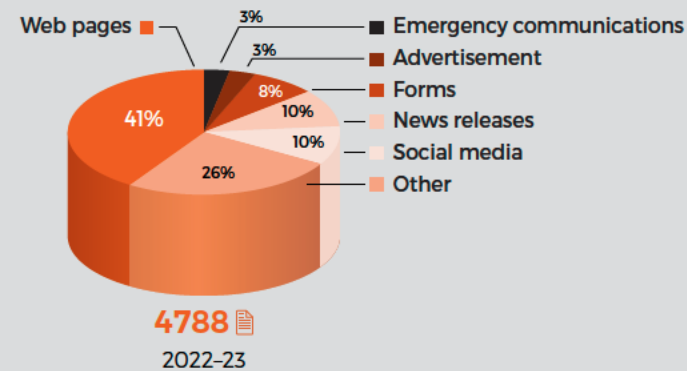
DPS

Mental wellness and substance use
Whitehorse Liquor Store

Translation (words)



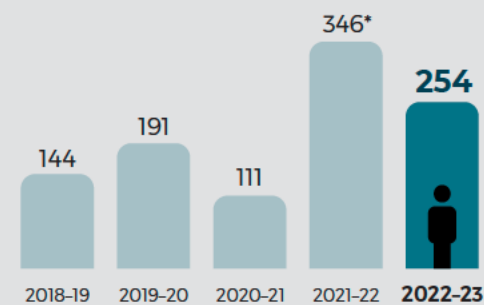
Document types



Special projects

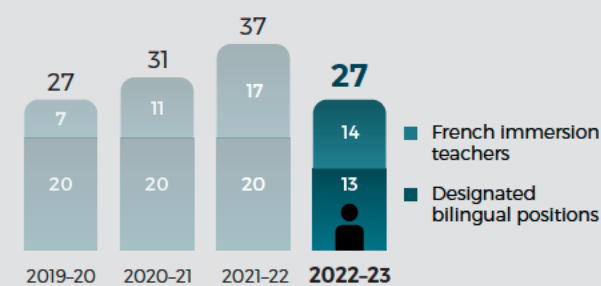
Increasing access to bilingual e-Services
Motor Vehicles pilot project
Bilingual health promotion project
Seniors information and support
Bilingual Tombstone Interpretive Centre project

Learners taking French courses



*Result of the increased offer of online content

Proficiency assessments for French



DBP
(DESIGNATED BILINGUAL POSITIONS)

Essential for delivering in-depth services (e.g., counselling, planning and advising services)

DPS
(DESIGNATED BILINGUAL POINTS OF SERVICE)

A team that provides consistent services in French (e.g., public-facing units and transactional services)

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Tailored to support the operational requirements of departments and strengthen their bilingual capacity

TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION

Makes it possible for all employees to support and communicate with the public in French

TRAINING AND LINGUISTIC SUPPORT

A broad range of training to empower employees better serve the public in French

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.

ENV #21 / EMR #36

Fall 2023

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.](#)

ENV #21 / EMR #36

Fall 2023

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

ENV #21 / EMR #36

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

Session Briefing Note

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.](#)

Session Briefing Note

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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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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(Corporate Note)

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

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Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Yukon Housing Corporation:

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

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

Other highlights from the plan

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

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Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

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

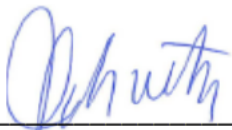
Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

- 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]