

# **Community Services**

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### **Spring 2023 Sitting**

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## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Climate Change Resilience and the National Building Code of Canada**

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Community Services

#### **Recommended response:**

- In 2019, the Government of Canada announced it will spend an additional \$40 million over five years to integrate climate resilience into building codes and design-guides.
- This government committed to review and update building codes as part of *Our Clean Future*, Yukon's Climate Action and Green Economy Plan.
- As with all changes to the National Building Code, we will review and consider how to incorporate the changes within the context of our northern climate and our goals under the Climate Change, Energy and Green Economy Strategy.
- Taking action to improve the standard of construction for our homes and buildings will bring many benefits for Yukoners - reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the consumption of heating fuel and electricity, not to mention potential savings, comfort and safety.

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#### **Context:**

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



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

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Community Services

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**Background:**

- The 2020 National Building Code will include energy efficiency tiers, which will provide incremental increases in energy efficiency leading to all new homes being required to be net zero ready for the 2030 publication. Yukon may decide to enforce a specific tier.
- Net zero means a home produces the same amount of energy as it consumes, and a net zero ready home is one that is designed to be ultra-efficient, with the goal of being net zero at some point in the future.
- As per the *Building Standards Regulation*, Yukon automatically adopts the National Building Code when it comes into force. The proposed changes to the National Building Code will be of interest to the construction industry and the homeowners.
- In 2016, the Yukon government made amendments to the Regulation exempted the following from section 9.36 of the National Building Code:
  - Set a minimum eight inches' thickness for squared logs and ten inches' minimum diameter for round logs in exterior walls of log homes;
  - Reduce minimum insulation requirement in ceilings from R60 to R40;
  - Remove minimum insulation requirement of floors in heated crawl space; and,
  - Exempt residences 480 square feet or less from section 9.36 requirements.
- In December 2012, an 'energy efficiency' section, not in previous codes, was added to the National Building Code. This section requires new construction to have:
  - Minimum insulation requirements for, below the floor/slab or in floors, walls and ceilings;
  - Minimum U-values for all doors and windows;
  - Minimum performance ratings of all furnaces and water heaters;

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

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Community Services

- Woodstoves have to be Environment Protection Agency approved (city bylaw requires this); and,
- Building plans must pass an energy audit; to reduce the burden of this requirement, several Yukon government agencies worked together to create preapprovals of most common building methods used in Yukon.
- The National Building Code is not retroactive—existing buildings are not currently required to upgrade to new codes unless major renovation occurs. Pursuing options for existing buildings will require both incentives and enforcement.
- The City of Whitehorse sets some higher energy-efficiency requirements for new buildings than the Yukon. Nevertheless, any changes the Yukon proposes to make for existing commercial and residential buildings will affect the City of Whitehorse Lands and Building Services Department's resources and code enforcement.

**Financial Implications:**

- No associated financial implications until such time that the standards are adopted into the National Building Code. There may be some associated cost for inspector training on code requirements, and additional inspection requirements post implementation.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 26, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Building in a Flood Zone**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- We saw firsthand the costs of climate change and the impacts of the 2021 flood event in the Southern Lakes and Lake Laberge area. I want to thank the residents, volunteers, contractors, and dedicated emergency responders for their efforts to protect people and properties throughout the event.
- Our Emergency Measures Organization team is working on reclamation and recovery for the flood event, and ultimately to develop long term plans to better prepare our communities and residents to face the future.
- Part of this work includes a review of building code requirements for constructing within a flood prone area, review of zoning and local area planning requirements, along with specific mitigations at a property level and community infrastructure level.

**Additional response:**

- The reality is some buildings in the past were constructed without permits and within high water areas, or areas adjacent, that have never seen this level of flooding.
- Ongoing mitigation plans will need to include options such as constructing berms, installing sump pumps, and elevating access roads and individual properties. Engineers are evaluating options and this will be factored into recovery plans.
- Going forward, we are ensuring that 200-year flood levels are determined before we consider developing in new areas on or close to flood plains and we aim to design new subdivisions above the 200-

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Building in a Flood Zone**Community Services

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year level or at least have acceptable conditions where this is not possible.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue given the unprecedented flood event in the Southern Lakes in the summer of 2021.
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**Background:**

- There are many recreational and residential buildings that were historically permitted to be constructed in an area that is encroaching on or close to the ordinary high water mark.
- Local area plans identify flood prone areas and generally, the public are advised not to build within 30 metres of the ordinary high water mark. Despite this, the 2021 levels have never been seen before and assessments are underway to determine appropriate community level measure to reduce loss from future flood events beyond the 200-year flood level experienced this year.
- Officials are reviewing the Canadian Standards Association recent publications on flood resilient design of new residential communities and other best practices. These standards will aide in the consideration of new policies regarding development and community based planning for flood prone areas.
- The National Building Code of Canada does not specifically address building in a flood zone. However, it does provide guidance related to building sites and construction techniques to reduce surface and groundwater damage to prevent or accommodate the accumulation of surface water against the building or adjacent buildings.

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**Spring 2023**

**Building in a Flood Zone**

Community Services

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Approved by:



January 26, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

### Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and Resources

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#### Recommended response:

- We worked with planned and zoned communities to develop a draft framework on best practices for mining activities in Yukon communities.
- Public engagement and Yukon First Nations consultation concluded in November 2022.
- We are currently working on developing the final framework based on feedback from the consultation.

#### Additional response:

- We continue to work with municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and affected communities to resolve conflict and to uphold the goals and values of both mineral proponents and communities.

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#### Context — this may be an issue because:

- Communities have expressed concern over the conflicts inherent in mineral development within community boundaries.

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#### Background:

- Mining activities within community boundaries are subject to mining laws, official community plans, local area plans and zoning regulations.
- Areas without planning or zoning may require solutions to address land use conflicts. The successor resource legislation work to develop new lands legislation can address some of those issues. (See BN #8)

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**Spring 2023**

### Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and Resources

- Although there are pre-existing placer claims within some municipalities, the *Placer Mining Act* does not allow new placer claims within any of the Yukon's eight incorporated municipalities, including Dawson and Whitehorse.
- In summer 2022, the Government of Yukon extended a prohibition order for the City of Whitehorse until July 2027, restricting quartz mineral staking within most areas and a quartz claim staking prohibition order is in place for the City of Dawson until December 2023. (See BN #1)
- Several unincorporated communities have requested prohibitions in areas zoned for non-industrial use under their local area plans.
- Dawson has a number of active mining operations that may conflict with community development interests. The municipality is making best efforts to enable these operations, and the Government of Yukon is providing support as required.

**Approved by:**

a/DM

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 26, 2023

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:** The Comprehensive Municipal Grant provides core funding support to municipalities. The grant is calculated through a formula that captures a number of key factors including inflationary pressures.

- The grant formula was last reviewed and updated by Yukon government and municipalities in 2017/18. Grant funding to municipalities has continued to increase annually under the current formula.
- For 2022, the Comprehensive Municipal Grant totaled more than \$21 million for municipal governments, and in 2023 we project that the grant will total more than \$22 million. Based on the current formula, we anticipate funding levels will continue to increase.
- The Association of Yukon Communities has requested a comprehensive review of the grant to ensure the core purpose of the formula is still being met. Community Services is continuing to work in partnership with the Association on this process.

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**Context:**

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

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**Background:**

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant was last reviewed in 2017-18 and resulted in changes to factors within the grant formula including the establishment of a funding floor at the 2017 funding levels from 2017-2022. These changes led to increased grant payments to municipalities for the 2018 to 2022 grant years and it is expected that the grant will continue to increase in 2023 and beyond.



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**Spring 2023**

### **Comprehensive Municipal Grant**

Community Services

- The Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) requested a comprehensive review of the grant, in lieu of reviewing specific factors within the current formula, to ensure the core purpose of the formula is still being met. While they have requested this review, AYC has not identified any specific concerns about the current formula at this point.
- Community Affairs Branch formed a joint working group with the AYC to examine the efficacy of the current Comprehensive Municipal Grant formula and to prepare a report to the Association and the Yukon government. This work is ongoing.

#### **Financial Implications:**

- Municipalities will receive more than \$22 million for the 2023 Comprehensive Municipal Grant year.

**Approved by:**



January 26, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- We are working closely with the Association of Yukon Communities on many mutual priorities, including the resolutions they passed in May 2022.
- Last fall, together with the Association of Yukon Communities, we launched a public engagement process on terms of office for elected officials in municipalities and Local Advisory Councils.
- This engagement identified majority support to increase terms from 3 years to 4 years. We are happy to be supporting municipalities with this recommendation and are bringing forward changes to the *Municipal Act* to allow extended terms of office.

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**Context:**

- Association of Yukon Communities resolutions help to prioritize issues of importance to municipalities.

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**Background:**

- Three resolutions were voted on and passed unanimously at the 47th annual general meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) on May 14, 2022.
- The AYC called on the Government of Yukon to:
  - Mandate that Yukon Energy Corporation change their rate policy to charge municipalities an actual utility rate and to discontinue demand charges;
  - Increase the term of office for municipal councils in organized communities to 4 years prior to the next general election for municipalities in October 2024;

# Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2023**

## AYC Resolutions and Status

Community Services

- Work with the AYC on an engagement process with Yukon citizens to seek their input on this change; and,
- Consult with municipalities on an appropriate financial relief program to offset increased costs and lost revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (See Note CA-04).
- EMR Minister Streicker responded to AYC on June 20 2022 noting that the Yukon rate design model has 3 groups: residential, general service and industrial. Municipalities are classified as general service. General service rates are consistently applied to all commercial buildings and charged demand energy charges and applicable rate riders at the time, based on the amount of electricity required by the building. He also provided options such as energy incentive programs, disconnect seasonal buildings, and to contact the power provider to discuss options.
- The Municipal Act changes are expected to be brought forward to the Spring 2023 sitting of the legislature.
- We continue to remain open to discussing COVID-19 financial relief with AYC (see note CA-04) although no substantial new information has been provided by municipalities recently.

### Financial Implications:

- The Association of Yukon Communities is requesting funding from the Government of Yukon to offset increased costs and lost revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Approved by:



January 26, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****COVID-19 Relief Funding**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's municipalities received \$4.35 million in COVID re-start funding in 2021. Half of that funding was provided by the federal government and half by the Yukon government. This funding also included \$500,000 to support transit shortfalls for Whitehorse.
- The re-start funding was intended to address revenue shortfalls, manage operational changes and challenges, and to improve their technology during the pandemic.
- An additional \$754,000 went to Whitehorse in 2022 to support transit shortfalls – half was provided by Yukon government and half by the federal government.
- We are investing in Yukon municipalities in many ways, from assistance for infrastructure projects, land development, disaster relief, grants and municipal financial transfers. The range and value of investments is substantial and helps municipalities to manage many pressures that they face in the delivery of services to citizens.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because municipalities and the Association of Yukon Communities have asked for additional COVID-19 relief funding support.
- The MLA from Watson Lake also brought forward a motion on the matter that was debated in the legislature on October 12, 2022.

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**Background:**

- The COVID-19 pandemic put additional financial and other pressures on Yukon's municipalities.

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

### **COVID-19 Relief Funding**

Community Services

- Municipalities received a total of \$4.35 million in COVID-19 relief funding in 2021 as part of a federal re-start program. Yukon government provided \$2.175 million of the total funding and the federal government provided \$2.175 million. The funding was allocated using the Comprehensive Municipal Grant (CMG) allocations as a guide and the funding provided was very flexible to meet individual circumstances. The funding by municipality was:
  - Carmacks - \$264,289
  - Dawson - \$468,377
  - Faro - \$333,673
  - Haines Junction - \$344,890
  - Mayo - \$295,929
  - Teslin \$263,259
  - Watson Lake - \$411,223
  - Whitehorse (general) \$1,468,361 + Whitehorse (Transit) \$500,000 = \$1,968,361
- Individual municipalities (Watson Lake and Whitehorse) and the Association of Yukon Communities AYC have continued to advocate for additional funding support via correspondence and through a resolution at the May 2022 AYC annual general meeting:
  - *"WHEREAS Yukon municipalities have been impacted by unanticipated additional operating expenses in order to enforce and support the public health restrictions imposed by the Government of Yukon in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and WHEREAS Yukon municipalities have also experienced significant revenue loss as a result of the public health restrictions, and WHEREAS Yukon municipalities are not eligible for existing financial relief programs; BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Yukon Communities call upon the Government of Yukon to consult with municipalities on an appropriate financial relief program to offset increased costs and lost revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic."*
- The most recent correspondence from the AYC on July 4, 2022, outlined over \$6.4 million in additional revenue shortfall / losses / costs that municipalities have identified. These costs were not presented in the overall context of each municipality's net financial situation – i.e. they were not balanced with any potential cost savings in other areas.
- A motion was brought forward on the matter in the legislature on October 12, 2022, Motion No. 437, Ms. McLeod, Member for Watson Lake – "THAT this

# Session Briefing Note

## COVID-19 Relief Funding

**TAB CA-04**  
**Spring 2023**  
Community Services

House urges the Government of Yukon to provide funding to Yukon municipalities to help them address the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which included loss of municipal revenue and increased operational expenses.”

- Some municipalities have expressed that it is time-consuming and challenging for them to provide significantly more detail on their shortfalls than they already have provided.
- Community Affairs continues to work with the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) on the matter but no additional information has been provided recently by AYC or municipalities on their shortfalls.

### Financial Implications:

- No new funding is identified currently for this fiscal year as no federal or territorial funding mechanisms are currently available save for the transit stream that was accessed for the \$754,000 for Whitehorse in 2022.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 26, 2023

Date approved

## **Session Briefing Note**

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

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Community Services

#### **Recommended response:**

- We are working toward a modern vision for solid waste management in Yukon that addresses many longstanding challenges in the sector, while ensuring sustainable access to waste disposal services for all Yukoners.
- The department is modernizing facilities across the territory to reduce operational and environmental risks. We are investing in regional agreements with our municipal partners and investing in the facilities themselves.
- There are certain transfer stations where the necessary upgrades and operating costs to meet these new standards are prohibitive. Where the investments discussed earlier are not reasonable, given the remote locations and small user numbers, we are closing the transfer station and adapting to a more sustainable solution.
- We are committed to working with residents at these locations to design reasonable solutions and to ensure a positive transition to the new service levels.

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#### **Context:**

- This may become an issue because transfer stations are closing in rural Yukon including Braeburn, Johnson's Crossing, Keno and Silver City, and there is some opposition.

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#### **Background:**

- A Ministerial Committee made recommendations for actions related to solid waste management in Yukon in April 2018. The Committee was co-chaired by the

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

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## Community Services

Association of Yukon communities and the Government of Yukon. Membership included Municipal representatives and Government of Yukon staff. They produced a report on their recommendations that was provided to the Minister of Community Services at that time.

- The recommendations involving regionalization of landfills, a user-pay model that involves standardized tipping fees, and transfer station facility closures are being implemented in three phases.
  - Phase 1 user pay model (tipping fees) at Marsh Lake, Tagish, Carcross, Mt Lorne and Deep Creek in the Whitehorse periphery;
  - Phase 2 includes introducing gates, staff and tipping fees at YG sites and all municipal sites outside Whitehorse and the closure of Braeburn, Johnson's Crossing, Keno and Silver City.
  - Phase 3 includes implementing gates, staff and tipping fees at Beaver Creek and Old Crow.
- Phase 2 is ongoing as we work through challenges in land tenure and landfill liabilities, however, progress continues with Association of Yukon Communities' help. The Departments of Finance (to book shared Liabilities), Energy, Mines and Resources (to develop Landfill Leases), and Justice (developing/reviewing agreements) are involved in their respective roles.
- It is anticipated that Lease Agreements and associated Liability Agreements will be completed in the fall or winter of 2023. Ten-year Waste Management Plans have been completed by most municipalities with YG's assistance, and these have been submitted to YESAB offices for approval. This is a key milestone to allow municipal (ie: Regional) waste permits to be renewed and leases to be drafted.
- Given the extended timeline, Interim Regional Agreements are currently being negotiated – with good progress – to provide funding for municipalities to move forward with planning and physical improvements.



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

Community Services

- Next steps include stakeholder engagements by EMR on the leases, potential surveys of lots for lease and drafting of liability agreements.
- Waste generation rates in Canada, and Yukon, are among the highest in the world. Waste generation rates have climbed to roughly 900kg/year for every person in the Yukon.
- Illegal dumping has not increased as result of tipping fees introduced in the Southern Lakes / Deep Creek. Fines for illegal dumping were increased to improve enforcement mechanisms if needed.
- Methane from landfills is a potent greenhouse gas that can be reduced by separating and composting organics. For example, according to its latest emissions inventory, the City of Whitehorse landfill emissions are estimated to be greater than all of the City's corporate fossil fuel emissions combined. This highlights the need to sort waste, separate organics and make composting easier. This is one of the next steps and focus for the solid waste committee, along with Extended Producer Responsibility.
- In the fall 2021 session, MLA Istchenko brought forward Motion No. 381 which urged the Yukon government to keep Silver City and Keno solid-waste transfer facilities open, to pause plans to close other solid-waste facilities, and to consult with affected businesses and communities before making a decision.
- Once implemented, all waste disposal facilities will have gates, operating hours, tipping fees, and on-site staff to monitor and manage waste streams. These will reduce environmental risk and help to extend the life of landfills, and costs associated with liabilities.

Approved by:



January 26, 2022

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2023**

### **Recycling in the Yukon and Extended Producer Responsibility**

Environment

#### **Quick Facts**

- Public and industry engagement on Extended Producer Responsibility took place from November 1, 2022 to February 17, 2023.
- The engagement included:
  - 4 public meetings,
  - 14 stakeholder group meetings and more than 10 one-on-one stakeholder meetings,
  - Two meetings with First Nations,
  - 313 public survey responses, and
  - Approximately 25 written submissions.
- The department is continuing to evaluate the engagement results to ensure Yukoners' voices are reflected in an Extended Producer Responsibility System.

#### **Recommended response:**

- Our existing recycling system in the Yukon is in a vulnerable position as it currently lacks the infrastructure and funding to manage the increasing volume of recycling in a sustainable manner.
- The financial and operational vulnerability of the Yukon's recycling system was highlighted once again when Raven Recycling recently announced that they would be stopping their public drop-off of non-refundable recycling, in part due to the cost of operating such a system. (See [BN #36](#))
- This is why Yukon government is working to establish an Extended Producer Responsibility program in the Yukon by 2025.

## Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2023**

### **Recycling in the Yukon and Extended Producer Responsibility**

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Environment

- Extended Producer Responsibility is proven to be a viable model to ensure the sustainability of recycling programs; and
- EPR will help address the financial vulnerability of Yukon's recycling system by shifting the costs of recycling products and packaging from governments and taxpayers to the private sector.

**Additional response:**

- We know Yukoners are dealing with the cost of living increases. We expect few costs to be passed on to Yukoners at places like the grocery store under an Extended Producer Responsibility approach.
- Most of Canada already has Extended Producer Responsibility in place, as a result, national companies already factor its cost into their prices.
- This means that the cost of many products arriving in the Yukon already includes the fees necessary to pay for an Extended Producer Responsibility system.
- A recent economic analysis of EPR estimated that Yukoners are already paying an estimated \$1.3M - \$2.9M annually for EPR services that the territory is not getting.
- If businesses decide to pass on the cost to Yukon consumers, we anticipate that the increase at the local grocery store would be measured in fractions of a cent per item.
- This new approach will consider exempting small Yukon businesses that sell only small quantities of materials like printed paper and packaging from being obligated in the program.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

### Recycling in the Yukon and Extended Producer Responsibility

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Environment

#### Third response:

- In February 2023, I met with the British Columbia Minister of Environment where I raised the possibility of exploring options for Yukon – BC harmonization on EPR systems.
- Collaborating with BC is of particular interest to the Yukon as we are currently developing an EPR system that will partially align with British Columbia's approach.
- We are also working with provinces and territories through the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment to discuss with business leaders how best to support the implementation of EPR in northern and remote communities.
- *Our Clean Future* includes a commitment to implement Extended Producer Responsibility in the Yukon by 2025.
- The primary goals for bringing this program to the Yukon are to:
  - reduce the costs of waste management for the territorial government, municipalities and taxpayers;
  - provide financial stability for recycling;
  - increase the amount of waste kept out of landfills; and
  - help us reach the *Our Clean Future* waste diversion target of 40 per cent by 2030.
- To ensure Yukon businesses and recycling stakeholders have the certainty they need to participate in an Extended Producer Responsibility system, we will continue the dialogue with them throughout the year while the new framework and regulations are being developed.

## Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2023**

### **Recycling in the Yukon and Extended Producer Responsibility**

Environment

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Yukon public may raise concerns regarding an increase in the cost of living because of the new proposed Extended Producer Responsibility framework.
- On April 11, Yukon government released a consultant's report that estimates the amount of packaging waste generated in the territory annually by the industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sectors. The study was reported on by the CBC.

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**Background:**

- In 2014, the *Environment Act* was amended to enable the creation of regulations for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the Yukon.
- From January to May 2022, the Department of Environment worked with the EPR Advisory Committee to collect preliminary input on EPR. The feedback shaped the regulatory proposal presented to the public. Public engagement on Extended Producer Responsibility was held from November 1, 2022, to February 17, 2023.
- In Fall 2022, the market price of corrugated cardboard fell to near zero from about \$130 per tonne, impacting the financial sustainability of recycling processors.
- In 2022, the Yukon government spent approximately one million dollars to support the recycling of non-refundable packaging through diversion credits. The cost is expected to increase in 2023.
- In February 2023, Raven Recycling announced that they would be closing their public non-refundable recycling drop-off at the end of 2023.
- In April 2023, Yukon government released a report which identified that nearly 75% of the nearly 8,000 tonnes of packaging waste produced by ICI users ends up in the territory's landfills. The Department of Environment commissioned this report to better understand how waste from non-residential sources is managed. This data will support decisions on the details of the EPR regulation.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister of Environment

2023-04-19

Date approved

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Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Environment

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Date prepared: January 30, 2023  
Last Updated: April 19, 2023  
Page 4 of 4

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Old Crow Water Delivery**Community Services

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**Recommended response**

- Community Services is working with the Vuntut Gwitchin government to find local, sustainable water and wastewater services in the community of Old Crow.
- The department organized training in Old Crow from January 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 through Yukon University's Water and Wastewater Operators Program, aimed to recruit interested people by offering hands on training opportunities in this field.
- Through this, local individuals were successful in completing the Bulk Water Delivery Operators certification course. Two of these trained individuals were hired by VGG to bolster capacity to provide the service in the community.

**Additional Response**

- Additional training is coming up to further expand capacity. Training on Bulk Water Delivery is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and on Small Water Systems May 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. An air brakes course is also being scheduled so additional community members are able to operate the water and sewer trucks.

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**Context:**

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

- All jurisdictions in Canada adopted the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality as the basis for establishing drinking water quality requirements. All public water supply and distribution systems in Yukon meet or exceed these guidelines.
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**Session Briefing Note****Old Crow Water Delivery****Community Services**

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- One of the 10 water treatment plants operated by Community Services is located in Old Crow. Our Community Operations branch provides Water delivery service via contract in Old Crow, Ross River, Carcross and Keno.
- A 1985 Order in Council established water delivery rates of \$8.88 per month for up to 1,000 L tanks, or \$16.65 per month for tanks up to 2700 L. Extra deliveries were set at \$5.00 each. This OIC is still in effect.
- An agreement between Canada, the Yukon government and Vuntut Gwitchin government (VGG) over 30 years ago outlined how these services would be delivered in Old Crow.
- The agreement stipulates that VGG trucks would be operated by Yukon government staff and the cost would be split 80-20 between VGG and the Yukon government respectively. Canada then reimburses VGG for their cost.
- Water delivery and sewer removal is provided to the residents of Old Crow three times per week. Most water tanks in homes are very small, ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 litres (250-500 gallons).
- Over the past five years, Highways and Public Work has had difficulty finding and retaining new staff for this service. This is a common problem across Canada, yet more acute in Old Crow due to accommodation and community remoteness issues. The past two years have been exceptionally challenging due to COVID and staff health issues.
- Community Services oversees the operation of the water and sewer trucks, the water treatment plant and sewage lagoon. Highways and Public Works staff maintain and repair the water and sewer trucks.
- A public tender was issued for this work in late December 2022. This demonstrated no local interest and a single bid by an outside company was significantly more than the budget and out of the range of what is reasonable for this service.
- The department has an interim solution in place with VGG and is working with VGG to find solutions. As well, the department continues to work with Yukon

# Session Briefing Note

## Old Crow Water Delivery

**TAB CO-03**  
**Spring 2023**  
Community Services

University to increase the labour force by providing training and jobs in Yukon communities.

Approved by:



March 2, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Diversion Credits**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- Diversion Credits are per-tonne rates paid to Raven Recycling and P&M to divert non-refundable recycling such as cardboard, paper, plastic and tin from municipal landfills. In 2021, we provided nearly \$1 million in Diversion Credits.
- Diversion Credits are a temporary measure until we achieve a more permanent system to incentivize producers to make products less harmful to the environment. Extended Producer Responsibility is the preferred system being implemented across Canada where producers and large retailers bear the cost of recycling non-refundables like cardboard and plastics.
- Over the next few years, guided by the path set out in Our Clean Future, we will be implementing Extended Producer Responsibility so that producers are responsible for the full lifecycle of the products they sell.

**Additional response:**

- Recycling is often seen as the best option to protect our environment. However, we encourage Yukoners to consider reducing, reusing and rethinking whenever possible.
- The City of Whitehorse provides \$150,000 in diversion credits to Raven Recycling and P&M each year. Dawson and Watson Lake contribute about \$200,000 and \$180,000 respectively each year. Most other municipalities contribute to local recycling through staff time or direct contributions or both.

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**Context:**

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Diversion Credits**Community Services

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- This may be an issue because Raven Recycling has asked for significant increases to funding of non-refundable recycling, whether through Diversion Credits or other means.

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**Background:**

- Some of Yukon's recycling is refundable through legislated fees:
  - The Beverage Container Regulation (BCR) sets the surcharges collected on ready to drink beverages at the time of purchase, and the amount that is returned (refunded) when an item is taken to a licensed recycling depot in the Yukon. The difference between surcharge and refund is deposited into the Recycling Fund.
  - The Designated Materials Regulation (DMR) sets the amount of surcharge collected on tires and electronic waste at time of purchase, where the full amount is deposited into the Recycling Fund in order to help pay for the item to be sent for recycling. The Recycling Fund is administered by Community Services and is used for recycling and waste diversion activities.
- Additionally, there are non-refundable recycling in the Yukon for items such as cardboard, paper, tin and plastic. Diversion credits support these being managed responsibly and shipped to recycling centers rather than put in the landfill.
- In the future, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) will replace Diversion Credits for non-refundable recycling. EPR is a waste management policy that shifts the responsibility for end-of-life management of product and packaging waste from municipalities, government, and taxpayers to the producers and consumers. EPR has been in place for many consumer items in all provinces since 2015.

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

### **Diversion Credits**

Community Services

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**Financial Implications:**

- Community Services spends approximately \$1.75 million every year to support recycling, approximately \$1 million of this for Diversion Credits. This is over and above BCR and DMR revenues.

**Approved by:**



January 26, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

## CS #CO-05 / ENV #36

### Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

#### Closure of Raven's Free Recycling Drop off

Community Services  
Environment

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#### Recommended response:

- The board of Raven Recycling has made the considered decision to close their free public drop-off at the end of this year.
- This is not just about funding. The board wants to shift the responsibility for collection services toward the municipality in anticipation of an Extended Producer Responsibility program and a growing population, which is outpacing the capacity of Raven Recycling.
- We are committed to helping find a sustainable recycling service for Whitehorse residents.
- A Recycling Committee was established in March 2023 with a mandate to identify options to maintain and improve landfill diversion levels through household recycling. The committee includes processors and representatives from the City of Whitehorse and the Government of Yukon.
- We have already identified a series of options and the conversations are collaborative and productive.
- I thank the Raven board for its deep and unwavering commitment to building a circular economy in Yukon for more than 30 years. We understand the board made a tough choice in support of an overall goal of increasing diversion from the landfill.

#### Additional response:

- Yukon government is working to establish an Extended Producer Responsibility program in the Yukon by 2025.

**CS #CO-05 / ENV #36****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Closure of Raven's Free Recycling Drop off**Community Services  
Environment

- 
- Extended Producer Responsibility will be part of a plan for long-term sustainability in waste diversion. The program will help address the financial vulnerability of Yukon's recycling system by shifting the costs of recycling some products and packaging from governments and taxpayers to product producers.
  - In the interim, Yukon government continues to support recycling through Diversion Credits which help offset the costs of our recycling processors to divert non-refundables such as cardboard, mixed paper and mixed plastics from the landfill.
    - Diversion credits have doubled in recent months due to rising costs of processing and shipping, low or negative commodity pricing, in addition to a change to Raven's business model.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Raven Recycling will be closing their public non-refundable recycling drop-off area by the end of 2023.

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**Background:**

- Recycling is hauled in from communities to Raven Recycling by Government of Yukon contractors.
- Once materials arrive at the Whitehorse processing facilities the Government of Yukon financially supports the processing and shipping of commercial, residential and community recycling through the Diversion Credit program.
- Raven Recycling's public drop off is primarily used by a variety of small businesses, country residential residents, and residents who are not currently using the fee-for-service Blue Bin collection. Although only 20-25% of non-refundable recycling comes from Raven Recycling's free public drop off, it is the most visible and most accessible avenue for recycling in Whitehorse.

**CS #CO-05 / ENV #36****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Closure of Raven's Free Recycling Drop off**Community Services  
Environment

- Yukon government provides significant financial support to Raven Recycling and other recycling processors for their non-refundable recycling services.
- Diversion credits are paid by the Government of Yukon (about \$900,000/year in 2022) and the City of Whitehorse (\$150,000/year) to two processors to divert non-refundable recyclable materials from the landfill.
- Diversion credits paid by the Government of Yukon increased from approximately \$350 per tonne in 2022 to \$588 per tonne for 2023. The Department of Community Services has a six-month TPA with Raven and P&M for processing while it reviews budget and costs.
- The costs to recycle non-refundables has increased significantly in recent years due to increased labour and trucking costs, and lower prices for recycled commodity materials. Some commodity prices have become negative, requiring processors to pay \$125/tonne or more to ship materials out of territory for recycling.
- Community Services and the City of Whitehorse have formed a Recycling Committee to identify options to maintain or improve landfill diversion levels through household recycling. Members include Community Services, Environment as well as City of Whitehorse, Raven Recycling, P&M and Blue Bin as needed. The group had its first meeting mid-March and it will continue to meet bi-weekly.

**Financial Implications:**

- The closure of free public drop off will mean a small reduction in recycling volume, however the significant increase in diversion credits means there will not be cost savings for the Department of Community Services.

**CS #CO-05 / ENV #36**

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Closure of Raven's Free  
Recycling Drop off**

Community Services  
Environment

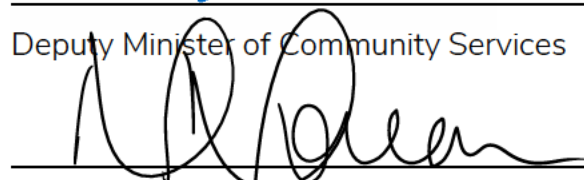
Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Community Services

April 24, 2023

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Environment

2023.04.24

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- We continue to work with societies to make it as simple and easy as possible to make the transition to the new legislation, by the deadline of March 31, 2023.
- We appreciate the feedback from societies, and are responding to provide supports wherever possible. For example, a comprehensive set of improved tools and step-by-step guidance is available online, including a set of sample bylaws. In addition, we have a Societies Advisor in place to guide societies through their transition and answer questions about how they can stay compliant under the new Act.
- Under the new Societies Act and regulations, the role of the Registrar of Societies is to enable the creation of local societies and maintain a public registry of societies, including their status of compliance with ongoing reporting requirements.
- The Yukon Corporate Online Registry was enhanced to allow for online incorporation of new societies and online filings for transitioned societies under the new legislation.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because all societies have to transition to the new legislation on or before March 31, 2023, and may still be in the process of making changes to comply with the requirements of new legislation.



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

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**Background:**

- The new *Societies Act* was proclaimed and came into force on April 1, 2021. New *Societies Regulations* also came into force on the same date. Under the new Act, societies have until March 31, 2023, to transition to the new legislation.
- Since the 1980s, when the prior legislation was last significantly updated, societies evolved from mainly small organizations primarily providing services to the community to the point where many significant service providers are often the recipients of substantial income from government funding.
- The prior legislation was created when there were far fewer societies than currently (over 600), and their structures and scope of activity tended to be less complex.
- The new Act empowers societies by providing them with more flexibility regarding incorporation and operation in accordance with clear rules. The Act also helps to reduce red tape by reducing reporting requirements and allowing societies to submit reports online through the Yukon Corporate Online Registry system.
- Canada's provinces and territories are shifting from a regulatory interventionist model to a simpler registry model for societies. The trend is to leave structural, governance and operational matters in the hands of societies (with directors accountable to members and other parties).
- Disputes, including governance disputes, which cannot be otherwise settled, will now be managed by application to court.
- To assist with the transition process and ensure societies remain compliant post-transition, Community Services has undertaken the following:
  - Hired a new Senior Societies Advisor position to help guide societies through the process of transition;
  - Updated the societies transition website and provided a streamlined application process;

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Transition to New *Societies Act***

Community Services

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- Held public webinars and in-person meetings on the new legislation, transition and new processes on October 27, 2020, August 9, 2021, August 10, 2021, September 8, 2021, and December 8, 2021; and,
- Ongoing virtual and in-person meetings by the Senior Societies Advisor are being held to address the questions and concerns of stakeholders.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 26, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Red Tape Reduction**Economic Development &  
Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- We continue to focus on improvements that make services easier to access. We know this is key to ensuring that the Yukon remains a competitive place to work and do business.
- Departments are working to reduce red tape and manage regulatory processes for Yukon businesses and individuals.
- We know that efficient and fair procurement processes are important to Yukon businesses, so we are also putting resources, policies and processes in place to improve government procurement.
- We are in direct contact with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business to discuss the current regulatory climate in the Yukon, ongoing efforts to improve the ease of doing business, and how the Federation can reflect the unique realities of the North in its assessment criteria when assigning grades for red tape.
- Some specific examples of improvements include:
  - Amalgamated the Enterprise Trade Fund, Regional Economic Development Fund and Strategic Industries Development Fund to launch the new Economic Development Fund on March 9, 2021. This reduced red tape for clients by implementing a standardized application process;
  - Modernized the funding supports for the film industry;
  - Modernized the funding supports for Yukon's performing musicians;
  - Yukoners can now pay their property taxes online;

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Red Tape Reduction**Economic Development &  
Community Services

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- Societies can incorporate and file disclosure reports online once they are transitioned; and
  - In November 2022, we launched the first phase of a new online licensing system. Once fully implemented in July 2023, it will streamline annual licensing for about 280 businesses and 3,200 individuals, in addition to health professionals licenced by Community Services.
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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Ministers of Community Services and Economic Development are mandated to “identify and work to remove regulatory and service impediments to competitiveness”. Questions may arise about the progress made on this initiative.
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**Background:**

- At a meeting on Thursday January 12, 2023 the CFIB outlined a request that the Yukon government create a red tape feedback mechanism modelled on what the GNWT has in place.
  - In January 2021, Economic Development met with CFIB to discuss how the Yukon’s unique situation as a Northern jurisdiction can be reflected better under the CFIB grading criteria. The government will continue working with CFIB to highlight the ongoing government efforts to improve the ease of doing business in the territory.
  - In January 2019, CFIB released a report card giving Yukon an “F” grade, down from a “D” in 2018, for its progress on red tape reduction.
  - CFIB recognized the need to better understand the uniqueness and realities in the Yukon, and did not assign a grade for northern territories in 2020.
  - CFIB planned to work with the Government of Yukon (and other territorial governments) later in the year to discuss revised grading criteria comparable and reflective of northern realities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CFIB was unable to hold these conversations, and as a result, no grades were assigned to the territories in 2021.
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## Session Briefing Note

## Spring 2023

### Red Tape Reduction

### Economic Development & Community Services

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- CFIB will work with the territorial governments, including the Government of Yukon, towards applying the revised criteria and assigning a grade for the Yukon in 2022.
- Examples of initiatives undertaken since 2016 include:
  - Amalgamated the Enterprise Trade Fund, Regional Economic Development Fund and Strategic Industries Development Fund to launch the new Economic Development Fund on March 9, 2021. This reduced red tape for clients by implementing a standardized application process;
  - Modernized the funding supports for the film industry;
  - Modernized the funding supports for Yukon's performing musicians;
  - Coordinated with Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) for applications to the Government of Yukon's Yukon Business Relief Program and CanNor's Northern Business Relief Fund;
  - Departmental feedback for business support and immigration each have a single point of contact – limiting redundancy;
  - Yukoners can now pay their property taxes online;
  - While COVID-19 programs were active, applications were available for download and submission online;
  - While the programs were active, we merged the application forms for the Yukon Business Relief Program, Tourism Accommodation and Non-Accommodation Sector Supplements into one form to apply for financial assistance;
  - The Yukon Corporate Registry desktop application system was converted into the Yukon Corporate Online Registry (YCOR) in March of 2017 with certain basic online capabilities. In August 2019, additional online features were added to allow corporations to submit annual reports and change notices online;
  - A new Societies Act (modernized legislation governing societies in the territory) came into force April 1, 2021;
  - YCOR was further expanded to support the new Societies Act and regulations as from April 2021, allowing for online incorporation of new societies and online filing of disclosure reports for fully transitioned societies;
  - In spring of 2022, Yukon signed a trade reconciliation agreement, enabling the development of an Application Programming Interface to connect YCOR with the

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Red Tape Reduction****Economic Development &  
Community Services**

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federally developed Multi-jurisdictional Registry Access Service (MRAS) system that facilitates cross-border searches and exchange of information regarding business corporations for greater efficiencies. Yukon will onboard MRAS as soon as the YCOR technical capacity solution has been resolved on a new platform.

- Ongoing initiatives include:
  - Reviewing Department of Economic Development funding programs to ensure they continue to meet the needs of Yukon's businesses and communities.
  - Continuing to harmonize Yukon's securities regulatory framework with the rest of Canada to streamline the regulatory process for public companies seeking to raise investment capital and providing market participants with streamlined access to Canada's capital markets.
- Examples of inter-governmental initiatives include:
  - The Canadian Free Trade Agreement, which establishes a regulatory reconciliation process to help address inter-provincial and territorial trade barriers, including diverging or duplicate regulation, which impede the flow of goods. The Yukon and its provincial and territorial counterparts coordinate the reduction of red tape by working to reduce regulatory burdens.
  - Biz Pal, a free online service that helps businesses identify the permits and licenses required to operate in a chosen jurisdiction, is operational in the Yukon.

**Approved by:**\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Economic DevelopmentMarch 2, 2023

Date approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Community ServicesMarch 2, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Community Emergency  
Preparedness**

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Community Services

**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization continues to work with our emergency management partners in municipalities and First Nations by developing emergency management capacity and building emergency resilient Yukon communities.
- I appreciate the efforts of municipal governments, First Nation governments, and all of the people from across government and the territory for their dedication.
- Preparing for an emergency starts with personal preparedness. We encourage everyone to take a personal interest in preparing themselves, their families, and their homes for emergency events. Resources are available through Yukon.ca.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because flooding in 2021 and 2022 raised public interest in Yukon's emergency preparedness.

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**Background:**

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

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

Community Services

- Yukon government has prepositioned sandbags, superbags and flood mitigation products through the territory in preparation of the 2023 flood season. This planning has allowed Yukon government, in coordination with our First Nation and municipal government partners, to increase resilience to flooding within communities.
- The 2022 flood response was a coordinated effort between all levels of governments in the Yukon. Resources were shared between communities as needed, based on water levels. Sandbags and superbags were shared between communities as risks changed around the Yukon. And the sandbag machines were moved as soon as possible to assist all communities impacted by flooding.
- In alignment with Our Clean Futures strategy, EMO is working with communities to support the update of emergency coordination plans and support with carrying out Hazard Risk Assessments.
- The Critical Infrastructure Team is established to serve as Yukon government's response to possible shortages of critical infrastructure goods and services. This team works with our private industry partners to identify and mitigate risks to critical infrastructure in the Yukon.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 26, 2023

Date approved



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****2023 Flood Readiness**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- While the potential for flooding is always top of mind as we head into Spring, it is very difficult to predict what the season will bring.
- That is why we are coordinating with local and federal partners to prepare and be ready. Flood forecasts for the coming summer will become clearer with the snow bulletins released by the Water Resources Branch in March to May.
- As of now, it is too early to determine the flood risk for the territory. Spring weather and the timing and progression of snowmelt, as well the amount of rain we receive are important drivers of flooding regardless of snowpack levels.
- However the impact from high levels of groundwater remains uncertain and could range from standing water in localized areas to possibly a heightened risk of landslides.
- In the meantime, the Emergency Measures Organization is planning and coordinating with local governments and agencies, ensuring an inventory of sandbags and necessary response tools and materials, and is focused on training to bolster capacity and ensure readiness.
- Seasonal readiness briefings are being planned with various groups in April, with a briefing and roundtable scheduled for communities, First Nations and emergency response partners, plus a media briefing following release of the April 1 snow survey bulletin. We will also be communicating directly with the public to share information about how to prepare for emergencies and flooding. This will begin in March and

**Session Briefing Note**  
**2023 Flood Readiness****Spring 2023**  
Community Services

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carry through to Emergency Preparedness week, a national event taking place May 7 to 13.

- The Emergency Measures Organization continues to refine and improve its operations through action reviews of past year's responses and ongoing engagement with communities, municipalities and First Nation governments.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because the flooding in summer 2021 and 2022 raised public interest in Yukon government's flood response role.

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**Background:**

- The Emergency Measures Organization works with communities, municipalities, and First Nation governments across the Yukon on emergency preparedness. EMO has reached out to all Yukon communities to begin preparations for this response season. EMO will pre-position flood response materials in Yukon communities as needed.
- We are prepared for the flood season throughout the Yukon. We have adequate supplies to ensure communities are prepared for the onset of flood response season.
- We are entering the 2023 response season with more inventory than we had in previous years. We have a full warehouse of supplies in Whitehorse, including roughly 800 feet of Tiger Dams, 20,000 Superbags, and 500,000-700,000 sandbags (poly and burlap).
- A new common operating picture system has been created by Geomatics Yukon for use by EMO. This system includes a territorial wide critical infrastructure database. This system will be released to EMO in the end of January.
- Work 2021 flood response 2021 After Action Review (AAR) is ongoing, and AAR are underway for the 2022 flooding response along with the December 2022 power outages. EMO and Wildland Fire Management are revisiting and reviewing the Yukon Government Flood Response Coordination Plan to incorporate lessons learned from 2021 and 2022.

**Session Briefing Note**  
**2023 Flood Readiness**

**Spring 2023**

Community Services

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Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Community Services

January 26, 2023

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- With impacts outstanding to communities from 2021/22 flooding and an increased likelihood of flooding incidents in the future due to climate change, recovery efforts are a year-round priority.
- We have implemented a flood recovery response through a working group made up of 17 different Yukon government branches and the Yukon Energy Corporation. This group meets monthly to discuss and coordinate on different flood recovery related projects and tasks.
- Recovery includes providing individual funding programs, demobilization of flood response materials, long-term community infrastructure improvements, flood mapping, and community engagement.
- Significant work has been done on flood mapping efforts led by the Department of Environment's Water Resources Branch. In addition, contract work is underway on high-level flooding mitigation studies in 20 locations and communities across the territory. These studies will inform the options available to mitigate against future flooding.

**Additional response:**

- Financial assistance was provided through Yukon Housing Corporation's Flood Relief Program for affected property owner, and by Yukon government to assist municipalities. The department is tracking and coordinating with Canada for Disaster Financial Relief Program funding.

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**Context:**

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

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- Yukon experienced record setting snowpack depths across all watershed basins in 2022 creating a persistent and widespread high risk of freshet, summer lake flooding, and high ground water tables (leading to basement flooding and landslides). In response the Emergency Coordination Centre was activated on June 9<sup>th</sup> to respond to 13 different flood incidents across the territory.
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**Background:**

- Yukon government has actively worked with residents, local governments and contractors to dismantle the seasonal flood protections in Carmacks, Upper Liard, Teslin, Ross River, Carcross, Tagish and Marsh Lake.
- The Yukon Housing Corporation provided a public Flood Relief Funding Program in 2021 and 2022. Eighteen applications were received from residents in 2021 and fifteen applications were received from residents in 2022.
- A contractor has been hired to complete work in the southern lakes by the end of 2023 under the flood mapping project (led by the Water Resources Branch). Work to be completed on Teslin and Carmacks will go to tender in 2023.
- The Infrastructure Development Branch hired a consultant to support the identification of high-level long-term mitigation options for 20 communities and locations across the territory with a projected project completion of June 2023.
- Berms were constructed to combat flooding in several communities by response teams this year, and a number of berms remained from the 2021 flood response.
- Berms have been removed from Teslin, Carmacks, Carcross, Upper Liard, and Ross River from 2022 flood response efforts.
- Berms remain in Marsh Lake from the 2021 flooding, as they were left to pre-emptively protect the area from overland flooding in 2022. Berm removal in this area is challenging as all of the remaining berms are on private properties, and there is only adequate working space at low lake levels in the spring.
- EMO is coordinating a contractor to remove remaining berms in Marsh Lake in April and May.

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Flood Recovery**

Community Services

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**Financial Implications:**

- Federal recoveries are being requested under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement. Amount of potential recoveries are based on a formula.
- \$3.8 million was approved at Supplementary estimates #1 to cover expenses.

**Approved by:**



January 26, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- We are undertaking a legislative review of *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and the *Public Health and Safety Act* to identify challenges in existing legislation and options for further action.
- The review will contribute to changes that are required to have the tools necessary to respond more effectively to future epidemics and pandemics.
- The review provides an opportunity to make sure that Yukon's legislation meets our needs and ensures an efficient and effective approach to emergency management.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because in March 2022, a motion was tabled in the Legislature to introduce a review of *Civil Emergency Measures Act* (CEMA) and the commitment to review CEMA and the Public Health & Safety Act was made in the 2021 mandate letters.

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**Background:**

- This is a mandate requirement of the minister of Community Services. The review is underway, and is expected to be completed by 2025.
- The Yukon Legislative Assembly Special Committee on Civil Emergency Legislation was tasked with considering and identifying options for modernizing the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and making recommendations on possible amendments. This committee ended with the 34th Legislature and did not report findings.
- Concurrent to the state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 a state of emergency for flooding in 2021 was also declared. These events brought public

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**Spring 2023**

***Civil Emergency Measures Act***  
**Review**

Community Services

attention to the challenges to the existing *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and  
*Public Health and Safety Act*.

Approved by:



January 26, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment: Our Clean Future**

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Community Services

**Recommended response:**

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

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**Context:**

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

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**Background:**

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

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Assessment: Our Clean Future**Community Services

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- Develop a territorial disaster financial assistance (DFA) policy by 2022 to support recovery from natural disasters that result in extensive property damage or disruption to the delivery of essential goods and services (C13).
- Status of C11 (HIRAs) and C12 (EM plans):
  - Initial deadline of 2022 was not met due to unusually busy response seasons in 2021 and 2022;
  - EMO is visiting priority communities this winter (2023) to begin HIRAs and update their EM plans;
  - EMO is encouraging neighboring First Nations and municipalities to follow a joint approach to HIRAs and EM plan. A joint approach will increase improve coordination and resource-sharing between First Nations and municipalities during incidents; and,
  - Priority communities were selected based on recent past incidents, future risk, and their interest. Current priority First Nations and communities for the winter of 2023 are (depending on community interest):
    - City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation;
    - Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation;
    - Village of Teslin and Teslin Tlingit Council;
    - Village of Carmacks and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation;
    - Watson Lake and Liard First Nation;
    - Ross River Dena Council and Village of Faro; and,
    - Village of Mayo and First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- Status of C13 – Yukon disaster financial assistance policy/program:
  - A Yukon disaster financial assistance policy/program would facilitate individuals receiving funding for disaster-related costs from the Yukon government. The Yukon Government may be able to receive federal recoveries through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements;
  - Initial draft of program complete – based off of similar programs in NWT, Alberta, and Manitoba; and,
  - EMO is coordinating with the Climate Change Secretariat for a joint-Management board submission for the spring of 2023 to obtain funding for

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Hazard Identification and Risk  
Assessment: Our Clean Future**

Community Services

the program and align it with action item H11 (mitigation funding for homes and buildings before a disaster causes damage).

**Financial Implications:**

- Eligible expenses for the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement may be reimbursed to the territory under a cost-sharing formula that is based upon rates determined by the Government of Canada and prorated to the territorial population:
  - The first \$3.38 (per capita) of expenses will be borne by the territory. With an estimated population of 43,744, this equates to \$147,855;
  - The next \$6.78 (per capita) of expenses (approximately \$296,584) will be cost-shared. The Government of Canada will cover 50%;
  - The next \$6.78 (per capita) of expenses (approximately \$296,584) will be cost-shared. The Government of Canada will cover 75%;
- For the remainder of eligible expenses, the Government of Canada will cover 90%.

**Approved by:**January 26, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Mobile Home Parks and  
No Cause Evictions**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- Mobile home parks are an important housing option for many Yukoners. The *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* applies to mobile home sites where the mobile home owner rents the land that the mobile home rests on.
- The Residential Tenancy Office works to support healthy landlord - tenant relationships and strives for stability and clarity for park owners, mobile home owners and tenants. The Office is a resource for all parties as they navigate their rights and responsibilities under the law.
- As with all Canadian jurisdictions, Yukon's law specifies how mobile home tenancy agreements may end. A mobile home site landlord may end a tenancy using a 12 month notice, if they, or an immediate family member, will occupy the mobile home site. A tenancy may also end 'for cause' with a 14-day notice.

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**Context:**

- Concerns related to the risk of mobile homeownership in context of landlord and tenant relationship is often highlighted.
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**Background:**

- Under the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, a landlord (or tenant) may end a tenancy with cause. This applies to both rental units such as apartments, secondary suites, and houses as well as mobile home sites. The Residential Tenancy Office should be contacted if a mobile home owner who is also a tenant has concerns about the actions of the mobile home park owner (landlord). There
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**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Mobile Home Parks and  
No Cause Evictions**

Community Services

are protections relating to a notice was not served correctly, is served in retaliation, or where the landlord has unreasonably interfered with the sale of a mobile home, or for other prescribed reasons.

- If a mobile home park landlord wishes to end the tenancy other than with cause, a landlord may end a tenancy using a 12 month notice, if they, or an immediate family member, will occupy the mobile home site. The notice must be on the approved form, serve it in one of the prescribed ways, and give the tenant at least 12 clear months' notice (section 49 of the Act).
- If a mobile home park landlord wishes to change the use of the mobile home park to a non-residential or non-mobile home park (ex. a condo development), the landlord must use the approved form, serve it in one of the prescribed ways, and give the tenant at least 18 clear months' notice (section 50 of the Act).
- If a mobile home park landlord wishes to end a tenancy with cause, the normal rules apply. The mobile home park landlord must use the approved form, serve it in one of the prescribed ways, and give the tenant at least 14 days' notice.
- If a landlord ends a tenancy in retaliation for the tenant exercising their rights, the Residential Tenancies Office can refuse to issue an order of possession. Also, a mobile home park landlord may not unreasonably interfere with the sale of a mobile home.

**Approved by:**January 26, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Rental Rate Index**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- We heard from Yukoners about the need to work together, and we continue to do so under the new 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement. This includes evolving the rent index with the aim of achieving stable, affordable housing for all Yukoners.
- We have renewed the residential rent index, with some changes to buffer against the impact of high inflation. Rental increases are limited to 5 per cent, and should inflation fall below 2 per cent, landlords are still able to adjust rent by 2 per cent as a minimum.
- Indexing residential rent provides much needed stability for many of Yukon's renters, particularly through this difficult and unstable time.
- The rental index is one of the initiatives being taken with a focus on housing in the territory, including working with our partners across governments to increase housing options for Yukoners.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue as many are concerned about rising inflation and the cost of rental housing.

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**Background:**

- The annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Whitehorse is used to calculate allowable rent adjustments. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics calculates the CPI every year. Rents cannot be increased by more than 5% in years when the CPI for the previous calendar year was equal to or greater than 5%.
- The rent index year runs from May 15 of one year to May 14 of the next.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

## Rental Rate Index

Community Services

- The Regulation defines “Consumer Price Index” as the CPI for Whitehorse as published by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics (YBS). The CPI is the average of the change in the cost of a set of goods over the year (from January to December). For 2022, the CPI for Whitehorse was 6.8%. This means that as of May 15, 2023, landlords in the Yukon may increase their residential rents up to 5%.
- The *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* requires landlords to give three months’ written notice of an increase in rent. The notice must be received by the tenant the day before the rent is due. In most cases, the rent is due on the 1st of the month. Therefore, for a rent increase to take effect June 1, the tenant must receive the written notice of the rent increase no later than February 28.
- Below is a cursory cross-jurisdictional scan on rent control:

Jurisdiction	Rent Control
NWT	No
NU	No
AB	No
SK	No
QC	No (tenants can dispute rent increase if they feel it is unfair)
NL	No
NB	No (had for one year - Jan to Dec 2022).
NS	Yes, from February 2022 to Dec 2023 – set at 2%. Yes, for mobile home pad tenants different amount than other tenancies.
BC	Yes (capped at inflation or below - 2% for 2023)
MB	Yes (set by the government – 0% for 2023)
ON	Yes (increase tied to inflation or below – 2.5% for 2023)
PEI	Yes (increase is set by a commission – 0% for 2023)

Approved by:



February 2, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****No Cause Evictions**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- We want to thank all Yukoners who shared with us their concerns with the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*. Housing is a complex, multi-faceted issue that does not lend itself to simple solutions.
- The issue of “no cause evictions” has been highlighted by tenants and advocacy groups as of particular concern. Under the new 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement, the Yukon government now requires landlords to have a reason for ending a tenancy.
- Unless the tenant has breached the tenancy agreement or the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, a landlord may now only end a tenancy if they, or an immediate family member, intend to occupy the rental unit.

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**Context:**

- This has been an issue because there have been calls to remove no-cause evictions from Yukon’s *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*.

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**Background:**

- There are two approaches to residential tenancy legislation: the first is that housing is a human right, the second is that housing is a business. While most Canadian legislation is a hybrid, they tend to favour one position over another.
- Yukon’s *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, which was passed in 2012, was drafted with the focus of housing as a business. For example, the Act does not speak to rental controls, it requires strict deadlines for tenants to dispute evictions that are not mirrored for landlords, and has allowed landlords to end tenancies without cause.



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****No Cause Evictions**Community Services

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- The 2023 CASA requires that the sections of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* (Act) that allow a landlord to end a tenancy “without cause” are exempted from all tenancy agreements. The intent of the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act Exemption Regulation (Exemption Regulation) is to remove a landlord’s right to end a tenancy without cause unless they or their family member will occupy the rental unit.

Approved by:

February 2, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- As committed to in the Confidence and Supply Agreement, and on the recommendation of the Employment Standards Board, the minimum wage will increase each year on April 1 by the previous year's Consumer Price Index.
- Currently, the minimum wage will be increased on April 1, 2023, from \$15.70 per hour to \$16.77 per hour. This is based on the 2022 annual Consumer Price Index of 6.8%.
- A minimum wage tied to inflation, as with other social supports, aims to help to reduce poverty and increase affordability for Yukon's lowest wage earners.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because of the public commitment in the original Confidence Supply Agreement to raise the minimum wage by the Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse each year, which for 2022 is higher than previously at 6.8%.

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**Background**

- The 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement includes provisions to increase the minimum wage. The Employment Standards Board was engaged to review the matter, and it supported recommendations to increase minimum wage to \$15.20 per hour effective August 1, 2021, and to be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse on April 1 of each year.
- The minimum wage is not a living wage, as highlighted by the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition. The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition released a report called "Living Wage in Whitehorse, Yukon: 2020-2022" in July 2022. The report stated that in 2022 the living wage had decreased to \$18.28 per hour, from 2021. The decrease is

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## Minimum Wage and Living Wage Community Services

attributed to benefits such as Yukon Early Learning and the Child Care Funding Program.

- Yukon is one of many jurisdictions that use the Consumer Price Index for minimum wage increases. Other jurisdictions include: Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and British Columbia. In 2024, Nova Scotia's minimum wage will be tied to Consumer Price Index plus 1%.
- On April 1, 2023 Yukon's new minimum wage rate will exceed all others in the country. Since October 1, 2018, Alberta's minimum wage is \$15. As of June 1, 2022, British Columbia's rate is \$15.65. Currently and up until April 1, 2023 Nunavut has the highest rate of \$16, while Saskatchewan is the lowest at \$13.00.

Jurisdiction	Wage Jan 1 2023	Notes
NU	\$16.00	Effective as of April 1, 2020. The minimum wage in NU is reviewed annually on April 1.
Yukon	\$15.70	Effective as of April 1, 2022. The minimum wage is adjusted on April 1 of each year by the Consumer Price Index.
BC	\$15.65	Effective as of June 1, 2022 adjusted annually on June 1 of each year based on CPI
NWT	\$15.20	Effective as of September 1, 2021. Beginning Sept 1, 2023, the minimum wage will be adjusted annually on CPI and the average hourly wage for the preceding calendar year.
AB	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2018.
ON	\$15.50	Effective as of October 1, 2022 and adjusted annually on October 1 of each year based on CPI.
QC	\$14.25	Effective as of May 1, 2022. The minimum wage will increase to \$15.25 on May 1, 2023.
PEI	\$14.50	Effective as of Jan 1, 2023. The minimum wage will increase to \$15.00 on October 1, 2023.
NS	\$13.60	Effective as of October 1, 2022. The minimum wage will increase to \$14.30 on April 1, 2023.

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**Spring 2023**

**Minimum Wage and Living Wage** Community Services

Jurisdiction	Wage Jan 1 2023	Notes
NFLD+L	\$13.70	Effective as of October 1, 2022. The minimum wage is expected to increase to \$14.50 on April 1, 2023 and \$15 on Oct 1st. Starting on April 1, 2024, minimum wage will increase by CPI each year.
MB	\$13.50	Effective as of October 1, 2022. The minimum wage is expected to increase to \$14.15 on April 1, 2023. Minimum wage is adjusted annually on October 1 <sup>st</sup> based on CPI.
SK	\$13.00	Effective as of October 1, 2022. The minimum wage will increase to \$14.00 on October 1, 2023. Generally increased by CPI and Average Hourly Wage, but alternative adjustments can be made.
NB	\$13.75	Effective as of April 1, 2022. Adjusted annually on April 1 <sup>st</sup> based on CPI.

**Yukon's Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

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

**Approved by:**



January 26, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Permanent Paid Sick Leave**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus co-chaired a panel called Making Work Safe that considered how to implement permanent paid sick days under the *Employment Standards Act*.
- The Panel recommended more analysis in a number of areas, and the Yukon government has committed to proceed with the work to scope necessary legislative changes and engage broadly on the specific policy questions that would inform a path forward. The engagement will be open soon.
- The Temporary Paid Sick Leave Rebate has been extended to March 31, 2023. The Rebate reimburses employers who offer their employees paid sick leave to manage COVID-19 symptoms, to care for family with COVID-19 symptoms, or isolate due to a public health order.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because the Panel was a commitment under the Confidence and Supply Agreement and the temporary rebate offered by Economic Development is set to expire March 31, 2023.

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**Background:**

- The Panel completed its engagement and issued a report outlining its recommendations on January 31, 2022.
- In federal Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan's mandate letter of December 16, 2021, he was asked to "develop a national action plan to legislate sick leave across the country while respecting provincial-territorial jurisdiction and the unique needs of small business owners." On December 1, 2022, the Government

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Permanent Paid Sick Leave**Community Services

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of Canada announced that 10 days of paid sick leave is now a reality in all federally regulated private sector workplaces.

- As of January 1, 2022, British Columbia offers five paid sick days each year (in addition to three unpaid). Quebec and Prince Edward Island also offer some paid sick leave to workers. Recent bills to permanently provide 10 days of paid sick leave in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia were voted down.
- The Yukon's *Employment Standards Act* entitles employees to one day of unpaid sick leave for every month they work, up to a maximum of 12 days. The sick days are carried over from year to year.
- The Yukon government created the temporary Paid Sick Leave Rebate in March 2020 to reimburse sick leave due to COVID-19 symptoms, caring for family with COVID-19 symptoms, or isolating due to a public health order. Participation in the program was optional, not mandated by legislation. The Rebate program was slated to end September 30, 2022 but has been extended to March 31, 2023. Most other federal and provincial programs for COVID-related sick leave have already ended.

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 27, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Act* in November 2022. Starting in 2023, all employees in the Yukon will be entitled to a general (or “statutory”) holiday on September 30.
- This statutory day commemorates the harmful history and legacy of Canada’s residential schools. It honours those who were lost and the Survivors, families and communities who continue to grieve.
- We encourage all Yukoners to use the day to read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, reflect on the importance of the day, and to learn more about First Nations communities and to understand Canada’s history with Indigenous peoples.

**Additional response:**

- The Yukon’s new statutory day follows the establishment of the federal National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which was a direct response to a call to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and coincides with Orange Shirt Day.

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**Context:**

- There may be discussion about implementation of the statutory holiday.

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**Background:**

- From March 1 to April 30, 2022, Yukon government ran a public survey and engaged directly with Yukon First Nations. Sixty-six percent of all survey respondents supported the creation of a new Yukon holiday for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Many respondents expressed concern about economic

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

Community Services

impacts on businesses. One Yukon First Nation responded; they supported the new statutory day. (Four other Yukon First Nations later sent support letters.) The online What We Heard report contains numerous suggestions for how the Yukon government and others can commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and take meaningful action on reconciliation.

- When Canada created the new federal statutory day in 2021,
  - Federal employees and workers in federally regulated workplaces in the Yukon, such as banks, observed the federal statutory day.
  - Because of wording in the Yukon Employees' Union Collective Bargaining Agreement, Yukon government employees were also entitled to the federal statutory day.
  - By convention, any members of the Yukon Association of Education Professionals and non-union Yukon government employees were also entitled to the day.
  - Employees in industries under the jurisdiction of the Yukon's *Employment Standards Act* were not entitled to the federal statutory day, e.g. retail, hospitality, construction, and many others.
- The Yukon's *Employment Standards Act* uses the term "general holiday", instead of "statutory holiday". The Yukon government recognizes that the term "holiday" may not reflect the solemnness of this important topic. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be referred to as a "statutory day" where possible.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 26, 2023

Date approved



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Minimum Rental Standards**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- Minimum rental standards are rules that landlords must follow regarding the upkeep and condition of their rental properties. These standards deal with many different health and safety issues in rental properties.
- Landlords have a duty to ensure their rental units comply with the minimum rental standards and must remedy any deficiencies. Tenants have a duty to inform their landlord of any repairs needed.
- Minimum rental standards are detailed in the Residential Tenancies Regulation, Residential Landlord and Tenant Handbook and are available on Yukon.ca or at the Residential Tenancies Office.

**Additional response:**

- I want to extend my appreciation to the team at the Residential Tenancies Office for their work to support all parties in a tenancy arrangement to navigate their rights and responsibilities under the legislation.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because individuals, media and the Yukon New Democratic Party have raised concerns about the quality of some residential rental units regarding health and safety.
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**Background:**

- Minimum rental standards are in the Residential Tenancies Regulation and came into effect on January 1, 2017, after a one-year grace period.

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Community Services

- Residential Tenancies Office work to educate the public on Minimum Rental Standards through the Yukon Landlord and Tenant Handbook, public presentations and responding to inquiries.
- As Residential Tenancies Officers are not experts in standards, the officers, tenants and landlords work with other organizations such as Fire Marshal's Office, Building Safety and Standards office, municipalities and others to determine if a remedy is required. These organizations often have the authority, experience and jurisdiction to address building safety issues.
- A tenant cannot be evicted in retaliation for upholding or enforcing their rights under the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*.
- If and when an issue of minimum rental standards comes to the attention of the Residential Tenancies Office, the first step is education and working with the landlord towards compliance. Often landlords voluntarily remedy the issue without further escalation.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 26, 2023

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

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

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**Context:**

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

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**Background:**

- Throughout the territory, the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) operates non-municipal community fire halls, maintains firefighting equipment and vehicles, provides training that meets national standards, presents public education campaigns for life-safety and fire prevention, and supports municipalities with training and resources.

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

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- The FMO provides oversight, training, honoraria and equipment for community fire departments and programs, but are only able to do so with a core of volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to train and be available.
- Declining volunteer levels is an issue across Canada. Small communities often struggle with volunteer membership and recruitment. They may achieve positive retention for a few years, but due to a limited population, volunteer levels sometimes decrease to the point that a fire hall becomes functionally inactive. The FMO has implemented a levels of service model to address this and is actively evaluating further options including enhanced community outreach and increased honoraria for volunteer firefighters.
- Occupational Health and Safety requirements for firefighters must be met to prevent responder injury or loss of life.
- In the 16 unincorporated communities, volunteer departments require interested community members and assistance to recruit and retain a minimum number of volunteer firefighters. The fire services that are provided by the FMO include the provision of all fire response equipment and vehicles, training and logistics, as well as the administration of the community volunteer fire halls (training records, honoraria and standard operational procedures).
- The 8 municipal departments require interested community members and assistance from the municipality to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters to provide fire services. The Yukon government supports municipalities by providing funding and provisioning resources on an 'as needed' basis, and as capacity allows. This includes training for staff and volunteers as well as equipment on a case by case basis to cover areas not easily reachable by unincorporated halls.

# Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2023**

## Volunteer Fire Departments

Community Services

### Incident and Volunteer Stats

COMMUNITY	INCIDENT VOLUME (IN 2022)	# OF ACTIVE FIRE VOLUNTEERS (JAN 2023)	Est Community Pop. (2020)
BEAVER CREEK	0	1 (FSC)	120
BURWASH LANDING	1	4	106
CARCROSS	12	5	486
DESTRUCTION BAY	0	0	59
GOLDEN HORN	30	20	400+
HOOTALINQUA	36	19	No data
IBEX	46	15	483
KLONDIKE VALLEY	11	12	No data
KENO	0	7 (SSRU)	24
MARSH LAKE	24	15	725
MT. LORNE	18	20	466
MENDENHALL	0	0	328
OLD CROW	0	0	267
PELLY CROSSING	0	0	399
ROSS RIVER	0	8 (SSRU)	410
TAGISH	2	7	345
(SOMET) YUKON	3	31	42,429
(SHOT) YUKON	7	(22) In VFD's	42,429
UPPER LIARD	0	1 (FSC)	130
TOTAL	180	164	N/A

### Financial Implications:

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

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Volunteer Fire Departments**

Community Services

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Approved by:



January 26, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- The delivery of fire services in the Yukon's unincorporated communities is challenging given our remote and small population base. The Fire Marshal's Office remains committed to working with Yukon communities, and to ensuring a pragmatic level of service in each community.
- We commissioned an independent review of fire services in rural Yukon and we are pleased to see a number of recommendations being implemented that will ensure safe and sustainable fire services across the Yukon.
- We have developed and implemented a Scene Safety Response Unit program in Keno and Ross River and **have started training for this program in Pelly Crossing**. This innovative program will provide an initial response to fire and life safety incidents with the goals of minimizing risk to the public, preventing spread of fire to adjacent structures and serving as a liaison to mutual aid partners directly from the scene.
- **The Fire Marshal's Office is scheduling visits to Keno, Burwash Landing, Beaver Creek, Ross River, Klondike Valley, Pelly Crossing and Old Crow throughout April and May of 2023 to discuss the different levels of fire service that can be established.**

**Additional response:**

- Since the release of the review in December 2021, the Fire Marshal's Office presented the report and met with communities and fire service stakeholders.

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

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- The Fire Marshal's Office has acted on this feedback by developing a levels of service response model, formalizing mutual aid agreements and implementing a Fire Safety Champion program that focuses on fire prevention and education.

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**Context:**

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

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**Background:**

- With 104 recommendations included in the review, there is still significant work to be done. Yukon government has taken immediate action on several of the short-term recommendations identified in the review, particularly as they pertain to firefighter safety and Occupational Health and Safety compliance.
- The focus now is on longer term goals such as the Scene Safety Response Unit that will support communities with fire service programs that match individual community's capacity.
- In addition to Keno and Ross River, the Scene Safety Response Unit program is expected to be implemented in other unincorporated communities that do not have the capacity to maintain a traditional volunteer fire department. Training has begun for the Scene Safety Response Unit in Pelly Crossing.
- The Fire Marshal's Office held several meetings with the public and stakeholders to discuss the content of the review and next steps, including:
  - A media briefing, a meeting with the community of Keno and a public meeting open to all residents of unincorporated Yukon in December 2021;
  - Several additional meetings with the community of Keno to discuss establishing a fire response program and repairing water source, which has led to the establishment of two Fire Safety Champions in community. Regular ongoing contact occurs with the Fire Safety Champions;



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

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- Delivery of wildland fire truck to Keno in December 2022. Training for 8 Keno residents took place on January 9 - 13, 2023;
- Multiple meetings with the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs;
- A meeting with all Fire Marshal's Office staff and the Fire Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs from across the Yukon on January 30, 2022;
- A meeting with Chief Administrative Officers in Yukon communities on February 10, 2022;
- A meeting with the CAO for the Town of Faro on May 30, 2022, to discuss Mutual Aid Agreement;
- A meeting with the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council on February 14, 2022, and July 13, 2022;
- Meetings with Ross River Dena Council on June 1, 2022, and September 7, 2022, actively working to re-establish a fire service; Met again on October 12;
- First training with 8 new volunteer recruits for Scene Safety Response Unit took place in Ross River November 26 and 27, 2022;
- A meeting with Mendenhall Community Association on June 15, 2022, to discuss Fire Safety Champion program and re-establishing a fire department;
- A meeting with Dawson City Fire Department Chief on June 27, 2022, to discuss mutual aid agreement with Klondike Valley Fire Department;
- A meeting with Mayo Fire Chief on June 28, 2022, to discuss mutual aid agreement and training support for Keno residents;
- A meeting in Beaver Creek on September 22, 2022 with White River First Nations and community residents in regards to re-establishing a fire service;
- Addressed Selkirk First Nation leadership and citizens at General Assembly in Pelly on October 15, 2022;

# Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2023**

## Rural Fire Services Progress

## Community Services

- A meeting with Old Crow residents on January 7, 2023, to discuss levels of service model and re-establishing a fire service;
- A meeting with White River First Nation on September 22, 2022, to discuss Fire Safety Champion program and re-establishing a fire service;
- Addressed Selkirk First Nation at their General Assembly on October 15, 2022, and discussed options of establishing and implementing a fire service;
- Completed the Scene Safety Response Unit training for 6 volunteers February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023;
- First training with 5 new volunteers for Scene Safety Response Unit took place in Pelly Crossing February 18 and 19, 2023.
- The Fire Marshal's Office provides fire response equipment and vehicles, training and logistics, as well as the administration of the community volunteer fire halls (training records, honoraria and standard operational procedures).
- Municipal fire departments require interested community members and assistance from the municipality to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. The Yukon government supports municipalities by providing funding and equipment resources on an 'as needed' basis, and as capacity allows.
- The Fire Marshal supports training of volunteers so the fire department meets Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and national standards to ensure the health and safety of firefighters and includes requisite training, qualifications and response protocols.

Approved by:



January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- We value the important role municipalities have in supporting public safety and are committed to helping them build capacity and support development of fire and life safety programs and initiatives.
- The Fire Marshal's Office offers training to municipal fire service members and employees so that they can perform life safety inspections and fire investigations. In municipalities where this training has not been taken, the Fire Marshal's Office will work with municipalities to support providing these services.
- The Fire Marshal's Office also supports municipalities by providing equipment, apparatus and recruitment support. Currently the Fire Marshal's Office has 5 Fire Apparatus, 1 mini pumper, 2 rescue trucks and 1 suburban in municipalities.

**Additional response:**

- Municipalities and the Fire Marshal's Office work collaboratively through establishing mutual aid agreements to expand response coverage outside municipal jurisdictions.

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**Context:**

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

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**Background:**

- Municipalities are responsible for administering Fire and Life Safety programs under the *Municipal Act*.

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

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- In 2022, the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) provided resources for several support requests from municipalities.
- Throughout 2023, the FMO will be working with Chief Administrative Officers and Fire Chiefs of municipalities to offer training and bolster internal capacity.
- The FMO will be supporting municipalities with recruitment drives, and will work with municipalities to provide fire prevention and education messaging.

**Approved by:**January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- One of the most effective methods of preventing fire and life safety incidents is through the delivery of public education and effective community outreach.
- To help reach communities, the Fire Marshal's Office has implemented a Fire Safety Champion program supported by a designated deputy fire marshal who serves as a public outreach and prevention coordinator.
- Currently there are Fire Safety Champions located in Old Crow, Keno, Ross River and Pelly Crossing. The Fire Marshal's Office will continue to work with municipalities and unincorporated communities to support the implementation of Fire Safety Champion programs throughout the territory.
- Fire Safety Champions help organize community events that promote fire and life safety initiatives such as fire extinguisher training and ensuring individuals have escape plans in the event of a house fire.
- I want to acknowledge and thank these community-minded champions who work with the Fire Marshal's Office to raise awareness about fire safety and prevention.

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**Context:**

- The program is a result of the recent Fire Services Review, which recommended more emphasis on public education.
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## **Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

### **Public Education on Fire Service**

Community Services

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#### **Background:**

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

**Approved by:**



January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****National Infrastructure Funding  
Initiatives and Program  
Spending**

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Community Services

**Recommended response:**

- Over the last eight years, Canada has approved over \$565 million in funding in Yukon through Small Community Funds and Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Along with Yukon's contribution of \$188 million, these funds have been invested in over 110 projects including the Whitehorse Skate Park Upgrades, Teslin Fire hall and Old Crow Community Centre.
- All Small Community Funds and Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funds are fully allocated, meaning that projects have been selected. We know there are many more infrastructure needs in communities. Over the next year we will be making efforts to secure additional funding from the federal government, and at the same time work with communities and First Nations to better capture their infrastructure needs.
- Each of these funds have unique parameters for spending but typically are for green energy, water and wastewater, community and cultural infrastructure, public transportation, and northern community development.
- Our commitment to significant investments in infrastructure in all Yukon communities helps create jobs and economic growth, while supporting communities in realizing their identified priorities.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because there is an interest in enhanced community infrastructure funding programs.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****National Infrastructure Funding  
Initiatives and Program  
Spending**

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Community Services

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**Background:**

- The Yukon signed the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program in May 2018, with all spending to be completed by 2032.
- The Canada Community Building (CCBF) funding is approximately \$17 million per year and is allocated to communities and First Nations based on a formula.
- The Small Communities Fund (SCF) funding started in 2015 and ends in 2028, and a total of \$256 million from the Government of Canada and \$85 million from the Government of Yukon.
- SCF was signed in 2015 and ends in 2028 and is a total of \$286 million from Government of Canada and \$85 million from the Government of Yukon. The projects are mainly allocated to highways, bridges and community infrastructure such as water, wastewater, roads and culture/recreation. Projects under this fund will be completed over the next two years.
- Over the last four years, Community Services sought input from municipalities and First Nations on their local priorities for infrastructure investment.
- Since 2018, Canada has announced a number of new or enhanced funding programs for community infrastructure, but not all of these have come with new money and many are application-based without a specific allocation to the Yukon. These include:
  - Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – created a temporary COVID-19 Resilience stream allowing for existing funding to be used for quick-start, short-term projects that might not otherwise be eligible. The Yukon was able to transfer \$16.4 million into this stream with a maximum federal contribution of 100%.
  - ICIP – added new funding for ventilation improvement. The Yukon was allocated \$9 million additional funding to support ventilation improvement projects in public buildings.



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****National Infrastructure Funding  
Initiatives and Program  
Spending**

Community Services

- Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program - supports green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings and the construction of new publicly-accessible community buildings. Direct federal funding, application based.
- CCBF (formerly Gas Tax) – increased Yukon funding for 2021-22, supports communities to plan for their current and future needs, and build or improve their infrastructure.
- Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund – increased national funding over next 12 years, with allocation for indigenous recipients (no territorial allocation). Supports structural and natural infrastructure projects to increase the resilience of communities that are impacted by natural disasters triggered by climate change. Application based.

**Financial Implications:**

- The Government of Yukon contributes 25% of all eligible expenditures under SCF. The Government of Yukon's contribution to SCF projects will be \$85,528,057 based on the full value of the agreement.
- Under ICIP, Canada will contribute a maximum of 75% and the other 25% or more is funded from additional sources. This includes \$690 million in shared investment by the Government of Yukon and Canada under ICIP with Canada contributing approximately \$450 million.
- The Government of Yukon's contribution to the ICIP funding agreement is expected to be \$148,539,100 and the agreement is currently scheduled to close in spring 2028 but being extended to 2033.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

### National Infrastructure Funding Initiatives and Program Spending

Community Services

Approved by:



January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- Through Small Community Funds and Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, over the last 8 years, Canada has approved over \$565 million in Yukon, alongside the Government of Yukon's contribution of \$188 million. This has been invested in over 110 projects. The Canada Community Building Fund has brought a total of over \$178 million to Yukon since its inception in 2014 and is allocated directly to communities and First Nations for their own project prioritization.
- This investment in community infrastructure addresses many priorities of Yukon First Nation governments and municipalities. Together the projects improve the quality of life for Yukoners by improving drinking water, wastewater management, protective services and public works, recreation, clean energy and more.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because there is an interest in community infrastructure spending or questions on the status of specific projects (listed below).

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**Background:****Summary Information on key Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program projects**

- Carmacks Arena:
  - Construction resumed on the project, with anticipated soft opening in February 2023 and Grand Opening in March 2023.
  - Most recent delays in completion have been caused by the following factors:
    - Several electrical components delayed due to global shortages; and,

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

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- Roof components incorrectly installed, which will require fixing by current contractor. Roof issues will be added to the lawsuit underway with Scott Design Build.
  - Legal action is underway with the original contractor (Scott Design Build).
- Carmacks Fire hall and Public Works:
  - Construction contract is awarded to Clark Builders for \$6.8 million and construction is near completion.
  - Substantial completion is anticipated in the winter of 2022/23.
- Dawson Sewage Lagoon:
  - Ongoing water sampling is occurring and Community Services hired a consultant to review data gaps in previous reports completed on the current waste water treatment plant. This will ensure project engineers have a complete picture of Dawson's waste water situation.
  - Engagement with City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation is being completed to agree on a preferred location for the lagoon within Callison Subdivision.
  - Infrastructure Branch, City of Dawson & Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in formed a working group to advance the project as it works its way to an agreed site for the lagoon.
- Faro Phase 2 – Water, Sewer Road Upgrades
  - Year one of construction is underway of the two and a half year project to replace critical infrastructure in the community.
  - A nearly six week delay was caused by the removal of the contractor to complete emergency sanitary sewer bypass work in Whitehorse. Labour shortages have also affected the contractors' performance.
  - All sewer and water main work has been completed for the 2022 season. Work on this important project will continue in spring of 2023.
- Mt. Sima Upgrades:
  - Construction is underway and proceeding as planned, with a total project budget of \$5.2 million.
  - Substantial completion is anticipated in the spring of 2023.

# Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2023**

## Infrastructure Projects

## Community Services

- Gymnastics and Climbing Facility:
  - Design work continues on the Gymnastics and Climbing Facility.
  - A tender for construction of the project was issued in December 2022 and will close early 2023.
  - Estimated project cost of \$23 million.
- Mayo Reservoirs:
  - A number of problems have been identified with the Mayo reservoirs, built in 2018, and the Government of Yukon has begun legal action against the project contractor (Wildstone Construction).
  - Community Services is working closely with the Village of Mayo to ensure the community has the necessary water supply while the issues are addressed.
  - A tender for construction of new reservoirs, to replace the failed tanks, will be issued in the spring 2023.
- White River First Nation Community Centre:
  - Construction of the new Community Centre is proceeding well and substantial completion is expected in spring 22/23.
  - Estimated project cost is \$6.2 million.

### Financial Implications:

- Community Services' Infrastructure Development Branch operates with an annual capital budget envelope of \$ 63 million for 2022/2023. This includes both branch expenditures and funding flows via transfer payment agreements.

### Approved by:



January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**APPROVED FEDERAL FUNDING  
ACTIVE PROJECTS - JAN 2023**

Investing in Canda Infrastructure Program (ICIP)	Federal Contribution	Total Eligible Costs
Beaver Creek Lagoon	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 3,000,000
Boat Launch Recapitalization	\$ 3,101,250	\$ 4,135,000
Burwash Landing Boat Launch	\$ 450,000	\$ 600,000
Burwash Landing School	\$ 10,875,000	\$ 21,745,000
Carcross Lagoon Upgrades	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 4,000,000
Champagne Aishihik First Nation Land Development	\$ 6,975,000	\$ 9,300,000
CoW Asphalt Overlay	\$ 5,710,500	\$ 7,614,000
CoW Compost Facility Upgrades	\$ 3,300,000	\$ 4,400,000
CoW downtown reconstruct - Cook St.	\$ 6,750,000	\$ 9,000,000
CoW Public Transit Station Hub	\$ 675,000	\$ 900,000
CoW Robert Service Parks Building	\$ 2,111,250	\$ 2,815,000
CoW Transit Services: Bus Midlife Refurbishments 2021 - 2023	\$ 461,250	\$ 615,000
Dawson City North End Development	\$ 2,550,000	\$ 3,400,000
Dawson Reservoir Replacement	\$ 7,350,480	\$ 9,800,640
Dempster Fibre Project	\$ 28,975,055	\$ 78,780,420
Faro Water Sewer Roads Phase 2	\$ 8,231,250	\$ 10,975,000
Frances Avenue Subdivision Lift Station	\$ 2,266,741	\$ 3,022,321
Haeckel Hill Wind Farm	\$ 13,070,000	\$ 20,622,859
Haines Junction Infrastructure Upgrades Phase 3	\$ 7,207,988	\$ 9,610,650
Haines Junction Water Well Replacement	\$ 1,875,000	\$ 2,500,000
Kluane N'tsi Wind Project	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 9,586,048
LSCFN Water Treatment Plan Upgrades	\$ 1,425,675	\$ 1,900,900
Mayo Arena Upgrades	\$ 2,737,500	\$ 3,650,000
Mayo Water Phase 3 Area 3	\$ 6,513,750	\$ 8,685,000
Mayo Water Treatment Plant Geoexchange System Upgrades	\$ 1,743,000	\$ 2,324,000
Mayo Water Treatment Plant Wellfield Expansion	\$ 552,600	\$ 736,000
Mount Sima Ski Hill Electrical and Snow Making Upgrades	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 5,000,000
Mountain View Golf Course	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,000,000
NND Water Treatment Plant Controls Upgrade, Phase 3 B	\$ 573,750	\$ 765,000
Pelly Crossing Pool Facility	\$ 5,250,000	\$ 7,000,000
Pelly Crossing Water Distribution	\$ 4,771,261	\$ 6,361,682
Pelly Road Upgrade	\$ 1,725,000	\$ 2,300,000
Robert Service School Modular Classrooms Expansion	\$ 6,400,000	\$ 6,400,000
Selkirk Street Stormwater	\$ 3,184,500	\$ 4,246,000
Shelled Space development: Secure Medical Unit	\$ 9,990,000	\$ 9,990,000
Stewart-Keno Transmission Line Rehabilitation	\$ 22,737,750	\$ 30,317,000
Town of Watson Lake – Phase 1 – Water, Sewer, and Road Upgrades	\$ 5,233,259	\$ 6,977,679
Transit Buses 2022	\$ 937,500	\$ 1,250,000
TTC Communtiy Hub	\$ 18,543,750	\$ 24,725,000
VGFN Elder's Complex	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 12,000,000
White River Community Centre (Beaver Creek Potlatch House)	\$ 2,842,500	\$ 3,790,000
Whitehorse Gymnastics and Climbing Facility	\$ 14,874,525	\$ 19,832,700
Whitehorse Skate Park Upgrades	\$ 2,625,000	\$ 3,500,000
Whitehorse South West Fire Risk Reduction	\$ 1,162,500	\$ 1,650,000
Whitehorse Waste Management Facility Upgrade - Transfer Station	\$ 2,212,500	\$ 2,950,000
Yukon Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage System	\$ 16,500,000	\$ 22,000,000
	<b>\$ 265,972,083</b>	<b>\$ 406,772,899</b>

**APPROVED FEDERAL FUNDING  
ACTIVE PROJECTS - JAN 2023**

Small Communities Fund (SCF)	Federal Contribution	Total Eligible Costs
Burwash Water Plant	3,870,000	5,160,000
Carmacks Arena Replacement	10,500,000	14,000,000
Carmacks Public Works building, Firehall and EMS	8,903,846	11,871,795
Dawson Water & Wastewater Upgrades Phase 2	11,775,000	15,700,000
Faro Public Works Building and Firehall	8,866,344	11,821,792
Haines Junction Infrastructure upgrades Ph 2	4,500,000	6,000,000
HPW - PMB - Yukon Government Building Energy Retrofits	34,725,000	46,300,000
HPW - TEB - Nisutlin Bay Bridge (Replacement)	41,250,000	55,000,000
LSCFN Public Works Facilities Upgrades	375,000	500,000
Mayo Firehall	4,125,000	5,500,000
Mayo Public Works Facilities Upgrades	225,000	300,000
Mayo Reservoir	2,422,500	3,230,000
Old Crow New Public Works Facility	2,250,000	3,000,000
SFN Early Childhood Development Centre	1,125,000	1,500,000
Solid Waste Improvements: Faro, Watson Lake and Haines Junction	1,200,000	900,000
Teslin Fire Hall	4,125,000	5,500,000
Teslin Municipal Center Green Energy Retrofits	975,000	1,300,000
Teslin Public Works Facility	300,000	400,000
Teslin Tlingit Council Public Building Green Energy Retrofits	3,922,500	5,230,000
Watson Lake Administrative Building Retrofit	2,062,500	2,750,000
Watson Lake New Public Works /Fire Hall Building	7,500,000	10,000,000
Whitehorse City Hall Energy Upgrade	3,750,000	5,000,000
Whitehorse Services Building	8,025,000	10,700,000
TOTAL	\$ 166,772,690	\$ 221,663,587

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Renewal of Infrastructure  
Funding (CCBF, ICIP)**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- We recognize the importance of ongoing investment in community infrastructure. With more than \$600 million in investments made by Yukon and Canada toward community infrastructure in recent years we can see the benefits across our territory.
- The benefits have come from our delivery of a wide range of priorities, water and sewer projects, to firehalls and public works, community hub and recreation facilities, to vital territorial, municipal and First Nation government infrastructure.
- The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and the Canadian Community Building Fund will be refreshed in the near future, and we look forward to continuing our work with provincial, territorial and federal counterparts to maximize the benefits for Yukon.
- We look forward to working closely with the Association of Yukon Communities, municipalities and Yukon First Nations governments as we advocate for the interests of Yukon.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because current Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding is fully allocated and there is ongoing pressure for infrastructure projects.
- The Association of Yukon Communities and the Fiscal Relations Working Group through the Yukon Forum have expressed interest in the Canadian Community Building Fund negotiations.

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**Background:**



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Renewal of Infrastructure  
Funding (CCBF, ICIP)**Community Services

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## CANADIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND (CCBF):

- The CCBF (previously the Gas Tax Fund) flows through the Government of Yukon to Municipalities and First Nations for eligible projects at their discretion. Unincorporated communities, access the funding through various Government of Yukon programs.
- The 2022/23 total funding from Canada was \$16.9 million.
- Allocation of this funding to ultimate recipients is provided on a formula basis but held in a Government of Yukon revolving fund until projects are approved and expenses incurred by ultimate recipients.
- Unspent allocations carry over by ultimate recipient in the revolving fund. Current total balances in this fund are \$73.67 million.
- For the upcoming renewal, Cabinet authorization for a negotiation mandate will be sought to engage with the Government of Canada, the Association of Yukon Communities and the Council of Yukon First Nations on funding agreement options.

## INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (ICIP):

- ICIP funding is managed by the Infrastructure Development Branch, coordinating reporting for Canada.
- Infrastructure Development branch may project manage infrastructure projects themselves or assign to a municipality or First Nation through a Transfer Payment Agreement.
- The Government of Canada has signaled that there is likely to be an “ICIP 2.0” renewal of funding, in four anticipated priority areas:
  - Transit
  - Housing
  - Resilient Infrastructure
  - Green Infrastructure

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Renewal of Infrastructure  
Funding (CCBF, ICIP)**

Community Services

Approved by:



January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

### **Supply Chain Issues and Project Delays**

Community Services

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#### **Recommended response:**

- We know that businesses and organizations around the world are being affected by supply chain issues, labour shortages and inflation.
- As the global economy recovers from the pandemic, we are seeing increased product and labour costs. We are also seeing product supply issues and more limited availability of contractors which can result in extended project delivery timelines and increased budgets.
- We know we are not alone in working on solutions to this change in business environment. We conducting careful cost forecasting, and collaborating with our contracting partners in the territory to help bring stability to our planning.

#### **Additional response:**

- Many of our construction delays are a result of supply of materials. The construction industry is currently seeing delivery delays of over a year on some materials, particularly those involving technology, such as fire alarm parts and electronic building controls.

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#### **Context:**

- There is scrutiny on projects that experience delays or cost increases.
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#### **Background:**

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## **Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

### **Supply Chain Issues and Project Delays**

Community Services

- YG cost consultants have looked at Yukon's construction supply chain status. They report:
  - Construction schedules for 2023 are likely to require on average 25% more time, and costs are estimated to be 9% higher.
  - Worldwide supply chain issues linger and reliable supply of goods, especially involving technology, remains uncertain and problematic. Although the worst of the pandemic has abated, those concerns continue especially in Asian markets.
  - One major issue to international shipping is the uneven distribution of shipping containers which will take much of 2023 to remedy.
  - Uncertainty in energy supplies and costs will continue with the ongoing conflict in Europe which may influence the pricing of construction materials in the foreseeable future.
  - Uncertainty in the world economy, especially in energy, along with efforts to counter inflationary concerns have been the impetus for higher interest rates which have been passed along in the price of construction materials.
  - Finally, while improving, labour resources are not at their optimal levels necessary for a robust construction industry to operate in.
  - Some of the concerns noted will be balanced by a small slowing in the commercial market for services from the construction industry but this will still take time to be at least partially effective.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 27, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Gymnastics and Climbing Gym**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is investing in a gymnastics and climbing gym, that will support the growth of these sports in the territory.
- The new gym is designed to meet the current and forecasted operating demands for both gymnastics and indoor climbing for the next 20 years.
- Modern, safe and exciting recreational facilities are a key way our government can support active living and competitive sport opportunities for Yukoners.

**Additional response:**

- The construction tender is closing March 2<sup>nd</sup>, with construction planned from 2023-2025.
- Providing this space is part of Yukon government's commitment to healthy active living, it will support the hundreds of Yukoners who are actively engaged in sport and physical activity and it delivers on our commitment to increase participation of women and girls in sport.
- Programming at this new facility is also geared to support youth at risk, First Nation, and elite athletes as a priority; and will include use for the general public.
- Whitehorse is a growing community and it is important to invest in facilities that support recreational sport for youth.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

This project is currently out to tender, and is receiving a lot of attention because it is a high value project and has had a long tender period with many questions from potential bidders.

# Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2023**

## Gymnastics and Climbing Gym

Community Services

### Background:

- Polarettes Gymnastics Club and Climb Yukon Association are currently operating out of St Francis of Assisi Catholic School and Porter Creek Secondary School, respectively. Both organizations have outgrown these current spaces and require new facilities to meet demand for the sports in the territory.
- The new facility will be built in Whistle Bend and owned and managed by the Yukon government and leased to Polarettes and Climb Yukon.

### Approved by:



March 1, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Dawson Recreation Centre**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- The replacement of the Dawson Recreation Centre is a long-standing priority for the City of Dawson, and we are supporting the project.
- This government is seeking funding for this project through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. It is in the Five-Year Capital Plan with a total cost estimate of \$65.6 million.
- Preliminary schematic design options have been completed and discussed with Dawson City Council. More work continues to refine options to fit the existing budget and to ensure operating costs can be managed by the municipality.
- Next steps include Schematic Design for the project to be completed this summer, with detailed design to follow. The current schedule includes tendering to begin site preparation in 2024 and construction in 2025.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- There has been recent media coverage on the project. Most recently, an interview with CBC (April 6) with Mayor Kendrick, expressing concerns about yearly operating and maintenance costs of a new facility. This is after the municipality raised property taxes and fees for residents living within town limits with the 2023-24 budget.

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**Background:**

- The Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre had been in use for a short period of time before structural and foundational issues became apparent in 2009. In response to these issues, the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon entered into a funding agreement for \$4 million.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Dawson Recreation Centre**Community Services

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- Funding over the years helped repair specific aspects of the facility. However, the ongoing permafrost has resulted in a situation where repairs are no longer possible or recommended, as public safety has become an issue. Past news releases have announced repairs to the existing facility.
- Dawson City council voted in 2018 to build a new facility, rather than spend \$19.5 million to repair the old one because of structural issues.
- A Feasibility Study was completed in 2021, after which Dawson City Council selected the bottom of the Dome Road as the location of the new facility.
- Public Engagement took place in the spring of 2021 to seek community feedback as part of the Feasibility Study for a new recreation facility.
- Commitment to project-manage the project was announced in the 2022-23 Spring Budget speech. Yukon government has identified budget up to \$65.6 million for the project and will seek to fund this under federal infrastructure programs. It is in the current 5 year YG capital plan.

**Approved by:**April 13, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Whitehorse Land  
Development**Community Services &  
Energy Mines and Resources

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**Recommended response:**

- Whitehorse is a vibrant and growing community and we expect a persistent and long-term demand for housing. We work with our partners at the City of Whitehorse to meet this demand and help Whitehorse grow to its potential. We are also collaborating with Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to support their land development objectives in the City.
- Whistle Bend is our focus for lot development to meet demand in a rapidly growing city. Our contractors are on schedule to finalize Phases 6, 7A, and 8 this summer and Phases 7B and 9A by the late fall.
- When complete in four to six years, Whistle Bend will comprise \$300 million of investment and provide a full-service, sustainable neighborhood of over 2,000 lots to accommodate our growing population.
- This year, in addition to phase development in Whistle Bend, Land Development Branch is advancing multiple landscaping projects, a new lift station, and the necessary storm water infrastructure.

**Additional Response:**

- In addition to Whistle Bend, we are advancing feasibility, planning and design work throughout Whitehorse per the City's new Official Community Plan.
- Under the new First Nation land development support program, we

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Whitehorse Land Development**Community Services &  
Energy Mines and Resources

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are expanding our partnerships with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dun First Nation to advance joint projects like Range Point Road and support their efforts to develop their own lands.

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**Context:**

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

- Community Service's Land Development Branch (LDB) prepares lots and then Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch (LMB) takes them to market for sale.
  - LDB has a range of land development work underway in Whitehorse, including:
    - Continued Whistle Bend lot development: (TAB EMR #81 / CS LD 03)
    - Hemlock Street extension: planning underway, YESAA, detailed design work, tender in fall 2023 / early 2024.
    - South Access Highway Industrial Subdivision: joint with KDFN, feasibility work complete, City is planning, tender early 2024.
    - Range Point Road: finalizing joint KDFN and YG master plan, YESAA, detailed design, tender in 2024.
    - Copper Ridge parcel for private sector developers: City planning. EMR release of a parcel, 2024.
    - Valleyview South Master Plan (including Tank Farm): City leading multi-owner master plan for late summer completion.
    - Whistle Bend South Bench: working with City on approval to harvest granular material for 2024 area projects.
  - Some delays have been experienced in Whistle Bend because of supply chain
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**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Whitehorse Land  
Development**Community Services &  
Energy Mines and Resources

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challenges, high demand for materials, labour shortages and contractor availability and delivery. Delays are anticipated to continue in 2023 and are accounted for in project planning. See CS BN #ID-4 on supply chain issues and project delays for more details.

- We are working to update the 2006 YG-City Land Development Protocol which outlines the land development roles for the City, LDB and EMR-LMB to recognize changed roles and the emergence of development of First Nations lands.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 15, 2023

Date approved



a/DM

Deputy Minister, Energy Mines and Resources

February 14, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Rural Land Development  
Projects**

Community Services  
Energy, Mines and Resources

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**Recommended response:**

- We recognize that Yukon communities are growing quickly and there is a need for a range of lot types to support their growth.
- We are working on land development projects in partnership with every Yukon municipality.
- We are partnering with Yukon First Nations and private industry to meet lot demand.
- We appreciate partnering and collaborating with municipalities and Yukon First Nations in this work.

**Additional response:**

- In the next year, we are looking forward to more lots becoming available in Carmacks, Faro, Dawson, Haines Junction, Mayo, Teslin and Watson Lake.
- Currently these projects are in varying stages, including feasibility, planning, implementation and surveying.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

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

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

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**Background:**

- Community Services' Land Development Branch program aims to:
  - create and maintain lot inventories in Whitehorse and the communities;
  - support opportunities for private sector land development projects; and,
  - support First Nations in developing their land.
- Municipal and First Nation roles can vary by community. In general, Land Development Branch supports municipalities and First Nations governments during Official Community Planning or integrated planning processes to confirm areas of interest for development through feasibility studies. Where possible, joint processes with Yukon First Nations and municipal governments are applied to advance master plans and preliminary designs prior to approval by the municipal council.
- A key principle under the recently approved First Nation Land Development program is to promote the highest and best use of land by targeting cost recovery through lot sales/leases and requiring landowners to pay for development of their land. The Government of Yukon pays for all costs associated with developing public land and recovers those costs through lot sales.
- Under the First Nation Land Development program, the Government of Yukon supports First Nations to develop their own lands. Land Development Branch provides a range of supports and the Yukon Housing Corporation manages a loan program for viable First Nation land development projects.
- The land development process takes time and delays can occur because of need for additional engagement to work through conflicting land-use interests and visions, and due to time consuming and complex feasibility work. For example, the legal survey and lottery preparation require up to three months for Land Management Branch to complete.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

### Rural Land Development Projects

Community Services  
Energy, Mines and Resources

- Cost recovery can often be difficult in rural Yukon, with supply chain issues, contractor capacity and availability, zoning, subdivision and regulatory processes.
- Feasibility, planning, regulatory, design work and/or construction is underway in each Yukon municipality.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 13, 2023

Date approved



Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Jan 30, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Lot Completion Targets  
and Lot Releases**Community Services  
Energy Mines and Resources

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**Recommended response:**

- We continue to work in partnership with municipalities and First Nations on land development projects to meet lot supply needs.
- In 2022, Land Development Branch advanced the development of 55 rural and 175 Whistle Bend lots. In 2023, it is advancing development of over 75 rural and 130 Whitehorse lots.
- On March 31, Land Management Branch opened a lottery for 120 lots in Whistle Bend. In addition, rural lots in various communities will be released this spring.
- Lotteries for additional Whistle Bend lots will be planned once lot development wraps up in October.

**Additional response:**

- Once lot development has concluded, the lots are prepared for sale through completion of legal requirements and the development of lottery and tender information.
- We expect First Nations governments and the private sector to play an increasing role in delivering lots to Yukoners.
- The subdivision of private land, where supported by community plans and zoning regulations, can also result in the creation of additional private lots with no loss of public land.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

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**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Lot Completion Targets  
and Lot Releases**Community Services  
Energy Mines and Resources

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- The demand for lots varies by community but most municipalities are asking for lots and may have concerns about the timing of lot deliveries, the price of lots or lottery conditions.
- 

**Background:****Land Development Branch**

- Community Services' Land Development Branch program aims to:
  - create and maintain lot inventories in Whitehorse and the communities;
  - support opportunities for private sector land development projects in addition to its ongoing role as primary land developer; and
  - support First Nations governments in developing their land for citizen housing and economic development opportunities.
- The land development process requires multiple steps. Depending on the development, it can take multiple years to deliver lots. Different phases of development, from feasibility, planning and preliminary design and construction work, are underway in all municipalities and several communities.
- A Summary of LDB's current projects is available in notes Whitehorse Land Development Projects (TAB EMR #80 / CS LD-03) and Rural Land Development Projects (TAB EMR #77/LD-02).

**Land Management Branch**

- The sale of developed lots occurs once the development is complete. Before lots can be sold, legal requirements such as registering the legal survey and titling the lot must be met. The legal survey fabric must be in the Yukon government's corporate spatial warehouse to ensure accurate mapping and database updates.
- The departments of Community Services, Energy, Mines and Resources, and Yukon Housing Corporation work together to identify serviced vacant lots in Yukon communities and re-develop and release them when possible.



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Lot Completion Targets  
and Lot Releases**Community Services  
Energy Mines and Resources

Rural communities - Past and future lot development

Year	Location/Development	Lots Released/ to be Completed	Total Lots Completed / Fiscal
2016-17	Dutch Harbour Recreation	11	13
	Faro	1	
	Carmacks	1	
2017-18	Dawson misc.	10	10
2018-19	Grizzly Valley	20	43
	Mayo Country Residential	19	
	Dawson	4	
2021-22	Dawson	2	5
	Mayo	3	
2022-23	Carmacks – 3 Dawson – 3-4 Haines Junction – 7 Ross River – 2 (industrial) Mayo – 2 Watson Lake – 5-7 Faro – 1 Destruction Bay – 1	20 to 30 (Lottery in 2023/24)	TBD
2023-24 Targets (not all of these capital projects will advance this fiscal due to budget constraints)	Carmacks – 6 Dawson City – 10-15 Grizzly Valley - 12 Haines Junction – 12 Mayo – 4-5 Faro – 10-15 Teslin area – 21 to 25 Watson Lake – 25 Community vacant lots – 5-15 Whitehorse Periphery – 3-5	75 to 130+	TBD

# Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

## Lot Completion Targets and Lot Releases

Community Services  
Energy Mines and Resources

### Whitehorse and Whistle Bend – Past and future lot releases

Year	Location/Development	Lots Released	Total Lots /Fiscal
2017-18	Whistle Bend Ph 3A	29	29
2018-19	Whistle Bend Ph 3C	76	76
2019-20	Whistle Bend Ph 3D1, 4A, 4B	129	129
2020-21	Whistle Bend Ph 3D2, 3E1, 4C, 5	262	267
	Whitehorse Country Residential	5	
2021-22	Whistle Bend Ph 6A	70	101
	Whistle Bend 3E2	27	
	Whitehorse Logan subdivision lots	4	
		<b>Total Lots Release</b>	<b>602</b>

### Whitehorse and Whistle Bend Lot Completion Targets

Year	Location/Development	Lot Targets	Lottery Dates	Total Lots
Early 2023-24	Whistle Bend Ph 6B*	102	March 31/23	176 (1 private sector development)
	Whistle Bend Ph 7A*	57	Summer	
	Whistle Bend Ph 8*	16	March 31/23	
	5 <sup>th</sup> & Rogers (EMR)	1	March 9	
2023-24	Whistle Bend Ph 7B Whistle Bend Ph 9A Miscellaneous Infill	76 51 6-8	TBD	133-135
2024-25	Whistle Bend Ph 9B Whistle Bend Ph 12-13 Hemlock Road Hwy Industrial Subdivision Copper Ridge (EMR) Range Point Road (YG-KDFN joint project)	47 ~50 ~25 ~20 1 (possibly 0 to ~50)	TBD	143 - 196 1 private sector development

\*Indicate almost finished in 2022 and will be completed early in 2023/24

\*\* Additional lots turned back from clients for previous phases will also be included in upcoming lotteries and are not captured above

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Lot Completion Targets  
and Lot Releases**

Community Services  
Energy Mines and Resources

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Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

April 4, 2023

Date approved



Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Green Streets**

Community Services  
Energy, Mines and Resources

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**Recommended response:**

- Green streets are an innovative concept in Whistle Bend for neighbours to gather, play, and connect to a multi-use trail system free from vehicle traffic.
- Last year construction on the green streets was paused to hear from residents who were concerned about widening them from three metres to six metres to allow for emergency vehicle access.
- We have worked with our partners at the City of Whitehorse. The City has made a decision about the final design option to meet the need for emergency vehicle winter access, address their policies and adhere to the original design concept.
- Land Development Branch will implement the design work through an existing contract and tender the landscaping work to begin in early 2023.

**Additional response:**

- The City of Whitehorse is the lead agency on the planning process and the Government of Yukon leads the construction of the Whistle Bend neighbourhood. We adhere to the City's design plan and engineering standards.

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**Context — this may be an issue because:**

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

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Green Streets**Community Services  
Energy, Mines and Resources

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**Background:**

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

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Community Services

March 1, 2023

Date approved



Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

March 1, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Frances Avenue Development**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- The Frances Avenue Urban Residential Project will be tendered in spring 2023, with plans to bring 43 serviced residential lots and a new water lift station to residents of the Town of Watson Lake.
- This project will be done in partnership with the Yukon government, Liard First Nation and the Town of Watson Lake. Under the terms of our partnership, the Liard First Nation will own 18 of the lots and 25 lots will be made available to the public.
- We look forward to working with Liard First Nation and the Town of Watson Lake to advance more land development projects in the area in the near future.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because there are currently no residential Yukon government lots for sale.

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**Background:**

- The Frances Avenue Extension project has been an identified priority of both the Town of Watson Lake and Liard First Nation (LFN) since the 1990s, when the lots were originally surveyed and some municipal infrastructure was installed.
- LFN subsequently selected 18 of the lots as Interim Protected Lands (IPLs). IPLs are parcels of land that were identified as future Settlement Lands by a Yukon First Nation during the Umbrella Final Agreement negotiations.
- IPL designation was intended to protect the parcels from sale, lease, trade, mineral staking and oil and gas development in the interim before a Final Agreement was signed, at which time the parcels were to be converted to Settlement Lands for the First Nation that identified the parcels. Yukon

# Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2023**

## Frances Avenue Development

Community Services

government has maintained the LFN IPLs in order to continue to protect these parcels while exploring other types of potential agreements with LFN.

- The negotiated Land Distribution Agreement provides LFN with assurance that they will receive the lots as fee simple, which will allow the IPL protections on these lots to lapse after August 1, 2023.
- This area is identified in the Town of Watson Lake Official Community Plan for short-to-long-term residential development and the lots are appropriately zoned. Moving forward with the Project will help to meet current demand and create an inventory of urban residential lots in the Town of Watson Lake.
- It will also support a favourable environment for future initiatives and collaborative work between the two governments and the municipality.
- The project is currently advancing through the YESAA process. LFN contracts are being finalized and the lift station and surface works + underground utilities tenders will be released as the YESAA process wraps up.
- In addition to the 18 developed lots, the Liard First Nation will participate in some of the development the work such as clearing the lots, providing granular material and landscaping.

Approved by:



January 28, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Pharmacy Initiative**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- We amended the *Pharmacists Regulation* to expand the scope of practice for pharmacists. As of June 2022, pharmacists could extend prescriptions twice and as of December 2022, they could prescribe for minor ailments.
- Ongoing pressures on the health care system demonstrated the value of expanding the previous scope of practice for pharmacists. This will help to relieve stresses due to the opioid crisis, COVID and patients without a regular doctor.
- We are grateful for the input of all health professionals who contributed to the pharmacy project over the years, but I want to particularly thank the Yukon Pharmacists Association and the Pharmacy Advisory Committee for their invaluable contribution to this project, as well as rural permit holders in Watson Lake and Dawson City for their input.

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**Context:**

- There has been increasing pressure on the health care system, especially an increase in emergency room visits for non-emergency issues.

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**Background:**

- Revisions to the regulatory framework for pharmacists and in the operation of pharmacies has been a large and long-term project that began in 2014. The Pharmacy Initiative consisted of two parts: 1) the *Pharmacists Regulation* under the *Health Professions Act* and 2) regulations for pharmacies and rural dispensaries under the *Pharmacy and Drug Act*, which is not yet in force.



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Pharmacy Initiative**Community Services

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- The Pharmacists Regulation came into force August 1, 2019, following a consultation process that dates back to 2014. With it, pharmacists are able to work to a greater scope of practice, providing Yukoners with increased access to certain health care services.
- The pandemic demonstrated the need to further expand the scope of practice for pharmacists. In June 28, 2022, amendments were approved allowing pharmacists to prescribe for minor ailments, extending prescriptions multiple times, and adapting narcotics.
- Minor ailment prescribing came into force December 28, 2022, providing the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch and Health and Social Services the time required to establish standards and incorporate pharmacists into existing programs such as travel vaccinations and smoking cessation.
- The Pharmacy Advisory Committee continues to meet and will review any new policy. Currently, the committee is working on reviewing the standards, and are starting to look at medication error reporting.
- The final step in this project is to develop and implement a new set of Pharmacy Regulations and Standards of Operation, guided by feedback already received from the sector. The legal work is underway.
- Once in place, the Pharmacy Regulation will address aspects such as: licence categories types of pharmacies, fees, application requirements, renewal and cancellation conditions, closure of pharmacies, medication storage, spacing requirements, and record keeping.
- The Standards of Operation will support the Regulation. Regulating pharmacies will be a new, specialized field, and differs from regulating pharmacists, which Yukon has done since 1898.
- The Yukon Pharmacists Association, Yukon Hospital Corporation pharmacists, and pharmacies/dispensaries in Yukon were consulted in December 2018 and January 2019 regarding the overall framework for the Pharmacy regulations. This included using and comparing the frameworks from British Columbia, Alberta and Prince Edward Island.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Pharmacy Initiative**Community Services

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- The policy work was well underway, but now on hold during the legal review. Once the legal issues are identified, the department will work closely with an expert in the pharmacy field to advance this project to completion, including additional consultations with pharmacists, rural permit holders, and other relevant stakeholder groups.

Approved by:

January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

### **Health Professions Modernization**

Community Services

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#### **Recommended response:**

- Work is underway to revise the *Health Professions Act* and improve how we regulate healthcare service professionals. This multi-year project will ensure a high standard of regulation that responds to Yukon's unique needs and context.
- We are committed to improving the way in which health professions in the Yukon are regulated and, over time, increasing coverage to additional professions including psychologists.
- Regulation helps protect Yukoners by ensuring that health professionals are competent and safe to practice, as well as providing clear processes for dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues.

#### **Additional responses:**

- We are working to support psychologists in the Yukon with an option to become regulated and licensed. We know this is important to support Yukoners' access to safe mental and behavioural health services.

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#### **Context:**

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

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#### **Background:**

- The Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch manages and supports registrants for 12 health professions and an additional 11 non-health professions totaling approximately 5,700 registrants a year. Only 4 of the 12 health

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Health Professions  
Modernization**

Community Services

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

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

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Department

January 27, 2023

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- We know some Yukoners are facing challenges with increasing costs and availability of insurance. We are working with licensed insurers and the Insurance Bureau of Canada to advocate for increased options and affordability in the Yukon.
- The Yukon is a member of the Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators. As such, we are working with the industry to ensure the developing practices align with fair treatment of customers.
- As a result of this work, Yukon's Superintendent of Insurance has prohibited the sale of insurance products that are sold on best terms pricing. Best term pricing allows a number of insurers to cover a portion of a product and the customer is charged the rate of the highest assessed risk. These initiatives are expected to improve the quality and pricing of insurance policies.

**Additional response:**

- The Insurance Bureau of Canada conducted research regarding flood insurance in the Yukon. The findings demonstrated that in general the Yukon is well within the average for premium costs, coverage and availability. Flood plain mapping is underway to assess high risk areas across the Yukon and is anticipated to be released in 2023.

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**Context:**

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

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

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

- The *Insurance Act* and Regulations outlines what is required of a professional or a company including qualifications to practice as well as requirements for conduct and prevention of deceptive or unfair practices. The *Insurance Act* (the Act) also ensures that insurers are financially sound to operate within the territory and standards are in place when issuing insurance policies.
- Under the authority of the Act, the Superintendent of Insurance, through the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch, issues licenses to insurers (insurance companies) and to intermediaries (insurance agents, brokers, salespeople, etc.) authorizing them to sell insurance in the Yukon.
- As the regulator, the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch can address contraventions of the Act. However, insurance companies, as independent businesses, can decide which products to sell and to whom. As the regulator, the branch has no authority to specify the type nor cost of the products that an insurer may offer.
- The Act and Regulations define and prescribe the classes of insurance that can be sold to customers in the Yukon and general provisions when issuing policies.
- Condominium insurance rate increases are consistent across Canada and not unique to the Yukon. In December 2020, the British Columbia Financial Services Authority released a report on Strata Property Insurance with the following non-exhaustive list of contributing factors associated to this increase: catastrophe exposure, risk model changes, increasing insured value, building construction, lack of premium increases, persistent low interest rate environment.
- The Insurance Bureau of Canada released a Condominium/Strata Action Plan which supports condo corporations by providing access to a risk manager to increase awareness around how insurers view risks, evaluate properties and how claims history, building materials and location can affect insurance rates.

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Increased Cost of Insurance**

Community Services

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Approved by:



January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Changes to Real Estate Practices in the Yukon**    Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Real Estate Association is working with Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to implement a new model of real estate agency that works for the benefit of all Yukoners.
- The designated agency model will mean that a real estate agent is duty bound to represent the best interest of their client, whether their clients is the buyer or the seller. This is a shift from the long standing practice of seller agency or vendor agency, in which the agent acts as a sub-agent of the seller.
- In conjunction with Yukon's licensing requirements for real estate agents, a designated agency model will allow better protections for the public and enhance trust and transparency.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because the Yukon Real Estate Association is implementing a new model for client-agent relationships in the Yukon.

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**Background:**

- The Yukon Real Estate Association (YREA) is an industry-run association, entirely independent of the regulator, the Superintendent of Real Estate at the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch (PLRA).
- Representatives from YREA and PLRA met earlier this year to discuss our common goals. The main topic of discussion was the current agency model.
- In the Yukon, real estate salespersons often use a model referred to as seller agency or vendor agency. Under this model salespersons employed by an agency to help buyers through the process do not represent the buyers, but act as sub-agents to the seller. All participating agencies/agents are required to act in the best interest of the seller.



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Changes to Real Estate Practices in the Yukon**     Community Services

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- The Yukon is one of the last jurisdictions in Canada to predominantly rely on this model. Members of the YREA are bound by The Realtor Code and other practice standards which provide safeguards related to ethics, disclosure, and the realtor's obligations to their clients. Despite this, under the seller agency model, there is a perceived disadvantage to buyers who do not have a professional directly representing their interests through an agency agreement. It increases the potential of a higher sale price.
- Most Canadian jurisdictions use a designated agency model. Under this model, both the seller and the buyer in a real estate transaction are represented by salespersons who are required to act in their respective best interests.
- There is no data to suggest that transitioning to a designated agency model has reduced housing prices. Other Canadian jurisdictions experienced market trends similar to those in the Yukon. Also, factors such as the commission structure in real estate will always carry a certain risk of conflicting interests and inflated prices. This will not be affected by implementing a new model.
- The *Real Estate Agents Act* creates a framework for licensing real estate agents and salespersons and authorizes the Superintendent to conduct investigations and impose penalties. The Act does not create authority for the Superintendent to introduce rules to address day-to-day operations and models. As a result, the Superintendent cannot require or prohibit a particular agency model. Under the current legislation, this must be done through YREA.
- PLRA has been working with YREA to encourage and support a transition to a designated agency model. YREA advised PLRA that they amended their bylaws and standards in order to initiate the transition. YREA agreed to share the changes with the Superintendent and to work collaboratively. The designated agency model will be in place by March 31, 2023.

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Changes to Real Estate Practices  
in the Yukon**

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Community Services

Approved by:



January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon has declared a substance use health emergency, highlighting the importance for Yukoners to receive access to quality mental health services.
- We are committed to developing regulations for psychologists. The department has rolled out a public awareness webpage on how to select a psychologist. This site includes a voluntary list of psychologists practicing in Yukon indicating who either holds a valid license in another Canadian jurisdiction or is eligible to do so. Officials will continue to work on this with the profession in Yukon over the coming month.
- Longer-term, the department is leading a comprehensive review of the *Health Professions Act* to support enhanced standards and safety of health care for Yukoners, with aim to improve the overall efficiencies for the regulatory system.

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**Context:**

- Yukon is the last jurisdiction to regulate psychologists and the government committed to regulating the profession in the Speech from the Throne, May 2021.

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**Background:**

- Improving the way in which health professions are regulated under the Health Professions Act is a multi-year project. Regulation of health professions helps Yukoners receive services from competent professionals who practice according to the high standards and ethics of their profession. It also provides Yukoners with clear means and processes for dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues.
- As of March 2022 the Psychological Society of Yukon reported:

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Psychologists**

Community Services

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- There were approximately 21 psychologists practicing in the territory;
- 16 were members of the Society, which requires members to hold a license in another Canadian jurisdiction; and,
- Approximately 5 were not licensed anywhere.
- Both Nunavut and Northwest Territories have territorial legislation in place requiring that psychologists be licensed by the territorial government to practice.

Approved by:



January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Harmonized Licensing Pathways for Doctors**     Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Medical Council is an independent body responsible for regulating physicians. They are supporting Health and Social Services and the Yukon Medical Association in quickly licensing and regulating any qualified new applicants.
- The Yukon Medical Council is aware of concerns with access to primary care and is licensing all physicians who meet our licensing requirements. They are monitoring the current situation and will recommend changes as necessary.
- We understand that it is vital that Yukoners have access to primary care. The Registrar of Medical Practitioners actively participates in national and cross-jurisdictional organizations and initiatives aimed at harmonizing and streamlining the licensing pathways for international graduates and improving the process for all applicants.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because a motion was brought to the house urging the Yukon government to work with provincial and federal governments to establish a harmonized licensing pathway for doctors which would allow verifying internationally trained doctors in a timely manner.

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**Background:**

- The Yukon Medical Council as an independent body created under the *Medical Professions Act* that is responsible for regulating physicians, developing standards and deciding complaints. They are also responsible for recommendations to the Minister on the making of or amendment to regulations.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Harmonized Licensing Pathways for Doctors**      Community Services

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- The Registrar of Medical Practitioners is the Director of Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. The Registrar is on the board of directors for the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada and the council of the Medical Council of Canada. As an organization of regulators, the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada works with the Medical Council of Canada to set the credentialing and licensing pathways for international medical graduate (IMG).
- Currently in Canada, there are numerous pathways to obtain a full licence for an international medical graduate. Most of the pathways require a review of the medical undergrad education, experience practicing under supervision in Canada, and passing the Canadian certification exams. There are multiple pathways because of the variation of education and experience for each.
- Some jurisdictions are creating new classes for internationally trained physicians who are not expected to obtain their Canadian certifications. These classes allow internationally trained physicians who have practice experience in their home country to work in a limited capacity. These limitations may include only being able to practice in specific locations (types of facilities) and practicing specific procedures.
- The Yukon does not have the option of introducing new classes without amendments to the *Medical Professions Act* and associated regulation. International medical graduates may work in the Yukon under the Limited Family or Specialist classes of registration.
- Registrants under the Limited Practice registers must be invited to a specific position by a statement in writing by the Minister of Health and Social Services indicating that a demonstrated need exists for the issuance of a licence (s.7(a)).
- S.7(2) of the Regulation provides time limitations for inclusion on the Limited Practice registers. Registrants have 10 years to obtain their Canadian practice experience and pass the certification exams through with the College of Family Physicians of Canada or the Royal College of Canada.
- All individuals brought in under the Limited Practice Registers must have gone through a pre-licensing assessment by a College of Physicians and Surgeons in a

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Harmonized Licensing Pathways  
for Doctors**

Community Services

Canadian Province. Previously, Health and Social Services paid the college in Alberta to perform the assessments.

- Additionally registrants must have an appropriate supervisor who reports annually to the Yukon Medical Council and is available for quality assurance assessments.
- The pre-licensing assessment program was terminated by Health and Social Services and the Yukon Medical Council does not have an established quality assurance program.

Approved by:

January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

### **Registered Nurses Profession Act   Community Services Legislative Amendments**

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#### **Recommended response:**

- Our government recognizes that nurses play a critical role in the territory's health care system. We are committed to ensuring that Yukoners have reliable access to services that align with national standards and best practices, including for public and patient safety.
- We are actively collaborating with the Yukon Registered Nurses Association to strengthen regulation of nursing in the public interest, provide for broader access to care, and support recruitment and retention of nurses in the territory.
- In the meantime, we are continuing to work towards revising the *Health Professions Act* to further improve how we regulate healthcare professionals in the Yukon.

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#### **Context:**

- Yukon Registered Nurses Association is interested in regulation changes.

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#### **Background:**

- The Yukon Registered Nurses Association (YRNA) regulates Registered Nurses (RNs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in the Yukon, under the authority of the *Registered Nurses Profession Act* and *Registered Nurses Profession Regulation*.
- In accordance with the Act, the YRNA Board has the authority to propose regulations that are not inconsistent with the Act, subject to Cabinet approval.
- YRNA has identified issues with its regulatory framework for RNs and NPs and requested changes to regulate these professions more effectively.
- YRNA has been working with Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to define a list of proposed changes to the Act and Regulation that will address the



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

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needs they have identified as urgent, and the remaining concerns raised by YRNA can be addressed as part of a broader health professional regulation initiative.

- On April 28, 2022, YRNA wrote to the Minister of Community Services (CS) to request support to bring into effect their list of proposed changes.
- CS and Health and Social Services are in process of preparing the proposed amendments to the Act and Regulation and will continue to engage with the YRNA throughout.

**Approved by:**January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Ontario's "As of right" rule for regulating health professionals**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- To address the health care worker shortage, Ontario is considering legislation that would allow health care workers licensed anywhere in Canada to work in the province.
  - Yukon is also investigating innovative ways to attract and keep health care workers. Work is now underway to revise the *Health Professions Act* to improve how we regulate health care professions. We are also carefully considering Ontario's model while getting a good grasp of the pros and cons of its application in Yukon.
  - Yukon also works across jurisdictions to stay current with developments across the country. Yukon is a member of the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada, which is developing updated proposals to meet the current needs of the country.
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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- There is a shortage of health care workers in the Yukon and the rest of Canada.
  - There might be expectations that Yukon adopts Ontario's approach to fill health care positions.
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**Background:**

- On January 19, 2023, the Government of Ontario announced their intention to allow health care workers registered in other provinces and territories to immediately start working and caring for people in Ontario.
  - Legislation expected to be introduced during Ontario's 2023 spring legislative assembly, if passed, will allow Canadian health care workers already registered or licensed in another Canadian jurisdiction to practice in Ontario without having to register with an Ontario health college.
-

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Ontario's "As of right" rule for  
regulating health professionals**

Community Services

- As currently described, under this proposal, health care professionals from outside the province will only be eligible and permitted to work in Ontario if they have provided safe, competent and ethical health care in their home province or territory.
- Pan-licensure would mean a significant change in how registration is managed. Per the Supreme Court of Canada regarding security regulators, pan-licensure would require all the jurisdictions to adopt enabling legislation. As has been demonstrated by the security regulators, this is a complex and time-consuming process.
- Physicians, nurses and some other professions have called for Canadian National Licences, so that professionals may move freely from one jurisdiction to another. The most vocal supporter has been the Canadian Medical Association.
- The implications of this policy to the Yukon is unclear since the specifics of the changes have not been announced and will be introduced during Ontario's legislative spring sitting 2023 that is scheduled from February 21<sup>st</sup> to June 05<sup>th</sup>.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Community Services

March 1, 2023

[Date approved]

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

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**Recommended response:**

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

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because property owners, including First Nations, may be concerned about potential rising property taxes resulting from the 2022 rural Yukon reassessment. Additionally the Association of Yukon Communities has raised concern over the different tax rates between municipal and rural properties.

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**Background:**

- As part of the reassessment cycle, the fair value of land is reviewed and any changes in value noted from market evidence may lead to a change in land value. The replacement cost (cost to build) of improvements is also reviewed and any changes noted in building costs from the time of the last reassessment may necessitate a change in improvement (building assessment) value. This is why in

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Property Assessment in Rural  
Yukon 2022**

Community Services

some instances, while a property owner may not have done anything to improve or change their property, they may still realize a change in assessed value.

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

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 27, 2023

Date approved

**Recommended response:**

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

**Additional response:**

- Since the program launch on October 25, 2022, Energy Branch has received 31 applications from clients wishing to participate.

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**Context:**

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

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**Background:**

- Eligible properties include property that is subject to a land and improvement tax, is located within a participating municipality or outside of a municipal boundary, has an existing home five years or older, has a mobile home situated on titled land permanently or for a minimum of one year.

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

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- Participating in the Better Buildings Programs also allows for property owners to apply for available energy efficiency grant and rebate programs offered through Yukon government and the federal government after making energy-efficiency retrofits to their properties.
- This loan program makes funding available to eligible residential and commercial property owners at low-interest rates.
- This program is currently administered by the Energy Branch and the Property Assessment and Taxation Branch.
- The funding is recouped through local improvement taxes paid by the participant on an annual basis.
- The program was announced in the Speech from the Throne in October 2019 and the Minister made a Ministerial Statement on the home retrofit loan program on October 23, 2019.
- This loan program is in addition to current programs at the Yukon Housing Corporation that include the Home Repair Program, and the First Nations Energy Efficiency Program, which is funded through the federal Low Carbon Economy Fund. The Yukon Housing Corporation is also working on energy retrofits to government-owned housing throughout the territory, also funded by the Low Carbon Economy Fund.
- As of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Municipal Agreements were completed with all municipalities.

**Approved by:**January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

### **Librarian Wages – Whitehorse vs. Communities**

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Community Services

#### Recommended response:

- Whether as a staff member or volunteering on the board, those involved in community libraries provide a great service to the community they serve.
- Community librarians are paid by the local library board, and are not employees of the Yukon government. While the work is similar, it is not directly comparable, and as such there is typically a difference in pay offered by community boards.
- This September, I met with community librarians and board members to discuss this issue, and department officials are now looking into potential options.

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#### Context:

- This may become a concern because this has been a topic in the legislature in recent years.

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#### Background:

- In addition to the Whitehorse Public Library, there are 14 community libraries within the Yukon. The *Public Libraries Act* establishes that a volunteer board can be set up within a community to be responsible for the operations of community library.
- Transfer payment agreements are set up with the 14 community library boards to cover the annual salary dollars of a community librarian. Since the Board is responsible for hiring, the community librarian is not a Yukon government employee.



## **Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

### **Librarian Wages – Whitehorse vs. Communities**

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Community Services

- The librarians in Yukon government are required to have further education, experience and training in information and library science. This is not a requirement for community librarian positions.
- Community Services funds the community boards by way of transfer payment agreements to operate the library based upon an agreed number of hours.

#### **Financial Background:**

- The total Transfer Payment Agreement budget for Community Libraries will increase in 2023-24 by \$102,000 to \$501,000 for a total of 322 hours/week of library service in 14 communities.

**Approved by:**



Deputy Minister, Department

January 27, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Canada Winter Games 2027  
Bid Cancellation**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- The Canada Games are Canada's largest multi-sport event for Canadian youth. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate our Yukon athletes, coaches and support staff who recently travelled to Prince Edward Island to compete at the 2023 Canada Winter Games. Their dedication and commitment to their sports is commendable and we are proud of their accomplishments.
- In the Fall of 2022, the decision was made to not proceed with the bid to host the 2027 Canada Winter Games due to the high cost of building the infrastructure that would have been needed to make the games a success.
- This decision was not made lightly and we are extremely disappointed that we cannot proceed with this historic bid with our municipal partners. Hosting the 2027 games in Whitehorse would have been an historic opportunity to advance reconciliation and bring the highest level of sport in the country back to Canada's North.

**Additional response:**

- I want to thank 2027 Canada Winter Games Bid Committee, Chair Piers McDonald, and his exceptional team for all their hard work over the past 18 months. I also want to thank our partners at the City of Whitehorse for their collaboration in pursuing this opportunity.
- While this was not the outcome any of us had hoped for, I look forward to continuing to work with our partners to increase recreational infrastructure and support the development of sport throughout the territory in the coming years.

**Session Briefing Note****Canada Winter Games 2027  
Bid Cancellation**

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Community Services

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because the Canada Winter Games are high profile.
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**Background:**

- Held once every two years, alternating between winter and summer, the Canada Games are the largest multi-sport event in Canada for up and coming amateur athletes. Each Games features two weeks of competition, between 16 and 19 sports, approximately 3,400 summer and 2,350 winter athletes, and over 4,000 volunteers.
- A comprehensive bid to host the Canada Winter Games was jointly submitted by the Government of Yukon and the City of Whitehorse to the Canada Games Council on September 23, 2022.
- The capital costs of hosting the 2027 games was estimated to be in excess of \$185 million, and contributions from partners totaled less than \$15 million. It was determined not to be feasible for the Government of Yukon to proceed with the bid at a cost of \$160 million.
- Other potential funding sources were explored, including potential to re-prioritize prior commitments under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan, and to look to raise partial funds through application based programs offered by Canada. These were ultimately ruled out as the projects would have displaced much needed water and sewer, and other vital infrastructure priorities for Yukon communities.
- The department will work with the City of Whitehorse and the Canada Games Council to debrief on the process and future opportunities. Canada Games and challenges faced by small jurisdictions continues to be discussed at the sport minister's table.

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Canada Winter Games 2027  
Bid Cancellation**

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Community Services

Approved by:



January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- Community Services has worked to upgrade community pools in Ross River, Beaver Creek and Carcross so that they meet safety standards. Over the past two seasons we have undertaken assessments and, in some cases, repairs to the facilities.
- Construction of the new swimming pool in Pelly Crossing was completed in September 2022 and, in partnership with the Selkirk First Nation, the pool will open for the 2023 summer aquatics season.
- Our Sport and Recreation branch coordinates with rural Yukon communities and First Nation partners on recruitment and training of seasonal staff and specialized pool managers to run aquatics programs and facilities, and also brings in specialists as needed for maintenance and repairs.

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**Context:**

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

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**Background:**

- Municipal governments own and operate pools in incorporated communities, while Community Services owns four pools in the Yukon - Beaver Creek, Carcross, Pelly Crossing and Ross River.
- Community pools are aging and in need of repairs to meet current safety standards for swimming pool construction and operating systems. Pools operate with a short season, typically mid-May to August, and it can further be a challenge to recruit qualified pool operators and lifeguards.
- Issues with the seasonal pools were first identified in a 2018 facility assessment report. In July 2019, Environmental Health Services hired a consultant to

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

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complete site assessments and look at the circulation systems of all the Yukon community pools. The assessment identified design deficiencies of the facilities when compared to current standards of construction and design.

- The pool in Carcross was open once again for the full summer season in 2022.
- Ongoing repairs and lack of aquatics staff affected the opening of the Ross River pool in 2022. Repairs are now complete and the pool is scheduled to open for the 2023 aquatics season.
- The Beaver Creek pool requires additional assessment and repair and was not able to open in 2022. It is not anticipated to open in 2023. Water is accumulating under the pool liner and a hydrogeological assessment of the soil is required to determine where the water is coming from and if it is impacting the septic system. Once this work is complete, an assessment of the circulation systems is required to ensure the pool is meeting current standards.
- Community Services worked with the Selkirk First Nation on the plans and design for the replacement seasonal pool in Pelly Crossing. Johnston Builders was awarded the contract in June 2021 and the project was completed in September 2022.
- Municipal-owned pools in Carmacks and Haines Junction reached the end of their lifespan and are closed permanently; the municipalities are considering options for recreation including whether and how to replace pools.
- Municipal-owned pools in Dawson City and Faro were open for summer 2022 and plan to open once again in 2023.
- Municipal-owned pools in Mayo and Watson Lake did not open for summer 2022 because of lifeguard shortages.
- Pool closures due to COVID-19 impacted long-term availability of lifeguards, as well as ongoing operations and maintenance.
- The operation and maintenance of each Yukon government pool is a joint responsibility between Community Services, Property Management Division and the Local Authority for Recreation.

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Community Pools**

Community Services

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Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 27, 2023

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is proud to contribute to the health, well-being and quality of life for all Yukon residents by supporting sport, recreation and active living in the territory.
  - We recognize the impacts that high inflation, rapid population growth and of course, the global pandemic has had on the sport and recreation sector. We have heard from some sport and recreation organizations about budgetary challenges, and are looking at how best to support the sector in the short and longer term.
  - Yukon government continues to support sport governing bodies in meeting their national mandated requirements such as incorporating into their programs a focus on concussion awareness, the prevention of harassment, abuse and discrimination in sport, and gender equity.
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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because numerous sport and recreation organizations have requested additional funding from the Yukon Government to help off-set increased costs for rent, wages, programming and demands from inflation and population growth.
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**Background:**

- The Sport and Recreation Branch (SARB) has a critical role in funding the territory's sport, recreation and active living sector to support the health, well-being and quality of life for Yukoners.
  - SARB funds more than 100 Yukon organizations and athletes, and through this provides benefit to over 25,000 Yukoners.
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## Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2023**

### **Funding Increases for Sport and Recreation Groups**

Community Services

- Sport and recreation organizations and special recreation groups that receive operational and programming funding serve a wide variety of Yukoners, including those in underrepresented groups and priority populations, such as Indigenous, 55+, girls, rural communities, and people with intellectual disabilities.
- SARB has been receiving many requests for increased operational funding from sport and recreation organizations in order to keep providing services to Yukoners. They describe added pressures of increased rent and wages, costs to provide programming, and demands from population growth.

#### **Financial Implications:**

- SARB provides a total of \$4.676 million in funding annually (2021-22 figures). Of this, 70% (\$3.283 million) goes to sport governing bodies and sport and recreation organizations through the Foundations and Podium Pathways Grants, as well as direct operational and programming funding.
- Of the \$3.283 million to sport and recreation organizations, \$2.027 million (62%) comes from the Government of Yukon. The remaining 38% comes from external sources including the Public Health Agency of Canada, Sport Canada and Lotteries Yukon.

#### **Approved by:**



Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 27, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****First Nation Contracting**Community Services

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**Recommended response:**

- We are grateful to our Yukon First Nations partners for their significant contributions to the flood and fire response in 2022.
- The Government of Yukon is seeking to renew agreements with all 14 First Nations for the Wildland Fire Management Initial Attack Program. This includes five government-to-government agreements and nine agreements administered by Yukon First Nation Wildfire Limited Partnership.
- I want to thank Yukon First Nation Fire, our First Nation government partners, and all initial attack and unit crew member for their efforts. They work hard to keep Yukoners safe, and to limit the impact of wildland fire in our communities.

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**Context:**

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

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**Background:**

- Yukon relies on First Nations Initial Attack firefighting crews as a key component of the Wildland Fire Management program which consists of 10 Yukon government crews and 14 First Nations crews located in six fire centers across the territory.
- Both Yukon government and First Nations crews work side by side on the fire line and all are provided with the same level of training and type of equipment including personal protective equipment.
- In 2022, several crews were not able to fully staff their three positions, leaving partial crews that could not be deployed on a wildfire. These challenges are not

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****First Nation Contracting**Community Services

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unique to Yukon as other jurisdictions across the country experience labour shortages due to challenges with recruitment and retention.

- In 2019-2022, nine of 14 First Nations or their Development Corporations assigned the administration of their initial attack crew contracts to Yukon First Nations Wildfire Limited Partnership. This supports local employment, capacity building and economic development. The remaining five contracts are bilateral with the Wildland Fire Management Branch.
- Negotiations for the next iteration of the initial attack agreements began in 2022. They are expected to result in agreements with similar terms but with significant cost increases due to employment market conditions, supply chain issues and high costs of goods and services.
- In addition to initial attack services provided by First Nations crews, Wildland Fire Management Branch also has a three year agreement for Unit Crew Services with Yukon First Nations Wildfire.
- Under this agreement, the Unit Crew performs guaranteed work during wildfire season in order to be readily available for deployment to a wildfire or other incident. The agreement also provides support for training and capacity development to increase the amount of qualified wildland fire fighting resources that are available in Yukon.

**Financial Implications:**

- In 2022, Yukon First Nations received approximately \$2.4 million for the provision of initial attack firefighter crew services.
- This number is expected to increase by a factor of 10 to 25% given current inflation rates, supply chain challenges, ongoing negotiations for a new collective agreement (associated wage rate increases) and increase costs for vehicles and fuel.

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**First Nation Contracting**

Community Services

- In 2022, the Yukon government provided \$40,000 to Yukon First Nations Wildfire Limited Partnership for the Beat the Heat boot camp, and in-kind contributions to the program in staff time and training resources.
- The 2022 Unit Crew Services Agreement saw Yukon government provide \$830,000 in contracts and transfer payment agreements.
- In 2023, up to \$525,000 is provided to Yukon First Nations Wildfire for the guaranteed work and training portions of the Unit Crew Services Agreement.

Approved by:



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Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 27, 2023

Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- We are taking proactive measures to limit the impact of wildfires through fuel management such as forest thinning, conversion of coniferous stands to deciduous stands, and prescribed burning. We are also promoting wildland fire prevention through education campaigns to reduce human-caused fire ignition and help property owners protect their homes from wildfire risk.
- As an important step we are developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, which will offer a road map for reducing community fire risk through forest fuel treatments and community FireSmart projects.
- Plans are prepared in partnership with community leaders and with public feedback to identify fuel management priorities and give guidance for addressing wildland fire hazards. We are proud to have endorsed Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Teslin and Haines Junction in 2022 with three more communities engaged in the planning process.

**Additional response:**

- These plans will lead to landscape-scale projects such as the Whitehorse South Fuel Break which is underway. This partnership with the City of Whitehorse is treating 395 hectares of forest while providing opportunities for biomass industry growth. To date, 211 hectares have been worked. We expect to finish the Copper Haul Road portion of the Fuel Break in fall 2024 and the Mary Lake Shaded Fuel Break portion in fall 2026.

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

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**Context:**

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

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**Background:**

- The Government of Yukon proactively mitigates the potential impact of wildfires through fuel management such as forest thinning, conversion of coniferous stands to deciduous stands, and prescribed burning. It also promotes wildland fire prevention through education campaigns to reduce human-caused fire ignition and help property owners protect their homes from wildfire risk.
- Two draft Community Wildfire Protection Plans are nearing completion for the communities of Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay, and Dawson City. These plans will be presented for public comment in 2023.
- Through the FireSmart funding program, community groups can receive funding for local wildfire hazard reduction projects. In 2022/23, the Yukon government in partnership with the Government of Canada is investing \$1.55 million in 32 projects.
- The Whitehorse South Fuel Break is a 395-hectare piece of strategic wildfire-resistant infrastructure. It is partially funded by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. It is expected to be completed in 2026 and includes manual treatments, mechanical treatments, prescribed burns and planting of aspen trees. This spring, 80,000 aspen seedlings were planted in fuel treatment areas around Whitehorse to further improve the resilience of our forests and community.
- The Copper Haul Road North Fuelbreak project was successfully screened through YESAB this autumn. This 200-hectare project will create defensible space for firefighters to work safely and effectively along the Copper Haul Road from the Mt. Sima Bridge in the south to the McLean Lake Quarries in the north. Work will begin in this area after Christmas.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention**

Community Services

- Wildland Fire Management is leading Yukon government's participation in Canada's 2 Billion Trees program. Yukon and Canada have signed an Agreement in Principle and are working to establish a contribution agreement by March 2023. Planning is currently underway to plant up to 480,000 aspen seedlings in strategic fuelbreaks around Whitehorse and Haines Junction by 2026.
- We work with the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Highways and Public Works, Economic Development and Environment to make the best use of wood salvaged from forest fuel treatment areas.

**Financial Implications:**

- In 2022/23, the government will provide \$850,000 for FireSmart projects, with an additional \$700,000 to First Nation communities, thanks to a contribution from Indigenous Services Canada's Emergency Management Assistance Program.
- This year Wildland Fire Management budgeted a further \$1.7 million for landscape-level fuel treatments.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Community Services

January 27, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****2023 Wildfire Season  
Preparedness**

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Community Services

**Recommended response:**

- After a busy 2022 wildfire season, during which Yukon experienced 2.5 times the average number of wildfires, the Wildland Fire Management team is preparing for the upcoming 2023 season.
- Each year Yukon hires new wildland fire fighters through a competitive process, filling vacancies with capable individuals who then undergo a rigorous training and certification process before becoming qualified crew members or crew leaders.
- When fully staffed, there are a maximum of 24 wildfire crews, which is comprised of 10 Yukon government and 14 Yukon First Nations crews. We look forward to working with Yukon First Nation Fire as a partner again in the upcoming season, offering a Unit Crew and representation for several of the Initial Attack agreements.
- In addition to hiring personnel, Wildland Fire Management prepares for the coming season by restocking and refurbishing equipment over the winter months. This includes procurement of consumable goods, wildfire fighting equipment and replacement or maintenance of specialized vehicles.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because the public may have interest in Wildland Fire Management activities in 2023.
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**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****2023 Wildfire Season  
Preparedness**

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Community Services

**Background:**

- Yukon has 75 initial attack firefighters in regional bases across the Yukon and another 40 staff managing crews and aircraft, leading prevention programs, and providing logistical support.
- Wildland Fire Management (WFM) has a number of tools in place to keep Yukoners up-to-date on fire danger ratings and wildfire activity, such as the wildfire map on Yukon.ca.
- The 2022 season of extreme wildfire activity showed the need for strong public fire information. An expanded fire map was launched in July to help people better understand the Yukon's fire situation while also learning more about fire activity in a given area.
- WFM prepares for the fire season by having resources in place ready to respond to incidents as required. During the season, WFM's meteorologist and fire behavior specialists actively monitor current and short-term forecast weather to ensure appropriate response to fires.
- When Yukon's wildland fire resources become overwhelmed we are fortunate to draw on the support of personnel and equipment from Alberta, B.C. and Saskatchewan under our mutual aid resource sharing agreement through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center.
- When the Yukon Wildland Fire season subsides, WFM can export resources to other jurisdictions, as we did to B.C., Washington, Idaho and Alaska in 2022. We are happy to support our partners in wildland fire management as they help us in times of need.

**Financial Implications:**

In 2022:

- The WFM budget for 2022/23 is \$21.8 million. This accounts for a typical fire year in the Yukon, recognizing that costs will be higher in a historic year. An additional \$15.9 million was approved at Supplementary Estimates #1 due to

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****2023 Wildfire Season  
Preparedness**

Community Services

the high number of fires and additional resources required. The revised budget for 2022/23 is just over \$38 million.

- Over the past five years, WFM expenditure has ranged from \$18 million (2020/21) to \$40 million (2019/20), and is accounted for through Supplementary Budgets where required.
- \$3.3 million was budgeted for prevention and mitigation – hazard reduction, FireSmart projects, and resiliency; and,
- \$16.4 million was budgeted for preparedness – base personnel costs, expected costs like training and program delivery, and planned seasonal expenses.

**Approved by:**January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Air Tanker Program Review**Community Services

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Recommended response:

**Air Tanker Base**

- Wildland Fire Management's air tanker program is comprised of two air tanker groups and six air tanker bases located in the communities of Whitehorse, Watson Lake, Haines Junction, Carmacks, Mayo and Dawson.
- The Whitehorse Air Tanker Base has been identified for replacement and Wildland Fire Management is working with Highways and Public Works to plan for future replacement options.
- This will be informed by a program review in the years ahead on the air tanker program also be considered alongside of future plans as they relate to airport expansion.
- In the meantime, our team at Wildland Fire Management works hard to ensure the seasonal needs of our airtanker program are met, and I commend them for their work.

**Air Tanker Contracts**

- Wildland Fire Management uses "light" and "heavy" air tanker group to aid in wildfire suppression activities. These types of aircraft are suited to operations in Yukon. However, with modernization of the industry, combined with ageing infrastructure in Yukon, it is time for a comprehensive program review.
- Air tanker contracts are now in place for the next six years, allowing Wildland Fire Management time to conduct a program review prior to the next iteration.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Air Tanker Program Review**Community Services

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- A program review may reveal alternative air tanker specifications and different types of modern aircraft to be considered. We will ensure we obtain the best value and receive the most appropriate aircraft and air crews for Yukon.

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**Context:**

- This may become an issue because local businesses are interested in obtaining this type of contract in Yukon.

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**Background:**

- A new Whitehorse Air Tanker Base has been in planning to support the Yukon Wildland Fire Management's program for the response, management and suppression of wildfire activity within Yukon; this continues in concert with overall plans for the future of the airport. Capital investments in assets need to align with long term plans for the program and airport.
- A program review is anticipated to being in 2024 with the hiring of a contractor who specializes in aviation and program reviews. Market research is underway to explore these types of services within Yukon and Canada.
- Wildland Fire Management anticipates the review process to take approximately 2+ years to result in a comprehensive suite of recommendations for modernizing the program.
- This will include a review of existing facilities and airport infrastructure which has a significant impact on the type of aircraft that can safely operate.
- Wildland Fire Management has two contracts, one each for the light and heavy air tanker groups. These groups include aircrafts, pilots, crew and maintenance services for the exclusive use of Yukon's Wildland Fire Management.
- The current heavy air tanker contract with Air Spray and the light air tanker contract with Conair are the result of a value-driven public tender in 2022 and will begin in 2024 for a duration of five years,

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2023**

**Air Tanker Program Review**

Community Services

**Financial Implications:**

- Light tanker group (Air Spray 2017-2024)
  - Total contract amount: \$14,669,939
- Heavy tanker group (Conair 2018-2024)
  - Total contract amount: \$9,903,420
- Total value of both contracts
  - \$24,573,359

**Approved by:**



January 27, 2023

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

### Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

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#### Recommended response:

- As we are aware, homelessness has far-reaching consequences that impact Yukoners. The substance use health emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic have only intensified these issues.
- Meanwhile, rental options are too few and often too expensive. Vacancy rates in the rental market have dropped to 0.8% - the lowest in years –a reality that influences the Yukon Housing growing waitlist.
- Down payment costs remain out of reach for many Yukoners, and homeownership may be less affordable as interest rates rise.
- Across government, we are working with stakeholders to develop new land parcels, increase housing stock, and rapidly increase housing supply while also responding to the findings of the 2022 Office of the Auditor General Report on Housing.

#### Additional response:

- We continue to enhance our Community Housing stock to support a full housing continuum - 47 new affordable units at 401 Jeckell, 10 units of affordable and supportive housing for seniors through Normandy Living and three new triplexes in Watson Lake, Mayo and Whitehorse demonstrate how we are responding to the 2022 Office of the Auditor General of Canada recommendations on housing.
- Partnership with Da Daghay Development Corporation for the construction of 98 new units is one of numerous housing examples that further support vulnerable Yukoners.
- Through our new approach to housing YG employees in communities, we aim to decrease the housing cost disparities in communities, further incentivize private sector investment in housing, and prioritize

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

### Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

allocations of the government's existing staff housing units to meet critical needs for community well-being.

- Finally, as part of the response to the 2022 Office of the Auditor General of Canada recommendations on housing, we have expanded capital incentive programs to include land development for residential housing, while also enhancing our Community Housing stock.

#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Since COVID-19, Yukoners have faced additional housing challenges including increased housing prices and low vacancy rates.
- The recently declared substance use health emergency in the Yukon and closure of Chilkoot Trail Inn have added strain on the housing crisis.

#### Background:

##### Recent interest rate hikes

- The Bank of Canada raised interest rates for an eighth time in January, bringing the Bank rate to 4.50%. At the start of 2022, that rate was 0.25 %. Rising debt costs will make it more challenging for homeowners to qualify for a mortgage and will increase monthly debt costs for existing homeowners and developers.

##### Housing Action Plan and Safe at Home Plan

- The 10-year Housing Action Plan (HAP) for Yukon was launched in 2015 and provides guidance on housing priorities for the territory.
  - A Housing Action Plan Implementation Committee (HAP – IC) made up of key housing stakeholders and partners from across the territory oversees its implementation.
- The Safe at Home community-based Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness (Safe at Home) was launched in November 2017.
- The Safe at Home plan was developed by the Government of Yukon, the City of Whitehorse, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and a number of local NGOs.

# Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

## Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- The Safe at Home Society was awarded \$10 million under the Northern Carve-Out of the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, \$5 million in funding under the federal Rapid Housing Initiative 2.0, and \$1.02 million in funding from YHC's Housing Initiatives Fund - for a supportive housing project proposal.

### Land Development

- The Government of Yukon continues to support new land development to increase the supply of land available for housing development. This includes:
  - Government-led land initiatives in Whistle bend, as well initiatives to sell the 5<sup>th</sup> and Rogers site (See TAB #34) and old Macaulay Lodge site (See TAB #37);
  - First Nations land development projects – KDFN's Copper Ridge West (See TAB #35) and Range Point projects;
  - Private Sector land development project initiatives – the Tank Farm (See TAB #40).
- Community Services estimates an additional 1,476 new housing lots will come online by 2026, enough to accommodate 2,713 additional housing units.

### New Housing Construction and partnerships with the Private Sector

- Yukon Housing Corporation offers several loans and grants programs (See TAB #4) to incentivize new housing construction – namely, the *Housing Initiative Fund* (See TAB #63), the *Developer Build Loan* (See TAB #59), and the *Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program* (MMRCP).
- These territorial-based programs complement new housing construction incentive programs under the National Housing Strategy, including the *National Housing Co-investment Fund* and the *Rapid Housing Initiative*.
- Finally, we provide subsidies to households living in private market housing through the *Canada Yukon Housing Benefit* (See TAB #57) and the *Rent Supplement* program.

### Community Housing and the Most Vulnerable

- Yukon Housing Corporation and its partners continue to implement the new Community Housing Program, which aims to improve better client outcomes and fiscal resiliency (See TAB #58)
- Currently, YHC offers over 700 units through the Community Housing program in which eligible Yukoners pay 25% of their income for rent (rent-geared-to-income), we provide



# Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

## Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

support to more than 80 households through our rent supplement program and more than 130 Yukoners through the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit.

- Starting in early 2023, YHC is introducing a mixed-income and mixed-use tenant's allocation policy to its Whitehorse buildings while providing tenants with appropriate partner supports to help them maintain housing.
- Work continues with the Safe at Home Society with the intent of allocating a percentage of units to individuals on the By-Name List.
- YHC is working to implement the Aging in Place Action Plan, which includes broadening programming to include Senior Supportive Housing Program as an option for seniors who require additional supports.
- Finally, YHC and housing providers have recently completed or are currently making significant capital investments to expand the community housing stock, including:
  - The 401 Jeckell – 47-unit building (See TAB #19);
  - Three new triplexes in Mayo, Watson and Whitehorse (See TAB #21);
  - A new Housing First building in Watson Lake (See TAB #25);
  - A new 10-plex in Old Crow (See TAB #23);
  - Duplexes in Carmacks, Dawson, Faro and Mayo (See TAB #20); and
  - New emergency shelters in Dawson and Whitehorse (See TAB #42).

### Major investments in housing include:

- The Canada Yukon Housing Benefit, an eight-year rent subsidy program to support low to moderate income Yukoners renting private market rental housing (See TAB #57).
- \$3.5M for Normandy Living, a private senior's residence with supports (See TAB #38)
- \$21.7M for the design and construction of the 4<sup>th</sup> and Jeckell, a 47-unit mixed-income housing development in Whitehorse (See TAB #19).
- \$2.4M over 2021-2022 for the construction of three triplexes in Mayo, Watson Lake, and Whitehorse in addition to \$3M in federal funding under the Rapid Housing Initiative - contributing nine units of housing options. (See TAB #21)
- \$400K in 2021-2022 for the design of the Watson Lake Housing First project which will be tendered in the Fall 2023 (See TAB #25).
- Design work to support the housing needs in the communities of Teslin, Carcross and Dawson in 2022-2023.
- \$5.7M annually under the Housing Initiatives Fund (See TAB #63).
- \$2.4M to Yukon through a Northern Housing Fund under the National Housing Strategy.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

### Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- \$6.9M for First Nation Energy Efficiency Program and \$8.4M for Community Housing retrofits under the Low Carbon Economy Fund (LCEF) provided on a 75% (Canada) - 25% (territory) cost-matching ratio between 2019 and 2024. (See TAB #60 & #61)
- \$4.1M for the construction of a Housing First residence for vulnerable individuals (5<sup>th</sup> and Wood St.) in Whitehorse
- Continued commitment by Government of Yukon toward the Municipal Matching Rental Construction program for new rental units.

#### Affordable rental housing incentives (in partnership with the private market):

- Since its inception in 2019, the Housing Initiatives Fund (HIF) intakes have brought on line 361 units and 159 are under construction. (See Tab #63).
  - The sixth intake of the Housing Initiative Fund was launched in November 2022. The deadline to submit an application February 3, 2023.
- The Municipal Matching Rental Construction Grant has supported the construction of over 126 new rental homes throughout the Yukon, ten of which are in progress.
- Since 2020, our homeownership loan program that focuses on providing financial support for the purchase and construction of building projects in rural Yukon, has helped 21 Yukoners to buy or build their first homes. 14 of these projects are completed.

#### Approved by:



Justin Ferbey  
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

January 31, 2023

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note**

**Our Clean Future Annual Report**

Environment  
Energy, Mines and Resources

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**Recommended response:**

- We continue to make significant progress in the implementation of *Our Clean Future*.
- In September 2022, we released our second annual report. It outlines the progress we made in taking action on climate change in 2021.
  - Notably, in 2021, the Yukon Climate Risk Assessment was released and we saw a 12% decrease in our emissions when compared to 2020.
- Through this report we introduced five new actions and revised 13 existing actions to better meet our goals.
- *Our Clean Future* is an adaptive strategy, which means that we assess and adjust the actions we are taking year-over-year to stay on track to meet our long-term goals.
- We will continue to track and report our progress annually.

**Additional response:**

- Over the past year, we have advanced several key actions, such as:
  - Legislated greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and associated reporting through the *Clean Energy Act*;
  - Received and analyzed the recommendations from the Yukon Climate Leadership Council ([Ref ENV #24 / EMR #34](#));
  - Established a standard method for determining the health of wetland ecosystems, and tracking baseline conditions to understand future changes;
  - Established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks to the Yukon's transportation corridors; and,
  - Enacted the single-use paper bag ban on January 1, 2023.

## Session Briefing Note

### Our Clean Future Annual Report

Environment  
Energy, Mines and Resources

#### Third response:

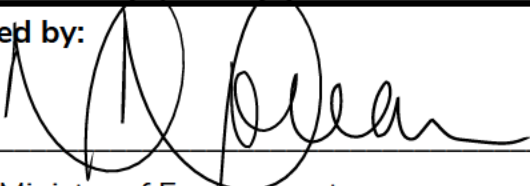
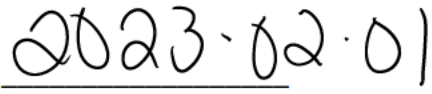

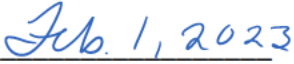
- Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our 45 per cent greenhouse gas emissions target reduction by 2030.
- We will continue to build on *Our Clean Future* as we learn more about climate change and introduce more actions. This will be reflected in future annual reports.
- We will also continue to work with experts, stakeholders and partner governments across the territory and beyond, to identify opportunities for new actions and to accelerate and intensify existing actions to reach our ambitious target.

#### 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 in September 2020 and is a 10-year strategy.
- *Our Clean Future* contains 136 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and supports the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Approved by:	
	
Deputy Minister of Environment	Date approved
	
Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources	Date approved

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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### **Recommended:**

- All Yukon households are seeing their budgets stretched by elevated levels of inflation, with lower-income households often feeling the effects more than others.
- The government continues to assess how inflation is impacting Yukoners and several measures included in the 2023-24 Budget will help make life more affordable for Yukoners.
- In 2023–24, the government is extending the Inflation Relief Rebate Program, which provides a \$50 per month rebate on ATCO Electric and Yukon Energy utility bills for the April and May billing periods, along with an additional three months later in the year.
- Other measures in the 2023-24 Budget to help make life more affordable to Yukoners include funding for food in Yukon schools, the timber harvesting incentive to boost fuelwood supply, a quarterly top-up of \$150 to eligible recipients of the Yukon Senior Income Supplement, and a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.

### **Additional response:**

- This government already 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.

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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- 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.

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### **Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Inflation has increased to decade highs in many countries, including Canada, which is experiencing the highest inflation in almost 40 years.
- Energy prices have been a significant driver and these prices are more obvious to consumers.
- Housing affordability has been a concern in the Yukon for several years.
- [March's rate of inflation in Yukon was the highest in Canada at 5.5 per cent vs 4.3 per cent nationally according to the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index.](#)

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### **Background:**

#### Key government initiatives addressing affordability in Yukon

#### **Highlight of affordability spending in Budget 2023-24**

- \$5.3 million to extend the Inflation Relief Rebate. Yukoners will receive a \$50 credit on their power bill in April and May and for an additional three months later in the year.

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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- \$300,000 for the Timber Harvesting Incentive program.
- \$1.5 million to increase monthly social assistance payments by \$100.
- Over \$800,000 to recipients of the Yukon Seniors Income Supplement.
- \$500,000 for food in schools.

**This builds on previous programs to protect the affordability of Yukoners including**

- Last year, the Government of Yukon announced almost \$10 million in new inflation relief measures targeted at vulnerable groups.
- 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, this program is retroactive to April 1, 2022. Yukon also introduced the Timber Harvesting Incentive that gives commercial timber harvesters \$10 per cubic metre.
- The pilot program giving an extra \$500 per month to Extended Family Caregiver agreement caregivers and foster caregivers was extended to the end of the fiscal year.
- 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**

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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- Accelerated Canada Workers Benefit payments and new minimum entitlement starting in July 2023 (\$4 billion over six years, starting in 2022-23).
- Making all Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans 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 will be doubled for six months in 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 (below \$39,826, and gradually phased out above that level). Single Canadians without children would receive up to an extra \$234 and couples with two children would receive up to an extra \$467 this year. Seniors would receive an extra \$225 on average.

### **Inflation outlook**

- The inflation rate in Whitehorse was 5.5 per cent in March, down from 7.0 in February, but 1.2 percentage points higher than the national inflation rate of 4.3 per cent. Whitehorse's inflation rate was the highest in Canada for fourth consecutive month.
- This ranking is a reversal from earlier in 2022 when Whitehorse had the lowest inflation in Canada. For 2022 as a whole, the relatively lower inflation at the beginning of the year and higher inflation at the end of the year cancelled out, and so, the annual inflation rate in Whitehorse was the same as the national rate: 6.8 per cent.
- It is natural that relatively lower inflation in Whitehorse is eventually followed by relatively higher inflation as prices in Whitehorse follow the national trend over the long term.



## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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- The Bank of Canada has started to take a more aggressive approach to battling inflation by raising interest rates 4.25 percentage points since March 2022. The Bank's increase of 0.25 percentage point on January 25 brought the overnight rate to 4.5 per cent, the highest rate since early 2008. [This rate was maintained at the April rate announcement.](#)
- The housing market in the Yukon has stayed resilient the face of higher interest rates that have cooled markets in most other parts of Canada. Yukon was the only Canadian jurisdiction that saw residential sales in 2022 increase over 2021
- It wasn't until the fourth quarter until signs of cooling showed in the Yukon data, with average sales prices falling across all housing type. Compared with the end of 2021, prices were down by 1.2 per cent for single-detached, 3.9 per cent for duplexes, 11.4 per cent for condos, and 1.6 per cent for mobile homes.
- Most forecasters expect inflation in Canada will move towards historic norms over the next couple of years as supply chain problems subside and the effect of higher interest rates move through the economy. Canadian inflation is expected to decline from near 7 per cent in 2022, to between 3.5-4.0 per cent in 2023. Inflation in 2024 is expected to return to the midpoint of the Bank of Canada's target range of 1-3 per cent.
- Inflation in Whitehorse follows the national trend and therefore expected to fall to 3.8 per cent in 2023 and to 2.5 per cent in 2024.

### **INFLATION RELIEF ACROSS GOVERNMENT**

#### **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, beginning with the Yukon Business Relief Program (YBRP) in

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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2020, which was open to any business from any sector that experienced at least a 30% 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 TRRP committed \$15 million over three years to support the tourism sector and was focused on four 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:
  - 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).

### **Community Tourism Destination Development Fund**

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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- In October 2022, the Department of Tourism and Culture announced the creation of the new Community Tourism Destination Development Fund, which is slated to run for an initial three-year term.
- The new annual funding program is available to local businesses, First Nations governments, First Nation Development entities, municipalities and not-for-profit 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 identifies 4 strategic objectives and 22 key actions, which reflect input gathered through extensive public and sector engagement.
- We have identified 10 actions in support of pandemic recovery to be completed over three years as Phase 1 implementation, which includes:
  - Modernizing existing funding;
  - Offering new funding streams;
  - Industry branding and promotion;
  - Marketing and export strategies;
  - Workshops; and

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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- Labour market supports.

In 2023-24, three 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.

### **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

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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- Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund;

### **Yukon Development Corporation:**

#### **Inflation Relief Rebate**

- The Inflation Relief Rebate provides \$50 per month to all non-government residential and commercial electricity customers to help ease the impacts of rising inflation.
- The IRR initially covered June, July, and August 2022, and was extended to cover October, November, and December 2022. The budgets for these were included in 2022-23 Supplementary Estimates.
- The IRR was subsequently extended for March, April, and May 2023. The budget in 2023-24 is comprised of:
  - \$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 three 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:**

- Economic Development is in the process of developing a temporary paid sick leave program. Program criteria, including eligibility and duration, are currently being developed.

### **Energy, Mines and Resources:**

#### **Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency and offset costs**

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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- 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.
- For commercial and institutional buildings, the Energy Branch offers rebates for greenhouse gas-reducing retrofits and renewable heating.
- For First Nation and municipal buildings, the Energy Branch offers retrofit and funding support through its Community Institutional Energy Efficiency Program.
- There are two current incentives for wood, one for harvesters and one to offset fuelwood costs:
  - In October 2022 we launched the timber harvesting incentive to provide registered Yukon timber harvesting businesses an incentive of \$10 per cubic metre of timber harvested or sold between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023. We have paid out \$163,000 to industry so far.
  - In September 2022, we launched a new firewood rebate to offset the increased costs of firewood for home heating. The rebate provides \$50 for each cord of firewood purchased, up to a maximum of 10 cords. As of February 14, 2023 we processed 586 applications, and paid out approximately \$69,850 in rebates for 1,389 cords of firewood.

### **Yukon Housing Corporation:**

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

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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- 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;
- The Opportunities Yukon 45-unit Cornerstone Development in Whitehorse opened in summer 2022 and is providing supportive living and accessible housing;
- 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;
- In Old Crow, the 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing complex is under construction with expected completion in summer 2023; and
- The 10-Plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake is included in the Northern Carve-Out. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2023-24.

### 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, Mayo, and Carmacks. These homes are on track for completion in summer 2023.
- The demolition of Macaulay Lodge in Whitehorse was completed in October 2022. Planning for the redevelopment of the site to support mixed commercial and residential use is underway.

### Health and Social Services:

#### **For 2022-23:**

## **Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability**

Finance  
Executive Council Office

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- 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 six-month extension of \$500 per month to caregivers of children in out of home care; and
- Committed \$100,000 to Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition to continue to support food security across the territory.

For 2023-24:

- a quarterly top-up of \$150 to eligible Yukon Senior Income Supplement recipients; and
- a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.

**Public Service Commission:** *(no change from Fall BN)*

### **Remote work policy in support of employees working in communities**

- In fall 2021, the Yukon government introduced a new remote work policy to support employees to continue working remotely in the long term.
- Implementing the new remote work policy is an action in the Our Clean Future strategy, as people are supported to work from home and reduce their emissions by commuting less.
- The new remote work policy also enables employees to work remotely from Yukon communities outside of Whitehorse, in some circumstances.
- The Public Service Commission will strive to support more long-term remote work arrangements throughout the Yukon government where it makes sense, and will track data on long-term arrangements going forward.



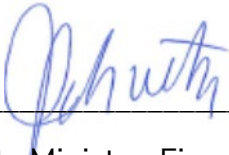
## Session Briefing Note

**FIN TAB #26**  
**ECO TAB #73**  
**Spring 2023**

### Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability

Finance  
Executive Council Office

Approved by:



April 24, 2023

a/Deputy Minister, Finance

Approved

2023 04 21



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process, and the Government of Yukon is continuing our work to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- We are working collaboratively with First Nations to advance progress in key areas including health and social services, education, justice and heritage, through the Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan.
- We are also working with Yukon First Nations to implement Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy*, which will further advance reconciliation and address the Calls to Action.

**Additional response:**

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations governments are leaders in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- At the Yukon Forum in November 2022, we discussed the approach to implementing and reporting on the Calls to Action with Yukon First Nations.
- We will continue our collaborative work to implement and report on the Calls to Action, including implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations for health and social services.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Yukon government (YG) previously made public its intention to fulfill its commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action.
- The Calls to Action were a topic at the November 29, 2022 Yukon Forum.

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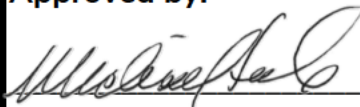
**Background:**

- 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

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission  
– Update on Calls to Action**Executive Council  
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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) collaborate on addressing the Calls to Action through the Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan.
- YG has taken 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 Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy* (MMIWG2S+ Strategy) (relates to Call 41);
  - participating at the Trilateral Table on the Wellbeing of YFN Children and Families to address gaps for culturally appropriate parenting programs (Call 5); and
  - receiving input from YFNs on Health and Social Services programming through the Mental Health Advisory Committee (relates to Call 19).

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 6, 2023

Date

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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**Recommended response:**

- In 2023-24, the Yukon continues to demonstrate its robust position nationally with population and economic growth among the strongest in the country.
- Budget 2023-24 delivers spending initiatives aimed at making life more affordable for Yukoners while also including several inflation relief measures to help combat the rising cost of goods.
- This budget continues to invest in the Yukon's health and social system and includes investments in new and expanded health services through the implementation of *Putting People First*. This includes addressing the substance-use health emergency and supporting the mental health of Yukoners.
- It delivers on our commitment to support a green economy with investments outlined in *Our Clean Future*.
- There are also strategic investments in infrastructure, particularly in housing for the most vulnerable. Other investments in housing include funds for land development, investments in housing projects in Dawson City, Watson Lake and Teslin, subsidies and supports for renters and funding for various affordable and community housing projects.
- Like in previous budgets, Budget 2023-24 continues to build relationships and further reconciliation with Yukon First Nations.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

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**Additional response:**

- The Yukon government is delivering on its commitment to grow a strong and resilient economy while ensuring robust, sustainable fiscal management.
- A surplus of 2.49 per cent of expenditures serves as a prudent fiscal management tool and demonstrates the ability of the government to address unforeseen events without going into a deficit.
- The fiscal summary includes a \$50 million contingency for presently undefined expected expenditures in 2023-24. This will not affect the Yukon's forecast fiscal position and allows the government to remain transparent about potential pressures.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The 2023-24 Main Estimates will be debated during the March 2023 legislative session.
- 

**Background:**

- The 2023-24 Main Estimates include a surplus of \$48.2 million and year-end debt of \$374.8 million.
- Total revenue is expected to be \$1.58 billion in 2023-24. This is an increase of \$115.2 million or 7.3 per cent from the 2022-23 Main Estimates.
- Forecast O&M expenditures total \$1.45 billion, with O&M recoveries offsetting this amount by \$130.9 million. This is an increase of 2.6 per cent in net O&M expenditures from the 2022-23 Main Estimates.


**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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- Forecast capital expenditures total \$483.8 million with recoveries of \$164.5 million. This is a 9.9 per cent decrease in net capital expenditures from the 2022-23 Main Estimates. This represents a reduction of \$63 million from last year's capital budget. This reduction reflects a sustainable approach to budgeting in the territory following elevated capital spending over the last two years, which helped stimulate Yukon's economy during the pandemic.
- There are 5,332.0 FTEs in the 2023-24 budget, which is a decrease of 89.1 FTEs from 2022-23.

**Approved by:**

a/Deputy Minister, Department

February 23, 2023

Approved

**Recommended response:**

- Overall, the changes outlined in the Supplementary Estimates #2 show a government that continues to make sure Yukoners and our economy remain healthy as we emerge from the pandemic while also responding to new and emerging challenges.
- Inflation continues to have an impact on Yukoners, as well as an impact on government projects. Several changes included as part of this Supplementary Estimates are in response to higher costs or work progressing faster than planned.
- The capital budget has no overall gross change in this Supplementary Estimates, but this is not because no adjustments were made. Major projects are still getting the resources they need to reach completion, but other projects were decreased to reflect timelines and funds were reallocated accordingly.
- The increase of \$37.5 million for the Department of Highways and Public Works is being offset by deferrals and offsets in other projects.

## Session Briefing Note

**TAB#28**

**Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2022-23**

**Spring 2023**

## Supplementary Overview

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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### Additional response:

- The largest expenditures are on three important capital projects, accounting for \$53.8 million altogether.
- The first is the replacement of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge. This increase covers higher costs and an accelerated schedule. The additional work on this project results in an increase of \$35.8 million as part of this Supplementary Estimate.
- We also provided additional funding for building the Carmacks Bypass, which is part of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program. Work in this area makes up \$11.8 million of the Capital increase.
- The third project is the construction of the Dempster Fibre Line, which will open a second fibre optic link instead of relying just on one, and so give Yukoners more reliable access to the internet as well as necessary redundancy. This project includes a proposed increase of \$5.7 million.



## Session Briefing Note

**TAB#28**

## Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2022-23

**Spring 2023**

## Supplementary Overview

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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- These increases are offset by decreases in capital. The most significant reductions can be seen in the Yukon Housing Corporation. This is largely the result of revised timelines for various projects and initiatives as well as lower uptake in application-based programs, but also accounts for the housing and building cycle as Normandy Living, Cornerstone and the 47-unit 4th and Jeckell facility are all ready and taking in clients and we are now shifting towards building new relationships for potential future projects.
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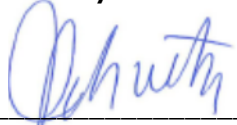
### Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2022-23 Supplementary Estimates #2 is tabled in the spring session and will be the subject of debate.
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### Background:


- Opposition may request an explanation for the changes included as part of the Supplementary Estimates #2.

#### Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
a/Deputy Minister, Finance

March 02, 2023  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, HPW

March 02, 2023  
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Approved