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Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

Recommended response:

- Engagement on the Dawson Regional Land Use Recommended Plan concluded on December 20, 2022. [A What We Heard report is expected to be released this spring.](#)
- Input gathered from the engagement will inform the Parties' decision whether to accept, reject or modify the Recommended Plan.
- If required, the Planning Commission will prepare a Final Recommended Plan. We anticipate they could provide a Final Recommended Plan in 2024.
- If a Final Recommended Plan is required, the Government of Yukon will provide detailed feedback to the Commission to support their work developing this plan.

Additional response:

- We appreciate the Commission's efforts to achieve a balance between the many competing interests in the Dawson region.
- Areas recommended for conservation and for interim withdrawals in the Recommended Plan are withdrawn from mineral staking until December 1, 2023.
- [The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in ran scenario](#) workshops with key stakeholders [this past](#) February to identify regulatory implementation issues for the Recommended Plan. [The workshops were well-received](#) and findings will help inform the Parties' decision on the Recommended Plan.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

Context – this may be an issue because:

- The Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, the Government of Yukon's response to the Recommended Plan, and the future of the interim withdrawals are of high interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in formed the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Commission in December 2018.
- The *Umbrella Final Agreement* Chapter 11 process provides the Commission with the autonomy to develop and recommend a plan to the Parties for their consideration.
- The Yukon Land Use Planning Council provides administrative and technical support for the Commission.
- The Commission conducted a public consultation on the Draft Plan from June 15 to November 1, 2021.
- The Government of Yukon's response to the Draft Plan in November 2021 focused on six key topics: Designations and Land Management Unit Boundaries, Cumulative Effects, Wetlands, Culture and Heritage, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirited People, and Implementation.
- Subsequent comments submitted to the Commission by Government of Yukon pertained to critical minerals, access, river and watercourses, cumulative effects, and working within the draft plan prohibition of entry order (interim and permanent) quantum.
- The Planning Commission delivered the Recommended Plan to the Parties (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon) on June 10, 2022.
- Interim withdrawal of land proposed by the Commission was approved by Order-In-Council on June 15, 2021. This Order was amended on September 7, 2022, to

Session Briefing Note

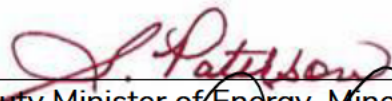
Spring 2023

**Dawson Regional Land
Use Planning**

Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

reflect the Recommended Plan. The interim withdrawal is in effect until December 1, 2023.

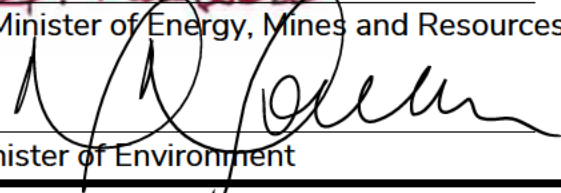
Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-03-07

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Environment

2023 03 07

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Firewood

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Addressing the firewood shortage is a top priority. We are using all the tools at our disposal to secure and expand access to timber.
- Reported timber harvest in 2022 increased by 2,319 cords from 2021 levels. The amount of fuel wood harvested is at the highest level we have seen since 2015.
- We have permitted over 27,000 cubic metres (approximately 12,000 cords) of wood in Quill Creek and 20 businesses are working hard to harvest this timber and get it to market as quickly as possible.
- We received positive feedback from industry on the timber harvesting incentive and since launching in October 2022, 10 new businesses have entered into firewood harvesting.
- Personal use permits remain free for Yukoners who wish to harvest their own firewood.

Additional response:

- We will continue to plan new areas to harvest, build and upgrade roads, and connect harvesters with suppliers.
- We are working with industry and the Yukon Wood Products Association to expand access to timber and move firewood to market.
- We are engaging with First Nations on forest management in many parts of the Yukon, with a particular focus on ensuring there is enough firewood for current and future needs of Yukoners.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Firewood

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Concerns around firewood availability and affordability have been growing since 2020, particularly for the Whitehorse market.

Background:

- Fuel wood supply shortages in the territory have been driven by higher operating costs for industry; permitting challenges in an area of northern BC that has supplied fuel wood to the Yukon for several years; and delays in the Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan coming 'online' due to lengthy YESAB screening.

Actions we are taking to address this issue

- We expanded opportunities in existing harvest areas and are developing new commercial and personal harvesting areas throughout the territory.
- We are listening to industry and working with harvesters in each community to understand concerns and find suitable wood for their operations.
- We continue to issue permits to commercial harvesters so they can harvest wood and sell it to Yukoners. Yukoners interested in harvesting their own firewood can cut up to 11 cords (25 cubic metres) for personal use.
- **Commercial Access to Timber Supply, Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan** (See BN #56)
- **Forest Industry Status and Government Supports** (See BN #58)

Approved by:

Deputy Minister

approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

23/3/23

Date

Session Briefing Note Wolverine Mine

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- In fall 2022, the Government of Yukon assumed responsibility for overseeing care and maintenance at the Wolverine mine site. Previously, a court-appointed Receiver handled that role.
- To ensure we continue to protect the environment, human health and safety, we awarded a multi-year care and maintenance contract to a Yukon business that has proven experience in this field of work.
- Our focus is to continue water treatment, maintain and upgrade critical site infrastructure, and address urgent site needs.

Additional response:

- Remediation and closure planning includes determining the costs and timeframes for work. We are assessing the current state of the site and ensuring our budgeting for liabilities is accurate.
- We continue to provide site access to Welichem as it moves forwards with selling its remaining assets present on site.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in the activities, expenditures and remediation approach at the Wolverine site.

Background:

- The Wolverine Mine went into temporary closure in January 2015. The owner, Yukon Zinc Corporation, went into bankruptcy proceedings shortly thereafter.
- On September 13, 2019, the Yukon Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the Receiver of the Wolverine Mine site.

Session Briefing Note Wolverine Mine

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

- Until November 1, 2022, the Receiver was responsible for care and maintenance of the site and for complying with regulatory authorizations and applicable statutes. This responsibility shifted to the Government of Yukon on November 1, 2022.
- Natural Resource Officers inspect the site regularly to ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect the environment and human health and safety.
- Our role in Welichem Equipment's sale of mine assets is limited to coordinating site visits to ensure the health and safety of visitors and making sure that care and maintenance activities are not disrupted.

Anticipated Expenditures and Security (See BN #102)

- Since 2018, the Government of Yukon has spent in excess of \$28 million on care and maintenance on the site. Approximately \$10.5 million of those expenditures were recovered from financial security posted by Yukon Zinc Corporation.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project (BMC Minerals) - current statusExecutive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government is committed to continuing consultation with Kaska First Nations regarding the Kudz Ze Kayah project in a way that supports our commitment to build strong relationships with First Nations and meets our obligations.
- Our government supports responsible mineral resource development in the Yukon.
- The Yukon has a robust and effective assessment and regulatory regime that continues to uphold responsible development in the territory.

Additional response:

- The decision bodies for the project issued a decision document. The Yukon government is committed to meeting its obligations during the regulatory phase for this project.
- We look forward to the court providing clarity on the issues raised in the case. We will not comment further on this case while it is before the court.

Context– this may be an issue because:

- BMC Minerals started the application process for a quartz mining license, a Type-A water license, and land leases.
- Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) on its own behalf, and on behalf of all Kaska Nations, applied to the federal court for application for judicial review of the joint decision document.
- RRDC and Liard First Nation (LFN) identified concerns related to impacts of the project on the Finlayson caribou herd and to their Aboriginal rights and title, and how the Executive Committee addressed those impacts. The Kaska Nations requested the project be rejected.

Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project (BMC Minerals) - current statusExecutive Council
Office

Background:

- On June 15, 2022, the Decision Bodies issued a decision document to vary the Executive Committee's recommendations that the Project to be allowed to proceed, subject to terms and conditions specified in the Screening Report. Decision Bodies on the project were YG, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Natural Resources Canada.
- The decision document was issued more than a year after the legislated deadline of May 5, 2021, to allow for coordination with Federal Decision Bodies and consultation with Kaska Nations.
- The varied decision document included additional measures to address including concerns raised around the Finlayson caribou herd and the need to ensure First Nation participation in the development of monitoring and mitigation efforts to inform the next stages of the project.
- On July 20, 2022, the Government of Yukon was notified that RRDC, on its own behalf and on behalf of the Kaska Nations, filed a petition for judicial review of the decision.

Consultation with Kaska Nations

- After considering a letter received from LFN and RRDC on June 14, 2022, Decision Bodies revised the rationale for the decision document and issued the decision document on June 15, 2022. In the decision document, Decision Bodies committed to a follow-up letter to respond to the concerns raised in the June 14 letter.
- Following the issuance of the decision document, Yukon government has attempted to engage with LFN and RRDC to establish the Finlayson Caribou Herd Oversight Committee, implement terms and conditions of the decision document and to notify and inform LFN and RRDC on the status of the regulatory review.
- LFN and RRDC responded in December indicating they would prepare a draft Terms of Reference for the Finlayson Caribou Herd Oversight Committee (FCHOC) by mid-January and noted the need for capacity funding for ongoing development of the FCHOC and consultation with YG on the project without prejudice to the ongoing judicial review.

Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project (BMC Minerals) - current status

Executive Council
Office

BMC Engagement

- On October 12, 2022, EMR's Mineral Resources Branch wrote to BMC to confirm receipt of the quartz mining licence application.
- Mineral Resources Branch met with BMC on December 15, 2022, to share initial findings of the consultant's review of the waste rock and tailings facility. The initial findings identified deficiencies in the application.
- Department of Environment provided detailed comments to BMC on November 18, 2022, regarding the 2-year baseline monitoring plan as required as a term and condition in the decision document.
- In follow up meetings with BMC in December, BMC confirmed that they would prefer that YG consult with LFN and RRDC using the existing plan.
- Environment will provide advice to BMC following a consultation period with RRDC and LFN.

Approved by:

Type text here

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 1, 2023

Date

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Elk–Agriculture Conflicts**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- In 2022, a focus group was appointed by the Deputy Ministers of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources to identify options for the Takhini Herd and to develop a two-year implementation plan to reduce elk-agricultural interactions.
- This new plan looks at the effectiveness of replacing the elk-agriculture conflict hunt with an elk-hunt adaptive management approach.
- In 2023, a Steering Committee will be established to implement and advance the recommendations from the focus group. These recommendations include hiring a coordinator, applying both localized and range scale herd management, supporting fencing options, implementing a collaring program and carrying out a social survey.
- The Steering Committee will prioritize their review of an additional exclusion zone and provide recommendations in advance of the upcoming hunting season.

Additional response:

- For many Yukoners, it is equally important to sustain our wild elk populations and to provide agriculture producers with land to produce local foods and crops.
- We continue to review and implement actions to address damage caused to crops and farm infrastructure by the Takhini Elk Herd.
- Last year we introduced a new adaptive hunt permitting process and made eight additional permits available for hunting elk in the Takhini Valley, increasing the total to 12 permits.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023**

Environment

Elk–Agriculture ConflictsEnergy, Mines and Resources

- The new permits will mean improved coordination, less congestion in the area, and fewer calls seeking permission to access the lands.
- Landowners and farmers can apply for a permit to shoot elk damaging their properties.
- These permits are only used in specific cases where there are ongoing issues and damage and where all other reasonable measures have been unsuccessful.

Third response:

- Since 2017, Conservation Officers and officials from Energy Mines and Resources assisted with funding elk exclusion fencing and electric fencing depending on the specific elk conflict the landowner was experiencing.
- Coupled with the elk conflict hunt, exclusion fencing and electric fencing have resulted in a reduction of elk conflict complaints. We will continue to collaborate with affected landowners, farmers, associations, interest groups and First Nations to find solutions and options to both manage elk and support agricultural land use.
- Since the pilot program began in 2020, the number of calls to the Conservation Officer Services Branch concerning elk-agriculture conflicts remains low, with only eight total complaints received to date.
- I encourage any Yukoner who is experiencing a conflict with elk on their property to call the TIPP line at 1-800-661-0525 to report the issue to our Conservation Officers.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Elk–Agriculture Conflicts**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:


- Takhini Valley farmers may seek an update on government actions to address the conflict between the wild elk population and agricultural properties in the Takhini Valley.
- There may be questions about how the Government of Yukon is working with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Yukon Agricultural Association to address the conflict.

Background:

- The focus group was comprised of representatives from the Yukon Agriculture Association, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, First Nations, Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment.
- The Steering Committee has been established. Their first meeting was April 18.
 - Invitations were sent to Yukon Agricultural Association, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources.
- The Department of Environment conducts an annual minimum count of the herd in late winter (February–March). In December 2022, we began deploying GPS radio collars on some elk to help us understand their range and where they travel throughout the year.
- Minimum annual counts of the Takhini elk herd conducted have been:
 - 2017 - 229 animals
 - 2018 - 88 animals (the herd was more dispersed and in smaller groups)
 - 2019 - 146 animals (poor survey conditions)
 - 2020 - 231 animals
 - 2021 - 134 animals
 - December 2021 – 247 animals (additional count conducted)
 - 2022 - 152 animals

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Elk-Agriculture Conflicts**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

- The significant variation between counts underscores a fundamental challenge with using a minimum count survey. This technique does not provide an accurate estimate of population size or discern population trends (i.e. growing, stable or declining).
- One of the goals of the initial two-year pilot project was to reduce the Takhini Valley elk population by 90 elk. To date, we can account for the mortality of 74 elk from the Takhini Valley.
- The departments of Environment, and Energy, Mines and Resources continue to evaluate the efficacy, cost and limitations of electrical fencing to exclude elk from an area. This type of exclusion fence might be a viable option for some food producers affected by elk.
- Since 2014, the Government of Yukon has provided \$380,000 in support for implementing preventative measures and compensation.
- In 2021, the Government of Yukon established an additional funding program of \$225,000 to construct exclusion fencing on agricultural properties in the Takhini Valley eastern buffer zone. To date, \$159,710 (almost 80 per cent of funding) has been allocated for four fencing projects.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister of Environment2023-04-27
Date
Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources23/4/27
Date

Session Briefing Note**Mining Intensity Target**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is engaging with the mining industry to establish an intensity-based target to reduce the industry's greenhouse gas emissions per unit of production.
- Mining emissions are included in the net-zero 2050 target for all sectors of the economy that are legislated in the Clean Energy Act.

Additional response:

- An intensity-based approach encourages mine operators to innovate and adopt low-carbon practices and accounts for progress made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions even when substantial year-to-year fluctuations occur in the Yukon's mining emissions.
- The mining intensity approach will recognize the differences between types of activities undertaken by quartz and placer operations throughout their mining lifecycle.
- We recognize that establishing such a target is ambitious and we will work with the mining industry to find solutions to enable them to reach this goal.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Some questions may be raised regarding Action 19 in *Our Clean Future* to establish an intensity-based greenhouse gas reduction target for the Yukon's mining industry. (See EMR BN #36)

Background:

- The percentage of emissions from mining is variable year-to-year. From 2009-2020 it contributed eight to 15 per cent of the Yukon's total greenhouse gas emissions.
- Energy, Mines and Resources conducted an engagement with the mineral and exploration industry in fall of 2022 on the mining intensity target. Work is underway

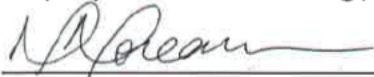
Session Briefing Note**Mining Intensity Target**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

establishing baselines, scoping activities for placer and quartz operations, and reporting.

- As detailed in *Our Clean Future*, quartz mines are required to project their anticipated greenhouse gas emissions, identify measures to reduce emissions, and annually report greenhouse gas emissions through the quartz mine licensing process.
- Using data provided through the quartz mine licensing process and through the fuel tax exemption process, the Government of Yukon will track the sector's progress toward achieving greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is working to procure a consultant to work with the mining industry to establish mining intensity baselines.
- The Output-Based Pricing System is part of Canada's approach to pricing carbon pollution for emission-intensive trade-exposed industries, such as mining. Quartz mines in the Yukon may be subject to this pricing system depending on their size. Discussions with the Government of Canada regarding the carbon levy and the impact of the output-based pricing system are ongoing.
- The Department of Finance presented the proposed pricing system to industry, environmental organizations and First Nations during the engagement on the mining emissions intensity targets between July and October 2022.

Approved by:

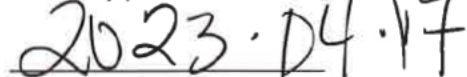

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources



Deputy Minister of Environment



Date approved



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Minto Mine Status and Update

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon set the total financial security requirement for reclamation and closure of the Minto Mine at \$93.2 million. To date, Minto Mine has furnished \$74.8 million and continues to pay monthly installments.
- Until the remaining security is paid, the owners must follow restricted operating conditions to reduce environmental liability at the mine.
- The company received an Inspector's Direction on 18 April 2023, requiring them to transfer water to an additional storage area and stop the placement of tailings should storage volumes fall below a set threshold.

Additional response:

- The company must regularly report progress to the Government of Yukon and Selkirk First Nation, and we continue to monitor the situation on-site closely.
- This preventative action will allow for moving water from the existing tailings storage area to the previously mined Minto North pit, should freshet conditions require additional temporary storage of contaminated water.

Context– this may be an issue because:

- The Government of Yukon and Selkirk First Nation want to ensure mine security is aligned with future reclamation needs and that the environment remains protected at all times

Session Briefing Note Minto Mine Status and Update

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The Minto Mine is an underground copper mine with gold and silver byproducts located on Selkirk First Nation's Category A Settlement Land.
- The First Nation holds surface and subsurface rights. The Government of Yukon collects royalty payments under the Quartz Mining Act and pays those royalties to Selkirk First Nation.
- Selkirk First Nation also receives additional financial benefits under its net smelter royalty arrangement with Minto Mine's owner, Minto Metals Corp.

Licence Amendments

- The Mineral Resources Branch amended the company's quartz licence on June 30, 2022. This licence authorizes mining and milling up to 2026 and includes all previously assessed phases of the project.
- Minto Metals Corp. has submitted a consolidated application to the Yukon Water Board that includes the new information from the amended Quartz Mine Licence. This application is under adequacy review by the Yukon Water Board.

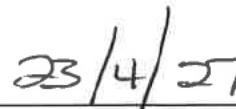
Compliance and Enforcement Status

- Natural Resource Officers continue to inspect the site regularly for compliance with all authorizations. (See BN #45)
- As per usual practice, the Inspector's Direction was posted to Waterline, the Yukon Water Board's website.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Successor Resource

Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is developing new minerals legislation and new public lands legislation in close collaboration with Indigenous governments.
- Made-in-Yukon legislation will improve our regulatory system, respect First Nations' relationships with the land, protect the environment and strengthen our economy.
- We greatly appreciate the important insights and perspectives that mineral industry representatives and environmental organizations have provided as we work together on new mineral legislation.

Additional response:

- In February, the Government of Yukon and Indigenous governments launched a public engagement on new minerals legislation. I encourage all Yukoners to participate.
- Last year the Government of Yukon conducted a public engagement and consultation for the new public lands legislation; the results are available in the "What We Heard" report online at Yukon.ca.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- The desire to see new minerals and public lands legislation developed has been a longstanding interest of First Nations governments stemming from commitments in the 2003 Yukon Northern Affairs Program Devolution Transfer Agreement.

Session Briefing Note

Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

Mining

- A Steering Committee for New Minerals Legislation was struck in September 2021. It includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and Transboundary Indigenous governments.
- The Steering Committee for New Minerals Legislation worked to develop potential approaches for key policy issues from August 2021 to December 2022. This work forms the basis of the current public engagement.

Public Lands

- The Steering Committee for New Public Lands Legislation has been ongoing since 2020 and, in November 2022, was re-launched with broader membership and a new approach. The Steering Committee is now developing a work plan that is expected to be similar to the workplan for the new minerals legislation process. The workplan will identify and set a path for work on key lands policy issues.
- The Government of Yukon carried out a First Nations consultation and public engagement on concepts for new lands legislation in the spring of 2022. This work will be considered by the Steering Committee for New Public Lands Legislation.
- This work will lead to a modernized land regime that balances a wide range of values, including how the sale and lease of public land is determined.

Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-03-07

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

McIntyre Creek Park Planning

ENV #92
Spring 2023

Environment

Quick Facts

- McIntyre Creek is a known and valued recreational and wilderness area, which provides many benefits for Yukoners, wildlife, and the environment.
- The proposed McIntyre Creek Park covers approximately 4600 hectares and contains both public and private lands.
- The area is within the City of Whitehorse and the Traditional Territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Recommended response:

- We continue to discuss the creation of McIntyre Creek Park with the City of Whitehorse as a regional municipal park.
- We acknowledge and respect that this, and the surrounding area, has several concurrent planning processes already underway or in development.
- These include: City of Whitehorse's **recently adopted** 2040 Official Community Plan, the Yukon University Campus Master Plan, and the Lu Zil Mabn [Sloo-Zill-Mun] Fish Lake Local Area Plan.
- Due to the number of parties involved, a collaborative planning approach is key.

Additional response:

- The McIntyre Creek area supports a diversity of habitats important to wildlife, including wetlands.
- It is known to be an important cultural area for both the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
- The Yukon University recognizes the importance of the area to support field-based learning and research.

Session Briefing Note

McIntyre Creek Park Planning

ENV #92
Spring 2023
Environment

Third response:

- To support the creation of the proposed McIntyre Creek Park, we have taken measures that provide interim protection to the area by:
 - Expanding the boundary of an existing Order in Council under the Quartz Act to prevent new mineral staking in the proposed Park area; and
 - Establishing an internal administrative reserve to ensure public land use applications are reviewed by the Government of Yukon and align with the purpose of a park and the city's Official Community Plan.
- In addition, we have initiated a memorandum of understanding with the City of Whitehorse to support McIntyre Creek Park management planning.
- We look forward to continuing discussions and working with all of the parties involved on this ecologically important area to ensure the environmental protection of McIntyre Creek moves forward.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the government's progress on the commitment to complete the establishment of McIntyre Creek Park.
- There has been a longstanding interest from a number of groups and stakeholders to establish a park in this area, including Friends of McIntyre Creek, Yukon Conservation Society, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the Porter Creek Community Association.

Background:

- The proposed area includes public land held by Government of Yukon and Government of Canada, as well as privately held land. There is no Settlement Land within the proposed area.

Session Briefing Note

McIntyre Creek Park Planning

ENV #92
Spring 2023
Environment

- Additional interests in this area include mineral holders, gravel extraction and other commercial and institutional land tenures like Icy Waters and the Yukon University.
- The establishment of McIntyre Creek Park is included in the Minister of Environment's 2021 and 2023 mandate letters, working with the City of Whitehorse, affected First Nations, Yukon University and local stakeholders.
- In 2022, the City of Whitehorse removed the proposed Porter Creek D residential development and Mountainview Drive transportation corridor study from its proposed 2040 Official Community Plan.
- The City of Whitehorse staff were not available to undertake planning for the proposed Park while their Official Community Plan was being finalized.
- The City of Whitehorse, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council are in support of the area protections being put into place (i.e., prohibition of mineral staking and land application reviews).

Approved by:


Deputy Minister of Environment

2023.04.18
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Yukon Wetlands Policy

Environment

Quick Facts:

- To date, broad regional wetland mapping has been completed for approximately 16% of the territory, with more detailed local mapping covering approximately an additional 5%.
- Within these mapping areas, wetlands cover between 6% to 9% of the landscape, with fen and swamp wetlands being the most common.

Recommended response:

- Work to implement the Yukon Wetlands Policy is already well underway.
- I am pleased to share that we have already started actioning a number of implementation initiatives, including:
 - Completion of broad-scale wetland mapping within the Peel, Beaver River, Mayo and McQuesten watersheds,
 - Initiating comprehensive territory-wide wetland mapping,
 - Finalizing an updated Yukon wetland classification system by summer 2023,
 - Development of draft wetland mapping standards,
 - Working across government to develop guidelines and standards for proponents where developments may impact wetlands, and
 - Initiating a multi-party research project designed to explore the extent of carbon release and potential for carbon sink restoration following placer mining. (Ref [BN #54](#))
- We are committed to implementing this work and annually reporting on our progress.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Yukon Wetlands Policy

Environment

Additional response:

- The policy provides for the establishment of a framework to be able to nominate and legally designate Wetlands of Special Importance.
- As described currently under the policy, Wetlands of Special Importance may be nominated by an Indigenous, federal, territorial, or municipal government; or a board or council, such as a Renewable Resources Council, a Regional Land Use Planning commission, or a wildlife management advisory board or council.
- In order to support the nomination process, additional implementation guidance is required to fully describe how wetland benefits and impacts will be measured.
- Developing specific guidance for evaluating wetland benefits in the Yukon is another important near-term implementation action for this policy.

Third response:

- We recognize that we must be responsive to new information as we continue to build our knowledge and improve our understanding of Yukon's wetlands.
- This includes recognizing and respecting all sources of knowledge, giving equitable consideration to traditional, local, and scientific knowledge.
- We will continue to engage with other governments, departments, agencies, regulatory bodies, external partners and land use planning interests to discuss specific aspects related to the policy's implementation.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Yukon Wetlands Policy

Environment

- In addition to working through policy implementation tasks, we remain committed to addressing wetland stewardship and protection within ongoing land use planning discussions to address more regional or local needs.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands was publicly released on January 10, 2023. Implementation of the policy and the ongoing management of wetlands is of high interest to Yukoners.
- The Minister of Environment 2023 mandate letter commits Government of Yukon to begin implementation work on the policy.

Background:

- Developing a wetlands policy is a commitment under the 2014 Yukon Water Strategy and Action Plan.

Engagement

- The Yukon wetlands policy began under a roundtable partnership approach, with collaborative development among many partners and shared responsibility to develop solutions and decisions related to the policy content.
- Four in-person roundtable meetings and one virtual roundtable meeting were held with the policy development partners, including Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups, municipal and federal governments, boards and councils, environmental non-governmental organizations and industry.
- The Government of Yukon conducted an online public survey from October 3 to December 3, 2021, to gather feedback on the draft policy. A What We Heard report was released on March 1, 2022. First Nations consultation began on August 3, 2022, and was extended to the end of October 2022, at the request of several First Nations.

Approved by:
A/Deputy Minister of Environment

2023-04-11

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

5th and Rogers

TAB #34
Spring 2023

Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

- The 5th and Rogers site in Whitehorse is anticipated to bring on line a significant number of new housing units, including a mix of market and affordable housing.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work with the City of Whitehorse on the vision for the land development.
- We are excited to see the future conversion of this parcel into much-needed housing and economic benefits to the community.

Additional response:

- The safety of residents is a key concern. After the land slides of last spring, further geotechnical work along the escarpment was required.
- Our government is supporting work by the City of Whitehorse, which is conducting a geotechnical study on the whole escarpment. The assessment of the escarpment behind 5th and Rogers is now complete, including identification of mitigation measures to address future landslide risks.
- The Request for Proposals for the site will be out March 9th.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- 2021 Government's mandate includes a commitment to develop the parcel at 5th Avenue and Rogers Street in Whitehorse and received criticism from Opposition for development delays in mid-November.
 - The public may be interested in the progress of this site and the potential benefits this development may have for the community.
-

Session Briefing Note

5th and Rogers

TAB #34
Spring 2023

Yukon Housing Corporation

Background:

- 5th and Rogers is an undeveloped Whitehorse downtown lot that is identified in the City's Official Community Plan and the Government of Yukon mandate as a site for infill development.
- The City's current Official Community Plan identifies the site for mixed-use residential and commercial development, while the downtown south plan highlights it as an undeveloped site that has the potential for higher-density mixed-use development.
- City zoning requires housing density greater than single-family or duplex homes.
- Downtown residents have expressed concerns about the concentration of social services and housing in certain parts of the downtown core.
- YHC is working with EMR to develop a request for proposals to sell the lot privately with conditions that will reflect geotechnical and environmental conditions on site and encourage affordable housing developments on the property.

Site development and geotechnical work

- In July 2022, City of Whitehorse wrote to the Government of Yukon to recommend that the slope and the mitigations behind the lot be reassessed.
- The Government of Yukon is working with the City which has a contract with Tetra Tech to model and provide terrain analysis across the escarpment.
- Future developers will require this information prior to purchase to understand the assessment of high and moderate geotechnical hazards.
- The following issues will need to be addressed by the future developer:
 - Building a berm;
 - past contamination and a risk-based restoration permit that will go forward with a future project;
 - removal of former group homes; and
 - assessment and potentially relocation of powerlines.

Session Briefing Note

5th and Rogers

TAB #34
Spring 2023

Yukon Housing Corporation

Approved by:



February 16, 2023

Justin Ferbey
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Landslide Monitoring

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- High snowpack and elevated groundwater levels in the Yukon have increased the frequency of landslides in recent years.
- The Government of Yukon is actively working with communities to mitigate landslide risks within their boundaries by providing technical advice and monitoring services.
- Yukon Geological Survey has established a working group with City of Dawson officials to assess hazards and mitigate risk from the Moosehide and Sunnydale slides.
- We are working with officials from the City of Whitehorse to help monitor the clay cliffs and assess landslide hazards as spring approaches.

Additional response:

- We are monitoring landslides and thaw slumps along highways; the Geological Survey is providing support to Highways and Public Works for mitigation planning.
- We completed geohazard mapping projects for the greater Whitehorse area and Beaver Creek and will be releasing the maps this spring.

Context– this may be an issue because :

- Yukoners, particularly those in Whitehorse and Dawson City, may have concerns about the risk posed by landslides.

Background:

- In Dawson, the Moosehide slide and the recently-identified Sunnydale slide represent potential hazards; in both cases, ground movement rates are cause for concern.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Landslide Monitoring**Energy, Mines and Resources

- The multiple landslides on the North Klondike Highway were triggered last fall by heavy rainfall on permafrost slopes. Elevated groundwater levels due to heavy snowpack caused several slides last spring in downtown Whitehorse.
- Several landslides along Whitehorse's clay cliffs last spring impacted traffic and required local evacuations. Although snowpack is lower this year, groundwater levels continue to be high and create potential conditions for further landslides this spring.
- The Takhini permafrost thaw slump along the Alaska Highway has increased in size since it first formed in 2014. The head scarp of the slump is currently less than 10 metres from the highway.
- Collectively, these events highlight the increasing need for geohazard mapping and monitoring per commitments in *Our Clean Future*.
- Under *Our Clean Future*, \$660,000 is committed over three years to enhance studies of permafrost-related geohazards in and around Yukon's communities and along highway corridors. The Yukon Geological Survey is leading this work.
- The Yukon Geological Survey is on track to complete initial geohazard maps for all communities by the *Our Clean Future* 2025 deadline. A Yukon Permafrost Database is now publicly available online.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is investing in LiDAR surveys and instrumented boreholes to monitor permafrost. The department has purchased instruments for near-real-time monitoring of the Moosehide slide (installed in fall 2022) and Sunnydale slide (to be installed in spring 2023) near Dawson.
- Discussions are underway with municipal officials regarding how best to monitor landslide-prone sites in the City of Whitehorse.

Approved by:

A/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-02-22

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023Energy, Mines and
Resources

Metallic Minerals

Recommended response:

- In January 2023, the Supreme Court of Yukon quashed the Government of Yukon's 2021 decision document on the Metallic Minerals project.
- The Government of Yukon filed an appeal with the Yukon Court of Appeal on March 1, 2023, as this case raises significant legal issues far beyond this specific exploration project.
- As this case is before the courts, we will not be commenting on it any further at this time.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon remains committed to implementing the Final and Self-government Agreements and conducting meaningful consultation with Indigenous governments and groups.
- We continue to consult with First Nations on every project application that may impact rights and apply mitigations both in the decision documents and in any future mining land use approval.

Context:

- There may be interest in the Metallic Minerals court case and implications for First Nations and project proponents.
-

Background:

- In 2020, Metallic Minerals applied for a Class 3 exploration permit for the LOTR project, in the Beaver River area north of Keno City. The project proposal received a "proceed with terms and conditions" recommendation from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Metallic Minerals**

- The Government of Yukon consulted the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) on the potential impacts of the project. The FNNND expressed that the project should not proceed until the Beaver River Land Use Plan is complete.
- The Government of Yukon added several terms and conditions to its draft decision document in response to FNNND's concerns and issued a decision document in February 2021 to allow the project to proceed. The Government of Yukon did not issue a permit for the project.
- On March 15, 2022, the FNNND filed a petition against the Government of Yukon in the Yukon Supreme Court in response to the Government of Yukon issuing the decision document for the project.
- The petition references a 2018 intergovernmental agreement between the Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun that contains a commitment to complete a sub-regional land use plan for the Beaver River watershed. (EMR BN #36 / ENV BN # 9)
- The judicial review was heard on June 28 and 29, 2022 and the decision of the Supreme Court of Yukon was released on January 31, 2023. The Court overturned the Government of Yukon's issuance of the decision document for the Metallic Minerals project and referred the matter back to the Government of Yukon for consideration. The Government of Yukon filed an appeal with the Yukon Court of Appeal on March 1, 2023.

Metallic Minerals projects:*Keno Silver*

- Metallic Minerals' wholly owned Keno Silver project is located in the Keno Hill mining district in the Yukon.
- Metallic Minerals currently holds a Class 4 Mining Land Use Approval (expiring July 18, 2023). The scope of the approval includes building new roads and upgrading existing access, construction of lines, site preparation, camp construction, bulk sampling (1000 tonnes/year), trenching and drilling.
- The Government of Yukon currently holds \$23,535.44 in security for this site.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Metallic Minerals

Placer activities

- Metallic Minerals has placer operations at Australia and Dominion Creeks with three operators with exploration infrastructure development and bulk sample testing being completed in preparation for commercial gold production.

LOTR

- The LOTR project consists of 52 claims, approximately 64 km from Keno City and 103 km from Mayo within the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Recommended response:

- In Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon committed to responding to the climate emergency; one of these commitments is that 97 per cent of electricity on the Yukon's main grid would come from renewable sources.
- The Yukon – British Columbia Grid Connect Project could be a key part of the Yukon maintaining this standard over the long term. It will be a complex, major, long-term infrastructure project that crosses multiple traditional territories and provincial/territorial borders.
- Increasing the Yukon's renewable electricity supply supports our ambitious electrification goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the two largest emission sources: transportation and heating.

Additional response:

- We are initiating the work required to understand the interests and perspectives of Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups; technical feasibility and options; potentials cost and funding opportunities as well as other key forms of information.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in what the Government of Yukon is doing to increase the Yukon's ability to generate energy from renewable sources.

Background:

- In 2019, Midgard Consulting produced the 'Yukon-British Columbia Interconnection Development Plan.' The report identified objectives of the project, a proposed development approach and a very preliminary cost estimate.
- Work on the feasibility of the grid connect project will require the completion of a new development plan with updated costing.

#14

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

BC Grid Connect

Energy, Mines and Resources

- At the March 31, 2023, Yukon Forum meeting in Haines Junction, leadership discussed the potential for the connection of the Yukon and British Columbia grids. This discussion represents the beginning of the government's collaboration on the project.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

23/4/13
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

**Regulations for the
Animal Protection and
Control Act**

Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The new *Animal Protection and Control Act* provides a comprehensive, modern, and enforceable legal framework for managing all aspects of animal protection and control in the territory.
- The Act enables Yukon communities to take on an enforcement role to increase animal control and reduce public safety risks.
- The Act establishes standards for the care of animals and sets standards for acceptable means of killing animals humanely.
- The Act enables the use of new tools for managing escaped livestock, such as Eurasian boars, as well as feral populations, such as horses.
- In addition, it will authorize the regulation of pet stores, boarding kennels and animal rescues.

Additional response:

- We are developing regulations for the new *Animal Protection and Control Act*.
- The Act sets a broad framework and the regulations will provide the specific detail required to implement this new law.
- We will engage with affected stakeholders to clarify the regulations with respect to standards of care for domestic animals, prohibited cosmetic surgeries, exotic animals, control standards for livestock, and tools to control feral animals.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

**Regulations for the
Animal Protection and
Control Act**

Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

- It is important that we ensure our regulations reflect Yukoners' values, our relationships with animals, and our way of life.

Third response:

- Engagement on the development of the Animal Protection and Control regulations is underway and will continue through the summer.
- We will speak with:
 - Local and First Nations governments,
 - Association of Yukon Communities,
 - Local area councils,
 - Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon,
 - Yukon Dog Mushing Association,
 - Yukon Outfitters Association,
 - Yukon Agriculture Association,
 - Yukon Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee,
 - Growers of Organic Food Yukon,
 - Klondike Farmers Forum,
 - Pet store owners, and
 - Animal rescues and humane societies.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Regulations for the
Animal Protection and
Control Act**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

- We recognize there may be additional resources required to implement the complete legislative framework for communities interested in taking on enforcement roles and we will consider how best to achieve this as we develop the regulations.

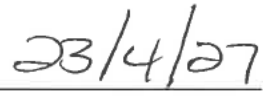
Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on how the Government of Yukon is engaging with stakeholders and the public on the development of the *Animal Protection and Control Act* regulations and when the Act and regulations will come into force.

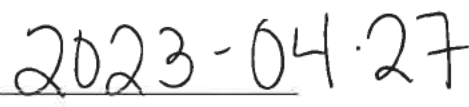
Background:

- Public engagement took place in 2018 and 2019 and a What We Heard document summarizing the feedback is available on yukon.ca/engagements.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Domestic Sheep and
Goats Control Order**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- In 2020, we issued a Control Order requiring sheep or goats owners to meet testing and fencing requirements to prevent disease spread to wild sheep and goats. This order is in effect until December 31, 2024.
- The order was issued because domestic sheep and goats can carry pathogens such as *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* [My-koh-plaz-ma oh-vee nu-moh-nee-ay] or, *M. ovi*, that can cause devastating respiratory disease if spread to wild animals.
- The Control Order is a precautionary measure to safeguard the health of the Yukon's iconic wild sheep and goats.
- In the coming year, the Animal Health Unit will work with third-party contractors to assess the impact of the Control Order on the spread of disease and on sheep and goat owners. The results will inform the next steps after December 2024.

Additional response:

- We continue to conduct animal testing for respiratory pathogens and assess fencing to ensure compliance with the order.
- There is no cost to farmers for testing sheep and goats in the Yukon and they can apply for compensation for eligible costs incurred to comply with the order.
- We remain up-to-date with new research and we have confidence in the testing capabilities we use to detect *M. ovi* in sheep and goats.
- While *M. ovi* was the initial bacteria of concern, the order provides for a response to any bacteria that might cause respiratory disease.
- Over \$225,000 has been paid to owners for fencing costs, and almost \$270,000 has been paid to compensate owners for loss and the destruction of animals that tested positive.

Session Briefing Note**Domestic Sheep and
Goats Control Order**Environment
Energy, Mines and Resources

Third Response:

- Annual testing of sheep and goats in the Yukon shows that importing live animals presents a high risk of bringing *M. ovi* to the Yukon.
 - We have updated import policies to reduce this risk by offering funding to offset the cost of testing animals for *M. ovi* prior to import.
 - We continue to monitor wildlife populations for pathogens. To date, *M. ovi* has not been detected in the Yukon's wild sheep or goats.
 - *M. ovi* surveillance in caribou has detected two positive animals: one captured in the Yukon near the Alaska border and one captured in Alaska.
 - Similar to findings in Alaska, the strain of *M. ovi* detected does not appear to cause disease in caribou. Wildlife surveillance in caribou and other species is ongoing.
-

Context – this may be an issue because:

- Sheep and goat owners and wildlife stakeholders are questioning what will happen after the Control Order is no longer in effect.
-

Background:

- The Yukon has the largest population of wild thinhorn sheep in Canada. This iconic species is of great intrinsic and commercial value.
 - The Government of Yukon has made commitments to support the agriculture industry and economy to promote self-sufficiency and sustainable growth.
 - Farmers and owners of sheep and goats implement and maintain approved fencing requirements. The fencing requirements are an effective means to properly contain sheep and goats, which further reduces the risk of transmission from domestic to wild sheep.
 - Sheep or goat owners who test their animals prior to importing into the Yukon are eligible for compensation. This is to provide further incentive to test prior to importing
-

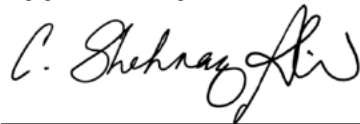
Session Briefing Note

Domestic Sheep and
Goats Control OrderEnvironment
Energy, Mines and Resources

to reduce risk of introducing *M. ovi*. If testing does not occur prior to importing, owners are not eligible for compensation should the animal later test positive.

- Since the Control Order came into effect, one farmer in the Yukon was convicted of an offence under the *Animal Health Act* for failing to comply with the order. They were sentenced to surrender their goats. This is the only conviction to date related to the Control Order.
- The court's decision reinforces the importance and validity of the Control Order to protect the health of the Yukon's wildlife.
- Further reinforcement of the importance of the control order is through the endorsement of international conservation organizations.
 - The Wild Sheep Foundation presented the 2022 Federal Outstanding Statesman Award to Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Mary Vanderkop, for her outstanding contributions to the wild sheep of the Yukon.

Approved by:

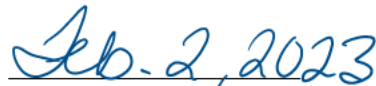


2023-02-02

C. Shehnaz Ali

Date approved

A/Deputy Minister of Environment

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Food Supply Management** Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We will continue to engage with farmers to ensure their interests and needs are considered as the industry evolves and grows.
- The Yukon's dairy, poultry and egg producers are not part of the national supply management systems.
- The Government of Yukon is working with egg producers to explore options that benefit and support growth in the Yukon's egg sector and local food production.

Additional response:

- We continue to listen to industry members' perspectives on food supply management in the territory.
- We continue to offer a number of funding programs and supports for dairy, poultry and egg farmers under Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- Some of the Yukon's egg producers that sell via retail are interested in joining Canada's supply management system. Questions have arisen around the benefits and responsibilities of entering the supply management system.

Background:

- Supply management is the marketing system that controls the domestic production, pricing and import of milk, poultry and eggs. Producers of these commodities must hold units of quota to market and sell their products.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Food Supply Management Energy, Mines and Resources**

- The Yukon's dairy, poultry and egg producers are not part of the national supply management systems for any supply-managed agricultural commodities. To date, the discussion on supply management in the Yukon has focused on egg production.
- Supply management systems are very complex and require cooperation between producers, producer boards and both territorial and federal governments.
- There is no established process for how a new jurisdiction would join supply management in Canada. Initial quotas were allocated to all the provinces in the 1970s.
- In the Yukon, there are three farms producing eggs, operating federally-inspected egg grading stations and selling eggs on the retail market. Several small farms also produce eggs for farm gate sales.
- Some local retail-scale egg producers have requested the Yukon join Canada's supply management system for eggs. Other industry members feel the government's work to date on supply management is sufficient.

Approved by:

A/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023/02/22

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Agricultural Land Development

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response

- Under our 2020 agriculture policy, we are increasing the Yukon's self-sufficiency in food production and ability to produce high-quality products that feed our communities and leave a positive cultural and environmental legacy.
- We are making agricultural land more affordable and available to Yukoners through zoning, leasing, and developing new areas.

Additional response:

- We are preparing land to lease as seasonal agricultural leases and allow Yukoners to grow and sell food from these smaller parcels.
- Agricultural leases decrease barriers for those new to farming, support the expansion of current farming operations and promote agricultural innovation without needing to convert public land to private title.
- The Government of Yukon is also developing options for how agriculture land can be used, allowing for some secondary uses where these do not inhibit the primary use of the land for agriculture.

Context– this may be an issue because:

- Demand is increasing for access to land that can be plowed for the purpose of growing crops and for flexible options to farmland.

Background:

Available agricultural land

- The Government of Yukon is advancing agricultural land developments in the Dawson, Haines Junction and Whitehorse areas. Lots are also available in Mayo.

Session Briefing Note

Agricultural Land Development

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In 2022, we approved four applications creating 74.8 hectares of additional agricultural land located near Haines Junction, Marsh Lake and Whitehorse.
- In 2023, to date, we are assessing **eight applications totaling 221 hectares of additional** agricultural land.

Seasonal Leases and Agreements for Sale

- Under the 2020 agriculture policy, we committed to developing agricultural parcels for lease. Five lease parcels are being prepared in the Gentian Lane area.
- A call for applications in Gentian Lane is expected to go out in winter 2023 to allow successful applicants to utilize the land during the 2023 growing season.
- We are assessing lease options for other planned agriculture areas in Haines Junction, Dawson and Whitehorse.

Primary Agriculture Use Criteria

- The 2020 agriculture policy presented a new method to show if agriculture land was being effectively used to produce food fibre or forage. This received mixed feedback from some agricultural landowners.
- The government is considering options for establishing land use criteria to be presented to the public for feedback.

Land Matching Initiative

- In 2022, the Agriculture Branch coordinated a pilot project to assess the feasibility and requirements of matching farmers with under-utilized agricultural land in the Dawson City area.
- The Agriculture Branch is reviewing the results of this project and determining next steps.

Session Briefing Note
Agricultural Land Development

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:



a/DM

Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

January 27, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Sustainable Canadian
Agricultural Partnership**Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership replaces the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program on April 1, 2023.
- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership will provide a total of \$9.25 million over five years for agriculture in the Yukon. This is a 25 per cent increase from the current funding program.
- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Bilateral Agreement was signed April 4, 2023. This is the fifth consecutive federal-provincial-territorial cost-shared agricultural funding program implemented in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is an investment in the Yukon's agriculture industry to support our farmers and increase our ability to be self-sufficient in food production.
- This investment will support the agriculture sector in adapting to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Government of Yukon engaged with First Nations and industry to ensure their feedback is reflected in new funding programs for the agriculture sector.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The new Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program came into effect on April 1, 2023.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Sustainable Canadian
Agricultural Partnership**Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:**Canadian Agricultural Partnership**

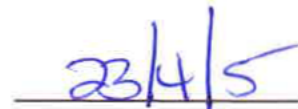
- Since 2018, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program has provided \$1.48 million per year in funding, for a total of \$7.4 million over five years for the development of agriculture in the Yukon. The funding is cost-shared on a 60:40 ratio between the governments of Canada and Yukon, respectively.
- Since 2018, the program has supported nearly 500 diverse agriculture projects across the Yukon - from community gardens and markets, to building farm infrastructure, purchasing specialized equipment, developing farm business plans and supporting farm labour.
- Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy commits the Government of Yukon to partnering with the Government of Canada to support and administer federal-provincial-territorial agricultural funding programs.
- The new funding programs [came](#) into effect on April 1, 2023.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister

approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Food Security and Programs**Health and Social
Services

Government priority:

- The Department of Health and Social Services is committed to closing the gap for low-income Yukoners and promoting nutrition across the territory.

Key messages:

- We recognize that some Yukoners face financial challenges in meeting core needs like food and shelter.
- Our government collaborates with many organizations who deliver food aid to Yukoners.
- I would like to thank all our partners for their crucial work to address food security.
- The department's Social Services Division delivers social assistance and the Yukon Seniors Income Supplement to eligible Yukoners to assist with meeting basic needs including food.

Key facts:

- In response to growing inflationary pressures, we have committed **\$100K (\$100,000)** to the Yukon Anti Poverty Coalition to support the Yukon Food Network to help coordinate food security initiatives in communities.
- The department matches the federal government's funding to Canada Prenatal Nutrition Programs in the territory.
- In response to inflationary pressures, active recipients of both social assistance and the Yukon Seniors Income Supplement programs received an additional \$150 one-time payment in the fall of 2022.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Food Security and Programs**Health and Social
Services

- During the 2021-22 fiscal year, Meals on Wheels provided 21,094 meals in Whitehorse and to the surrounding area and 4,837 meals in Dawson City and to the surrounding area.
- During the 2020-21 fiscal year, Meals on Wheels provided 16,195 meals in Whitehorse and to the surrounding area and 4,354 meals in Dawson City and to the surrounding area.

Food Security in Communities:

- The department's Health Promotion Unit has received 5-year funding through the Public Health Agency of Canada (Yukon Northern Wellness Project) to work with Yukon communities and other partners to support equitable access to food literacy initiatives in rural communities and support on-going local efforts within the Yukon.
- The Health Promotion Unit also supports school food programs across the territory through funding provided to the Yukon Food for Learning Association.

Bagged Meals from the Family Hotel:

- In spring 2020, COVID-19 public health measures forced emergency meal programs through the Sally & Sisters program and Whitehorse Emergency Shelter to temporarily halt or reduce services.
- In response, the department entered into an agreement with the Food Bank Society of Whitehorse in April of 2020 for the Society to distribute bagged meals to homeless and street-involved Yukoners.
- This arrangement was to promote social distancing at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter, as one of the COVID-19 pandemic measures.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Food Security and Programs

Health and Social
Services

-
- The Food Bank Society stopped distributing bagged meals in October 2020 and in November 2020 the Family Hotel became the distribution site. Meals were initially prepared at the Coast High Country Inn and then at Whistle Bend Place. Meals were served from 5 to 6:30 pm at the hotel.
 - This contract with the Family Hotel ended on November 30, 2022 at its scheduled end date and was not renewed, as recommendations for COVID-19 mitigation have evolved since April 2020.
 - This is also consistent with Yukon government's integration of COVID-19 services into existing programs, as outlined in *Charting the Course: Living with and managing COVID-19*.
 - Between April and November 2022, Continuing Care's Meals to Go prepared an average of 50 meals per day for the Family Hotel.
 - Between November 2020 and February 2022, an average of 35 meals were distributed per night at the Family Hotel.
 - During this period, a combined total of 16,891 meals were distributed through the Family Hotel.
 - Sally and Sisters is now administered by Yukon Aboriginal Women's council and has resumed a hot meal service since 2021. A similar meal program is run at the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre.
 - We are exploring options for the future with community partners, and determining whether there are any unintended gaps in our meal programming we should consider filling.
 - At this time, there continues to be a number of other community food aid supports available to residents.
 - Three meals a day for homeless and street-involved Yukoners at 405 Alexander Street, with dinner for shelter clients only.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Food Security and Programs**Health and Social
Services

- Lunch is available at Mary House on Tuesday and Thursday
 - Lunch for women and children on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at Sally and Sisters, and on Wednesday and Friday at the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre.
 - Boys & Girls Club Yukon provides youth-only dinners Tuesday to Saturday at 306 Alexander Street.
 - The Whitehorse Food Bank hamper is available on Tuesday and Thursday with family-only pick-up each Wednesday morning.
- We understand the importance of long-term food security.
 - As part of our response to *Putting People First* and *Our Clean Future*, we are looking at ways to support food security throughout the territory and close the gap for low-income Yukoners.

Meals on Wheels:

- Meals on Wheels provides food to Yukoners who may not have the ability to independently make or have access to nutritional meals.
- Frozen meals are available to clients living in Whitehorse, or within a two-hour travel time from Whitehorse, as well as in Dawson City and those living within a two-hour travel time from Dawson City.
- Meals on Wheels provides clients with up to seven lunch time meals per week.
- Meals can be delivered to clients or picked up at either Whistle bend Place or McDonald Lodge.
- In Whitehorse and the surrounding area, clients pay \$3.00 per meal. In Dawson City and the surrounding area, clients pay \$2.50 per meal.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Food Security and Programs**Health and Social
Services

- To receive Meals on Wheels, referrals may come from health care professionals including Physicians, Home Care staff, Community Nurse Practitioners, Social Workers, or the Assessment and Admission Coordinator.
- Clients may also self-refer to the program by contacting the Assessment and Admissions Coordinator.
 - In Dawson City, self-referrals can be made directly to the Home Care Nurse or McDonald Lodge Manager.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

March 6, 2023

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Gentian Lane Leasing allotments for agricultural use

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon supports local food production by expanding affordable agricultural land lease opportunities available to Yukoners.
- Affordable lease options attract new entrants to the agriculture sector, support the expansion of current operations and promote agricultural innovation, all without converting public land into private title.
- This spring, we are launching a pilot project of five agricultural leases in the Gentian Lane area of the Golden Horn subdivision for the upcoming growing season.

Additional response:

- Agricultural leases support the Cultivating Our Future goals of increasing the Yukon's food security, self-sufficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from food transportation.
- We are assessing potential leasing projects for other planned agriculture areas located in Haines Junction, Dawson and Whitehorse.
- In addition to expanding lease opportunities, the Government of Yukon supports food producers by making land available for food production through our land programs.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions around the Gentian Lane leases being released in spring 2023.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023


Gentian Lane Leasing allotments for agricultural use

Energy, Mines and
Resources**Background:**

- Gentian Lane agriculture lease options were planned to provide opportunity for people and businesses to undertake small-scale conventional and innovative agriculture operations like market gardens and raising small livestock.
- Public engagement and First Nations consultation on the Gentian Lane project occurred from March to June 2022 and a What We Heard report is available on yukon.ca.
- Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council are both generally supportive of this agricultural land leasing initiative as it contributes to local food security and avoids the permanent disposition of land as private title.
- The Gentian Lane lease area is designated for agricultural use under the Golden Horn Local Area Plan and zoned for Agriculture under the *Golden Horn Development Area Regulation*. However, the area is too small to be released for agricultural title per land legislations.
- The Gentian Lane project was adjusted to reflect feedback received on areas including access, parking, washroom facilities, wildfire risk, wildlife and domestic dog interactions and size of leases.
- The start date for successful applicants to utilize the land is subject to weather conditions and finalizing preparation work at the site.
- Seasonal leases are only available mid/late April to early/mid October, and have a minimum production clause. Each lease can be up to 2,000 square meters.
- We are assessing other leasing projects for other planned agriculture areas located in Haines Junction, Dawson and Whitehorse.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Faro Mine

#27
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Canada is leading all aspects of the Faro Mine Remediation Project, including the program of urgent remedial works.
- The Government of Yukon participates in the governance of the project and provides oversight on the progress towards remediation.
- Our key role in the project is to ensure the important objectives of protecting human health and safety and the environment are met. We also closely monitor how Yukon First Nations and communities benefit from the project.

Additional response:

- Ross River Dena Council's development corporation, Dena Nezziddi, provides fuel, heavy equipment, camp accommodations and environmental monitoring services at the site.
- Work to clean up the Faro Mine continues to provide well-paying jobs to Yukoners.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- There have been questions about the level of benefits flowing to local contractors and communities from the work at the mine site.

Background:

- In 2020, the governments of Canada and Yukon signed a Transition Agreement that amended roles and responsibilities for the Faro Mine Remediation Project. Both governments have also entered into agreements with Selkirk First Nation and Ross River Dena Council in support of the transition.

Session Briefing Note

Faro Mine


#27
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

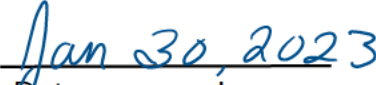
- The transition agreement allowed the Government of Canada to lead the Faro Mine Remediation Project and take full responsibility for protecting the environment and human health and safety.
- Under the Devolution Transfer Agreement, First Nations must support proposed alternate approaches to address Type II mine sites.
- The Transition Agreement was finalized after the governments of Canada and Yukon completed consultations.

Water Quality Issues

- In 2018, the Government of Yukon delegated its authority under Section 37 of the Yukon Waters Act to the Government of Canada on an interim basis. The Minister of Environment is responsible for determining if actions taken at the site are reasonable to protect the environment under Section 37.
- The Government of Canada wants to amend the Yukon Act to gain authority to manage contaminated Type II sites, giving them powers similar to those available under Section 37 of the Yukon Waters Act and removing the need for the continued delegation.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Type II Sites

Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon oversees Type II abandoned mine sites to protect human health, safety and the environment.
- In managing Type II Sites, our government seeks to balance environmental protection with opportunities to strengthen and diversify our economy.
- The range of approaches selected to remediate Type II mines are specific to the unique environmental issues at each site and the interests of affected First Nations and communities.

Additional response:

- We are collaborating with affected First Nations and communities to ensure remediation approaches recognize the specific needs and interests of those most impacted.
- We support local solutions to remedial efforts wherever possible.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There are different approaches and timelines to address historic liabilities at each Type II site.

Background:

Type II Sites

- Under the Devolution Transfer Agreement, Canada holds financial responsibility for pre-devolution liabilities on mine sites commonly referred to as Type II sites.
- Yukon Type II sites include Clinton Creek, Mount Nansen, Ketza River, Keno Hill (See BN # 99) and Faro (See BN # 27)


Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Type II Sites****Energy, Mines and Resources**


- The governments of Canada and Yukon have agreed to various approaches to remediate Type II sites as outlined in the Table below:

Roles and Responsibilities at Type II Sites

Site	Care and Maintenance	Remediation	Funding
Mount Nansen	Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership	Remediation planning complete; remediation will be executed by the Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership.	Government of Canada
Clinton Creek	Government of Yukon	Remediation planning underway	Government of Canada
Ketza River	Government of Yukon	Remediation planning underway	Government of Yukon; a large part of the costs will be recovered from Canada.
Keno	Elsa Reclamation and Development Company	Remediation planning complete; remediation will be by Elsa Reclamation and Development Company.	Government of Canada

Approved by:


 Deputy Minister
 Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


 Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Vangorda Sale

#29
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We are addressing the historic liabilities at the Vangorda Plateau portion of the Faro Mine site in partnership with the Government of Canada, Ross River Dena Council and Broden Mining.
- This partnership provides the opportunity for responsible mining in a brownfield area and for significant benefits to Ross River and nearby communities.
- We fully support the reconciliation focus the Government of Canada has placed on this work.
- The Government of Canada advanced the proposed sale approach of the Vangorda Plateau in recognition of the significant impacts of the Faro Mine on Kaska people.

Additional response:

- We are ensuring no unsecured historic liabilities are transferred to the Government of Yukon. Any future mining activities will be subject to the Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes.
- Conclusion of the transfer of the Vangorda area to the Ross River Dena Council's Tse Zul Development Corporation will require an agreement with affected First Nations and approval from the courts.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about the status of the Vangorda sales process and what, if any, legislative tools are required to secure expired claims in the area for transfer to new owners.

Session Briefing Note


Vangorda Sale

#29
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources


Background:

- All affected parties agreed to a remediation approach for the Faro Mine site in 2009, with an understanding that long-term care and maintenance would be required for hundreds of years. The liability associated with the site has increased significantly from initial estimates made in 2003.
- Any transfer of the Vangorda area would require agreement from affected First Nations as per the Devolution Transfer Agreement, and approval from the courts. Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Kaska Dena Council and Selkirk First Nation are identified as affected First Nations in the Devolution Transfer Agreement.
- Section 6.64 of the Devolution Transfer Agreement provides for alternative approaches to governing and managing work at Type II mine sites, provided the governments of Yukon, Canada and affected First Nations agree.
- An alternate agreement under section 6.64 is being sought with Selkirk First Nation, the only affected First Nation that is a signatory to the Devolution Transfer Agreement.

Approved by:

 A/DM

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

#30

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Faro Transition
Agreement Yukon Act
Amendments**

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- As part of transitioning administration and control of the Faro Mine site from the Yukon to the Government of Canada in 2020, Canada committed to introduce an amendment to the *Yukon Act* that would grant them statutory powers to directly conduct certain activities at abandoned mine sites in the Yukon.
- The Government of Canada already conducts these activities at Faro under a 2018 *Waters Act* delegation from the Government of Yukon to Canada. The proposed amendment to the *Yukon Act* removes the need for this delegation.

Additional response:

- Currently, Canada carries out interim care and maintenance at the Faro mine site under delegated authority from the Yukon Minister of Environment.
- The proposed amendment to the *Yukon Act* provides Canada with direct authority to carry out activities intended to prevent, counteract, mitigate or remedy any adverse effect on persons, property or the environment.
- This is an authority equivalent to the current powers of Yukon's Minister of Environment at abandoned mine sites in the territory.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in the Faro Mine Transition process and the delegation of legal authority from the Yukon to Canada for interim care and maintenance of the site.

#30

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Faro Transition
Agreement Yukon Act
Amendments**

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- In 2003, the Government of Yukon took on province-like responsibility for managing the territory's public lands, water, forestry and mining, including contaminated sites. Large mine sites that had significant potential for unfunded environmental liability at that time were identified in the Devolution Transfer Agreement (DTA) as Type II Sites.
- There are seven Type II mine sites listed in the DTA: Clinton Creek, Mount Nansen, United Keno Hill Mines, Ketza River mine, Brewery Creek Mine, Minto Mine, and the Faro mine.
- In 2020, under the Faro Mine Transition Agreement, Government of Yukon agreed to relinquish administration and control of the Faro Mine to Canada and Canada agreed to accept the relinquishment.
- In 2020, Canada committed to introduce into Parliament an amendment to the Yukon Act that would allow the federal Minister to take measures necessary to prevent, counteract, mitigate or remedy any adverse effect on persons, property or the environment. This amendment would remove the need for the existing delegation provided by the Yukon Minister of Environment to Canada.
- Canada must follow all assessment and licensing requirements at the Faro Mine site. It is currently in the environmental assessment phase for the long-term remediation of the site.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

National Adaptation Strategy and Climate Risk Assessment

Environment

Quick Facts:

- The federal government released the first Canada-wide adaptation strategy, the *National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan*, on November 24, 2022, following the 27th United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP27).

Recommended response:

- We are pleased to see the strong alignment between the recently released National Adaptation Strategy and the findings of Yukon's Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment report, as well as with *Our Clean Future*.
- This includes recognizing the unique circumstances that climate change poses to the North and the importance of prioritizing adaptation in northern and remote communities.
- We continue to engage with our federal counterparts on specific elements of the National Adaptation Strategy, and look forward to collaboratively advancing adaptation efforts in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- In September 2022, our government released the first Yukon-wide Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment report.
- This report evaluated the climate change impacts that pose the highest risk to Yukoners.
- The Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment report is a key resource for our government, as it identifies where government and community actions are contributing to resilience and where further action is needed.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

National Adaptation Strategy and Climate Risk Assessment

Environment

- We are continuing to build off the findings of the Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment report through the implementation of *Our Clean Future*, and advancing actions that will enhance climate resilience across the territory.

Third response:

- The Government of Yukon is currently working on implementing more than 50 adaptation actions as identified in *Our Clean Future*.
- These actions directly support the Yukon in adapting to some of the highest-risk areas identified in the Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment report, such as floods, fires and permafrost thaw.
- For example, to increase our preparedness and adaptability, this spring, we are working to develop flood maps for the Southern Lakes - including Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake and Lake Laberge. (Ref BN #6)
- We will continue to build on our adaptation commitments like this and others in *Our Clean Future*, while working with stakeholders, experts and knowledge holders, to advance climate resilience in the Yukon.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Climate change adaptation is a topic of high public interest. There may be questions about the release of the National Adaptation Strategy and how it relates to adaptation work taking place in the Yukon.

Background:

- The National Adaptation Strategy was released on November 10, 2022, and was open for comment by provinces, territories and Indigenous organizations until March 31, 2023.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

National Adaptation Strategy and Climate Risk Assessment

Environment

- The Yukon Climate Risk and Resilience report supports the fulfillment of a key action in Our Clean Future to assess climate hazards and vulnerabilities to those hazards every three to four years between now and 2030.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Environment

2023.04.18

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Spring 2023Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Our energy programs help us collectively meet our climate change commitments, lessen our energy consumption, increase our use of renewable energy and protect our environment.
- We are successfully helping Yukon residents, businesses, municipal and First Nations governments choose low carbon options that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- New programs like the Better Buildings Program, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make it more achievable for home and property owners to complete energy efficient retrofits to their buildings.
- We are electrifying the Yukon's transportation sector and increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable energy sources.

Additional Response:

- To date, there are 204 zero emission vehicles registered in the territory. To date, we have issued rebates for 755 electric bicycles, 117 residential smart electric heating systems and supported 79 high-performance building retrofits.
- Our efforts are also transforming the housing industry. On average, new homes built in Whitehorse since 2020 are 46 per cent more energy efficient than current building code standards.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on what the government is doing to reach its targets in Our Clean Future.

Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

Clean transportation

- The *Our Clean Future* target is to have 4,800 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030. With 204 zero-emission vehicles registered in the Yukon to date, the government is behind in achieving this target.
- We are installing electric vehicle fast-charging stations for public use across the territory. [Eleven](#) of 13 road-accessible communities in the Yukon can now be reached in an electric vehicle and we are working to include the remaining [two](#) communities ahead of the 2027 target in *Our Clean Future*.

Renewable heating

- The *Our Clean Future* target for renewable heating is to install 1,300 smart electric heating devices. To date, we have supported the installation of 117 smart electric heating systems. We are behind in achieving this target.
- We anticipate the new Better Buildings Program will accelerate the installation of smart electric heating systems to help achieve the target.
- *Our Clean Future* targets the installation of 20 biomass systems by 2030 in non-Yukon government buildings. (See BN #36)

High performance buildings (new and existing)

- The *Our Clean Future* targets related to buildings are to support 2,000 high-performance retrofits to non-government buildings and support the construction of 500 high-performing new homes by 2030.
- Since the launch of *Our Clean Future*, [137](#) high performance retrofits have been completed and the Energy Branch issued rebates to [490](#) high performance new homes. The Yukon government is on track to achieving the new homes target but behind in achieving the retrofits target.
- We are coordinating a trade network and subsidizing professional development to help building contractors and local businesses provide energy efficient products and services and grow the green economy.

Session Briefing Note
Energy Programs**Spring 2023**Energy, Mines and Resources

Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-02-22

Date approved

EMR #33/ENV #25**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Our Clean Future – First Nations Engagement**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon developed *Our Clean Future* in partnership with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous governments and groups, and Yukon municipalities over the course of three years.
- We held multiple rounds of public engagement in 2018 and 2019 with partners to determine the areas we should prioritize over the 10 years of the strategy.
- This included hosting public meetings in 14 communities with 287 participants from Yukon municipalities and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups.
- We also held four partner meetings with Yukon First Nations, Transboundary Indigenous governments and groups, and municipalities to establish a vision and values for *Our Clean Future*.

Second response:

- There are 136 actions led by the Government of Yukon in *Our Clean Future* and many involve First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups.
- There are 37 actions led by partners. Of those, 23 are being led by First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups.
- As of September 2022, nine of these actions have been completed. For example:
 - The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation completed a climate change strategy and an energy action plan for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region;

EMR #33/ENV #25**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Our Clean Future – First Nations Engagement**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

- Sree Vyah, the Old Crow Solar Project, began producing electricity in spring 2021; and,
 - Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in carried out energy audits for five buildings and conducted detailed planning for building energy upgrades in 2021.
- We applaud the work that has been done by the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship and their development of the Yukon First Nations Climate Reconnection Vision and Action Plan. We look forward to the public release of their report this spring.

Third response:

- Partnerships with First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups on Our Clean Future actions are essential to reaching our climate goals.
- We recognize the threat that climate change poses to Indigenous cultures, ways of life and well being. We will continue to support Indigenous-led climate action.
- We are committed to exploring further ways to support Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups, in addressing climate change through the implementation of Our Clean Future.

Context:

- Our Clean Future is a Government of Yukon strategy. Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups continue to lead their own actions to reduce emissions and enhance resilience.

EMR #33/ENV #25**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Our Clean Future – First Nations Engagement**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment**Background:**

- In fall 2017, the Government of Yukon invited Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous governments and groups, municipalities, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Association of Yukon Communities to participate in developing Our Clean Future.
- During the development, drafting and release of the draft version of Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon held various meetings with Yukon First Nations, Transboundary Indigenous governments and groups, and municipal partners and sought feedback on:
 - an engagement strategy;
 - a discussion document;
 - detailed engagement planning;
 - a survey; and
 - strategic direction.
- The types of meetings held were:
 - one round of one-on-one meetings;
 - four 'Partners Meetings'; and
 - a launch meeting and post-public engagement meeting.
- The public engagement period for feedback on a draft version of Our Clean Future ran from November 14, 2019, to January 17, 2020.
- In addition to group meetings held with staff or leadership from Indigenous and municipal partners, one-on-one meetings on the draft version of Our Clean Future were offered to partners and held with Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Vuntut Gwitchin Government.
- The Council of Yukon First Nations and the Assembly of First Nations – Yukon Region provided joint input on the draft version of Our Clean Future. Their joint input was informed by the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Gathering they hosted in February 2020.

EMR #33/ENV #25**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2023****Our Clean Future – First Nations Engagement**Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

- In addition to group meetings held with staff from municipalities, one-on-one meetings were held with the City of Dawson, the Village of Carmacks, the Village of Mayo, the Town of Faro and the Association of Yukon Communities.
- The Government of Yukon held one-on-one meetings with 30 environmental stakeholders and industry representatives.
- Our Clean Future Annual reports list actions and commitments from First Nations governments, organizations and municipalities regarding climate action underway in their communities.
- In the "2021 Our Clean Future Annual Report" (published in September 2022):
 - Three Yukon First Nations contributed actions: Vuntut Gwitchin Government, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and White River First Nation;
 - Council of Yukon First Nations and Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region contributed actions;
 - Two transboundary Indigenous groups contributed actions: Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; and,
 - Three municipalities contributed actions: City of Dawson; Village of Mayo; and the Village of Haines Junction.
- The first Yukon-wide Climate Risk Assessment report was released in September 2022. Participants included 16 Indigenous governments and organizations and three municipalities. (See EMR #31 and ENV #23)

Approved by:


Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources



Deputy Minister of Environment



Date approved

2023-04-27

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Independent Power Production Policy

#35
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the development of locally sourced renewable energy through the Independent Power Production policy.
- The Independent Power Production policy allows Yukon First Nations governments, communities and entrepreneurs to generate renewable energy and feed new electricity into the main electrical grid or micro-grids in diesel-dependent communities.
- Vuntut Gwitchin Government in Old Crow, Solvest on the North Klondike Highway, Nomad Construction in the Mount Sima area and the Klondike Development Organization in Dawson City are delivering solar-generated electricity to the utilities.

Additional response:

- There is strong and sustained interest in independent power production projects. A number of proposed projects are in approvals and we are impressed by the amount of interest in the program.
- Funding is available for prospective independent power producers through the Arctic Energy Fund and the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative.
- We are making substantial progress towards our goal of integrating renewable projects in all micro-grid communities. These projects will contribute to our goal of reducing the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation in off-grid communities by 30 per cent by 2030.

Session Briefing Note

Independent Power Production Policy

#35
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is strong First Nations, municipal, and private sector interest in renewable energy and in government support for such initiatives.

Background:

- The Independent Power Production Policy includes three programs: the Standing Offer Program; Unsolicited Proposals; and Calls for Power.
- Ten independent power production projects have signed Energy Purchase Agreements with their respective utilities. Of these, four are in active production.
 1. Solvest's solar project - Whitehorse (active);
 2. Nomad Construction and Electrical Services' solar project - Whitehorse (active);
 3. Vuntut Gwitchin Government's solar project - Old Crow (active);
 4. Klondike Development Organization's solar project - Dawson City (active);
 5. White River First Nation's solar project - Beaver Creek (tbd);
 6. Kluane First Nation's Nt'si wind project - Kluane Lake (tbd);
 7. Arctic Pharm's solar project - Whitehorse (tbd); and
 8. Sunergy's solar project - Haines Junction (tbd).
 9. Chu Níkwän Eagle Hill (Haeckel Hill) I (antic. to be commissioned in 2023)
 10. Chu Níkwän Eagle Hill (Haeckel Hill) II (antic. to be commissioned in 2023)
- [Daylu Dena Council](#) is preparing to develop a significant renewable energy project in Lower Post [to provide power to the Watson Lake grid](#).
- Energy, Mines and Resources and the Yukon Development Corporation are working closely with other prospective independent power producers and funding agencies to support innovative projects in moving forward.
- There are currently several projects in the approval queue. Yukon Energy Corporation will sign agreements with those that meet the entire program requirements first on a first come, first serve basis. Once the 40 GWh overall limit is reached, it will not except any more projects, or sign any more agreements.

Session Briefing Note

Independent Power Production Policy

#35
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- A review of the Independent Power Production Policy was completed in July 2022 and the report is publicly available. Discussions are underway with affected stakeholders about how the policy and its programs can be improved to meet the Yukon's energy needs now and in the future.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-03-06

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****YCLC and Reducing**

Environment

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has undertaken a review and analysis of the 61 recommendations put forward by the Yukon Climate Leadership Council in their *Climate Shot 2030* report.
- Several of the recommendations have other benefits for the territory in addition to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions projections.
- Based on our analysis, it was found that the intent of the "enabling elements" and "emissions reductions" recommendations align with the vision and core values of *Our Clean Future*.
- Navius Research's analysis found that the recommendations from the Yukon Climate Leadership Council will reduce emissions by 83 kt and while this is good, it would still leave a gap of 76 kt in reductions to meet the 45% target by 2030.

Additional response:

- We recognize and appreciate the significant research and analysis the Yukon Climate Leadership Council undertook to complete their work.
- We met one-on-one with the Council's co-chairs and other members to discuss the recommendations over the past several months.
- We are looking at implementing 14 recommendations that align closely with *Our Clean Future*, including increasing our ambitions related to renewable fuels, our zero emissions vehicle target and awareness building. (see table in Background)
- We continue to work with the YCLC to complete additional research, clarification, and resourcing on the remaining 47 recommendations to understand how best they can be implemented.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****YCLC and Reducing**

Environment

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Energy, Mines and Resources

-
- We will communicate new actions as part of our annual *Our Clean Future* reporting process in fall 2023.

Third response:

- I would like to acknowledge the importance of the Council's work in supporting the Government of Yukon to reach our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
- This includes developing a reconciliation framework to ensure that the recommendations support reconciliation and a better future for all Yukoners.
- The Council also applied co-benefit criteria to assess factors such as social equity, system resilience and diversity, self-sufficiency and community health and vitality.
- We are committed to reducing emissions while implementing collaborative, resilient and equitable solutions to address climate change.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners may want to know more about the Council's recommendations and what the Government of Yukon is doing to respond to them.

Background:

- On September 2, 2022, the Yukon Climate Leadership Council shared a total of 61 recommendations with the Government of Yukon in its final report, *CLIMATE SHOT 2030 - Recommendations on how to reduce Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent by 2030*.
- This report was released publicly on September 28, 2022.
- As requested by the Yukon Climate Leadership Council, the Government of Yukon undertook third-party verification of the emissions reduction potential of the 61

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YCLC and Reducing

Environment

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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recommendations were verified through Navius Research Inc. in the fall of 2022 after the Climate Shot 2030 report was released.

- Minister Clarke and Minister Streicker sent a joint response letter to the Council on Friday March 10, 2023. The letter thanks the Council for their work and outlines the government's next steps to address their recommendations.

#	14 YCLC recommendations that align closely with Our Clean Future
L7	Work with all levels of government to develop and support the use of standardized GHG emission accounting practices that support consistent, simple and transparent reporting of emission reductions.
EA1	Increase visibility and public familiarity with GHG reduction technologies (i.e., install solar panels or other renewable energy infrastructure at Yukon schools).
EA4	Support the development and delivery of climate change education that improves understanding of climate change and the Yukon's response to it.
H4	Prioritize fuel switching for building incentives regardless of other retrofit upgrades.
H6	Reduce life cycle carbon intensity of heating oil sold in Yukon by 20% by 2030, align with BC's Low Carbon Fuel Standard and implement as per B's Roadmap to 2030.
H8	Require all buildings constructed after 2025 and 2027 to meet Tier 3 and Tier 4, respectively of the National Building Code of Canada 2020.
H9	Develop and implement a labour force strategy for building retrofits and fuel switching (e.g., local training, reassign/train YG employees, Outside workers, etc.).
H13	Review successes and barriers to implementation of YG's 2016-2021 local food strategy and update as needed with an emphasis on GHG emission reduction.
M2	Reduce the lifecycle carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 30% for gasoline and diesel in alignment with BC's Low Carbon Fuel Standard and implement per BC's Roadmap to 2030.

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YCLC and Reducing

Environment

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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#	14 YCLC recommendations that align closely with Our Clean Future
M4	Establish a Zero Emissions Vehicle Act for the Yukon, modelling after BC, which requires vehicle sellers to achieve sales and lease targets for ZEVs.
M5	For OCF Action T1, increase the ZEV sales target for light duty vehicles from 30% to 45% by 2030, or align with federal mandate, whichever is higher.
M7	Work with school bus contractors to facilitate the replacement of retiring internal combustion engine buses with electric buses.
M8	Fund a green hydrogen fuel demonstration project in the transportation sector with a construction start of 2025 and operating timeframe of 2028.
E9	Establish a rate and policy to permit power reselling and allow third party EV charging stations and vehicle-to-grid (V2G) options for non-utility entities.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Environment

2023-04-27

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

23/4/27

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR

Commitments

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response

- Our Clean Future is an ambitious strategy for our territory for the next 10 years and will result in significant changes in response to the climate emergency.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is implementing a third of the strategy's key actions by leading 44 commitments. We have fully implemented 12 of the 44 commitments, or climate actions, which had 2020 and 2021 deadlines. We are also moving forward on the remaining 32 key actions.
- We brought the *Clean Energy Act*, the territory's first energy and climate change legislation, into force in 2022.

Additional response:

- We are completing a government-wide review of Our Clean Future's implementation and we are in the development of a phase two for the strategy that will include revised and new climate actions.
- Our Good Energy incentives are stimulating uptake in clean transportation options. As of January 2023, there are 204 zero-emission vehicles registered in the territory. To date, we have issued rebates for 755 electric bicycles to Yukon residents.
- To date, Yukoners have installed 117 smart electric heating devices and eight biomass systems under the Good Energy programs. These renewable heating systems reduce heating emissions and lower demands for electricity.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR

Commitments

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about Energy, Mines and Resources' progress in implementing Our Clean Future.

Background:

- Under Our Clean Future, the department of Energy, Mines and Resources is responsible for 44 actions. The majority of these actions (35) are energy-related or have energy implications in the Yukon.
- The department is currently working to establish a mining intensity target for quartz and placer mining operations. (See BN #6)
- Of the 44 actions:
 - seven are new energy programs and rebates (See BN #32);
 - some are public outreach programs; and
 - about half (26 actions) can be achieved through legislation and existing resources.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023.03.22

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Renewable Energy Initiatives

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We invest in local renewable energy projects, encourage the purchase of green technologies and help Yukon businesses and workers develop new skills in the growing clean energy industry.
- Our efforts are paying off. Our micro-generation program recently reached a milestone where the total, locally-sourced renewable energy generating capacity passed seven megawatts.
- Energy Purchase Agreements have been signed by 10 independent power production projects. Of these, four are in active production.

Additional response:

- The Yukon Energy Corporation and Tlingit Homeland Energy LP are advancing the Atlin Hydro Expansion project, which will provide an additional eight megawatts of renewable energy to the Yukon's main grid.
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from heating buildings, we are incentivizing retrofits in buildings, assisting in updates to biomass-heating systems in five First Nations facilities, and installing biomass-heating systems in two government facilities.
- Yukoners are adopting renewable energy generating systems at such a high rate that we achieved our key Our Clean Future commitment seven years ahead of schedule.

Session Briefing Note

Renewable Energy Initiatives

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Yukon Energy Corporation's 10-year Renewable Electricity Plan provides a roadmap for how we will continue to meet electricity demands through renewable sources.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is strong First Nations, municipal, public and industry interest in installing renewable energy systems and in government supporting such initiatives.

Background:

Our Clean Future

- Our Clean Future commitments include increasing renewable electricity on the Yukon's main grid to 97 per cent (action E1) and setting a target of increasing renewable heating in the Yukon's buildings to 50 per cent by 2030. (See BN #36)

Renewable energy generation: Independent Power Production Policy (See BN #35)

- Yukon Development Corporation's Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative provides financial and technical support to Yukon First Nations, municipalities, and community organizations for community-led renewable energy projects.

Renewable energy generation: Micro-generation Program

- Our Clean Future climate action E10 targets seven megawatts of installed renewable electricity capacity by 2030. As of January 2023, 638 micro-generators connected to a Yukon utility grid are generating 7.5 megawatts of renewable electricity capacity. This is enough energy to supply about 1.48 per cent of the Yukon's five-year average annual electricity generation.
- Under the Micro-generation program, participants from 12 First Nations have installed 31 renewable energy-generating systems on institutional, commercial and residential buildings throughout the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

Renewable Energy Initiatives

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Biomass

- There are two operating biomass systems in government-owned facilities in Dawson and Whitehorse. The Government of Yukon is constructing a new biomass system at a Whitehorse elementary school and expanding the Whitehorse Correctional Centre's system. In addition, the Low Carbon Economy Fund is providing assistance for eight biomass projects, four of which are completed and four of which are in progress.

Other renewable energy systems

- A large feasibility study is evaluating biomass, geothermal and other renewable energy options for over 50 Government of Yukon-owned sites across the territory.
- Energy, Mines and Resources facilitated training opportunities for heat pump suppliers and Energy Branch's energy advisors to increase their skills and capacity in support of our Good Energy rebates.

Geothermal resources

- The Government of Yukon is developing legislation to regulate geothermal energy development per Our Clean Future action E11. Engagement was completed in September 2022 and work is advancing to develop the legislation.
- Geological research is underway on geothermal potential as a renewable energy source for heating and electricity. (See BN #64)

Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-02-24

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Youth Panel on Climate Change**Environment & ECO

Recommended response:

- This year's Youth Panel on Climate Change, our second cohort, focused on activities that build youth capacity, leadership skills, education, and engagement on climate change issues in the Yukon.
- The Panel coordinated four youth climate workshops in Whitehorse and created a film that explores a vision for climate action in the Yukon.
- We thank the Panel for their efforts in engaging with other Yukon youth and for advancing climate leadership in the territory.

Additional response:

- The territory's youth are the next generation of environmental stewards and we recognize the important role they play in addressing the climate crisis.
- Based on the experiences of the Youth Panels, we look forward to working on meaningful ways to continue to build youth capacity and leadership on climate change.
- We appreciate the considerable time and effort that the 2021 and 2022 Youth Panel cohorts, as well as BYTE (for youth, by youth), put into advancing youth climate action in the territory.
- We will continue to explore further opportunities to support youth leadership on climate action.

Third response:

- Many of the recommendations from the first Youth Panel align well with our existing commitments under *Our Clean Future*.
- Approaching climate action with continued flexibility allows the Government of Yukon to incorporate expertise and diverse perspectives, such as those of the Youth Panel.
- In line with this, we appreciate and recognize the existing gaps and

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Spring 2023

Youth Panel on Climate Change

Environment & ECO

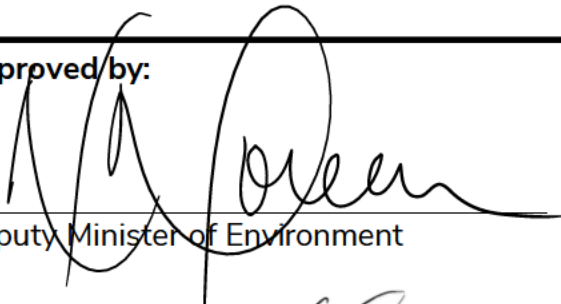
barriers the recommendations pointed out, and we will continue to analyze and assess these to see where the Government of Yukon can best take action.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Government received questions as to whether the youth panel will continue to be funded to support subsequent cohorts.

Background:

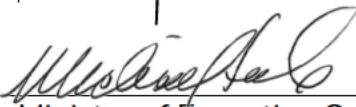
- Action L6 in Our Clean Future establishes a commitment to create a Youth Panel on Climate Change to provide advice and perspectives to the Government of Yukon on climate change, energy and green economy matters.
- In 2021, the first Youth Panel on Climate Change Cohort included 12 youth who delivered a set of recommendations - *Our Recommendations, Our Future: 27 Programs and Policies to Embolden the Yukon's Climate Action*, with the goal of emboldening the actions laid out in Our Clean Future.
- In 2022, the second Youth Panel on Climate Change cohort included 10 panellists that built on the first cohort's ambitions through capacity and leadership-building activities. They did not create recommendations.
- The Yukon government partnered with BYTE – Empowering Youth Society, for the second year in a row, to run the youth panel and report to the government on its activities.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

2023.03.02

Date approved


Deputy Minister of Executive Council Office

2023 03 03

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon Climate Leadership Council
- Climate Shot 2030 Response**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is revising existing actions under *Our Clean Future* and identifying new actions to be part of the second phase of our climate action strategy.
- We have completed an initial review of the Yukon Climate Leadership Council's 61 recommendations under *Climate Shot 2030* and found that about half are consistent with work currently underway under *Our Clean Future*.
- Recommendations already in implementation under *Our Clean Future* include electric vehicle adoption, renewable fuel content standards, building codes, labour market development and supporting the wood products industry.

Additional response:

- We shared and reviewed our initial findings with the Yukon Climate Leadership Council and continue to work with Council members to advance their important work.


Context – This May Be an Issue Because:


- There are questions on whether the Government of Yukon will adopt and implement the Yukon Climate Leadership Council's recommendations.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon Climate Leadership Council
- Climate Shot 2030 Response**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Background:**

- In September 2022, the Yukon Climate Leadership Council delivered its final report Climate Shot 2030 with 61 recommendations. (See EMR #34)
- The following Climate Shot 2030 actions are consistent with work underway by Energy, Mines and Resources:
 - H8: Setting dates for meeting tiers of the National Building Code;
 - M2: Reducing the lifecycle carbon intensity of transportation fuels in line with BC;
 - M5: Considering increase to the 2030 ZEV sales target;
 - M7: Work with school bus contractors to replace internal combustion engine buses with electric buses; and
 - M8: Work towards funding a green hydrogen demonstration project.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is participating in a government-wide review of Our Clean Future's implementation and the development of a phase two for the strategy. The Department of Environment is the lead for this review.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Clean Energy Act
Implementation**Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

Recommended response:

- The Clean Energy Act legislates emissions reductions, renewable heating, zero-emission vehicle sales targets and public reporting to ensure long-term climate action accountability and transparency.
- The Act ensures the government's work continues across political lifecycles and stays focused on achieving essential climate actions to meet our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
- The Clean Energy Act is the Yukon's first energy and climate change legislation.

Additional response:


- Several initiatives are already underway to implement aspects of the Clean Energy Act, including the setting of sector-specific targets.
- Following our engagement with the mining industry, we are planning to establish an intensity-based target to reduce the industry's greenhouse gas emissions per unit of production.
- Other commitments under development include, establishing and legislating standards for renewable electricity generation and renewable fuel.
- As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, we report on *Our Clean Future* progress annually.
- Moving forward, we will continue to report on progress, including commitments in the Clean Energy Act.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Clean Energy Act
Implementation**Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment**Context:**

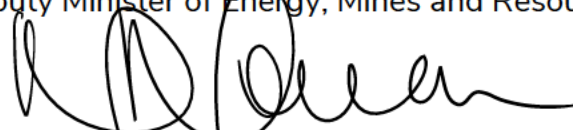
- There may be interest in the implementation of the *Clean Energy Act*, and the targets set within it.

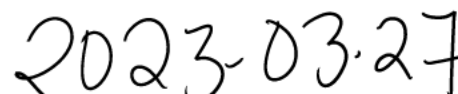
Background:

- The *Clean Energy Act* came into force in November 2022, and legislates the following targets:
 - greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 45 per cent by 2030 compared to 2010 levels (not including mining emissions);
 - greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of net-zero for all sectors by 2050;
 - Yukon-wide 30 per cent renewable heating target;
 - zero-emission vehicle sales target of 10 per cent by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030;
 - the authority to develop sector-specific targets into regulation; and,
 - reporting requirements on the government's climate actions.
- The Government of Yukon **is planning to establish an** intensity-based Mining Intensity Target that sets a benchmark for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the mining sector. (See EMR# 6)

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Recommended response:

- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral. We are returning 100% of the federal carbon levy to four rebate groups.
- We remain committed to ensuring that the four rebate groups continue to receive more, on average, than they pay in carbon pricing levies. We are distributing 45% to individuals, 36.0% to general businesses, 12% to mining businesses, 3.5% to First Nations governments and 3.5% to municipal governments.
- Finance officials have reaffirmed that the 2022-23 rebates are on target to meet by March 31, 2023 the most recent projections that the surplus will decline by just over \$12 million this fiscal year due to higher business uptake.
- We expect that trend to continue into the new fiscal year. By the end of the 2023-24 fiscal year, we expect the surplus remaining in the carbon rebate revolving fund to decrease to \$4.4 million.

Rebate for individuals

- The rebate amount for individuals for the upcoming rebate year will be \$372 (\$93 per quarter). This represents \$52 increase compared to the previous rebate year. The first of quarterly payments for the new benefit year will be provided in July 2023.
- Yukoners living outside of Whitehorse will also receive an additional supplement of 10%, or \$37.20 over the rebate year.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Carbon Rebate**Finance

- Payments to more than one individual in a household are made under the same rules as the federal government's payments for the Goods and Services Tax credit; one person per household will receive the rebate for all individuals.

Rebate for general businesses (other than mining)

- Yukon businesses receive their carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit. As with some other tax credits, businesses can apply retroactively for past tax years.
- The business rebate for 2023-24 is \$21.89 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon assets.
- The rebate is calculated based on the value of business assets and includes incentives to invest in clean technology.
- For 2023-24, the Super Green Credit provides a rebate of about \$109 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets, which include eligible solar energy systems, electric vehicles, and charging systems.
- Uptake for the general business rebate was low in the initial years. This is partly due to tax software providers' delay in rolling out products with the appropriate carbon rebate schedules and forms.
- The lower uptake resulted in a significant surplus balance in the business rebate account, which was carried forward to increase the rebate in 2022-23. Tax data indicates that the uptake is increasing, so the rebate for 2023-24 no longer includes the large surplus, which explains the decline in the rebate compared to the previous year.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Carbon Rebate**

Finance

Rebate for mining businesses

- Bill 21, or the Carbon Price Rebate Amendments Act, received assent on October 24, 2022. The bill replaced the placer and quartz mining rebate with a new revenue neutral mining business rebate effective January 1, 2023.
- Miners will continue to be eligible for the pre-2023 rebate for fuel purchased in 2022. They have until September 30, 2023 to apply for the pre-2023 mining rebate.
- The new mining business rebate is structured the same way as the general business rebate. Mining businesses will now receive their carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit on their tax returns.
- The mining business rebate for 2023-24 will be \$21.08 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets. Mining assets eligible for the Super Green Credit will be eligible for a rebate of about \$109 per \$1000 of asset costs. Recognizing the difference in capital intensity between different mining operations, placer mining businesses apply an adjustment factor to increase their rebate amounts.
- Special transitional amounts have been established for January 1 to March 31, 2023. These amounts are available for businesses whose taxation year-end occurs between January 1, 2023 and March 31, 2023. This ensures that mining businesses can claim the mining business rebate in 2023 no matter when their year-end occurs.
- The transitional business rebate factor for January to March 2023 is \$5.27 per \$1,000 in assets. The Super Green Credit provides a rebate of about \$198 per \$1,000 of asset costs.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Carbon Rebate**Finance

Agriculture

- The federal government determines who is exempt from paying the carbon levy. The federal government made the decision to exempt this group to avoid increasing the cost of food for all Canadians.
- Farmers are exempt from paying the federal carbon levy on gasoline and light fuel oil used in farming operations, using a federal definition of farming activities. (The exemption is determined following the submission of Federal Tax Form K402 – Carbon levy Exemption Certificate for Farmers).
- Farmers who buy non-exempt fuel for ancillary purposes can claim the Yukon business carbon rebate on their tax return.

First Nations governments

- Each year, the Yukon government estimates the share of carbon levies paid by each eligible rebate group to assess if they are still expected to receive more in rebates than they are expected to pay in levies.
- Effective January 1, 2023, we increased the First Nation government share of the carbon rebates from 2.5% to 3.5%. This increase was not related to a material change in First Nation government emissions, but was instead driven by a decrease in levies paid by mining companies after a Yukon facility recently entered the federal Output-Based Pricing System. Accordingly, we reduced the mining share and increased the First Nation government share.
- We are committed to working with all First Nations government to ensure that carbon-pricing revenues are distributed equitably. We are always interested in hearing from Yukon First Nations about different options for allocating revenues within the territory.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

-
- First Nations governments have received their rebate on March 31 each year. The allocation that each First Nations government received was guided by the allocation formula in Chapter 19 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. The regulation governing this allocation has expired as of March 31, 2022 and will need to be replaced.

Municipal governments

- Municipal governments receive carbon rebates on April 1 each year.
- Effective January 1, 2023, we increased the municipal governments share of the carbon rebates from 3.0% to 3.5%. This increase was not related to a material change in municipal government emissions estimates, but was instead driven by a decrease in levies paid by mining companies as a Yukon facility has recently entered into the federal OBPS. Accordingly, we reduced the mining share and increased the municipal government share.
- The amount that each municipal government receives is based on fixed percentages prescribed in regulation. The Government of Yukon remains open to exploring new formulas for distributing revenues to municipal governments.

Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS)

- We continue to work with the federal government during the implementation of the OBPS.
- From September 6 through October 3, 2022 we engaged the mining industry on the development of a new carbon rebate for facilities that may be subject to the OBPS. The goal was to understand the mining industry's priorities in returning carbon pricing revenues to help lower

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Spring 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

greenhouse gas emissions. The engagement occurred alongside Energy Mines and Resources' consultation on the development of intensity-based emissions targets for the mining sector. We are currently reviewing the feedback received from stakeholders and engagement participants.

- In the Yukon, the only facilities that may meet the OBPS thresholds for voluntary participation (10 kilotonnes) or mandatory participation (50 kilotonnes) are quartz mines. There is currently only one facility registered in the OBPS in the Yukon.
- On October 28, 2022, the Government of Canada announced proposed new regulations clarifying that the OBPS would not apply to Yukon Energy.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Carbon pricing is a common issue in the media and in past legislative sessions.
- The Opposition will be interested in the monitoring the rollout of the new carbon rebate for mining businesses.
- From September 6 through October 3, 2022, the Yukon Department of Finance engaged with the mining industry on the development of a carbon rebate for mine operators that may be subject to the OBPS.
- On March 2, 2023 in question period the following was raised: "As of March 31, 2022, the Yukon government has accumulated almost \$19 million in surplus from the carbon tax. Why isn't the Yukon government ensuring that all of the money it collects from the federal government for the carbon tax is coming back to Yukoners?"

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Background:

- The federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* received royal assent on June 21, 2018. The federal carbon pollution pricing system has two parts:
 - a regulatory charge on fossil fuels (i.e., the carbon levy or fuel charge), and
 - a regulatory trading system for large facilities (i.e., the federal OBPS).
- Pricing carbon pollution is a central pillar of Canada's efforts to address climate change through the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* (PCF). All jurisdictions except Manitoba and Saskatchewan signed the PCF in December 2016.
- The first phase of the federal government's climate plan set the Canada-wide carbon price at \$20 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions beginning in 2019, rising by \$10 per tonne per year on April 1, up to \$50 per tonne in 2022.
- On December 11, 2020, Canada announced proposed enhancements to their climate plan, which included increases to the federal carbon levy of \$15 a year starting in 2023, rising to \$170 per tonne in 2030.
- In designing rebate programs, the Government of Yukon considered how to address the principles established in the *Pan-Canadian Framework*, namely:
 - "Carbon pricing policies should include revenue recycling to avoid a disproportionate burden on vulnerable groups and Indigenous peoples", and
 - "Carbon pricing policies should minimize competitiveness impacts and carbon leakage, particularly for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed sectors."
- Yukon officials held targeted discussions with The Low Carbon Yukon Stakeholder Committee on the design of the business rebate.
- The Low Carbon Yukon Stakeholder Committee included representation from the following organizations: Association of Yukon Communities, Cold Climate Innovation Research Centre, Klondike Placer Miners' Association, Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon, Yukon Agricultural Association, Yukon Chamber of Commerce, Yukon Conservation Society, Yukon Contractors

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Spring 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Association, Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, and the Yukon Wood Products Association.

- Officials met with the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) to discuss the Municipal rebate. AYC presented an option for distributing their rebates across municipalities.
- First Nations were engaged in discussions at the Yukon Forum fiscal working group meetings. First Nations did not advance any proposal for distributing their carbon rebates across First Nations governments. The Government of Yukon set the percentages based on the allocations under Chapter 19 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement in Regulations* with the option to revise this when Yukon First Nations come to a consensus and propose different allocation percentages.
- The tables in the next pages provide up-to-date summary information on the carbon levies received and rebates paid.

Northwest Territories Discontinues Heating Fuel Rebate and Large Emitter Program

- On October 31, 2022, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) announced that it would discontinue its carbon tax exemption for heating fuel and its current rebate for large industrial emitters effective April 1, 2023.
- The GNWT also tabled Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products and Carbon Tax Act*, which would increase the NWT's territorial carbon tax rate each year until 2030, in-line with increases to the federal carbon levy.
- To offset the loss of the heating fuel exemption, the GNWT announced that it would increase its annual Cost of Living Offset (COLO) payment by \$135 per resident. Beginning in 2023-24, annual COLO amounts would increase to \$473 for each adult and to \$525 for each person under 18 years of age. The GNWT will also replace its current carbon tax rebate for large emitters with a rebate tied to a facility-specific baseline (details are still unknown).

November 2022, Proposed OBPS Regulatory Changes

- On November 1, 2022, the federal government announced proposed changes to clarify that the OBPS Regulation does not apply to remote power plants, such as

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Carbon Rebate

Finance

Yukon Energy, that are exempted from paying the fuel charge under the Fuel Charge Regulations.

- Prior to this change, a remote power plant that was exempted from the federal fuel charge would essentially lose part of this exception if its emissions exceeded 50 kilotonnes in any year. The Yukon Department of Finance engaged the federal government on this policy inconsistency throughout the spring and summer of 2022. The proposed changes announced on November 1 directly reflect the recommendations and requests of Yukon and other territorial officials.
- The federal government also announced that it will introduce an annual OBPS tightening rate, which would lower a facility's allowable charge-free emissions limit each year beginning in 2023.

ANNEX

Carbon Price Rebate Revolving Funds – presented in Main Estimates 2023-24 (\$'000)

	2023-24 ESTIMATE	2022-23 FORECAST	2022-23 ESTIMATE	2021-22 ACTUAL
Amounts Received				
General Business	10,700	11,800	12,773	11,470
Mining Business	3,600	780	-	-
Personal	13,300	11,500	11,612	10,121
Municipal	1,000	800	774	675
Yukon First Nations	1,000	710	645	224
Total	29,600	25,590	25,804	22,490
Amounts Disbursed				

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Carbon Rebate

Finance

General Business	11,600	24,200	24,588	3,003
Mining Business	4,200	140	-	-
Personal	14,400	12,000	14,211	6,932
Municipal	800	675	695	365
Yukon First Nations	1,000	710	645	225
Undistributed Balance	-2,400	-12,135	-14,335	11,965
Total	29,600	25,590	25,804	22,490
Net Change in Revolving Fund				
General Business	-900	-12,400	-11,815	8,467
Mining Business	-600	640	-	-
Personal	-1,100	-500	-2,599	3,188
Municipal	200	125	79	310
Yukon First Nations	0	0	0	0
Total	-2,400	-12,135	-14,335	11,965
Balance at Beginning of Year	6,750	18,885	14,448	6,920
Balance at End of Year	4,350	6,750	113	18,885
Increase/(Decrease) in Restricted Funds	-2,400	-12,135	-14,335	11,965

Session Briefing Note

Carbon Rebate

TAB #14

Spring 2023

Finance

Federal Fuel Charge Rates Applicable in Yukon (cents per litre unless specified)

Date of increase*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
\$ per tonne	20	30	40	50	65	80	95	110	125	140	155	170
Gasoline	4.4	6.6	8.8	11.1	14.4	17.7	21.0	24.3	27.6	30.9	34.3	37.6
Light fuel oil	5.4	8.1	10.7	13.4	17.4	21.5	25.5	29.5	33.5	37.5	41.6	45.6
Propane	3.1	4.6	6.2	7.7	10.1	12.4	14.7	17.0	19.4	21.7	24.0	26.3
Natural gas**	3.9	5.9	7.8	9.8	12.7	15.7	18.6	21.5	24.5	27.4	30.3	33.3
Aviation turbo fuel and gasoline	Exempt				There is currently no intention to eliminate the exemption for aviation fuels used in the territories.							

*July 1 for 2019, April 1 for 2020, 2021, and 2022, TBD for future years ** Per cubic meter

Estimated Fuel use in Yukon versus rebate

	Rebate (% of total)	Estimated shares of carbon levies paid by rebate group				
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
General businesses	36.0%	48.82%	48.38%	48.26%	49.29%	34.50%
Mining businesses	12.0%	-	-	-	-	11.50%
Yukon individuals	45.00%	28.21%	28.13%	27.67%	26.56%	26.80%
Municipal governments	3.50%	2.43%	2.41%	2.47%	2.27%	2.60%
First Nations governments	3.50%	0.49%	0.36%	0.36%	2.09%	2.80%
Visitors (tourists)	0.00%	9.99%	8.42%	8.90%	7.66%	8.50%
Government of Yukon	0.00%	9.09%	11.24%	11.21%	11.03%	12.10%
Government of Canada	0.00%	0.46%	0.54%	0.56%	0.57%	0.70%
Other	0.00%	0.51%	0.53%	0.57%	0.54%	0.50%

These estimates rely on data from Statistics Canada that is subject to a significant lag. Changes should generally be interpreted as adjustments based on more recent data, rather than changes in actual consumption.

Estimated levies and rebates to individuals

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Levy paid by individual	\$33.05	\$87.48	\$131.43	\$157.59	\$179.11
Rebate to individuals	\$86.00	\$192.00	\$176.00	\$320.00	\$372.00
Remote supplement	n/a	\$19.20	\$17.60	\$32.00	\$37.20

Yukon general business rebate amounts by on asset class

(per \$1,000 in assets)	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Building rebate	\$1.72	\$3.45	\$4.41	\$19.81	\$10.95
Equipment rebate	\$8.62	\$17.24	\$22.03	\$99.05	\$54.73
Green rebate	\$17.24	\$34.48	\$44.05	\$198.10	\$109.45

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Yukon mining business rebate amounts by on asset class

	(per \$1,000 in assets)	Transitional amount Jan 1 to Mar 31, 2023	2023-24
<i>Placer mining businesses</i>	Buildings and equipment rebate	\$21.08	\$84.32
	Green rebate	\$792.40	\$437.80
<i>Quartz mining businesses</i>	Buildings and equipment rebate	\$5.27	\$21.08
	Green rebate	\$198.10	\$109.45

Approved by:



a/Deputy Minister, Finance

March 30, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Carbon Rebate – Mining Businesses

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral; we are returning 100 per cent of the federal carbon levy to the following groups: individuals (45 per cent), general businesses (36 per cent), mining businesses (12 per cent), First Nations governments (3.5 per cent), and municipal governments (3.5 per cent).
- Bill 21, the Carbon Price Rebate Amendments Act, replaced the mining rebate with a new revenue-neutral mining business rebate effective January 1, 2023.
- Mining businesses will now receive their carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit on their tax returns. This simplifies the process by no longer requiring mining businesses to apply for the rebate.
- Recognizing the difference in capital intensity between different mining operations, placer mining credits are four times higher than quartz mining credits.

Additional response:

- In the fall of 2022, we engaged the mining industry on the development of a new carbon rebate for facilities.
- The engagement occurred alongside engagement on the development of intensity-based emissions targets for the mining sector.
- We are currently reviewing the feedback received from participants.

Session Briefing Note

Carbon Rebate – Mining
BusinessesEnergy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the rollout of the new carbon rebate for mining businesses.

Background:

- The federal Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (2018) introduced a carbon levy. [The Yukon's carbon rebate returns 100 per cent of the levy.](#)

Carbon Rebate update for Mining Businesses

- Bill 21, or the Carbon Price Rebate Amendments Act, received assent on October 24, 2022. The bill replaced the placer and quartz mining rebate with a new revenue neutral mining business rebate effective January 1, 2023.
- Miners will continue to be eligible for the pre-2023 rebate for fuel purchased in 2022. They have until September 30, 2023, to apply for the pre-2023 mining rebate.
- The new mining business rebate is structured the same way as the general business rebate. Mining businesses will now receive their carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit on their tax returns.
- The mining business rebate for 2023-24 will be \$21.08 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets. [Some clean technology assets \(e.g., electric vehicles\) are eligible for a much higher credit, the Super Green Credit \(\\$109 per \\$1000 of asset costs\).](#)

Approved by:



Deputy Minister,

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

23/4/17

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Compliance Summary

2023

#45
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended Response:

- Natural Resource Officers conduct inspections, monitor compliance, and are responsible for the enforcement of legislation regulating natural resources including mining, forestry, land use, water and environmental protection.
- The branch assists with emergency response for major events like floods, fire and the pandemic.
- In 2022, Natural Resource Officers completed 847 inspections related to public lands, forests, waters, mineral resources and the Civil Emergency Measures Act.

Additional response:

- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch also has a dedicated unit responsible for compliance monitoring at active quartz mines across the territory.
- Major mine sites are inspected regularly and, on average, officers are on site every 4-6 weeks.
- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch is responsible for water quality monitoring of placer watersheds and water sample analysis for compliance monitoring.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is increased interest from Yukon First Nations and the public regarding compliance and enforcement activities associated with resource development in the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note Compliance Summary 2023

#45
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch has 26 Natural Resource Officers, with 21 officers stationed at district offices in Dawson City, Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Mayo, Carmacks, Ross River, Teslin and Whitehorse.
- The major mines unit consists of three officers responsible for compliance monitoring and enforcement at major quartz mining and exploration sites across the territory.
- Major mine sites are inspected regularly and, on average, our officers are on site every 4-6 weeks.
- The water quality monitoring team is based in Whitehorse and travels around the territory for monitoring.


Compliance and Enforcement:

- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections inspects operations to ensure the activities are being undertaken in accordance with the terms and conditions of the authorization or licence and any applicable legislative or regulatory requirements.
- When a Natural Resource Officer encounters a compliance issue, they then investigate the issue and may undertake enforcement action.
- Enforcement actions may consist of a warning, summary convictions ticket, a direction or order, or court proceedings.
- In 2022, there were 126 incidents of activities that required investigation. After investigation, 32 resulted in enforcement actions.

Approved by:

 
Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

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.

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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 5th 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 4th 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.

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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 (5th 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

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.

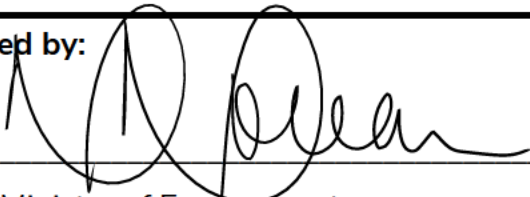
Context — this may be an issue because:

- 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

2023-02-01

Date approved



Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Feb. 1, 2023

Date approved

Joint Corporate Note Inflation and affordability

Finance
Executive Council Office

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

- 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.

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.](#)

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

- \$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

- 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

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Executive Council Office

- 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

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

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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
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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

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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

- 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

- 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

- 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.

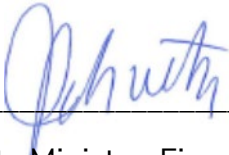
Session Briefing Note

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

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.

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.

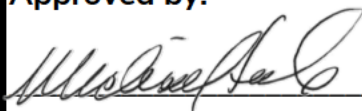
Background:

- 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
Office

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

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**

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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.

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

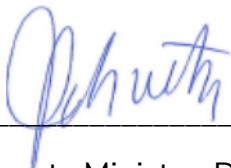
Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

- 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

Session Briefing Note

TAB#28

Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2022-23

Spring 2023

Supplementary Overview

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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

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.

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TAB#28

Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2022-23

Spring 2023

Supplementary Overview

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

- 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.
-

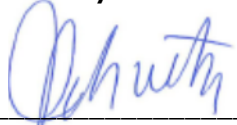
Context—this may be an issue because:

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

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

Approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Staffing Information**Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources provides a wide variety of services to the public, from agricultural leases to energy rebates to natural resource compliance checks.
- We emphasize service, respect, leadership and safety and our nine offices across the territory support the Yukon's communities directly by offering department services on location.
- For the 2023-24 fiscal year, we are budgeted for 293.7 full-time equivalent positions. Staffing levels remain relatively consistent throughout the year, although they increase in summer due to student programs, allowing us to help students gain new experiences as they train for future careers within the public service.

Additional response:

- I would like to take this opportunity to thank department staff who continue to do great work every day across the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been asked about the number and make-up of the department's employee base.

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources is budgeted for 293.7 full-time equivalent positions in the 2023-24 fiscal year. This full-time equivalent number does not directly correspond to each position. For example, in the case of student or seasonal positions, one full-time equivalent position could support the hiring of multiple students in a summer program.
- In the late fall of 2022, the department reorganized its programs, creating a new division - Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships. This division is meant to create

Session Briefing Note

Staffing Information

Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources


more balance and support while enhancing service delivery and capacity for engaging in key areas. It consists of three branches: Energy, Strategic Alliances, and Geothermal and Petroleum Resources.

- There has also been a slight increase in overall FTEs – **two term positions** in Strategic Alliances to support engagement, **two permanent positions** in Land Management to support the development of land, **one permanent position** Mineral Resources and **one permanent position** in Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections to support the new Wetlands Policy.
- The department has 38 positions located in the communities outside of Whitehorse in district offices of the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch and the Mineral Resources branch.
- As of April 3, 2023, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has 265 active employees, including 208 permanent employees, 25 employees in term positions, seven casuals, six interns and 19 auxiliary on-calls.
- The department currently has 24 employees with approved remote work agreements in place.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Forest Resources Management Planning

#56
Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon develops regional or landscape-level forest resources management plans with First Nations. These plans provide long-term certainty for sustainable forest management in the Yukon.
- Timber harvest plans cover smaller geographic areas. These plans tell us where forest harvesting can occur and under what circumstances.
- Through forest management planning, we make available short and long-term timber supply for firewood and wood products. This work incorporates important landscape values like wildlife habitat and heritage.

Additional response:

- We have forest resources management plans in four areas of the Yukon. All Yukon communities accessible from highways have access to timber harvesting areas and we are planning for new areas.
- We have extended forest resources roads and expanded existing personal harvesting areas to ensure an accessible timber supply.
- In Quill Creek, the fuel break is complete and harvesting activities are permitted from August 15 to spring break-up.

Context:

- Firewood supply challenges and the price of firewood are issues the department is addressing.

Session Briefing Note

Forest Resources Management Planning

#56
Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- We collaborate with First Nations on planning and management of forests. The Forest Resources Act and the *Umbrella Final Agreement* guide the development of forest resources management plans, including joint planning and consultation.
- Forest resources management plans identify where harvesting may occur and establish a framework for the maximum amount of timber that can be harvested.
- All commercial timber harvesting occurs within planned areas and requires a harvesting license and cutting permit. Before authorizations are issued, a timber harvest plan, license notification, and environmental assessments are needed.

Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan

- There are 27,000 cubic metres of timber permitted to 20 operators in Quill Creek. Of these 20 operators, 12 are new commercial applicants.
- In addition to the fuel break, which has expanded the harvesting window, other activities such as timber processing at landings, timber hauling and use of a central processing area may occur year-round when the fire danger rating is low.

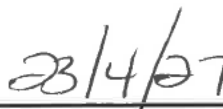
Southeast Yukon (Watson Lake)

- We are working to develop new timber harvest plans near Poison Lake and Scoby Creek. Both areas are within 100 kilometres of Watson Lake.
- We are advancing discussions with Liard First Nation on shared forestry interests.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Forest Resources Act Review

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Consultation and public engagement on the Forest Resources Act review [concluded April 13, 2023](#). We [asked](#) Yukoners for feedback on proposed changes to the Forest Resources Act and regulations.
- We received feedback from First Nations governments, Renewable Resources Councils, the Yukon Wood Products Association, and industry members.
- We are following up with organizations that asked questions for clarification to ensure that they are able to adequately express their full views on the proposed changes.

Additional response:

- The [engagement](#) was based on draft recommendations developed by a working group consisting of representatives from the Government of Yukon, Teslin Tlingit Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Acho Dene Koe First Nation.
- Proposed changes include clarifying terms, streamlining licensing and permitting processes, regulating morel mushroom harvesting and better aligning the legislation with the Umbrella Final Agreement.
- Specific amendments include proposed changes to the forest tenure regime that would help address wood supply challenges by improving the ways in which we plan and manage our forest resources.

Context — this may be an issue because:

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Forest Resources Act Review

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Forest Resources Act review was initiated in 2017. Questions have arisen regarding the timing for First Nations consultation and public engagement.

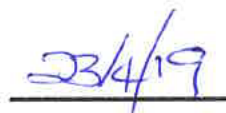
Background:

- This review is legally required under the current Forest Resources Act.
- The Forest Resources Act review working group provided early engagement opportunities in 2020 to Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups, Renewable Resources Councils and stakeholders, including the Yukon Wood Products Association.
- The Government of Yukon identified and discussed policy issues with the working group around the three pillars of the Act: planning, tenure and enforcement.
- Working group members were invited to bring forward additional items for discussion. All decisions were collaborative and made by consensus.
- The consultation and engagement period concluded on April 13, 2023.
- Some First Nation governments and Renewable Resource Councils requested additional time to submit feedback. The Government of Yukon responded to these requests by providing an opportunity to submit comments until April 30th.
- The working group will reconvene to review what was heard from the public engagement. The working group will then make final recommendations to the Government of Yukon on changes to the Forest Resources Act and Regulation.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Forest Industry Status and Supports

Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are taking a variety of steps to address the challenges the Yukon forest industry is facing.
- In October 2022, we launched an incentive to provide immediate support to registered Yukon timber harvesting businesses.
- Approximately \$315,000 was paid out in 2022/23 under the timber harvest incentive program, with 33 businesses receiving payments.
- We have received very positive feedback on the incentive. We have seen an increase in harvested timber volumes, and twelve new businesses have entered into firewood harvesting.
- We are continuing to offer the timber harvesting incentive program for 2023/24 to help harvesters increase the supply and availability of firewood.

Additional response:

- We are working with the Department of Economic Development to explore additional funding options for industry and to increase awareness of existing funding programs.
- There is a need to secure land near Whitehorse for sites that can be used for wood processing, storing and drying. We are working with industry to identify suitable land for this purpose.
- Log yards are an important part of the fuel wood supply chain as they can increase inventory, reduce delivery times and fuel wood cost.

Session Briefing Note

Forest Industry Status and Supports

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Fuel wood harvesting is an essential service for Yukoners to heat their homes and there has been widespread concern about the state of the Yukon forest industry.

Background:

- The timber harvesting incentive provides registered Yukon timber harvesting businesses with \$10 per cubic metre of timber harvested or sold between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.
- 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 April 24, 2023 we have processed 880 applications, and paid out approximately \$106,000 in rebates for 2,125 cords of firewood.
- The firewood rebate was administered under the suite of Good Energy Rebate programs and proved to be very popular. Challenges that resulted in initial delays in processing applications have been addressed.
- We did not seek approval to continue the firewood rebate for 2023/24.
- Log yards will help businesses stockpile and maintain sufficient inventory of wood and allow them to harvest and dry green timber for fuel wood. This helps provide a reliable supply of timber to the Whitehorse market throughout the year.
- We are looking at several potential sites in and around the City of Whitehorse. Our objective is to facilitate the planning (environmental assessment and rezoning) of suitable public land to allow for lease applications from industry.
- Forest Management Branch submitted a Kookatsoon-area project to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) to provide a location for the staging and processing of wood. A private operator submitted a project to YESAB for a wood sorting yard in the Mclean Lake area.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Forest Industry Status and Supports**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Wood processing is classified as an industrial activity, and this makes finding suitable land near Whitehorse a challenge.

Approved by:Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Biomass

#59
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is taking action to reduce the Yukon's dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- We are maximizing the use of locally harvested wood to meet our heating needs and grow our biomass industry.
- We are collaborating across governments to identify biomass opportunities and projects that align with climate goals.

Additional response:

- We look at commercial timber harvesting activities, fuel abatement projects, and other land clearings to assess if the harvested materials can provide supply for the Yukon's biomass industry.
- We are working with First Nations and industry to identify a sustainable, long-term timber supply to fulfil a variety of needs including biomass business opportunities.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in how the Government of Yukon is supporting the growth of Yukon's biomass energy industry including the use of waste products.
- There is industry interest in developing biomass at a scale that provides sufficient investment opportunities.

Background:

- Biomass involves burning wood chips, pellets and/or fuel wood in a boiler system to generate heat. Biomass systems are able to use wood by-products from timber harvesting and land clearing activities that would otherwise be waste.

Session Briefing Note

Biomass

#59
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Land clearing required for lot development, highway right-of-way maintenance, wildfire fuel abatement as well as planned timber harvesting all contribute to the availability of biomass.
- Economic Development completed a biomass lifecycle analysis to support industry growth that focuses on the environmental and economic benefits of a biomass fuel supply chain in the territory.
- We have developed a report identifying the requirements for biomass storage and sort yards that can be used to support capacity of the Yukon's biomass industry.
- Dawson City and the Village of Teslin currently use biomass boiler systems to provide heat to several buildings in those communities.
- There are several facilities in Whitehorse utilizing forms of biomass for heat, including: Yukon Gardens, Raven Recycling, Nuway Crushing and the Hobah Apartments.
- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre uses pellets and its system is being expanded to include the Young Offenders Facility and Takhini Haven.
- The biomass system currently in construction at Elijah Smith School will be able to use both wood pellets and chips.

Approved by:

Heather Mills A/D

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Jan. 31, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Chance Oil and Gas**Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is working with Chance Oil and Gas Limited to ensure it complies with its obligations under the Oil and Gas Act.
- We will continue to meet with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun on oil and gas matters, including Chance's obligations, through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum. (See BN #67)

Additional response:

- Two Chance Oil and Gas permits were extended in August 2022 and two others were allowed to expire.
- Permit extensions mean that the company continues to hold exploration rights for areas under permit. Any proposed projects must pass environmental assessment and regulatory licensing for approval.
- We are working with Chance Oil and Gas Limited on monitoring and abandoning its eight licensed wells in the Eagle Plains area in an environmentally safe and responsible manner.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Three Yukon First Nations opposed the extension of Chance Oil and Gas Limited's permits in August 2022. Eight Chance Oil and Gas permits are set to expire August 2023.


Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Chance Oil and Gas**Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- Chance Oil and Gas Limited holds 10 oil and gas permits in the Eagle Plains basin. Of these, eight are set to expire on August 31, 2023. Chance is expected to apply for an extension to these eight permits in early 2023.
- In late 2021, Chance applied to have all 12 of its permits extended for five years, the maximum timeframe allowed under the *Oil and Gas Act*.
- The Geothermal and Petroleum Resources Branch consulted with the three North Yukon First Nations and transboundary Gwich'in. The three Yukon First Nations opposed any tenure extension and the transboundary Gwich'in did not.
- All of Chance Oil and Gas Limited's eight wells are currently suspended.
- The Government of Yukon issued an order under the *Oil and Gas Act* for Chance to abandon its eight wells by June 1, 2023.
- The Geothermal and Petroleum Resources Branch is currently reviewing Chance Oil and Gas Limited's well deposits due to fluctuations in well abandonment costs related to the recent rise in oil and gas prices.
- Chance Oil and Gas Limited's well abandonment and flow test work program was reviewed under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*. The Government of Yukon issued a decision document supporting the program on July 21, 2022.
- Chance Oil and Gas Limited has sought legal action against the Government of Yukon regarding its moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, this matter is before the Supreme Court of Yukon.

Approved by:
Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and ResourcesDate prepared: January 16, 2023
Last Updated:Page 2 of 2

Session Briefing Note Geothermal Energy and Legislation

Spring 2023Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended Response:

- Geothermal resources have the potential to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels as a renewable energy source.
- We are in the early stages of developing geothermal legislation to establish a regulatory regime to manage this resource.
- Between June and September 2022, we held a public engagement on geothermal resource legislation; the resulting What We Heard Report was released in February 2023.

Additional response:

- We are investing \$3.4 million between 2021 and 2024, with financial support from the Government of Canada, to assess geothermal potential in the Yukon.
- We are collaborating with Liard First Nation, Kluane First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council to conduct geothermal research activities in their traditional territories.
- Geothermal research and policy development is underway, and remains ahead of geothermal resource production, which is still several years away.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be a request for an update on geothermal research and progress on the new geothermal legislation.

Session Briefing Note

Geothermal Energy and Legislation

Spring 2023Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- Under *Our Clean Future*, the Government of Yukon has committed to developing geothermal legislation by 2023 and to researching the potential to develop geothermal energy for heating and electricity by 2025. (See BN #36 and #37)
- Aside from power generation, potential uses of geothermal energy include heating for greenhouses (food security), aquaculture, heating of municipal drinking water, de-icing runways, and food processing.
- A number of First Nations have expressed interest in developing geothermal resources to support their communities' energy needs.
- Research to date on geothermal potential in the Yukon indicates the southwestern and south-central regions have higher geothermal resource potential.
- In 2020, the department completed a geothermal study in the Kluane region that identified targets for ground-temperature wells near Burwash Landing and a study east of Teslin to estimate potential heat production from rocks.
- In 2021, the department collaborated with Liard First Nation on two geophysical surveys to identify targets for temperature gradient wells near Watson Lake.
- We are analyzing data from two completed geophysical surveys near Teslin to assess the potential for geothermal resources in this area.
- Eavor Yukon drilled temperature gradient wells near Carmacks and Whitehorse and will share drill results with the Government of Yukon for public release.
- During engagement on geothermal legislation between June and September 2022, eighteen submissions were received from non-governmental organizations, industry representatives, Yukon First Nations governments, and transboundary Indigenous groups, various levels of government and members of the public from the Yukon, western Canada and Iceland.
- The *What We Heard* Report released in February 2023 focuses on the definition of geothermal resources, regulatory regime considerations, royalty structures, decommissioning and reclamation, and interactions with First Nations governments.

Session Briefing Note Geothermal Energy and Legislation

Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

- This feedback received through the public engagement reinforced the Government of Yukon's interest and commitment to the development of geothermal resource legislation and ongoing government-to government discussions involving Yukon First Nations that may be interested in geothermal exploration and development.
- Some projects use hydraulic fracturing to produce geothermal resources from specific geological settings; however, this is rare. There are many tools and techniques used to produce geothermal resources. (See BN #65).

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-02-27

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Hydraulic Fracturing

Moratorium

#65
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has consistently and publicly stated that it will not approve hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas development in the Yukon.
- There are no active oil and gas operations or applications for hydraulic fracturing in the Yukon.
- We support responsible resource development balanced with environmental and socio-economic management that generates demonstrable benefits for the territory.

Additional response:

- We are exploring the viability of geothermal as a renewable energy source to supplement the Yukon's energy supply.
- It is too early to predict what types of extraction techniques are required if a viable geothermal resource is found in the Yukon.
- Evidence-based research, along with public engagement and First Nations consultation, will inform how best to administer and regulate a potential geothermal industry in the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Work to develop geothermal legislation may raise questions around which techniques would be permitted to access geothermal resources.

Background:

Session Briefing Note Hydraulic Fracturing Moratorium

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Government of Yukon will not approve an application for a Well Operation Approval under the *Drilling and Production Regulations* for hydraulic fracturing.
- The Oil and Gas Act contains broad regulation authorities that could potentially allow the Government of Yukon to formalize the ban on hydraulic fracturing. The extent of this authority as it relates to hydraulic fracturing would require a review by legal services prior to confirmation of this approach.
- All self-governing Yukon First Nations have passed resolutions banning hydraulic fracturing in their traditional territories.
- Chance Oil and Gas Ltd. filed a Statement of Claim in the Supreme Court of Yukon against the Government of Yukon for being unable to pursue hydraulic fracturing activities on its oil and gas permits. This lawsuit is before the Supreme Court of Yukon. The court case is ongoing.
- The Government of Yukon is developing geothermal legislation. (See BN #64)
- As part of the work to develop legislation to regulate geothermal resources in the Yukon, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is researching which geothermal heat extraction methods are permitted in other jurisdictions.
- Between June 22 and September 29, 2022, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources held a public engagement regarding the development of geothermal resource legislation in the territory. Hydraulic fracturing was not identified as a key concern in any of the submissions received and hence is not referenced in the What We Heard report released in February 2023.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Kotaneelee Gas Field

#66
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is working with Paramount Resources Ltd. to plan for the reclamation and eventual abandonment of the Kotaneelee gas field and its facilities.
- Paramount Resources Ltd. completed the surface abandonment of the three wells it was responsible for in 2021.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is responsible for the Kotaneelee Well L-38 well abandonment process and is following procedures to ensure the well poses no risks to the public or the environment.
- We inspected Well L-38 in the fall of 2022 and performed routine maintenance work on the wellhead. We will continue to inspect the well annually.
- We plan to perform some site improvements in 2023, like updating signage and adding new equipment.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Enbridge has received YESAB's recommendation to proceed with their Pointed Mountain Pipeline Abandonment Project, which is located in the Kotaneelee gas field. Work is planned to start in late 2023.

Session Briefing Note

Kotaneelee Gas Field

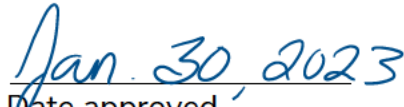
#66
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- The Kotaneelee gas field is located in the Liard basin in southeast Yukon. Infrastructure includes a gas plant, pipelines and natural gas wells. The Kotaneelee field no longer produces gas and all facilities have been shut-in, suspended or abandoned.
- With the exception of Well L-38, multiple oil companies, including Paramount, Imperial Oil, ExxonMobil and Repsol, own the Kotaneelee facility. Paramount is the majority owner and the primary contact for regulatory matters.
- Enbridge, the owner of the Pointed Mountain Pipeline, has received YESAB's recommendation to proceed with its Pointed Mountain Pipeline Abandonment Project, which is located in the Kotaneelee gas field. Work is planned to start in late 2023. The pipeline has not been in use since 2015.
- The wells at Kotaneelee are sour gas, high temperature and pressure wells.

Approved by:

 
Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Northern First Nations'

Memorandum of Understanding

#67
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are working with northern Yukon First Nations to establish a new vision for oil and gas development in the Yukon, which meets the needs of our communities now and in the future.
- The North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2019 commits the Yukon government to collaboratively review decision-making processes and tools under the *Oil and Gas Act*.
- We are completing this work through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

Additional response:

- Our joint approach is designed to facilitate activity that strengthens the local economy while respecting environmental stewardship, including the protection of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.
- The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum helps advance shared goals of reconciliation and economic development for the territory.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The northern First Nations have expressed a desire to see a more collaborative approach to any future oil and gas development in their traditional territories.

Background:

- The Governments of Yukon, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun signed the North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding in 2019.

Session Briefing Note Northern First Nations' Memorandum of Understanding

#67
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Established under the Memorandum of Understanding, the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum consists of three northern Chiefs and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. There is also an officials' working group.
- The working group holds monthly meetings and is making progress on important technical matters such as the disposition process and the role of the northern First Nations.
- The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum reviewed recommendations prepared by the working group on July 25, 2022. Discussions regarding dispositions are deferred pending the outcome of the Successor Resource Legislation process due to overlap and interlinkage associated with the engagement process.
- The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum developed a work plan on its priority issues, which was signed in 2022.
- The work plan activities focus on a collaborative review of existing decision-making processes and tools under the *Oil and Gas Act (Yukon)* that apply within the traditional territories of the northern Yukon First Nations.
- The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum Working Group last met on October 31, 2022. Further meetings were put on hold until after Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation held its Chief and Council election on November 21, 2022. The new Chief and Council were sworn in on January 12, 2023.
- The Working Group met February 27, 2023 and determined a new meeting schedule for the upcoming months. Participating First Nations indicated they will be requesting a Forum meeting to occur in May/June 2023.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-03-06

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Bill 306: Amendment to Oil and Gas Act (Section 13)

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon consults with all Yukon First Nations on the review and permitting of resource projects, including for oil and gas rights dispositions.
- The Government of Yukon repealed section 13 of the *Oil and Gas Act* in 2012.
- Section 13 of the *Oil and Gas Act* was a clause that required consent by Yukon First Nations without a Final Agreement before new oil and gas rights dispositions could occur on their asserted traditional territories.

Additional response:

- Last sitting Bill 306 was introduced by the Third Party to amend the *Oil and Gas Act*, specifically the former section 13.
- The Yukon government believes consultation with Yukon First Nations is important when considering the proposed amendment.

Context:

- Bill 306 was introduced in the fall 2022 sitting by the Third Party to amend the *Oil and Gas Act*. The Bill did not pass Third Reading.

Background:

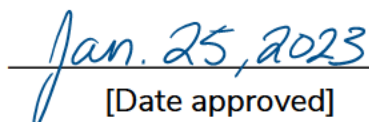
- Oil and gas rights and infrastructure are regulated under the *Oil and Gas Act*, including liquefied natural gas projects.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Bill 306: Amendment to Oil and Gas Act (Section 13)**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In 2009, when the repeal of section 13 was first contemplated, all three Yukon First Nations without a Final Agreement (White River First Nation, Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation), as well as other Yukon First Nations with Final Agreements, opposed the repeal.
- White River First Nation's Traditional Territory is not within a sedimentary basin.
- In 2012, after negotiations for several years, Liard First Nation informed the government it was terminating the negotiation of a consent agreement with the Government of Yukon. The Government of Yukon then repealed section 13.

Approved by: A/DM

Deputy Minister, Department



[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Whitehorse Gravel Availability

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Whitehorse area continues to experience a high level of development, including building and road construction.
- This development comes with a corresponding increase in the demand for granular material, or gravel.
- We are working to assess and manage granular resources to meet long-term needs.

Additional response:

- The Stevens Quarry area is currently under administrative reserve.
 - We are working with the City to support development, seek new areas for quarry development and to optimize existing quarry lease areas.
-

Context:

Ever-increasing development in Whitehorse means granular material is in high demand.

Background:

Current granular resources

- Energy, Mines and Resources manages 15 privately-held quarry leases in Whitehorse, one of which was recently enlarged. There is one additional quarry site in the application phase.
 - The department also manages four public gravel pits in and near Whitehorse that provide Yukoners who obtain a permit up to 35 cubic metres of free granular material for personal, non-commercial use.
-

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Whitehorse Gravel Availability

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The City of Whitehorse leased two quarries near Ear Lake to private industry; both are now depleted.
- A review of granular resources in Whitehorse in leased and new areas is underway to estimate the amount of material used, available for use, or needed to support development.
- Quarry leases provide economic opportunities for First Nations and local businesses to provide granular material for a wide range of needs.

Stevens Quarry

- Stevens Quarry is a large undeveloped deposit of granular material in the north end of Whitehorse and is one of the few sources of gravel within city limits.
- In 2012, the Government of Yukon's proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board to develop Stevens Quarry was recommended to proceed.
- In recognition of the conflicting interests, Land Management Branch placed an administrative reserve over the area in 2012 to allow for further planning.
- [The City of Whitehorse approved the new Official Community Plan on March 27, 2023, which designates the Stevens Quarry area as Future Planning.](#)
- Until the reserve is removed, land authorizations will not be issued, regardless of decisions pursuant to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Green Streets

Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

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.

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

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



A/Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

2023- 03-01

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

**Rural Land Development
Projects**

Community Services
Energy, Mines and Resources

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.

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

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

Off-Road Vehicle Regulation

#77
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The *Off-Road Vehicle Management Area Regulation* came into force two years ago in January 2021.
- The regulation minimizes the impacts of off-road vehicle activity on fish and wildlife habitat in sensitive eco-regions, including alpine areas.
- The off-road regulation applies to all off-road vehicles including all-terrain vehicles, side-by-sides, ARGOs, trail bikes and wheeled vehicles.

Additional response:

- Since 2021, three off-road vehicle management areas have been created: alpine areas of 1400 metres and higher; Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area; and West Hart River Landscape Management Unit 4.
- We are reviewing an application from the Peel Plan Implementation Committee to create a new Off-Road Vehicle Management Area in the Peel area. This is part of implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- Renewable Resources Councils, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, First Nations and other governments can submit proposals for new off-road vehicle management areas.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners are interested in the regulation's effect on off-road vehicle use in the alpine regions. The Government of Yukon is now accepting new proposals for additional off-road vehicle management areas.

Session Briefing Note

Off-Road Vehicle Regulation

#77
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- First Nations consultation on the draft Off-Road Vehicle Management Area Regulation occurred from August to September 2020.
- The Government of Yukon held open houses in 15 communities, met directly with First Nations, non-governmental organizations, resource industry representatives, members of the public and the City of Whitehorse as part of the consultation and engagement process.
- Meetings are ongoing with Renewable Resource Councils, First Nations and interest groups as Yukoners become more familiar with the regulation.

Approved by:



a/DM

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 26, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

#78
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is in the final stages of developing a new regulation to clarify rules around the construction, operation, and decommissioning of resource roads in the Yukon.
- The resource roads regulation will address concerns around road access to the backcountry and will provide consistent rules for proponents.
- We are consulting with Yukon First Nations and engaging with the public and industry to inform the final content of the regulation.

Additional response:

- Feedback from the public, stakeholders and First Nations will inform the final content and implementation of the regulation, including planning and controlling access, incorporating road standards, and protocols for closing and decommissioning roads.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Access management for resource industries has been a challenge for many years in the Yukon because of a lack of specific regulatory tools for resource roads.
-

Background:

- A land use permit issued under the *Land Use Regulation* is the current regulatory tool for the construction of a resource road. This tool is limited in its ability to address issues related to road operation and decommissioning.

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

- Longstanding challenges associated with resource roads in the Yukon include:
 - ensuring resource roads are decommissioned at the end of service life to prevent permanent public access to the hinterland; and
 - managing access for multiple and varied users on permitted roads.
- The proposed resource roads regulation will provide the Government of Yukon with new regulatory tools and clarify permit holder responsibilities through road construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
- The Government of Yukon completed an initial 60-day public engagement and First Nations consultation in July 2018, which included a two-day workshop with First Nations and industry.
- Active discussions continue to take place with a number of interested Yukon First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils and industry groups.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is consulting with First Nations on the draft regulation and engaging with the public and industry.

2021 Amendments to the Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act

- In 2021, amendments were made to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* that focused on providing authority for the resource roads regulation to be enacted and administered.

Approved by:

a/DM

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 26, 2023

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Unauthorized Occupations

#79
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is aware of cabins, docks and other structures built without authorization in the Yukon's wilderness areas.
- Having the right enforcement tools to address unauthorized occupations is important for our safety, environmental health, and preserving respectful use of the land.
- This is one of the reasons we are modernizing our land legislation and creating a strong framework to manage land use for commercial wilderness users.

Additional response:

- We continue to address unauthorized structures on public land.
- Illegal occupancies create issues including impacts on First Nations rights and title, alienating other users from public land, straining emergency services during fires or floods, and other illegal activities such as cutting trees or creating unauthorized roads and trails.
- These types of unauthorized occupations impact the Yukon's wilderness and create liabilities for Yukon citizens and governments.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest due to the recent high-profile removal of unauthorized occupants at Ensley Creek.

Session Briefing Note

Unauthorized Occupations

#79
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch is aware of nearly 500 documented unauthorized occupations across the Yukon that have infrastructure including cabins, fuel storage and other structures. There are likely additional, undocumented sites.
- Addressing unauthorized occupations is prioritized based on risk and available resources. High-profile occupations, such as those at Ensley Creek, may encourage additional occupations if not actioned in a timely fashion.
- Education and seeking voluntary compliance is the first approach when dealing with unauthorized occupations.
- Where voluntary compliance is not forthcoming, enforcement is a critical element for the effective management and protection of public land and for maintaining the public's ability to access land. It also addresses the risks to public safety and environmental damage.
- The Government of Yukon will work proactively with First Nations regarding structures built by First Nations citizens on public land.
- Land Management Branch works with Natural Resource Officers to inspect sites around the territory.

Approved by:



a/DM

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 26, 2023

Date approved

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

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

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.

Context:

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

Background:

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

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

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****Lot Completion Targets
and Lot Releases**Community Services
Energy Mines and Resources

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.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

- 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 ReleasesCommunity 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	
		Total Lots Release	602

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 th & 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

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Community Services

April 4, 2023

Date approved



Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Tagish River Habitat Protection Area

Environment

Quick Facts

- The Tagish River is located near the downstream end of the Southern Lakes system, between Tagish Lake and Marsh Lake, the final waterbody forming the headwaters of the Yukon River.
- The Habitat Protection Area covers a total area of five square kilometres and is surrounded by the small, rural community of Tagish.

Recommended response

- In November 2022, the Government of Yukon, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Government of Canada signed the final management plan for the Tagish River Habitat Protection Area.
- The management plan will help conserve fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, including migratory waterfowl, while recognizing the relationship and connection to this important area by Carcross/Tagish First Nation and community members.
- The completion of the plan also marks a milestone in implementation of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement.
- A community ceremony to celebrate this achievement took place this spring, on April 1st, in Tagish.

Additional response:

- The Steering Committee engaged extensively with stakeholders and the public to develop the recommended plan.
- The main issues raised by community members during the engagement were related to a recommendation to reduce shoreline development and use, specifically docks.
- An Implementation Committee has recently been formed consisting of members of the three Parties, and representatives from the

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Tagish River Habitat Protection Area

Environment

Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council and the Tagish Local Advisory Council.

- The Implementation Committee will develop a specific shoreline implementation plan with input from local residents to identify timely, creative, and workable ways to address concerns with shoreline development as these residents look to rebuild and repair following recent flooding events.
- Until the Implementation Plan is developed, the Government of Yukon will not be reviewing applications for leases or other authorizations within the Habitat Protection Area, this includes authorizations to build or repair shoreline structures such as docks.
- Applications for authorizations outside of the Habitat Protection Area will be reviewed and are subject to consultation with the affected First Nations.
- You can find more information at Yukon.ca and tagishriverhpa.com.

Third response:

- The Tagish River is one of the most important and well-known areas for waterfowl staging and migration in the Yukon.
- It is one of three outlets of the large Southern Lakes system that are heavily used by swans, geese, ducks and many other waterfowl in the spring.
- The Tagish River Habitat Protection Area is also home to moose, caribou, bear, beaver, muskrat, otter, mink, fox, wolf and many fish species.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- During public engagement on the draft plan, some members of the public expressed strong opposition to potential dock removal on their property.

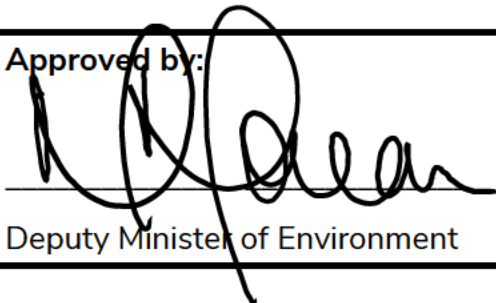
Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Tagish River Habitat Protection Area**

Environment

Background:

- The Tagish River Habitat Protection Area is within the Traditional Territory of Carcross/Tagish First Nation; it does not encompass any Settlement Lands.
- The planning process was initiated in 2015 through a Steering Committee with representatives from the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, the Government of Yukon (departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources) and the Government of Canada, with participation by the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council and the Tagish Local Advisory Council.
- In 2016, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources implemented an Administrative Reserve in the area and stopped accepting applications for docks and shoreline infrastructure within the Habitat Protection Area. The Reserve will remain in place until a plan for managing shoreline infrastructure is approved.
- In developing the **management** plan, the Steering Committee held extensive community meetings and events. They met with Carcross/Tagish First Nation Elders, the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council and the Tagish Local Advisory Council, and property owners. They also engaged with subject area experts (e.g., water quality, fisheries, land management, etc.), sent a questionnaire to residents, and conducted interviews with citizens.
- The committee heard concerns regarding the shoreline, water use, swan (and wildlife in general) disturbance, and access to the Tagish River.
- The Government of Yukon has kept the Taku River Tlingit First Nation informed about the planning process.
- Government of Yukon staff from Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources are working together to ensure consistency in process and approach between the Tagish River Habitat Protection Area and the Tagish Local Area Plan.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Environment

2023.04.18

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Beaver River Land Use Plan Update** Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun remain committed to the 2018 Agreement that supports a proposed tote road and the completion of a land use plan for the Beaver River Watershed.
- We have completed three stages of public and stakeholder consultation on the Beaver River Land Use Plan.
- We are working towards the completion of this land use plan in 2023.
- An updated work plan is available on Yukon.ca.

Additional response:

- The Beaver River Land Use Planning Committee met with ATAC Resources Ltd. throughout 2022, to work toward the completion of a Road Access Management Plan. A draft of this plan is being finalized.
- The 2018 Agreement specifies that a land use plan be completed before road construction occurs.
- The March 2023 declaration of a State of Emergency by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun may impact this planning process.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Beaver River Land Use Plan work is advancing and there may be questions regarding its status and when it will be complete.

Background:

- The Beaver River land use planning process is not an Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 11 sub-regional planning process; rather, it comes out of the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Government of Yukon, which supports the proposed ATAC Tote Road.
- The Agreement states that a land use plan must be finalized before any road construction occurs.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Beaver River Land Use Plan Update** Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

- On March 15, 2021 the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun petitioned the Yukon Supreme Court to set aside a Yukon government decision to approve the proposed exploration project of Metallic Minerals Corp. in the Beaver River Watershed in part due to commitments in the ongoing Beaver River Land Use Planning process. On January 31, 2023 the Supreme Court of Yukon ruled in favor of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and set aside the decision. The Department of Justice is currently analyzing the potential impacts of this decision on the Beaver River Land Use Planning process.

ATAC Mining Land Use Application

- ATAC Resources' proposed 65-kilometre, all-season road project crosses First Nations traditional territory and includes upgrading existing trails, construction of a new road, three access-control gates and numerous river crossings.
- On November 27, 2020, the Chief of Mining Land Use concluded that authorization to construct the road would not be issued because ATAC's application did not reflect the Road Access Management Plan and Wildlife Adaptive Monitoring Plan.
- This decision does not affect the Government of Yukon's ability to consider a future application for an all-season road. The nature of any future submission will determine what assessment and regulatory review processes may be required.

The Beaver River Land Use Planning Committee

- In 2018, the Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun established the Beaver River Land Use Planning Committee to develop a recommended land use plan; road access management plan; and a fish and wildlife harvest, monitoring and management plan.
- The committee is engaging with ATAC on the Road Access Management Plan and Fish and Wildlife Adaptive Management plan, in hopes of reaching an agreement.

Prohibition Orders

- An Order-in-Council under the Quartz Mining Act and Placer Mining Act prohibiting entry for mineral staking is in effect until January 1, 2024, for a one-kilometer-wide area along the length of the proposed road.
- Existing claims in good standing are not affected.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Beaver River Land Use Plan Update** Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment**Moose Management**

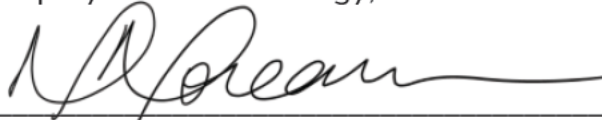
- Harvest pressure on moose in the Mayo area is a crucial concern, as estimates indicate a decline in populations in the Moose Management Unit that surrounds Mayo and covers a portion of the Beaver River area.
- The threshold of 11 moose in the Mayo Moose Management Unit implemented by the Department of Environment was not met and the hunt closed when the season ended on October 31, 2022.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved



Deputy Minister of Environment

2023-03-23

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Local Area Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We are working with First Nations governments and Yukon communities to create local area plans and zoning regulations that reflect local contexts, guide development and resolve competing land uses.
- We are currently working with First Nations governments on local area plans for the Alaska Highway West, Łu Zil Män (Sloo-Zill-Mun, or Fish Lake) and Marsh Lake areas.
- We are also working with the Teslin Tlingit Council on new zoning regulations for the Lone Tree residential development near Teslin.

Additional response:

- It is important to maintain good communication when planning local areas and to take the time needed to work together to find local solutions.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Community members regularly seek updates on the status of community planning processes. Some property owners have raised concerns with delays in completing plans and regulations, as well as processing applications.

Background:

- Local area plans are policy documents developed with First Nations and communities. Steering committees typically lead local area plan development.
- The policies and land use designations in a local area plan are implemented through area development (or zoning) regulations.
- A steering committee is guiding the preparation of the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan. The committee will be overseeing work in 2023, including the development of plan concepts and public engagement on a draft plan.

Session Briefing Note
Local Area Planning**Spring 2023**
Energy, Mines and Resources

- The departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment are working together to advance planning for the proposed McIntyre Creek Park. (See BN #9)

Approved by:a/DMJanuary 31, 2023

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Peel Implementation and Compensation

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan is well underway, including managing permanent and temporary staking prohibitions within conservation areas identified in the plan.
- [Mineral projects that are proposed on](#) existing claims can proceed if they conform to the plan, and meet the requirements of the Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes.
- More than [6500 out of almost 9000 mineral claims in the Peel have either](#) lapsed or been relinquished in exchange for non-monetary compensation.

Additional response:

- We continue to meet regularly with our First Nations partners from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Gwich'in Tribal Council to implement the plan.
- We worked with our partners to include the Peel region's special management areas as interim protected areas under a federal conservation initiative.
- [We are working with our First Nations implementation partners on the legal designation of Conservation Areas within the Peel region beginning with a territorial park designation for the Wind, Snake, and Bonnet Plume watersheds.](#)

Context — this may be an issue because:

Session Briefing Note

Peel Implementation and Compensation

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- There may be a request for updates on implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

Background:

- Three types of conservation areas in the Peel Watershed Region have been withdrawn from staking under the Quartz Mining Act and the Placer Mining Act. Special management areas have been withdrawn indefinitely and represent 55 per cent of the region. Wilderness areas and wilderness areas-boreal caribou are withdrawn until January 1, 2030, representing 28 percent of the region.
- We provide opportunities for voluntary relinquishment of mineral claims for eligible claims holders in the designated Peel conservation areas in exchange for non-financial incentives, such as a period of relief from assessment on mineral claims in other regions of the territory. Negotiations continue with claim holders (See BN #97).
- In 2021, Silver 47 Exploration Corp submitted a proposal for a Class 3 quartz exploration program on their Michelle Creek property, overlapping several Landscape Management Units within the Peel Watershed region. YESAB recommended that the project not proceed, due to the likelihood that it would have significant adverse effects that could not be mitigated. The Government of Yukon reviewed the recommendation and is in the process of consulting with affected First Nations on the decision.
- All of the plan partners have agreed to have special management areas in the Peel counted towards federal conservation targets. This requires that the areas are geographically defined, there is clear and public commitment to establish protection through permanent legal status; and interim protection measures are deemed effective and appropriate by the governing bodies for conserving biodiversity.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

2023-02-23

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to advance regional land use planning in collaboration with Yukon First Nations, communities and stakeholders.
- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk are beginning consensus discussions regarding a decision on the Recommended Plan. [These discussions are based on what was heard during the public consultation period that concluded in December 2022.](#)
- We are meeting with other affected First Nations to begin work on the four remaining regional land use plans and will move forward on the planning processes as soon [as our First Nations partners are ready.](#)

Additional response:

- We are committed to working with our First Nations partners and the Government of Canada to ensure there is adequate funding to support implementing Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements.
- Canada has recently committed to undertake the 2024 *Umbrella Final Agreement* [implementation](#) funding review.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Multiple audiences are interested in the status and progress of regional land use planning, as well as the funding available for these processes.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources**Background:**

- The process to complete regional land use planning in the traditional territories of Yukon First Nations is outlined in Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements. These processes can involve the participation of multiple First Nations governments.
- There are no Chapter 11 sub-regional or district planning processes underway in the Yukon. [The Beaver River land use planning process is not an Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 11 sub-regional planning process; rather, it comes out of the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Government of Yukon, which supports the proposed ATAC Tote Road. \(See EMR BN #83\)](#)

Approved by:

a/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-02-27

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Shallow Bay Zoning

Amendments

#87
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The process to create new Shallow Bay zoning has been put on hold due to flooding impacts on properties in the Shallow Bay area and concerns brought forward by Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
- Flood risk mapping is expected in early 2024 and will be used to update the recommended zoning. It is important that regulations address development concerns in high flood risk areas.
- The Government of Yukon will not be approving applications by property owners to subdivide their lots until the flood risk mapping is complete.

Additional response:

- Once flood risk mapping is available, we will work with the zoning committee and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council officials to resolve some of the challenging land use issues raised by community members in response to the proposed zoning.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Subdivision Approving Officer refused two subdivision applications in the area due to flood risk. The Yukon Municipal Board reversed the decision in response to an appeal by a property owner.
- Community members may have questions about the zoning process.

Session Briefing Note

Shallow Bay Zoning

Amendments

#87
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- In May 2018, the Government of Yukon and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council established the Shallow Bay Zoning Committee to assist with the development of draft zoning regulations for the area. The committee includes representation from property owners and the First Nation.
- The committee reached consensus on proposed new zoning in December 2020. [Input on the zoning was received from the general public and TKC citizens. A What We Heard was made available.](#)
- Flood risk mapping is expected in early 2024 and will be used to update the recommended zoning for the Shallow Bay area.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon Forum –
Regional Planning**Energy, Mines, and Resources,
and Environment

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Forum Regional Land Use Planning Working Group continues to work with First Nations and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council to improve regional land use planning in the territory.
- We are committed to advancing regional planning with First Nations and will continue to advocate for federal funding to implement Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements.
- We support the Yukon Forum's priorities and the efforts to build strong government-to-government relations and collaboration between parties.

Additional response:

- The working group continues to ensure the success of planning commissions and encourages new planning processes to begin.
- The Government of Canada has recently committed to undertake the 2024 Umbrella Final Agreement funding review.
- We are committed to working with our First Nations partners and the Government of Canada to ensure there is adequate funding to support implementing Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Regional Planning continues to be raised as a priority for First Nations.
- Stable funding for Chapter 11 processes continues to be a concern for First Nations.

Background:

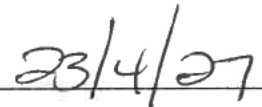
- In accordance with the Yukon Forum's Joint Priority Action Plan, which identifies Chapter 11 land use planning as a priority, Yukon Forum leaders developed a strategic approach to restart and improve regional land use planning in the Yukon.
- The approach entails working together to implement four priority objectives:

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon Forum –
Regional Planning****Energy, Mines, and Resources,
and Environment**

1. Set up commissions for success by; examining the roles of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, Planning Commissions and the Parties; review and agree on a broadly applicable process for regional land use planning and review the information requirements of regional land use planning.
2. Support several land use planning processes concurrently inside and outside of Chapter 11.
3. Conduct a legislative review of First Nations' and Government of Yukon laws.
4. Lead the 2019-2020 review of funding adequacy for regional land use planning under Chapter 11.

Approved by:

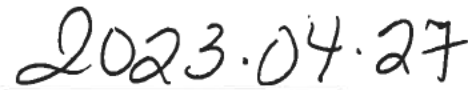
Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved



Deputy Minister of Environment



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and Resources

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.

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

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)

Session Briefing Note**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

Coffee Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- In March 2022, the governments of Yukon and Canada both accepted the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation that the Coffee Gold project proceed.
- The Government of Yukon is anticipating a quartz mining licence application from Coffee Gold site owner Newmont in 2023.
- Newmont must also obtain a water licence from the Yukon Water Board and receive required federal approvals.

Additional response:

- We recognize that if the Coffee Gold mine advances, it will provide many jobs and opportunities for Yukoners over its projected operation and closure phases.
- We continue to actively consult with affected First Nations on the project, and remain committed to ensuring the mine is developed and operated in a manner that upholds environmental and socio-economic values.

Context:

- Coffee Gold generates broad interest as it progresses closer to mine development and eventual operations.

Background:

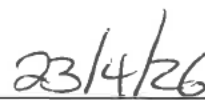
- The Coffee Gold Mine is located approximately 130 kilometres south of Dawson City.
- The project is an open pit and heap leach gold mine with a 30-month construction period followed by a 10-year operation phase and an 11-year closure phase.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Coffee Gold Mine****Energy, Mines and Resources**

- The access road to the project is proposed to be a 214-kilometre all-season road with barge crossings at the Stewart and Yukon rivers. The access route is a combination of existing roads, roads that require improvements, and new construction.
- The Government of Yukon, Transport Canada and Natural Resources Canada issued a joint Decision Document on March 3, 2022. This Decision Document accepted all terms and conditions in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's Final Screening Report.
- The Decision Document included several monitoring requirements, and socio-economic terms and conditions that fall outside of the typical regulatory authorizations. The Government of Yukon is developing an approach to address all the recommendations.
- The Government of Yukon is consulting with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and White River First Nation and engaging with Newmont on the upcoming regulatory applications for the Quartz Mining License and authorizations for the proposed access road.
- Newmont has agreements with all affected First Nations on the project and is actively engaging with First Nations on regulatory application materials.
- The company continues to explore the Coffee Gold property to expand its resource.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

#96
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon works on a case-by-case basis with mineral claim holders to consider compensation requests.
- In some cases, we provide opportunities for eligible claim holders to relinquish their mineral claims in exchange for non-monetary benefits, such as a period of relief from assessment on mineral claims in other regions of the territory.
- No expropriations of placer or quartz mining claims have resulted from implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

Additional response:

- The Successor Resource Legislation Steering Committee for the development of new minerals legislation is considering how to incorporate clear and fair compensation rules for claims impacted by changes in allowable land use.
- Mineral activities in areas with new or approved land use plans and in municipalities must comply with all legislation, land use plans and other requirements for that area.
- We are developing a Mineral Staking and Development Framework for Planned and Zoned Communities to reduce conflict and provide guidance for planners and regulators within community boundaries.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- The mining and exploration sector is interested in the approach to compensation for mineral claimholders when land use planning, regulatory decisions, changes to municipal boundaries or other initiatives affect its interests.

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

#96
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and
Resources


Background:


- Energy, Mines and Resources has received compensation requests from resource rights holders who feel the regulatory process has slowed or denied their ability to work their claims.
- At times, non-monetary compensation has been accepted for mineral claims affected by federally- and territorially-imposed changes to land use (e.g., Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan).
- The Successor Resource Legislation Steering Committee for the development of new minerals legislation is considering how to incorporate clear and fair compensation rules for claims impacted by changes in allowable land use.

Claims within municipalities

- There is a quartz mineral staking prohibition order in place until December, 2023 for the municipal boundary of the City of Dawson. A similar quartz mineral staking prohibition order is in place until July, 2027 for most of the City of Whitehorse, aligning with the Official Community Plan.
- The *Placer Mining Act* prohibits staking of mineral claims within municipal boundaries and the land immediately surrounding a dwelling. Due to the expansion of the municipal boundaries, there are placer claims within some municipal boundaries.
- The Department of Community Services is working with the City of Dawson to plan for land development. In certain areas, conflicts have arisen due to active placer claims in future development areas.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


Date approved

Session Briefing Note Critical Minerals

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response

- Critical minerals are essential to Canada's economic security and transition to a low-carbon economy.
- In 2021, the Government of Canada released a list of 31 critical minerals.
- Through our 2021 Yukon Critical Minerals Inventory, we understand the Yukon has known deposits for nine and documented occurrences for 16 critical minerals.
- We will work with Natural Resources Canada on the implementation of Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and we are considering other made-in-Yukon solutions.

Additional response

- In 2022, the Yukon saw exploration activity for the following critical minerals: copper, zinc, tungsten, nickel, cobalt, platinum group metals, and rare earth elements.
- Starting in the 2022/23 fiscal year, the Government of Canada is investing \$3.8 billion over eight years to implement the Critical Mineral Strategy, with funding available to support critical metals infrastructure, geoscience data, and an exploration tax credit.

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Session Briefing Note Critical Minerals

Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

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

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-02-27

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon holds \$68.6M in financial security for the Eagle Gold Mine.
- We have conducted a review of cyanide management and heap leach facility operations on site and are currently working with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Victoria Gold on implementing recommendations.
- Victoria Gold has completed commissioning of a mine water treatment plant, which will play an integral role in water management and environmental protection onsite.

Additional response:

- Natural Resource Officers actively inspect the mine site for compliance with licence conditions to ensure ongoing environmental protection.
- We respond to all reported spills and conduct follow up investigations in accordance with all regulatory requirements.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Victoria Gold's court filing regarding the Yukon Water Board's security determination has drawn media attention.
- Cyanide spills (six in a two-year period) on site have been a growing concern of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Yukon public.

Background:

- The Eagle Gold Mine is a large conventional open pit and heap leach gold operation located in north-central Yukon within the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk

Session Briefing Note Eagle Gold Mine

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Dun Traditional Territory. Victoria Gold operates the mine, which has a current mine life of seven to eight years.

- Victoria Gold is currently in phase 2 of the pre-submission engagement process of the Executive Committee review for the “Eagle Gold Mine Extension Project.”
- The Extension Project proposes to extend the mine life to 15 years and includes development of a secondary heap leach facility, new Olive Deposit open pits, a new waste rock storage area and a production rate increase from 29,500 tonnes of ore per day to 50,000 tonnes of ore per day.
- Victoria Gold and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun developed and implemented a Comprehensive Cooperation and Benefits Agreement in 2011.

Security

- Energy, Mines and Resources, in consultation with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, issued a final security determination for \$68,662,300. Victoria Gold has paid this amount in full.
- Yukon Water Board issued a final security determination for \$104,903,628 to be furnished no later than September 15, 2022. On August 1, 2022, Victoria Gold sought leave to appeal the Yukon Water Board’s decision on security to the Yukon Supreme Court.
- Victoria Gold was granted a stay by the Yukon Supreme Court and is not required to furnish the remaining Yukon Water Board security until 30 days following a decision on the appeal.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Keno Hill

Spring 2023

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Operations in the Keno Hill Silver District continue to provide many jobs and benefits to Yukoners.
- Alexco Keno Hills Mining Corporation was recently purchased by Hecla Mining Corporation. The company says it will provide financial stability to the project and focus on long-term development across the district.
- The Government of Yukon holds \$10.2 million in financial security for the mining operations in the Keno Hill Silver District.

Additional response:

- Hecla Mining Corporation has stopped milling operations and is focused on developing the Flame and Moth and Bermingham deposits. Production is planned to resume in the third quarter of 2023.
- The Elsa Reclamation and Development Company continues to carry out a site-wide closure and reclamation plan under contract with the Government of Canada for federal liabilities.

Context:

- Questions may be raised about the status of site operations and plans for the district.

Background:

- Alexco began mine production at Keno Hill in 2010. The site went into temporary closure from 2013 to 2019 due to low metal prices.

Session Briefing Note

Keno Hill

Spring 2023Energy, Mines and Resources

- In a business arrangement that was finalized in September 2022, Hecla Mining Company took on a majority of shares in Alexco. The district hosts numerous historical mining developments that are federal liabilities. The Elsa Reclamation and Development Company, an Alexco subsidiary, is under contract with the Government of Canada to carry out the site-wide closure and reclamation plan for these liabilities.

Compliance and Enforcement Status

- Natural Resource Officers regularly inspect the mining and reclamation activities. Inspection reports for these activities are publicly available on Waterline, the Yukon Water Boards public registry. (See BN#45)

Approved by:



Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

EMR #100 / ENV #54**Spring 2023**

Placer Mining in Wetlands Energy, Mines and Resources Environment

Recommended response:

- We have released *A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands* to guide how we make decisions on wetland use and conservation (Ref ENV BN #2).
- The policy provides a framework to guide Government of Yukon land and water regulators, help the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board develop consistent recommendations, and support industry in the planning and permitting of development and reclamation projects.
- An interim approach for placer mining in the Indian River area is currently in place. This approach protects the most sensitive areas and requires a wetland reclamation plan for Class 4 placer mines overlapping wetlands.
- With the release of the new wetland stewardship policy and the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan on the horizon, we will be evaluating the need for an interim approach to the Indian River area.
- We are now planning next steps in relation to implementation actions of the Policy, many of which involve working with partners including First Nations, industry and environmental non-governmental organizations.

Additional response:

- In conjunction with other planning tools like the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, we aim to provide certainty to the industry as they design their operating and reclamation plans in wetland areas.

Session Briefing Note**EMR #100 / ENV #54****Spring 2023****Placer Mining in Wetlands** Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

- Our regulators work with the industry to clarify reclamation requirements, design effective wetland reclamation plans, and review submissions as part of mining authorization processes.
- In addition, the Yukon Water Board has drafted wetland information guidelines for placer mining applications based on the feedback from the board's public interest hearing on placer mining in wetlands held in 2020.

Third response:

- We recognize the topic of carbon storage and release in the Yukon's wetlands is of high public interest.
- Peat-forming wetlands, such as bogs and fens, store large quantities of soil carbon. This carbon can be vulnerable to release when these types of wetlands are disturbed by human activities or climate change.
- Research on the role of carbon sinks in northern wetlands is an emerging field of study both in Canada and around the world.
- To help fill these knowledge gaps in the Yukon, and continue to improve our reclamation practices, we have initiated a multi-party study designed to explore the extent of carbon release and potential for carbon sink restoration following placer mining.
- We look forward to working with our partners, including First Nations, industry and environmental organizations to come together to coordinate additional research on this topic.

Context—this may be an issue because:

Session Briefing Note**EMR #100 / ENV #54****Spring 2023****Placer Mining in Wetlands** Energy, Mines and Resources
Environment

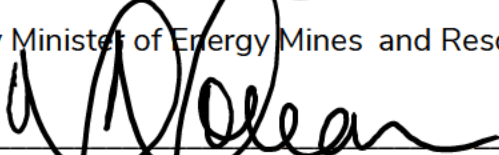
- Wetlands are at the forefront of public discussion due to increasing development pressure from placer mining, calls for wetlands protection and the recent announcement of A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands.

Background:

- Development of the wetlands stewardship policy began in late 2017 using a collaborative roundtable partnership approach. The Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands was formally launched on January 10, 2023.
- In response to land use planning and development assessment needs around wetlands, the Yukon government previously completed regional scale wetland mapping for the Peel Watershed planning region and broad scale mapping in the Beaver River, Mayo/McQuesten and Indian River watersheds.
- We are developing a revised wetland classification system, new wetland mapping standards, Yukon-specific methods for evaluating wetland benefits and functions, and improving our understanding of open-water wetland reclamation effectiveness.
- In October 2020, Yukon government participated in a Yukon Water Board-led public interest hearing on placer mining in wetlands.
- Following the hearing, the Yukon Water Board recommended the Yukon government work with First Nations governments, industry and other key stakeholders to establish a Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection, Use and Reclamation of Yukon Wetlands.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources



Manon Moreau, Deputy Minister of Environment

23/3/23

Date approved

2023/03/23

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Sector Status and Supports

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon continues to attract interest from investors, explorers and miners due to its mineral potential, identified resources and stability.
- The Yukon ranked ninth in the world for desirable mining jurisdictions according to the Fraser Institute survey for 2021. This is an improvement from the previous survey where Yukon ranked 18th.
- Natural Resources Canada's spring 2023 preliminary forecast for mineral exploration spending in Yukon is \$144 million, which is lower than the \$163 million estimated for 2022.
- The reported placer gold production for 2022 was 80,165 crude ounces worth \$149.8 million. This is an increase from the 2021 production of 77,696 crude ounces worth \$139 million.

Additional response:

- To support industry and help stimulate new discoveries, we continue to offer funding through the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program, which leverages private sector funding at a ratio of more than 2:1, encourages exploring for critical minerals, and is leading to many new discoveries and significant investments in our territory.
- We are also working with First Nation governments to develop new minerals legislation, which aims to increase certainty both for industry and for environmental protection.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Sector Status and Supports

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

Yukon Mineral Exploration Program Funding

- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program provides part of the risk capital to locate, explore and advance both hard rock and placer exploration projects.
- In 2022, \$1.4 million was invested into 25 hard rock and 17 placer exploration projects. These projects anticipated spending more than \$3.8 million last season.

Mineral Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditure Statistics

- Junior exploration companies conduct the majority of mineral exploration in the Yukon. Exploration activities contribute significantly to the Yukon's annual economic activity.
- [Similar to 2022](#), companies with advanced exploration programs having the largest estimated exploration budgets (\$10 million and over) in 2023 are expected to be Banyan Gold Corp., Newmont, Fireweed Zinc, Minto Metals, [Western Copper and Gold](#), Victoria Gold, and Alexco [Resource Corp \(Hecla Mining\)](#), and [Snowline Gold Corp.](#)
- In 2023, companies with medium-sized exploration programs (\$6 million to \$10 million) are also similar in 2022 and include: [Cantex Mine Development](#), [BMC Minerals](#), and [White Gold](#).
- [Approximately](#) 28 companies reported smaller exploration programs (under \$6 million) for the 2022 season, [which are still to be determined for the 2023 season.](#)

Placer and Quartz Production

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 17, 2023
Last updated: February 23, 2023
Page 2 of 3

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

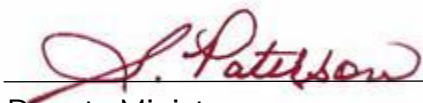
Sector Status and Supports

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In recent years, annual placer production has been approximately 80,000 ounces of gold.
- Increased production was documented through 2022 with operations at Eagle Gold, Minto, and Keno Hill mines continuing to expand within their license limits.
- Natural Resources Canada valued quartz mineral and metal production in 2021 at approximately \$741 million. This is more than double over previous years: \$337 million in 2020, \$170 million in 2019 and \$218 million in 2018.

Staking Activity — 2021 and 2022 Comparison

- There were 6,252 quartz claims staked in 2022 and 161,109 total quartz claims are in good standing. This is more than 2021, when there were 2,973 quartz claims staked.
- There were 1,078 placer claims staked in 2022 and 28,845 total placer claims are in good standing. This is less than in 2021, when there were 1,603 placer claims staked.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-02-27

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Reclamation, Closure and Security

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon requires financial security for all quartz mine sites and for certain quartz and placer exploration projects.
- We conduct frequent reviews of security required at mine sites and work with the Yukon Water Board to ensure we hold sufficient security for our quartz mines.
- The Government of Yukon currently holds over \$163 million in financial security for major mines and mineral exploration projects.

Additional response:

- We recently completed security determinations for the Minto, Keno Hill and Eagle Gold mine sites.
- We review security requirements at least every two years. We typically review security for quartz exploration projects annually based on their planned activities and completed reclamation.
- The Yukon Water Board also conducts security reviews and determinations under its legislation. The Government of Yukon collects whichever security determination amount is higher between the Yukon Water Board and the Government of Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been raised about the Yukon's financial security process and outcomes for major hard rock mines.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Reclamation, Closure and Security

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background

Government of Yukon Actions

- The Government of Yukon commissioned and received an independent review of the process to determine security for the abandoned Wolverine Mine. The review is informing changes to reclamation and closure planning, costing protocols, and guidance materials to ensure we gather adequate security. (See BN #3)
- We are exploring legislative options to improve reclamation and closure planning and activities for all phases of mining as part of developing new mineral legislation. (See BN #8)

Mine Reclamation and Closure

- The Government of Yukon reviews and approves a mine operator's security and reclamation and closure plan before issuing a quartz mining licence.
- Every year, mine operators must produce a report on progressive reclamation, results of monitoring programs and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Financial Security for Quartz Mines

- The Government of Yukon holds approximately \$160 million in security for quartz mining projects. This includes \$1.7 million held for Brewery Creek, \$80,000 for Carmacks Copper, \$68.7 million for Eagle Gold Mine, \$10.2 million for Keno Hill Silver District, \$74.8 million for Minto Mine and \$4.9 million held for Sä Dena Hes.

Financial Security for Quartz Exploration and Placer

- The Government of Yukon currently holds \$3.0 million in financial security for quartz exploration and placer projects.
- The Yukon Water Board can require financial security for Class 4 placer mines.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Reclamation, Closure and Security

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:



A/Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2023-03-07

Date approved

Recommended Response:

- The YESAA Oversight Group is a joint effort between the governments of Canada, Yukon, and Yukon First Nations to find efficiencies and ongoing improvements to the YESAA process.
- The Oversight Group made progress in identifying a targeted amendment to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* to address the issue of whether an assessment is required when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- The Oversight Group approved a consultation plan and a work plan for advancing this amendment. Phase one consultations on the concept of the proposed amendment were completed in December 2022, and a 'What We Heard' Report was developed for review and consideration by the Oversight Group.
- We expect the Oversight Group will facilitate the review and continue to work with the YESAA Board to advance further improvements to the YESAA process.

Additional Response:

- The most recent YESAA Forum began on January 10, 2023, and will hold its fourth and final session on February 2, 2023. In response to the *Yahey vs. British Columbia* decision, the Oversight Group approved focusing the Forum on cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring, to continue to advance the recommendations from 2021 Forum of the same topic.
- A comprehensive review of YESAA by 2027 is a commitment of the Reset Memorandum of Understanding. The Oversight Group will define the scope and approach for the future review.

- The Oversight Group continues to advance the targeted amendment on the assessment of amendments and renewals, and will consider how to address various concerns raised at the implementation level, for example: timelines, process for obtaining First Nation consent, and capacity.
-

Context - this may be an issue because:

- Some industry representatives may be frustrated with the length of time it has taken to make progress on YESAA amendments.
 - The *Yahey vs. British Columbia* decision may increase pressure on Yukon government to demonstrate action to improve the tools, data, and coordination for cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring.
-

Background:

- The Oversight Group (OG) exists to “...oversee the development assessment process in Yukon and promote its ongoing improvement.”
- The OG adopted joint priorities which focus on three main areas:
 - revitalizing the YESAA Forum;
 - improvements to consultation and engagement; and
 - policy development and targeted technical working groups.
- YG took over as Chair and Secretariat of the OG on July 30, 2020. The OG meets regularly to continue its work under the YESAA Reset MOU.
- YG and the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) sent a joint letter to Minister Vandal in December 2020 requesting a focused review of the YESAA.
- In February 2021, Minister Vandal indicated his commitment to working with members of the OG on amendments and renewals.

- The purpose of the review will be to propose amendments to address issues surrounding the need for an assessment when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- Yukon First Nations maintain that any decisions concerning determining the need for an assessment of project amendments and renewals within First Nations' traditional territories will require the agreement of that First Nation. YG supports the Yukon First Nations' position.
- The OG approved a terms of reference to establish a technical working group with representatives from CYFN, YG, the Government of Canada and YESAB to recommend, for the OG's consideration, legislative changes to address the issue of whether an assessment is required when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- The OG met on May 4, 2022 and approved the work plan and consultation plan for the concept of the proposed amendment regarding assessment of amendments and renewals, as well as planning for the upcoming YESAA Forum on cumulative effects.
- The OG met on September 7, 2022 to continue to advance work on assessment of amendments and renewals, as well as YESAA Forum.
- On September 7, 2022, CYFN brought forward regional land use plan conformity checks to the YESAA Oversight Group.
- The YESAA OG members asked that the YESAA technical working group do a scan of where the conformity check issue is being discussed and make recommendations on whether to further work through the OG or another forum.
- The Technical Working Group, supporting the OG, held engagement workshops with industry, First Nations, and other organizations on the targeted YESAA amendment to address the assessment of amendments and renewals on October 25 and November 16. The engagement period closed December 2, 2022. A What We Heard Report was developed and shared with the OG.
- The OG met on January 16, 2023, to discuss the What We Heard Report. While Canada expressed concern that consultation and engagement reflected weak support for the targeted amendment, CYFN and YG representatives reaffirmed their support

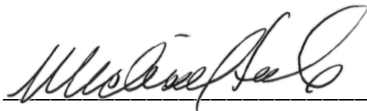
YESAA Reset Oversight Group

Executive Council
Office

for its advancement noting that additional work can be undertaken to address concerns via implementation.

- The OG is targeting mid-February 2023, to advance a recommendation to the Minister of Northern Affairs on a YESAA amendment.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 1, 2023

Date

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

Topic: Current Yukon Water Board licence applications of note.

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Minto Metals Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minto Metals has a current Type A Water Licence and in August 2016 filed an amendment application for its Reclamation and Closure Plan as per an existing licence condition. In addition the company applied to licence its new underground workings (Phase VII).• The application was deemed adequate for public comment and the comment period closed in April 2021.• YG and Selkirk First Nation advised the Board that activities applied for have not been assessed and this resulted in the Board requesting an updated application.• The company submitted updated application documents on August 26, 2022 and the Board sought additional information from YG and Selkirk First Nation related to assessment.• On December 8, 2022 the Board made a preliminary determination that the project had been assessed and directed the Secretariat to complete an adequacy review of the application.• The adequacy review is ongoing with the assistance of Hutchinson Environmental until March 31, 2023 at which time their contract ends. A Request for Analysis of Procurement (RAP) seeking an extension to the temporal scope and value of the contract is currently in process.
Victoria Gold Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The company has a Type A Water Licence and in November 2020 submitted an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) and security costing.• The Board and EMR signed an agreement in January 2021 to pilot a process in which the two regulators conducted a collaborative review of the submission and hold joint meetings with the company.• On June 17, 2022 the Board determined to not approve the

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
	<p>RCP and Ordered \$104,903,628 in security inclusive of security held under the Quartz Mining Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 1, 2022 the company filed documents (an appeal) with the Yukon Supreme Court related to the Board's determinations. The court proceedings are on-going. On September 28, 2022 the Court ordered that the Water Board Order dated June 17, 2022 be stayed, insofar as it required the company to furnish an additional \$36,241,328 in security, until 30 days after a decision is released by the Court on the appeal. On October 3, 2022 the company submitted an updated RCP and security costing which the Board is reviewing. The Board is waiting for EMR Mineral Resources Branch to sign the second pilot process documents for the October 3, 2022 RCP and security costing review.
Elsa Reclamation and Development Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In February 2021 the Elsa Reclamation and Development Company applied to renew its Type B Water Licence for the United Keno Hill Mines Reclamation Project which expired on August 8, 2022. The purpose of the renewal is to implement the site-wide Reclamation Plan and associated long term monitoring. The Board deliberated the application at a special sitting on September 13 and 14, 2022 and will be releasing its decision shortly.
BMC – Kudz Ze Kayah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2020 the company created an application for a Type A Water Licence on Waterline and began submitting documents in support of the application. On November 30, 2020 the company was provided a letter advising that the application was incomplete. This was largely due to the project still being assessed under YESAA and a Decision Document (DD) was not issued. A DD was issued for the project on June 15, 2022.

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On August 23, 2022 the company submitted updated documents.The public comment period for the application began on January 6, 2023.The Board extended the intervention deadline date to May 5, 2023 following a request by Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation.
Newmont - Coffee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The company has not yet submitted an application to the Yukon Water Board.
Alexco Keno Hill Mining Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The company has a Type A Water Licence and in November 2021 submitted an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) and security costing.The Board completed its review of the RCP and security costing and is drafting its findings.

HYDRO UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Yukon Energy Corp. – Aishihik Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">YEC submitted an application on April 8, 2022 for a five year renewal of the Aishihik Generating Station Type A Water Licence which expired on December 31, 2022.The application was advertised for public comment and a public hearing was held November 21 and 25, 2022.Licence HY22-016 was issued on December 21, 2022 and the Board is drafting its reasons.
Yukon Energy Corp. – Mayo Emergency Amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On October 26, 2022 the Board received a request from YEC for an amendment to the Mayo Type A water licence on an emergency basis in order to address unsafe operating conditions at the Mayo A powerhouse.YEC reported that on August 28, 2022 rock released from the hillside and several thousand cubic meters of loose rock flowed around the powerhouse. Investigation determined a potential

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

HYDRO UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
	<p>for failure due to freeze-thaw cycles or significant infiltration of water from heavy rains or rain on snow events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• YEC sought to amend instream flows in the water licence between the Mayo A and Mayo B powerhouses.• The amendment was issued on January 4th, 2024.

MUNICIPAL UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
YG Community Services – Dawson City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In July 2021 Community Services applied to amend their Type A Water Licence for the Dawson City Wastewater Treatment Facility in order to improve treated effluent quality.• The Secretariat is currently reviewing the application to determine if it conforms with application submission standards.
Haines Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In May 2021 the Village of Haines Junction opened an application to renew its Type B Water Licence for municipal water supply and waste disposal which expired on January 29, 2022.• The Secretariat is currently reviewing the application to determine if it conforms with application submission standards.
Village of Mayo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In May 2022 the Village of Mayo opened an application to amend its Type A Municipal Water Licence.• A public hearing was scheduled for November 2 & 3, 2022 but it has been postponed as the Board awaits information resulting from an information request. No new hearing date has been set.

Miscellaneous Licences	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In December 2021, YG - Highways and Public Works submitted a water licence application for the replacement of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge located at Teslin.

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Consolidated Decision Document under the Yukon <i>Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act</i> was issued by YG, DFO, Transport Canada, Infrastructure Canada, and Teslin Tlingit Council on April 28, 2022. • The Board advertised the application for public comment on July 6, 2022. Public comment period closed on August 3rd. • The Board deliberated the application August 22, 26, and 30 and subsequently issued a water licence on August 31, 2022. Reasons for the decision were issued on September 9, 2022.
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PLACER UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Tamarack Inc. – Indian River and Montana Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamarack applied for a Type B Water Licence and Placer Mining Land Use Approval for a project in the Indian River wetlands complex. • In June 2017 Tamarack was advised that the Yukon Water Board was satisfied that it would be in the public interest to hold a public hearing given the matters raised in the application and the interventions. Of note was the request for a public hearing by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. • The Board is waiting for a response from Tamarack to an information request before it can continue to process the application and determine when a public hearing can be held.
Indian River Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board has a number of active applications before it which are located in the Indian River wetlands complex. • YESAB recommended terms in evaluation reports stating there should be no mining in undisturbed wetlands within the Indian River complex. • The decision body (Energy Mines and Resources) varied the recommendation to allow for mining in these areas subject to submitting an approved wetlands reclamation plan. • Interventions in the water licence process from Yukon Conservation Society and First Nations requested the Board hold public hearings on the matter of wetlands and encouraged the

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

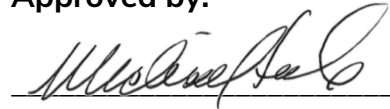
	<p>Board to develop a policy to guide decision making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A three-day virtual public interest hearing was held in October 2020.• Interventions included reference to an MOU between the Yukon government (YG) and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) in which YG committed to work with TH to develop a policy and guidelines for the protection and reclamation of Indian River wetlands.• In August 2021 the Board released a "What We Heard Report" and made a recommendation to the Premier to consider the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection, Use and Reclamation of Yukon Wetlands. The Board is participating in the YG Wetland Policy Group and is working on the development and implementation of Water Board Wetland Information Guidelines, which will eventually be informed by the wetland policy.• The Board continues to deliberate each application on a case-by-case basis given the evidence provided by all parties.
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Statistics - Water Licence Applications Received 2012 to Date			
Year	Type B	Type A	Total
2012	84	4	88
2013	99	3	102
2014	120	4	124
2015	133	2	135
2016	123	8	131
2017	135	7	142
2018	121	5	126
2019	102	7	109
2020	116	5	121
2021	93	6	99
2022	119	4	123

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**

Executive Council
Office

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 14, 2023

Date

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Michelle Creek**Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The proposed Michelle Creek project is a mineral exploration project on claims within the Peel Watershed region. The claims pre-exist the Peel Plan that was approved in August 2019.
- It is the first Class 3 mineral project proposed in an area with an approved regional land use plan.
- A Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board assessment in December 2022 issued a recommendation that the project not proceed.
- As part of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board process, the Yukon Land Use Planning Council analyzed the proposed project for conformity to the Plan and concluded that it did conform.
- We are thoroughly reviewing the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board assessment and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council analysis before we initiate next steps.

Additional response:

- The Peel Plan respects existing mineral claims and leases and provides direction about managing land and resources in the Peel River watershed.
- The proposed mineral exploration project straddles Landscape Management Units that are designated for both conservation and development, increasing the complexity of analysis.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Michelle Creek****Energy, Mines and Resources**

Context:

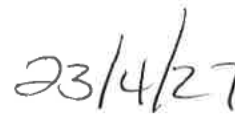
- As the Project is the first Class 3 Quartz operation proposed in an area with a final Land Use Plan, this assessment and the Yukon government's decisions on next steps will set key precedents for how Land Use Plans are interpreted and applied to mineral exploration projects in planned areas.
-

Background:**Michelle Project Assessment**

- During the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board assessment for the Michelle project, two affected First Nations submitted the opinion that the proposed project did not conform to the approved regional land use plan.
- The department is reviewing the position of the First Nations and looking closely at potential precedents for how regional land use plans are interpreted and applied to proposed projects in planned areas.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources



Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Collaborative Stewardship

#112
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response

- Since 2020, we have been advancing the collaborative stewardship initiative with Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Selkirk First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- We value working together with our First Nations partners on environmental stewardship, information sharing and monitoring across the Yukon. Recently we introduced joint water monitoring and enhanced collaboration and reporting tools.
- The initiative continues to grow and enhance capacity and cultural understanding between our governments.

Additional response:

- In 2022, we conducted 26 joint site visits of mineral development, forestry and land use activities. Joint inspections are continuing this year based on areas of mutual interest.
- On January 17, 2023, we held an in-person workshop with over 30 participants from our stewardship partners. Participants shared ideas on how to advance the program and considered expanding the water quality monitoring component.
- We look forward to enhancing our relationships with participating First Nations while growing the stewardship program.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- The Collaborative Stewardship Initiative has been very successful to-date with additional First Nations expressing interest in participating, though it is not widely known amongst the public.

Session Briefing Note

Collaborative Stewardship

#112
Spring 2023
Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources' Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch is in its third year of implementing the Collaborative Stewardship Initiative pilot program. Activities focus on inspection processes and procedures, information-sharing, cross-training and joint fieldwork.
- The current initiative does not cover areas of investigation, enforcement or reciprocal legal action (i.e., prosecution) of either Yukon or Yukon First Nations laws, nor does it involve wildlife management or harvesting issues.
- Three areas of focus are identified for expanding the program:
 - knowledge and skill transfer related to compliance promotion;
 - training opportunities for First Nations; and
 - First Nations-led, community-based water quality monitoring networks.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources


Date approved

**Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**

Executive Council Office/
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We put mineral staking prohibitions in place within the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon to allow time to address court declarations made in the Ross River Dena Council and Kaska Dena Council mining cases.
- We also put a mineral staking prohibition in place for the Áashú (a-shoo) Village site and surrounding area in the asserted traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to support our ongoing discussions.
- Our goal is to identify solutions that address our shared interests in land and resource matters, provide certainty to industry and benefit all Yukoners.
- We anticipate that the work being done in collaboration with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation will help address many issues, including the court declarations.

Additional response:

If asked about the Ross River Area:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River Area was put in place on March 27, 2013 and is in place until April 30, 2024. This is intended to allow time to advance consultation with the Ross River Dena Council and the other Kaska Nations on how best to address the declarations regarding mineral staking, exploration and development.

If asked about the southern Yukon portion of Kaska asserted traditional territory:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the southern portion of the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon was put in place on February 1,

Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation

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2017 and is in place until April 30, 2024.

If asked about White River First Nation:

- We are addressing a range of issues through bilateral negotiations with White River First Nation, including consultation obligations related to the mineral declarations.

If asked about Taku River Tlingit First Nation:

- We are advancing discussions with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on a number of matters including the mineral declarations, consultation and their land interests in the Yukon.
- To support these discussions, our government withdrew land associated with the Áashú Village from potential land disposition and mineral staking on March 28, 2019. This withdrawal is in place until September 30, 2023.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Mineral staking prohibitions in asserted traditional territories remain a focus of discussions with affected First Nations and are of interest to other First Nations, industry and stakeholders.

Background:

- In 2012, the Yukon Court of Appeal made two declarations with respect to the Ross River Dena Council v. Yukon (2012 YKCA 14) mining case: (1) the Yukon government (YG) has a duty to consult with Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) in determining whether mineral rights on Crown lands within the Ross River Area are to be made available to third parties under the provisions of the *Quartz Mining Act*; and, (2) YG has a duty to notify and, where

Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation

Executive Council Office/
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Resources

appropriate, consult with and accommodate RRDC before allowing any mineral exploration activities to take place within the Ross River Area.

- In 2013, YG took steps to comply with the second declaration by amending the Quartz Mining Act and Placer Mining Act to implement a new regime for Class 1 mining activities.
- In 2014, both the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) and Kaska Dena Council started court proceedings seeking the same mineral declarations granted in the Ross River Area for their respective asserted traditional territories in the Yukon. The declarations were granted by consent.
- The three mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska and TRTFN traditional territories cover approximately 23% of the Yukon. The Ross River Area prohibition covers ~13%; the prohibition in the Kaska assertion outside the Ross River Area covers ~10%; and the prohibition for the Áashú Village area covers a negligible percentage. Of these three areas, the Ross River Area has the highest mineral potential.
- Additional staking prohibitions are in place for reasons such as land use planning, to create parks and protected areas, or to disallow staking within municipal boundaries. About 53% of the total area of the Yukon is currently under a prohibition.
- In YG's view, many of RRDC's underlying concerns related to mineral development will be addressed in the collaborative Successor Resource Legislation development process. RRDC is actively participating in that process.
- Although the consent order with KDC still stands, YG informed KDC that, consistent with the 2020 ruling of the Supreme Court of Yukon, KDC is not a rights-bearing group, YG will consult only with the four Kaska rights-bearing groups.
- YG is making efforts to proactively engage Liard First Nation and White River First Nation, recognizing that they could seek and receive similar declarations.
- Acho Dene Koe First Nation communicated to YG its view that the mineral staking prohibition in southeastern Yukon infringes on its asserted Aboriginal rights.

**Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**

Executive Council Office/
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 3, 2023

Date



Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Feb. 3, 2023

Date

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Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: General Program Overview

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program is valued at \$468 million and includes infrastructure upgrades for up to 650 kilometres of existing roads in areas of high mineral potential and active mining in the Yukon.
- Improving infrastructure to Yukon's most mineral-rich areas will set us on course for a more prosperous future.
- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program has a number of infrastructure projects that are going through various stages of planning, design, assessment and construction.

Additional response: Program Structure

- The Government of Yukon has committed to working with Yukon First Nations to build meaningful and collaborative relationships to support the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's success for all parties.
- For each component identified, Energy Mines and Resources negotiates a project agreement with the affected Yukon First Nation in whose Traditional Territory the project resides.
- These agreements provide a process by which the Yukon government and Yukon First Nations will work collaboratively.
- They also outline how we will structure procurements to ensure there are benefits for each community.
- Once an agreement is signed, Highways and Public Works starts implementing the agreement.
- This process involves continued planning and collaboration with the affected Yukon First Nation.
- It encompasses key steps like project planning and design, YESAB assessment, regulatory review and permitting.

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Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

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- Implementation work may not be visible, but it is crucial.
- Once the foundational work is complete, project procurement and construction can begin.

Additional response: Yukon First Nations Involvement

- Our government is working in collaboration with Yukon First Nations to seek input and finalize Project Agreements for components of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program within their respective Traditional Territories.
- Six Project Agreements have been signed with Yukon First Nations for seven components to date.
- As a result, the Yukon Resource Gateway Program has several infrastructure projects going through various stages of implementation, planning, design, assessment and construction.
- The program will provide opportunities to Yukon First Nations through short and long-term employment opportunities, training and benefit agreements.

Additional response: Funding

- The Yukon government has worked to increase the flexibility of the Gateway funding program with the Government of Canada. The funding program now includes additional flexibility to focus on projects that First Nations and communities have requested.
- This flexibility allowed us to include additional road components on the Silver Trail, North Canol, and sections of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- The Yukon government was successful in negotiating a Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada that resulted in the Yukon

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Resource Gateway Program's completion date being extended from 2025 to March 2031.

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program also includes an industry component for funding.
- Industry has indicated an interest in accessing the funding; however, no formal industry agreements are in place at this time.

Recommended response: Carmacks Bypass

- In the spring of 2019, a Project Agreement for the Carmacks Bypass component was signed with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- The project includes the construction of a new road and bridge, which will allow industrial vehicles to bypass the community of Carmacks, creating a safer flow of traffic for residents.
- The new road connects the existing Freegold Road with the Klondike Highway.
- This project will also improve access to mining activities while enabling the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation to benefit from contracting, education and training associated with the project.
- This project is a key component under the Yukon Resource Gateway Program and is the first project to be awarded under the program.

Additional Response:

- The Carmacks Bypass project has been a collaborative effort between the Yukon government and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- On November 3, 2021, Pelly Construction was awarded the \$29.6 million contract to construct the new road and bridge.

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- Construction of the road and bridge is well underway. The contractor has completed approximately 80 per cent of the roadwork and 60 per cent of the bridge work this past construction season.
 - The remaining road and bridge work will be substantially complete this season, and any remaining work will be finished in 2024.

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

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

Recommended response: Silver Trail

- A Project Agreement for the Silver Trail component was signed with the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun in February 2021.
- The Silver Trail component includes rehabilitation of the Mayo River bridge, road reconstruction and spot repairs from km 0 to km 110 between Mayo and Keno City.

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- This year the department will be advancing the implementation of the agreement with the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, with design and assessment activities planned to occur in 2024-25.

Recommended response: Freegold Road Phase II

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

Recommended response: Nahanni Range Road Phase 1

- In January 2020, a Project Agreement with Liard First Nation was signed for the first phase of the Nahanni Range Road component.
- This proposed project includes two bridge replacements and one bridge rehabilitation. The estimated capital construction cost is \$17 million.
- Clearing of the right-of-way to improve lines of sight began in 2020, with two direct-award contracts to First Kaska Limited.
- The Yukon government and the Liard First Nation entered into an additional agreement to provide heavy equipment operator training for Liard First Nation citizens.
- This training was completed in November 2021 and successfully certified eight Liard First Nation citizens. The training objective is to

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

- Environmental baseline information for this project is being collected in collaboration with the Liard First Nation.
- Throughout 2022, our government worked on the ongoing implementation of the Project Agreement with Liard First Nation and drafting the environmental assessment for the replacement of the bridge at kilometre 143.
- In 2023, we are continuing to work with the Yukon Resource Gateway Project Committee, which includes Liard First Nation and Yukon government representatives, on this project.
- This work includes identifying clearing and brushing work for this season and completing the draft environmental assessment, project planning and designs.

Recommended response: Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171

- In June 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Liard First Nation for this section of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- This project, which runs from km 114 to km 171, includes road reconstruction and sight-line improvements. It has an estimated capital construction cost of \$50 million.
- In 2022, we worked to develop the environmental baseline work plan and the funding contribution with Liard First Nation. Additionally, we underwent preliminary project planning and developed the scope of work.
- Environmental baseline information will be collected in collaboration with Liard First Nation beginning this summer.

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- 2023 will also see the drafting of environmental assessments and identification of granular resources, in addition to project planning and identifying which phases of the component will be planned and carried out.

Recommended response: North Canol Phase 1

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Ross River Dena Council for the North Canol component of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program.
- This project will include road rehabilitation and replacement of several bridges along the North Canol road and has an estimated capital construction cost of \$16 million.
- We continue to work with Ross River Dena Council on implementing the Project Agreement and determining the timeline and next steps for this project.

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Carmacks Bypass

- Right-of-way clearing to support construction of the Carmacks Bypass was awarded to Cobalt Construction in 2020.
- Recommendation by YESAB on the application for the geotechnical assessment component of the Carmacks Bypass project was received in January 2019 and is now complete.
- The geotechnical assessment results supported an application for the full Carmacks Bypass project, which was submitted to YESAB in May 2020 and the Decision Document was completed in December 2020.

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- A project working group for the Carmacks Bypass project between Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and the Yukon government meets monthly.

First Nation Involvement

- Implementation of Project Agreements is happening between the department's Major Programs Unit and the Yukon First Nations with Project Agreements.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is leading the Project Agreement negotiations with Selkirk First Nation for the Freegold Road component. However, the Department of Highways and Public Works is involved in these discussions.
- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program proposal is valued at \$468 million with a federal government investment of up to \$247 million, a Yukon investment of up to \$112 million and an industry investment of up to \$108 million over the life span of the program.
 - Federal government support has been confirmed through the Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada.
 - The Yukon government will also contribute an additional estimated \$4.8 million for ineligible costs over the life of the program, such as salaries and benefits for Yukon government employees.
- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes industry partners as part of the investment of the program. Current industry components include the Goldfields Road and Casino Road, with the potential for additional components to be considered. However no formal industry agreements are in place at this time.

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

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Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

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Procurement	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council
Construction (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council

Silver Trail Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Silver Trail Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun	Ongoing
Design, planning and assessment	2024-25
Construction of Silver Trail	2026-27

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

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Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timeline
Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Liard First Nation	Ongoing
Construction (right-of-way clearing)	October 2020
YESAB and other regulatory submissions – KM 143 and Upper Frances River	Spring/Summer 2023
Construction of bridge replacement and rehabilitation	To be determined

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

North Canol Phase 1 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timeline
North Canol Phase 1 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council	Ongoing

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Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

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YESAB submission	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council
Procurement	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council
Construction	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council

Approved by:



April 12, 2023

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved