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Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Border Crossings and Tourism**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- As seen in our most recent tourism indicators, and as many Yukoners witnessed in their communities, the Yukon's tourism sector strongly rebounded in 2022. Looking forward to summer 2023, we are excited about the return of White Pass train excursions to Carcross.
- Last summer, we were very pleased to see the re-opening of the Little Gold port of entry after two seasons of closure. This port of entry is important for the regional tourism industry, Dawson area residents, and for the mining sector.
- The operation of Little Gold is a partnership between the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and US Customs and Border Protection. A major impediment to a longer season is a labour shortage being experienced by US Customs and Border Protection.

Additional response:

- We continue to advocate for a return to the pre-pandemic season for Little Gold, which typically ran from mid-May late September.
- Work through intergovernmental channels has established allies in the push to keep Little Gold open longer. These include Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski and the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Executive Committee which includes the US State governments of Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Little Gold border crossing closed earlier in 2022 than it has in previous years, which impacted some travelers and tourism businesses.
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Background:

- A variety of factors influence the opening and closing dates for the Little Gold border crossing, including: the date ferry operations can resume in
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Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Border Crossings and Tourism**Tourism and Culture

Dawson; re-opening of seasonal port of entry buildings and infrastructure; availability of trained staff; and seasonal coordination between CBSA and US Customs and Border Protection.

- We have worked with our industry partners and the federal government to ease border and travel restrictions. This enabled tourism recovery, while also protecting the health and safety of Yukoners.
- Thanks to our advocacy and the work of our partners, we saw:
 - The elimination of COVID-19 testing requirements at the Yukon's international borders;
 - Reinstatement of international travel through the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International and Dawson City airports;
 - Streamlined processing of cruise passengers at Fraser border crossing;
 - Reopening of Little Gold port of entry.

Session Briefing Note

New Convention Centre in Whitehorse

Spring 2023

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Due to a lack of suitable convention space, the Yukon is currently turning down MICE business (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events). MICE business is a strong economic driver, contributing to year-round, high-yield tourism visitation.
- In Fall 2022, Tourism and Culture issued a Request for Expressions of Interest that found there are interested proponents in Whitehorse who have land available to develop a large convention centre with a capacity of 750 to 1000 attendees.
- The department subsequently entered into a funding agreement (\$40K) with the Yukon Convention Bureau to develop and issue an open, competitive Request for Proposals.
- This project has been identified as a priority item in the 2023 Mandate Letter from the Premier, with completion anticipated in 2025-26.

Additional response:

- We do not yet have firm cost estimates, but discussions with federal Tourism Minister Boissonnault and MP Hanley revealed strong federal interest in providing construction funding.
- While the new federal budget does not contain an explicit new fund for this purpose, we are confident in the commitments made by Minister Boissonnault.
- Construction funding will not be needed until later this year, with the bulk of new funding need in 2024/25.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****New Convention Centre in Whitehorse**Tourism and Culture

- The federal budget does include reference to an upcoming, new Tourism Growth Strategy for Canada. Watch for more details once this strategy is officially launched.
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Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is strong interest in this project within the tourism industry and the general business community. The public will also be curious about what is being planned.
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Background – Next Steps:

- **Need for a New Convention Centre:** The Yukon's former convention centre was too small to meet demand and is no longer operating.
 - A new convention centre will lead to a range of benefits. In addition to being a visitor destination, it will be a gathering place for Yukoners to hold local events and festivals, which are currently constrained by a lack of sufficient venues.
 - **Confirm funding:** We are working to confirm Canada's funding contribution. The amount of funding required will depend on the proposals received and amount proponents are willing to invest from their own resources.
 - **RFP process:** The RFP was issued by the YCB on March 13. Proponents will have until July 14 to develop and submit proposals. Tourism and Culture representatives sit on the YCB Steering Committee overseeing the procurement process.
 - YCB will establish an evaluation committee to review proposals and recommend a "Highest Ranked Proponent". This committee will be established by YCB and will have diverse membership.
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Session Briefing Note

**New Convention Centre in
Whitehorse**

Tourism and Culture

- Once a Highest Ranked Proponent is identified, negotiations on a range of factors will follow, including a construction contract and a 25-year operating agreement.
- Initial response to the RFP has shown interest from local developers who clearly have the expertise and resources to manage this project.
- **Completion:** Finalizing funding arrangements and realization of a contract with the Highest Ranked Proponent in the second half of 2023 will lead to construction completion in 2025-26.

Session Briefing Note**Place Brand Strategy
Development**

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Tourism and Culture is leading the development of a Yukon Place Brand. Work on the project began in 2020-21.
- The first stage in the project was the development of a “Yukon Story” concept which was carried out in partnership with the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce. This involved a series of in-depth one-on-one interviews with more than 80 diverse Yukoners from across the territory.
- Work completed over the past year has included a Brand Assessment, the development of the Brand Strategy and Brand Toolkit (including brand guidelines and a brand video).
- Stakeholder workshops were held with the following groups in early March:
 - March 7th: Tourism sector (invitees included: TIA Yukon, YFNCT, WTAY, YCB)
 - March 9th: Business community (invitees included: WCC, YCC, YFNCC)
 - March 10th: YG recruitment community (HRMAC)
 - March 10th: Arts /cultural groups (invitees included YFNCT, Yukon Arts Centre, DCAS, NCES, SPYA and rural-Yukon representatives of all the above organizations)
 - Future session (Date TBD) – Marketing agencies / design houses

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Place Brand Strategy
Development**Tourism and Culture

Additional response:

- The Brand Toolkit will be available to all Yukon businesses and stakeholders at no cost, to assist them with talent attraction, export marketing, investment attraction, and tourism.
- Several “proof of concept” projects using the Master Yukon Story have been implemented by Tourism and Culture, including marketing support for the Yukon Prize, the development of a talent attraction brochure now being used by several stakeholders, and an investment attraction brochure.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukon stakeholders familiar with this work may inquire as to the status of the project and when they can begin to utilize the assets.

Background:

- The total budget for the project in 2022-23 is \$175,000, and the work under this phase of the project will be completed by March 31, 2023.
- Yukon-based Aasman Brand Communications and partners Cossette Inc. (Vancouver) have been engaged to manage the project’s deliverables.
- The critical next step in this project is governance - determining who will be responsible for long-term maintenance of the Yukon Brand, and how this work will be resourced. The practice in other jurisdictions typically involves a dedicated agency run as a public-private partnership, but other options are possible.
- Graphic elements developed for the Brand Tool kit under the Yukon Place Brand project **may** be utilized for new Welcome to Yukon signs

Session Briefing Note
Place Brand Strategy
Development

HOT 3
Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture

to be installed at eight highway border locations and three pedestrian locations.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Whitehorse Airport Upgrades –
Impact on Condor**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport will be undergoing critical upgrades. Construction is scheduled from 2023 to 2026 and will involve the reconstruction of the main runway, rehabilitating and expanding apron areas, improving lighting, and relocating and constructing a new maintenance building.
- This project will improve the performance of air travel and is essential for ensuring continued safe and reliable jet service to and from Whitehorse, and maintaining the ongoing integrity of this critical tourism infrastructure.
- During the reconstruction of the main runway, the parallel runway will be used as the primary runway. Condor Airlines has been informed by Highways and Public Works that wide-body aircraft, such as the Boeing 767 aircraft operated by Condor, will most likely not be able to land in Whitehorse during this phase of the project.
- These upgrades will not affect Condor's Frankfurt to Whitehorse flights in 2023, but it is possible that Condor will not be able to land in Whitehorse in both 2024 and 2025.

Additional response:

- The Yukon government values Condor as a long-standing business partner.
- Tourism and Culture is convening discussions between Highways and Public Works and Condor and is committed to supporting the continuation of Condor's service during the construction project and beyond.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Whitehorse Airport Upgrades –
Impact on Condor**

Tourism and Culture

- Yukon government support can include financial and marketing investments with Air North and Condor and other partners to fly Condor passengers to Whitehorse from southern Canada and/or Alaska.
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Context—this may be an issue because:

- The tourism industry is concerned that Condor will not be able to fly to Whitehorse in 2024 and 2025. They will be looking for updates and information on mitigation measures being developed by the Yukon Government.
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Background:

- In over 20 years bringing flights to the Yukon, Condor has contributed approximately \$100M in economic activity to the Yukon's economy.
- With Condor, Whitehorse is the smallest city in North America with a direct flight to Europe. The flight is highly valued by Yukon's tourism industry.
- Tourism and Culture has an excellent relationship with Condor and is in regular contact. The department will work with Condor to manage the impacts of the construction project to the greatest extent possible.
- Longer term, Condor plans to switch to the Airbus A-330 aircraft in 2024. The Whitehorse airport is not rated for this aircraft, regardless of the status of the runway project.
- HPW is presently reviewing the costs and the business case associated with upgrading YXY to receive A-330 aircraft

Nun Cho Ga and Collaborative Management of Palaeontology

Recommended response:

- Collaborative work is underway to protect and preserve Nun cho ga, the mammoth calf recovered from the Klondike goldfields on June 21, 2022.
- On June 21, 2022, Nun cho ga was unearthed by Travis Delawski, a miner with the Treadstone Gold company. I would like to acknowledge the operator and mining company for complying with the mining land use regulations, which required them to stop their work and report the find.
- Discussions are underway on developing an agreement to ensure that Nun cho ga remains preserved and cared for appropriately from a cultural perspective.
- The agreement is an important opportunity to demonstrate collaborative heritage management with Yukon First Nations, as envisioned by the Final Agreements and the Yukon Forum Heritage Working Group. (see also – C11 Collaborative Management of Heritage Resources).

Additional response:

- Nun cho ga is secure in the Dawson area, where she is closely monitored to ensure she remains frozen.
- All communications and research activities involving Nun cho ga will be developed and implemented in a collaborative manner.

Context—this may be an issue because:

The collaborative management agreement for Nun cho ga will take a minimum of 6 months to develop and finalize. Media and scientists' enquiries have been frequent and continual.

Nun Cho Ga and Collaborative Management of Palaeontology

Background:

- This discovery marks the first near-complete and best-preserved mummified woolly mammoth found in North America.
- The successful recovery was possible because of the partnership between miners, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon's departments of Environment, Yukon Geological Survey, and Tourism and Culture's Palaeontology program.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in named the mammoth "Nun cho ga", which means "Big Animal Baby" in the Han language.
- A preliminary examination of the woolly mammoth suggests she is female and was 30 to 35 days old. Geologists suggest that Nun cho ga died and was frozen in permafrost during the ice age, over 30,000 years ago.
- Representatives from the departments of Tourism and Culture, and Energy, Mines and Resources met with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in staff and Elders in early January 2023 to initiate discussion on collaborative management.
- Tourism and Culture and Aboriginal Relations are determining the next steps in the development of an MOU with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has purchased a new walk-in freezer for Nun cho ga which will ensure proper security, temperature controls and back-up power are in place.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Weigh Stations and Tourism Operators**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The department of Highways and Public Works has been engaging stakeholders on reporting requirements for highway weigh stations.
- Tourism operators with larger vans (10-15 passenger) are required to follow the highway safety legislation regarding registering with weigh scales. There has been some confusion in the tourism industry about how reporting requirements may impact them.
- The Department of Tourism and Culture is working with Highways and Public Works to clarify the requirements for our clients, and staff at Highways and Public Works have committed to continue their outreach efforts to tourism operators.

Additional response:

- With tourism operators still recovering from pandemic impacts, we want to be able to support their operations and minimize barriers. However, we will always put the safety of Yukoners and visitors first.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- As the summer tourism season approaches, tourism operators will likely continue to raise this issue as having a negative impact on their businesses.

Background:

- Technical questions about the review of weigh station reporting requirement should be referred to the Minister of Highways and Public Works.
- Some tour operators have expressed concerns about inconsistencies of requirements at weigh stations. These concerns are: electronic

Session Briefing Note**Weigh Stations and Tourism
Operators**

Tourism and Culture

logging of time; reporting at weigh scale prior to travelling more than 20 kms; and all commercial vehicles must be registered and inspected.

- According to Highways and Public Works, these requirements have always been in effect, and now are being enforced more thoroughly.
- The Department of Tourism and Culture has set up meetings with Highways and Public Works to learn more.

Session Briefing Note

Signature Building Leasing

HOT 7
Spring 2023
Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- Signature buildings are an important part of Yukon's history and heritage.
- When the Yukon government leases space in these buildings, it is done in a manner that enhances the economic, social, and cultural well-being of Yukoners, which includes enabling some degree of public access and appreciation of the heritage values.
- The departments of Highways and Public Works and Tourism and Culture are working on a strategy and criteria that will be used to select tenants for these spaces and ensure we meet that commitment.
- We expect to issue a call for applications from potential tenants within the next six months for some of the signature buildings.

Additional response: Existing tenants

- We understand that this new approach has created some questions from existing tenants in these buildings.
- We are committed to keeping existing tenants informed and providing them with an opportunity to apply for leases. We have promised a minimum of six months' notice to relocate if they are not successful.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been raised during the Legislative Assembly.

Background:

- The Yukon government has 15 signature heritage buildings in the portfolio, although some have long-term tenants or are not suitable for occupancy.

Session Briefing Note

Signature Building Leasing

HOT 7
Spring 2023
Highways and
Public Works

- The main buildings of concern are the TC Richards and White Pass buildings in downtown Whitehorse, which currently occupy a range of tenants who pay less than market rates for office space.
- The departments of Tourism and Culture and Highways and Public Works have jointly developed a strategy and selection criteria that is in the final stages of review and approval.
- Commercial and non-commercial organizations will be welcome to apply.
- Prospective tenants for a given building will be evaluated based on their suitability for that building and on their social, cultural, and economic impact. The evaluation committee will be comprised of Highways and Public Works and Tourism and Culture staff.
- Commercial tenants will pay fair value for the space to avoid competition with the private sector. Non-commercial tenants are currently paying a range of rates, sometimes less than market rates. We are considering options for future rates for non-commercial tenants, such as non-governmental organizations.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Mandate Letter
Commitments**Tourism and Culture

Recommended Response

- As Minister of Tourism and Culture, the commitments in my mandate letter are key priorities for myself and for the department.

Background

- The 2023 Mandate Letter puts forward seven (7) commitments to the Minister of Tourism and Culture. Progress to date on these commitments includes the following:
 1. Continue working in collaboration with the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) to implement the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS).
- Tourism and Culture (TC) values the input from YTAB and continues to engage the Board regularly. We have recently reviewed YTAB's Terms of Reference to better position the Board to support the new, post-pandemic realities facing tourism. YTAB will be meeting at least four (4) times in 2023 and will be engaging industry as well.
- The YTDS continues to be the guiding tourism framework for the Department. Despite COVID-19 presenting a roadblock for the tourism sector for more than two years, the Department feels that we have achieved many of the commitments outlined in the Strategy. Some of these include:
 - Launching the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework in 2022 and becoming a member of the United Nation's International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO);
 - Launching the 2022/23 Yukon Visitor Exit Survey to learn more about visitors to the territory;
 - Developing the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Dashboard to share a diverse set of data to help measure and monitor the impacts of tourism, which will launch in Spring 2023;
 - Providing \$300,000 annually to the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association (YFNCT) to advance Indigenous tourism, a key pillar of the YTDS;
 - Establishing the Go Digital Yukon program and summit, which provides Yukon tourism stakeholders with training, coaching, funding and networking opportunities to enhance their online presence and use of digital tools;

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Mandate Letter
Commitments**Tourism and Culture

- Replacing the Welcome to Yukon gateway signs to align with YTDS recommendations to improve signage to better support visitor experiences across the territory. Fabrication and installation of signs will be a phased approach beginning in summer 2023; and
- Launching the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund to support capital and non-capital projects that focus on sustainable tourism development.

2. Collaborate with industry partners with a focus on:Developing a tourism product inventory

- We need a robust inventory of tourism businesses, and the products and experiences offered. Having this baseline data will help determine destination development priorities and gaps that we need to fill.
- We will work with partners such as the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon (TIAY) on this inventory.

Developing Indigenous tourism products

This is directly related to pillar 3.0 of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS) which states, “Establish the Yukon as a Premier Destination for Indigenous Tourism Experiences Support new and enhanced visitor experiences and awareness for Yukon First Nations tourism”.

- We have been working collaboratively with the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association (YFNCT) for many years and we will continue to do so.
- We have some upcoming joint strategy sessions, and we will be renewing our three-way Memorandum of Understanding on Indigenous tourism with YFNCT and the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC).
- Our approaches to Indigenous tourism development need to be stress-tested for the post-pandemic environment. Ultimately, we want to work with partners to begin to see tangible developments in this sector of the tourism industry. Indigenous tourism businesses in communities can be a source of pride, of cultural expression, jobs, and entrepreneurship and skill development.

Recruiting and training staff

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Mandate Letter
Commitments**Tourism and Culture

- This is an absolutely critical element in the post-pandemic tourism landscape. While the Department of Economic Development is the lead on labour market programs, Tourism and Culture's Destination Development funding can be targeted to projects, which can help with staff recruitment and training, as well as the construction of staff housing.
- The Department has a pilot project underway in Carcross, and we are looking at one in Dawson City as well.
- We look forward to receipt of the Yukon Recruitment and Retention Taskforce's report and recommendations scheduled to be released in 2023.

3. Stimulate destination development with an emphasis on expanding visitor infrastructure including:

- The department of Tourism and Culture is responding to changes in the tourism industry due to the pandemic, and longer term trends that were becoming evident even before the pandemic, by shifted its priority from market development to destination development.
 - This involves building capacity, particularly in communities outside of Whitehorse, to receive visitors in a sustainable and manageable way, so that communities are able to take advantage of the economic opportunity tourism represents.
- **A new convention centre located in Whitehorse.**
 - This a clear and longstanding need. The tourism industry is fully supportive. Indeed, the industry is leading this project through the Yukon Convention Bureau. We are closely involve, assisting the Convention Bureau move this along, but they are very capable. With small amounts of assistance from Yukon government, at key points along the way, this can get done by the private sector.
 - Of course, capital funding for the construction is critical. The federal Tourism Minister has committed to supporting this project with a significant capital injection and we will be holding him to that commitment.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Mandate Letter
Commitments**Tourism and Culture

- The establishment of tourism corridors (and)
- New and improved accommodation and lodge networks.
 - Destination Canada is looking to support Tourism Corridors nationally. We feel a network of small scale, authentic indigenous tourism lodges would fit well under this program and we are in discussions with Destination Canada and First Nations partners. We'll be able to provide more information as this project progresses.

Increased tourism capacity in Yukon communities.

- This is the key objective of the new Community Tourism Destination Development Fund.

The following are not new:

4. Support the research, preservation, interpretation, and assessment of our historic places by working closely with Yukon First Nations governments, municipalities, and communities. **(See C5 Historic Sites and C11 Collaborative Management of Heritage Resources)**
 - As part of the Yukon Forum process, the Heritage Working Group (YG/Yukon First Nations) has a workplan which will advance the management of Yukon's heritage and historic resources.
 - Work with First Nations, municipalities and community partners continues to advance projects, such as the preservation and interpretation of historic sites, Ice Patch research, and palaeontological discoveries in the Klondike goldfields.
5. Continue to advance the establishment of a heritage resource centre for the conservation and protection of Yukon's archaeological, paleontological, and cultural artifacts. **(C8 Arts and Heritage Collection Facility)**
 - Tourism and Culture and Highways and Public Works have developed a functional plan and business case for a combined arts and heritage resources collections facility.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Mandate Letter
Commitments**Tourism and Culture

- Next steps are confirming overall capital budget, determining a location and confirming Class D estimates.
- 6. Finalize and implement the new Cultural Centres and Museums policy to ensure these important facilities are supported into the future. **(See C13 Cultural Centres and Museums policy)**
- 7. Continue to implement Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries to support the growth and development of the creative and cultural industries in the Yukon. **(See C6 Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy)**

Releasing and implementing the Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy.

- A final strategy was released in November 2021, and Phase 1 priorities are underway, including modernizing and streamlining existing funding supports, the creation of a micro-grant program, and the development of a Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums Policy. Approximately \$500,000 was allocated to support Phase 1 priorities starting in fiscal year 2022/23. Almost \$750,000 is budgeted for 2023/24.
- The department launched the Express Micro-grant funding program on September 1, 2022, which addresses action 1.5 of Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries strategy (CCIS). This program supports the creative and cultural sector to respond to unique opportunities and increases access to funding for first-time applicants and equity-deserving communities. **(see also DPT4 – Funding Programs)**
- A program analysis of arts funding programs, which supports action 1.1 in the strategy, is underway and nearing completion. The program analysis will support the modernization and streamlining of existing funding supports to improve delivery, structure and effectiveness, and to address gaps.
- The department announced the creation and implementation of a new partnership initiative to support the Yukon's emerging Indigenous artists, arts workers and cultural carriers earlier this summer, which will also address CCIS

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Mandate Letter
Commitments**Tourism and Culture

- priorities. The Canada Council for the Arts is partnering with the Government of Yukon to distribute \$50,000 in funding to artists in the first year and \$150,000 in the second year. Intakes for the new fund began in January 2023. **(see also DPT4 – Funding Programs)**
- Action 2.2.2 in the strategy is the development of a new Yukon Cultural Centres and Museums Policy. Work on the new policy to date includes in-depth sector engagement and a draft engagement report has been shared. Further research is currently underway, and the first draft of the policy will be completed in April 2023.
 - Action 4.1 in the strategy is focuses on building industry understanding of complex issues such as rights, royalties and copyright. An expanded professional development workshop series was offered by the department in 2022-23, and further industry development is planned for 2023/24 to support this action.
 - Work to advance Action 2.2.3 Develop tools for better managing Yukon's world-class ancient fossils in also underway. The department is in discussions with partners on how to improve the collaborative management of palaeontological resources, and modernize the heritage legislation. **(see also C12 – Fossil Trade and Palaeontology Regulations Development)**

Session Briefing Note

Budget 2023-24

DPT 2

Spring 2023

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Our priority for 2023-24 is to support, promote and enhance the Yukon's tourism, culture, heritage and arts sectors for the benefit of Yukoners and visitors.
- For 2023-24, the Department of Tourism and Culture has a budget of **\$34.6M**. This is a **4.4% decrease** (\$1.6M) over the 2022-23 Main Estimates.
- The department is requesting a supplementary budget this Spring that allows for funding adjustments between O&M and Capital which result in a minor \$6K increase in total appropriation.

Operations and Maintenance:

- The 2023-24 budget includes **\$31.9M** for operations and maintenance. This is a **decrease of \$626K** from the 2022-23 Main Estimates.
- Key O&M investments include:
 - \$1M towards the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund;
 - \$750,000 towards the implementation of Creative Potential, the creative and cultural industries strategy;
 - \$550,000 in support of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy;
 - \$190,000 for implementation of "Our Clean Future" initiatives; and
 - \$767,000 for COVID-19 Tourism Relief and Recovery.

Session Briefing Note

Budget 2023-24

DPT 2
Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture

Capital

- The 2023-24 budget includes **\$2.7M** for capital. This is a **decrease of \$958,000** over the 2022-23 Main Estimates.
- Key capital projects are:
 - \$480,000 in support of our consumer marketing strategy for content acquisition and the Travel Yukon website;
 - \$475,000 for the Yukon Signage Modernization project;
 - \$475,000 for the Visitor Exit Survey;
 - \$400,000 for the maintenance, restoration and protection of historic properties; and
 - \$250,000 for the Exhibit Renewal Project at the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre.

Background: See attached tables

Session Briefing Note

Budget 2023-24

DPT 2

Spring 2023

Tourism and Culture

Department of Tourism & Culture	Operation & Maintenance (in \$k)			FTEs		
	2023-24 Estimates	2022-23 Main Estimates	2021-22 Actuals	FTE change	2023-24	2022-23
COVID-19 Response	767	2,230	8,023	-	-	-
Covid-19 Pandemic	767	2,230	8,023	-	-	-
Corporate Services	2,803	2,778	2,703	-	20.17	20.17
Deputy Minister's Office	549	544	624		2.15	2.15
Policy & Communications	973	943	905		7.00	7.00
Directorate	222	202	204		2.00	2.00
Human Resources	305	340	303		2.42	2.42
Finance & Administration	467	465	480		4.00	4.00
Information Management	287	284	187		2.60	2.60
Cultural Services Branch	15,040	14,725	13,755	2.00	54.82	52.82
Directorate	1,137	1,000	937	1.00	4.00	3.00
Historic Sites	2,373	2,163	1,840		9.76	9.76
Arts	4,887	4,933	4,869	1.00	6.30	5.30
Yukon Archives	1,791	1,783	1,587		15.30	15.30
Museums and Cultural Centres	2,807	2,814	2,723		5.00	5.00
Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre	657	648	541		5.88	5.88
Heritage Resources	1,388	1,384	1,258		8.58	8.58
Tourism Branch	13,274	12,777	12,096	-	38.67	38.67
Directorate	808	781	892		2.00	2.00
Marketing Operations	7,052	7,730	7,101		10.00	10.00
Visitor Services	2,310	2,175	2,298		19.67	19.67
Industry Services	3,104	2,091	1,805		7.00	7.00
Total	31,884	32,510	36,577	2.00	113.66	111.66

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Budget 2023-24

Tourism and Culture

Department of Tourism & Culture	Capital (in \$k)		
	2023-24 Estimates	2022-23 Main Estimates	2021-22 Actuals
COVID-19 Response	-	-	-
Covid-19 Pandemic	-	-	-
Corporate Services	10	10	6
Finance & Administration	10	10	6
Cultural Services Branch	1,425	2,975	1,046
Historic Sites	1,020	915	545
Arts	60	330	107
Yukon Archives	95	420	323
Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre	250	450	61
Heritage Resources	-	860	10
Tourism Branch	1,267	675	747
Marketing Operations	480	500	679
Visitor Services	300	-	14
Industry Services	487	175	54
Total	2,702	3,660	1,799

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Supplementary Estimates 2022-23** Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- For 2022-23, the Department of Tourism and Culture Main Estimates total appropriation was **\$36.2M**, as tabled in Spring 2022.
 - The department identified a supplementary budget to allow for funding adjustments between O&M and Capital which results in a very minor (**\$6,000**) overall increase in total appropriation.
 - The supplementary budget includes **\$33M** for Operation and Maintenance. This reflects a **\$506,000** increase for three areas of funding pressures.
 - The increases are for: a new Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant funding program; increased operating funding for museums and cultural centres; and increases associated with scenic drive rest stop maintenance.
 - We are proposing a decrease in capital of **\$500,000**, which reflect project delays and expenditures not required this fiscal year. This reduces our 2022-23 capital expenditure estimate to **\$3.2M**.
-

Background: See attached tables

Session Briefing Note

Supplementary Estimates 2022-23

DPT3

Spring 2023

Tourism and Culture

Supplementary Budget overview

Department of Tourism & Culture			
Operation & Maintenance (in \$000's)	2022-23 Voted to date	Supplementary No.2	2022-23 Revised Vote
COVID-19 Response	2,230	-	2,230
Corporate Services	2,778	-	2,778
Cultural Services Branch	14,725	506	15,231
Arts - Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-Grant program		98	
Heritage - Museums and Cultural Centres		218	
Historic Sites - Rest Stop Maintenance		190	
Tourism Branch	12,777		12,777
Total	32,510	506	33,016
Department of Tourism & Culture			
Capital (in \$000's)	2022-23 Voted to date	Supplementary No.2	2022-23 Revised Vote
COVID-19 Response	-	-	-
Corporate Services	10	-	10
Cultural Services Branch	2,975	(500)	2,475
Yukon Permanent Art Storage		(300)	
Interpretation and Signage		(200)	
Tourism Branch	675		675
Total	3,660	(500)	3,160

Department of Tourism and Culture Funding Programs

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Tourism Branch

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Advanced Artist Award (AAA)

Provides funding for creating, training, and developing the artistic skills of Yukon artists who have attained a senior level of practice. Funding assists with innovative projects, travel or educational pursuits. The award is available for all artistic disciplines, including First Nation traditional arts.

Eligibility: Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada, who have lived in the Yukon for at least one continuous year prior to the award deadline. In addition, an applicant must be considered to be an artist working at the advanced level and have a history of publicly-presented work. 'A' and 'B' level artists should show that their reach or impact extends beyond Yukon, while also contributing to Yukon culture.

Authority for the fund: Arts Act – Yukon Arts Policy

Decision-making: A peer jury of other advanced artists review applications for funding. The jury is different every intake.

Intake: Two application deadlines per year – April 1st and October 1st

Budget: \$150,000 available each year

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Up to \$5,000 for level B and up to \$10,000 for level A. A-level artists generally have a greater and farther reach of presentation than B-level artists.

Administration: Arts Unit

Arts Fund (AF)

Supports group projects that foster creative development and public engagement in the arts in the Yukon. Projects vary, but may include workshops, special initiatives, performances and event production.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include artist collectives, non-profit organizations, community associations, industry associations, First Nations governments, school councils, local advisory councils, and municipal governments planning an activity related to the literary, visual or performing arts.

Authority for the fund: Arts Act – Yukon Arts Policy.

Decision-making: The Yukon Arts Advisory Council reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minister.

Intake: Four application deadlines per year – the 15th of March, June, September and December.

Budget: \$500,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Applicants may request up to a maximum of 70% of eligible project expenses. The funding requested should be proportionate to the impact of the applicant's project and based on realistic figures.

Administration: Arts Unit

Arts Operating Funds (AOF)

To encourage the development of the arts and to enhance the contribution of the arts to the Yukon. To support arts organizations towards sustainable and effective planning, governance, and allocation of human and financial resources to meet their artistic mandates and activities. The fund consists of an Annual Operating Component and an Annual Project Component.

Eligibility - Operating Component: A Yukon non-profit society with on-going and year-round activities primarily engaged in literary, visual or performing arts activities AND activities of the society have a territorial impact.

OR

A society that is recognized as an umbrella arts organization AND activities of the society have a territorial impact (by numbers of individuals or communities).

Eligibility - Project Component: Yukon non-profit societies, First Nations, school councils, municipal governments, local advisory councils, and industry associations with an arts-focused project that meets the following criteria:

- The project fosters the creative development of the arts in the Yukon and supports the Yukon Arts Policy principles;
- The project is arts-focused, including literary, visual or performing arts; and,
- The project is an established annual activity (at least three years).

Authority for the fund: Arts Act – Yukon Arts Policy

Decision-making: The Yukon Arts Advisory Council reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minister.

Intake: One application deadline per year – February 15th

Budget: \$825,000 available each year

Applicant limits (maximums per project): There are no maximum funding amounts specified for the Arts Operating Funds; however, funding is competitive. Requests should be realistic and proportionate to the impact of the applicants' activities.

Administration: Arts Unit

Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund (new for 2023/24)

The fund is aimed at individuals active within the creative and cultural sector at various stages of their career to devote up to a full year developing their practice, with a focus on career growth. The intention is to accelerate and amplify their participation in the sector, increase business skills and industry knowledge, remove financial barriers for individuals, and facilitate a sharing and skills transfer component within the sector.

This fund will enable three individuals per year to immerse themselves in career growth and development, increase their potential for income generation, and take the steps needed to achieve their career goals.

Eligibility: Individuals active in the creative and cultural industries who are 18 years or older and have lived in the Yukon for at least three years. Considerations may be made for individuals who can clearly demonstrate strong and ongoing connections to the territory.

Authority for the Fund: Financial Administration Manual 5.9 - Government Transfers

Decision Making: A peer committee of individuals representing the creative and cultural industries. The committee is different every intake.

Intake: One intake per year, date TBD

Budget: \$150,000 per year

Applicant limits: Three individuals will be funded \$50,000 each

Administration: Arts Unit

Cultural Industries Training Funds (CITF)

Funding is intended to help the Yukon's cultural industries address training needs that allow for economic activity (e.g., employment or business opportunities) or to increase productivity and service in the *for-profit* or *labour force* component of the arts or cultural industries sector. This fund is aimed at the economic aspects of the industry, not the development of artistic skills.

Funds provided by the Department of Education.

Eligibility: All persons who have resided in the Yukon for a minimum of one year are eligible for support from the CITF. Commercial and not-for-profit organizations may apply.

Authority for the fund: Department of Education - Labour Market

Decision-making: A peer review committee comprised of cultural industries sector representatives

Intake: 15th of January, March, May, September

Budget: \$75,000 available each year

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Preference is given to projects requiring less than \$5,000 for individual training and less than \$8,000 for group training.

Administration: Arts Unit

Culture Quest (CQ)

Culture Quest is a funding program initially developed in 2004 to address art and culture presentation opportunities at large sporting events, such as the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, Canada Winter Games, and Pan American / ParaPan-American Games.

Objectives are to increase arts presentation capacity, particularly in rural and First Nation communities, support the intersection of arts and cultural practices or heritage, and to prepare and develop work to be showcased nationally or internationally. Culture Quest also supports First Nations cultural gatherings and festivals around the Yukon.

Eligibility: Individuals, not-for-profit organizations, companies, and collectives, living or registered in the Yukon, including representatives from First Nations, culturally diverse, arts, heritage, museums, and archives communities.

Not Eligible: Projects that qualify for other Yukon government grant programs: e.g., Arts Fund, Touring Artist Fund, Advanced Artists Award, Cultural Industries Training Fund, etc.

Authority for the fund: Yukon Arts Policy

Decision-making: Panel (FN rep, Community reps)

Intake: Applications accepted throughout the year

Budget: \$120,000 available each year. (An additional \$37,000 is directed to the Dawson City Arts Society for operational costs)

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Maximum award is \$10,000; there is also a microgrant option of up to \$1,000, where applicants can apply at any time.

Administration: Dawson City Arts Society (DCAS), also known as the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture (KIAC), until March 31, 2023. To be administered by Arts Unit in 2023-2024 until new community partner is found.

Express Micro-grant (new in 2022/23)

A flexible fund with simple application and reporting requirements, and quick turnaround times for approvals for short-term, economic and growth opportunities for those in the creative and cultural industries sector.

Eligibility: Emerging, established and professional artists, creatives, or people involved in the creative and cultural industries; artist collectives; non-profit societies registered in the Yukon that are in good standing; businesses; First Nation governments; and municipal governments that present activities centered around artists.

More specifically, this new program is aimed at those who have never received funding before, especially those who may find the funding world intimidating. This program prioritizes first-time applicants, and those from equity-deserving communities. This program provides quick responses to allow creatives to take advantage of opportunities.

Authority for the Fund: Financial Administration Manual 5.9 - Government Transfers

Decision Making: Internal review by the Arts Section, based on eligibility criteria. Applicants will be notified of the results in writing within 5 working days for Tier 1 and 10 working days for Tiers 2.

Intake: Ongoing with a minimum of \$12,500 available each month for distribution.

Budget: \$150,000 available for each fiscal year until March 31, 2024.

Applicant limits: Tier 1: Up to \$1,500; Tier 2: \$1,501 to \$5,000. Funding can cover 100% of eligible expenses.

Administration: Arts Unit

Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant (new in 2022/23)

A pilot to support Indigenous artists, arts workers and cultural carriers who are looking for small amounts of funding to for creation, performance, development and export activities.

There are two tiers of funding. It is designed as a flexible fund, with simple application and reporting requirements, and quick turnaround times for approvals. It is similar to the Express Micro-grant.

Eligibility: Emerging and established Indigenous Yukon artists, arts workers and cultural carriers who are either (1) from a Yukon First Nation and live in the Yukon; (2) have lived in Yukon for one continuous year at the time of application; or (3) from a Yukon First Nation who have previously lived in the Yukon, are Canadian residents, and maintain ties to the territory. Collectives can apply, provided all members of the group meet the eligibility criteria.

Authority for the Fund: Financial Administration Manual 5.9 - Government Transfers

Decision Making: Internal review by the Arts Unit, based on eligibility criteria. Applicants will be notified of the results in writing within 5 working days for Tier 1 and 10 working days for Tiers 2.

Intake: Ongoing with a minimum of \$12,500 available each month for distribution.

Budget: This program is fully funded through an MoU with the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) until March 31, 2024. \$50,000 available January 1 to March 31, 2023, and \$150,000 available for fiscal year 2023-24. CCA also provides full funding for the Indigenous Outreach Liaison position. There is currently no budget identified to continue the program or the position after March 31, 2024.

Applicant limits: Tier 1: Up to \$1,500; Tier 2: \$1,501 to \$5,000. Funding can cover 100% of eligible expenses.

New Canadians Event Fund (NCEF)

Provides funding for Yukon events and festivals that celebrate communities of new Canadians and their cultures, and that demonstrate community involvement.

Eligibility: Applicants must be a registered non-profit society based in the Yukon, who have primarily a cultural or multicultural mandate, or to be otherwise significantly engaged in cultural or multicultural activity. Applicants must have an interest in assisting new Canadians with their transition to living in the Yukon.

Authority for the fund: Arts Policy

Decision-making: The Department of Tourism and Culture, Arts Section reviews and assesses applications.

Intake: There are no deadlines for the fund. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

Budget: \$45,000 available each year

Applicant limits (maximum per project): Applicants may request up to 100% of eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$10,000 per Yukon Government fiscal year. Applicants may apply for more funding than one project per year, though previously-funded applicants may not receive additional funding until they have fully accounted for their previous funding.

Administration: Arts Unit

Touring Artist Fund (TAF)

Supports professional artistic tours by individuals or ensembles beyond the Yukon. Applicants must be invited to perform or exhibit their work through a professional selection process, which means the work is selected by jury or curated based upon its merit.

Eligibility: Yukon artists (must have lived in the Yukon for one continuous year prior to fund deadline), ensembles, or companies who create, produce or interpret art in theatre, dance, music, visual arts, film, storytelling, or a combination of art forms.

Authority for the fund: Arts Act – Yukon Arts Policy

Decision-making: The Yukon Arts Advisory Council reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minister.

Intake: Four application deadlines per year - the 15th of March, June, September and December.

Budget: \$100,000 available each year.

Applicant limits: The percentage of total project costs eligible for funding is not fixed, as the scale, range and potential impact of touring opportunities can vary significantly. Applicants may apply for up to a maximum of \$10,000 per tour.

Administration: Arts Unit

Historic Properties Assistance Program (HPA)

Funding to assist in the preservation of the many privately-owned historic properties in the Yukon. This funding program makes technical and financial assistance available to those individuals, community groups, societies, municipal and First Nations governments, and businesses who wish to undertake preservation, restoration, development and/or interpretation of their historic properties.

Eligibility: Sites that have historic significance and the project is in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

The applicant must be one of the following:

1. The owner; or
2. The long-term lessee. Written permission of the owner to undertake the proposed work is required; or
3. The group or individual generally recognized to have responsibility for, and control of, the site.

Authority for the fund: Yukon Historic Resources Act.

Decision-making: Historic Sites Unit staff.

Intake: One application deadline per year – March 1 at 5:00pm PST.

Budget: \$100,000 available each year.

Applicant limits: \$10,000 for most properties; \$20,000 for properties that are designated as national, territorial, or municipal historic sites. The program provides funding on a matching basis. Applicants may request up to a maximum of 50% of eligible project costs per year, per project. Complete applications will be reviewed first and be given funding priority.

Administration: Historic Sites Unit

Yukon Historic Resources Fund (YHRF)

Funding for projects that promote the study and interpretation of Yukon's historic resources and further the promotion, appreciation, preservation, and development of Yukon's heritage. The types of projects considered include archaeology, palaeontology, community museums, First Nations heritage or cultural centres, historic sites, First Nations language preservation, toponymy, and historical research.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include private citizens, groups (including societies, businesses, etc.), First Nations, and municipalities. Priority will be given to Yukon applicants over those applying from outside the territory.

Authority for the fund: *Yukon Historic Resources Act.*

Decision-making: The Yukon Heritage Resources Board reviews applications and provides funding recommendations to the Minister of Tourism and Culture.

Intake: One application deadline per year – March 15th at 5:00pm PST.

Budget: \$16,000 available each year.

Applicant limits: Will provide matching funding up to 50% of project costs to a maximum of \$10,000. While the total project value may exceed \$20,000, applications requesting more than \$10,000 will not be considered.

Administration: Historic Sites Unit

Museum Contribution Program (MCP)

Provides operational and maintenance support to eligible museums and First Nation cultural centres.

Eligibility: To apply your institution must be a recognized, eligible museum as defined by the 2005 Museum Strategy.

A museum:

- May be a non-profit institution or an institution governed by a non-profit society incorporated under the Yukon Societies Act, or by a municipal government, or by a Yukon First Nation.
- Is a permanent institution with the space required to carry out museological functions and which is mandated in the service of society and for its development.
- Functions to acquire, conserve, research, interpret, communicate, and exhibit the material evidence of Yukoners and their environment for the purposes of education, enjoyment, and cultural awareness.
- Is open to the public.

A museum must also:

- Be on the Department of Tourism and Culture's museums eligibility list (those museums currently receiving operational funding support from the department).

Authority for the fund: Yukon Museums Policy (1989)

Decision-making: Internal review (funding levels established in budget process).

Intake: February 2023 (every three years)

Budget: \$1,859,000 available each year

Applicant limits: N/A – operational, not project. Funding levels established in budget process.

Administration: Heritage Resources Unit

Special Projects Capital Assistance Program (SPCAP)

Provides eligible museums and First Nation cultural centres with project funding for exhibit planning/development assistance, small (specialized) capital acquisition or improvement projects, artifact inventory and cataloguing, small conservation projects, cooperative marketing ventures, and revenue-generating enhancement projects.

Eligibility: To apply, your institution must be a recognized, eligible museum as defined by the 2005 Museum Strategy.

A museum:

- May be a non-profit institution or an institution governed by a non-profit society incorporated under the Yukon Societies Act, or by a municipal government, or by a Yukon First Nation.
- Is a permanent institution with the space required to carry out museological functions, and which is mandated in the service of society and for its development.
- Functions to acquire, conserve, research, interpret, communicate, and exhibit the material evidence of Yukoners and their environment for the purposes of education, enjoyment, and cultural awareness.
- Is open to the public.

A museum must also:

- Be on the Department of Tourism and Culture's museums eligibility list (those museums currently receiving operational funding support from the department).

Authority for the fund: Yukon Museums Policy (1989)

Decision-making: Application Review Panel assesses applications and makes recommendations on funding

Intake: February

Budget: \$348,000 available each year

Applicant limits: Generally, there is a limit of \$20,000 per project. Detailed information explaining the specific circumstances of the project must accompany all funding requests in excess of \$20,000. Recipients in exceptional cases may receive financial assistance up to a maximum contribution of \$40,000 per project. There is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by an institution.

Administration: Heritage Resources Unit

Community Tourism Destination Development Fund (CTDD) (new in 2022/23)

Provides support for community projects across the Yukon that focus on sustainable tourism and improve tourism related services and infrastructure including accommodations, attractions, activities and amenities.

Special consideration will be given to umbrella projects where local organizations and businesses are working together to enhance or create tourism opportunities in their community.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Strengthen tourism capacity in communities across the Yukon as the tourism sector continues to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Grow tourism business revenues;
- Build capacity in the Yukon to provide outstanding visitor experiences; and
- Build and bolster healthy communities.

Eligibility: Yukon businesses, Yukon First Nations governments, Yukon First Nation Development entities, Yukon municipal governments and community societies or associations that are registered under the Yukon Societies Act and are either based in or serve Yukon communities.

Authority for the fund: Financial Administration Manual 5.9 - Government Transfers

Decision-making: Internal review

Intake:

- Tier 1: February 15 - projects with total budgets up to \$100,000
- Tier 2: March 15 – projects with total budgets between \$100,001 and \$500,000

Budget: \$1,000,000 available each year until March 31st, 2026.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): The program can cover up to 75 per cent of the total costs of the project and 50 per cent of eligible capital expenditures to a maximum of \$75,000 for Tier 1 and \$375,000 for Tier 2.

Administration: Industry Services Unit

Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF)

COVID-19 response funding for tourism businesses, Yukon municipalities, non-government organizations and First Nations governments offering tourism experiences and services to assist in the promotion and marketing of Yukon tourism experiences and services to residents and visitors alike. The program provides funding assistance for advertising projects, marketing projects, and travel-based activities.

Eligibility: Funding is available for market or trade-ready tourism businesses, municipalities, destination marketing organizations, and First Nations governments featuring tourism experiences and services.

In 2022-23 all eligible TCMF applicants can apply to the **Go Digital Yukon** program. The Go Digital Yukon program is intended to support the Yukon's tourism sector in developing and enhancing their online presence and digital capacity. Participants will receive a digital toolkit, interactive and pre-recorded workshops, one-on-one coaching, and up to \$3,000 in funding on top of the TCMF for digital marketing and content creation. NOTE: The funding provided through the Go Digital Yukon program is limited to the 2022/23 fiscal.

Authority for the fund: Financial Administration Manual 5.9 - Government Transfers

Decision-making: Internal review

Intake: On-going

Budget: The TCMF funding budget is \$700,000. The budget for client funding provided through the Go Digital Yukon is \$228,000, which is funded through the Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan (ends in 2022/23).

Applicant limit: For 2022-23, 60% of eligible expenses will be covered by TCMF and 40% will be covered by the applicant for traditional and online expenses. There are flat funding rates for travel-related activities. Restaurants and bars are eligible for up to \$2,000 (at 60/40).

Administration: Industry Services Unit

Funding program	Annual amount \$
Cultural Services	
Advanced Artist Award	150,000
Arts Fund	500,000
Arts Operating Fund	825,000
Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund	150,000
Cultural Industries Touring Fund	75,000
Culture Quest	120,000
Express Micro-grant	150,000
Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant	150,000
New Canadians Event Fund	45,000
Touring Artist Fund	100,000
Historic Properties Assistance Program	100,000
Yukon Historic Resources Fund	16,000
Museum Contribution Program	1,859,000
Special Projects Capital Assistance Program	348,000
Sub-total	4,588,000
Tourism	
Community Tourism Destination Development Fund	1,000,000
Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund	700,000
Sub-total	1,700,000
Total amount	6,288,000

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<u>Department of Tourism and Culture</u> <u>Stakeholder Annual Funding for 2023-24</u>					
2	NOTE: These figures are base funding only and do not include any additional specific project amounts					
3	Tourism:	Amount				
4	Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association	\$300,000	*also receive annual funding under Arts			
5	Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon	\$264,000				
6	Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon	\$219,000				
7	Yukon Convention Bureau	\$200,000				
8	Yukon Quest	\$150,000				
9	Sport Yukon	\$115,000				
10	Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous	\$100,000				
11	Air North Charter and Training Ltd.	\$75,000				
12	Association Franco Yukonnaise	\$50,000				
13						
14	Cultural Services:					
15	Council of Yukon First Nations (Heritage Working Group)	\$137,000				
16	Yukon Historical and Museums Association	\$80,000				
17						
18	Historic Sites:					
19	Selkirk First Nation (Fort Selkirk)	\$147,000				
20	Tr'ondek Hwech'in (Forty Mile)	\$95,000				
21	Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (Rampart House)	\$60,000				
22	Carcross Tagish First Nation (Conrad)	\$20,000				
23	Yukon Conservation Society (Canyon City)	\$18,000				
24						
25	Heritage:					
26	The Yukon Science Institute	\$20,000				
27						
28	Archives:					

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Department of Tourism and Culture</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Stakeholder Annual Funding for 2023-24</u></p>					
1						
29	Yukon Council of Archives	\$75,000				
30	Friends of the Yukon Archives Society	\$4,000				
31						
32	Arts:					
33	Yukon Arts Centre	\$927,680				
34	Dawson City Arts Society	\$459,000				
35	Northern Cultural Expressions Society	\$351,900				
36	Friends of Yukon Permanent Art Collection Society (acquisitions)	\$30,000				
37	Yukon Arts Centre (Old Fire Hall/Wharf)	\$175,000				
38	Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association	\$160,000				*also receive annual funding under Tourism
39	Guild Hall Society	\$108,000				
40	Yukon Art Society (Artist in the School Program)	\$100,000				
41	Yukon Film Society	\$89,000				
42	Yukon Art Society	\$82,000				
43	Gwaandak Theatre Society	\$75,100				
44	Nakai Theatre Ensemble	\$65,000				
45	Dawson City Music Festival Association	\$59,400				
46	The Heart of Riverdale Community Centre	\$50,000				
47	Whitehorse Concerts	\$39,300				
48	Jazz Yukon	\$33,700				
49	Junction Arts and Music Society	\$32,600				
50	The Community Choir of Whitehorse	\$30,900				
51	All-City Band Society	\$28,000				
52	Northern Lights School of Dance Society	\$28,000				
53	Yukon Bluegrass Music Society	\$28,000				
54	Blue Feather Musical Society	\$27,500				
55	Association franco-yukonnaise	\$20,000				
56	Longest Night Society	\$18,000				

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<p align="center"><u>Department of Tourism and Culture</u></p> <p align="center"><u>Stakeholder Annual Funding for 2023-24</u></p>					
57	Village of Mayo	\$8,000				
58	Northern Fibers Guild	\$2,500				
59						
60	Museums and Cultural Centres:					
61	MacBride Museum Society *	\$267,876				
62	Carcross/Tagish First Nation (Carcross/Tagish Learning Centre)	\$150,103				
63	Champagne Aishihik First Nation (Da Kų Cultural Centre)	\$150,103				
64	Kwanlin Dün First Nation (Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre)	\$150,103				
65	Dawson City Museum Society	\$150,103				
66	Teslin Tlingit Council (The Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre)	\$150,103				
67	Tr'ondek Hwech'in (Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre)	\$150,103				
68	The Yukon Transportation Museum Society	\$150,103				
69	Yukon Church Heritage Society (Old Log Church Museum)	\$92,371				
70	Keno Community Club (Keno Mining Museum)	\$57,732				
71	Kluane Museum of History Society	\$57,732				
72	Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (Tagé Cho Hudän Interpretive Centre)	\$57,732				
73	MacBride Museum Society (Copperbelt Railway and Mining Museum)*	\$0				
74	Selkirk First Nation (Big Jonathan House)	\$57,732				
75	The Teslin Historical & Museum Society (George Johnston Museum)	\$57,732				
76	Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (John Tizya Centre)	\$57,732				
77	Town of Faro (Campbell Regional Interpretive Centre)	\$46,186				
78	Town of Watson Lake (Northern Lights Centre)	\$46,186				
79	Village of Mayo (Binet House)	\$46,186				
80	*Note that MacBride Copperbelt funding has been amalgamated with MacBride Museum for one funding allotment					
81	Updated: March 31, 2023					

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Tourism Recovery

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Tourism indicators show that the Yukon's tourism industry is bouncing back strongly from the impacts of the pandemic. Despite the positive trend, we have not yet fully recovered to 2019 levels.
- The Yukon has been impacted by global geopolitical, economic and demographic factors that have affected all economies around the world, including our tourism economy and sector.
- Challenges have included travel delays and transportation delays, a lack of affordable housing, labour market shortages and inflationary pressures.
- We are working collaboratively with industry partners to address these set-backs. Modelling by Destination Canada shows Canada will likely recover to pre-pandemic levels of visitation in 2024.

Additional response:

- Yukon government's COVID-19 relief and recovery initiatives played a critical role in sustaining the Yukon's tourism industry through the pandemic, enabling the recovery that is now underway.
- Looking forward, we are placing a priority on working with industry partners to support community capacity and destination development.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The tourism sector is still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic, which may prompt questions about government actions to continue to support the recovery.

Background:

- From January to November 2022, approximately 135,000 passengers arrived at Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International airport. While this is

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Tourism Recovery

Tourism and Culture

up significantly over 2021 arrivals, it is 29% lower than 2019 arrivals for the same period.

- In terms of Yukon hotel occupancy rates, the rate for the month of November 2022 is 7.9 percentage points higher than November 2021 and 25.0 percentage points higher than 2020, and only 0.6 percentage points lower than 2019.

Relief and Recovery

- In December 2020, the department introduced the Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan (TRRP), a three-year plan and a \$15 million dollar investment to drive the recovery of the Yukon's tourism sector.
- The key TRRP programs were the **Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS)** and the **Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS)**.
- Between program launch in 2020 and March 31, 2022, \$1.6 million was distributed through TASS supports and \$5.65 million through TNASS supports.
- An additional \$1.9 million was distributed to the hospitality sector to alleviate the impact of COVID restrictions.

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Marketing

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The key marketing goal under the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy is to promote authentic travel experiences in a market-driven, consumer-focused manner that aligns with the values of Yukoners.
- The tourism sector has been greatly impacted by COVID-19 with visitation losses as high as 97% in 2020-21. However, as travel restrictions eased, pent-up demand for travel allowed visitation to the Yukon to vastly improve in 2023-24.
- The Yukon government is committed to supporting the tourism sector as we work together to propel the sector's recovery, together with our national tourism partner, Destination Canada, and partners and stakeholders in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Tourism Yukon actively markets in 14 countries around the world: Canada, USA, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, UK, Japan, Mexico, China, France, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.
- Tourism Yukon maintains sales offices in German-speaking Europe, the UK, Japan and Australia.
- The marketing budget in 2023-24 will show some reductions compared to 2022-23. This is the result of the reallocation of funds from marketing to destination development, including the new Community Tourism Destination Development Fund.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Some Yukon businesses and stakeholders may express concern over a reduced marketing investment in 2023-24.

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Marketing

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Background:

- Prior to the pandemic, the Yukon's tourism sector saw \$363 million in revenues attributable to tourism, generated from approximately 500,000 visitors. Marketing efforts are aimed at getting the industry back to these levels and beyond.
- The Marketing Unit budget includes \$754,000 in annual tourism NGO funding (i.e. WTAY, YCB, Sport Yukon, Yukon Quest, and AFY).
- The Marketing Unit also maintains an annual joint marketing investment with Air North in support of its marketing program. The investment of \$75,000 is matched by the airline.
- An enhanced marketing investment in Mexico and a new campaign promoting the Yukon as a winter travel / aurora-viewing destination in the US market is planned for 2023-24. The \$1.75M campaign includes a \$750K shared investment between Tourism Yukon, Tourism NWT, and Travel Manitoba and a \$1M investment by Destination Canada. The campaign will launch in late summer 2023. Travel Nunavut initially committed to a 250K co-investment in the campaign, however it later withdrew its participation.
- The TravelYukon.com website will be revamped by end of 2022-23. The total cost of the project is \$612,000, allocated over three fiscal years.

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Visitor Information Centres

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Recommended response:

- Visitor Information Centres (VICs) play a critical role in welcoming visitors and improving their Yukon experience, while encouraging visitors to spend more time and travel more widely in the Yukon.
- The six visitor information centres, located at highway and air entry points throughout the Yukon, are typically open from beginning of May until end of September. The Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre is the only centre open year-round.
- More than 200,000 visitors registered at Yukon VICs in summer 2022. During the height of the pandemic in the summer of 2021, 69,000 visitors registered at VICs around the territory. By comparison, in the summer of 2019, 360,000 visitors registered at the VICs.

Additional response:

- The staff complement is hired locally in each community to provide visitors with relevant expert information on the products and experiences available locally, as well as important travel, road and emergency safety information.
- Digital technologies and solutions are a necessity and expectation in the visitor experience. To that end, a total of eight, double-sided, 6' tall digital information kiosks will be installed across Yukon in a phased manner in 2023-24. Kiosks will include information about tourism businesses, upcoming events, transportation options and other travel updates.
- The first kiosk will be installed in the Skagway White Pass & Yukon Route train station this spring. The purpose is to inspire visitors to

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Visitor Information Centres

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come to Carcross via the train or an independent tour bus, car rental or other means on a day trip.

- We are currently determining where the other kiosks will be installed.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukon VICs are a critical component of the tourism industry and there may be interest in VIC visitation numbers as the sector recovers.

Background:

- Community VICs closed for the season on September 29. All VICs were closed on September 30, 2022, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, to support awareness and focus on healing. The VICs prepared material to help inform and educate visitors about the significance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- A number of our VICs operate through community partnerships.
 - The Haines Junction VIC is housed in Champagne-Aishihik First Nation's Da Kų Cultural Center, along with Parks Canada's Kluane National Park Visitor Centre.
 - The Dawson City VIC is shared with the Parks Canada VIC.
 - The Watson Lake VIC has been temporarily relocated to the Watson Lake Recreation Centre while options are explored for a permanent location in partnership with the Liard First Nation.

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Industry Services

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The department delivers industry services to the Yukon tourism sector through destination development support and sustainable tourism benchmarks, funding, and research.
- Key activities include:
 - Collaborating with businesses, organizations and communities;
 - Supporting capacity development for tourism stakeholders;
 - Conducting research and analytics, and producing reports;
 - Funding distribution; and
 - Representing the sector in land and resource planning.
- The department established the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework and in 2022 became a member of the United Nations' International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories;

Additional response:

- Current research and performance reporting initiatives by the Industry Services include:
 - Quarterly Yukon Tourism Visitation Reports;
 - The 2022/23 Yukon Visitor Exit Survey;
 - The 2023 Yukon Resident Perceptions of Tourism Survey;
 - The 2023 Yukon Business Survey; and
 - The 2022 Yukon Sustainable Tourism Report.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The tourism sector is still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic, which may prompt questions about government actions to continue to support the recovery.
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Background:

- Key initiatives by Industry Services Unit:
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Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Industry Services**Tourism and Culture

- Provides annual funding to the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon and Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association.
- Offers one-on-one counselling to tourism entrepreneurs, consultants, community development organizations, and NGOs, as well as planning and advice on tourism development projects.
- Established the Go Digital Yukon program and summit, which provides Yukon tourism stakeholders with training, coaching, funding and networking opportunities to enhance their online presence and use of digital tools.
- Establishing the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Working Group who will oversee the direction and implementation of the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework.
- Developing the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Dashboard to share a diverse set of data to help measure and monitor the impacts of tourism, which will launch in Spring 2023.
- Organizing and hosting the first Yukon Sustainable Tourism Summit, which will happen in May 2023.
- Established the Rugged Apprentices voluntourism initiative in partnership with Yukon communities to provide visitors an opportunity to work alongside community members to improve infrastructure and be immersed in local culture during the shoulder season.

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Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS)

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government has recognized the importance of the Yukon's tourism sector for many years now, illustrated by the release of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS) in 2018, a year before our federal partners released the national Tourism Growth Strategy.
- Through the YTDS we are pleased to play a role in sustainably growing tourism in the territory by working closely with our partners to advance the strategy's vision, goals and priorities.
- The Government of Yukon works closely with the federal government and national organizations including the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, Destination Canada and the Tourism Industry Association of Canada to implement national tourism strategies and initiatives.
- The YTDS remains relevant today, as it addresses the current pressing challenges of facilitating a robust and growing tourism industry, while also protecting the environment and addressing climate change.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The tourism sector is still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic, which may prompt questions about government actions to continue to support the recovery and an update on implementation of the YTDS.

Background:

- Key actions taken in 2022/23 to implement the YTDS include:
 - Establishing the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework (YSTF) and becoming a member of the United Nations' International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories; (see also T7 – Yukon Sustainability Framework and INSTO Membership)

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon Tourism Development
Strategy (YTDS)**

Tourism and Culture

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- Establishing the Community Tourism Destination Development fund; (see also T9 – Community Tourism Destination Development Fund)
 - Establishing the Rugged Apprentices voluntourism initiative in partnership with Yukon communities to provide visitors an opportunity to work alongside community members to improve infrastructure and be immersed in local culture during the shoulder season;
 - Establishing the Go Digital Yukon program and summit, which provides Yukon tourism stakeholders with training, coaching, funding and networking opportunities to enhance their online presence and use of digital tools;
 - Launching the 2022/23 Yukon Visitor Exit Survey to learn more about visitors to the territory;
 - Developing the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Dashboard to share a diverse set of data to help measure and monitor the impacts of tourism, which will launch in Spring 2023;
 - Implemented an in-Yukon Marketing Campaign targeting Yukoners to encourage them to book packaged Yukon tour packages and support them to invite their friends and family to the Yukon;
 - Developed and deployed an in-Yukon campaign to increase awareness of the 19 First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums across the Yukon during the summer of 2022;
 - Implemented four major marketing campaigns targeting Canadian consumers in our target markets;

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Yukon Tourism Development
Strategy (YTDS)**

Tourism and Culture

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- Implemented an international marketing program in 11 countries: USA, Mexico, German-speaking Europe (Germany, Switzerland, Austria), UK, The Netherlands, France, Australia, Japan, China.
 - Undertook a rebuild of the TravelYukon.com website for deployment in Q4 (2022-23);
 - Developed the Yukon Place Brand under the Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan. The work is being completed in phases:
 - Phase 1 – Project Scoping (Mar. – Apr. 2022)
 - Phase 2 – Assessment and Research, Brand Strategy Assessment, Conceptual / Creative development of brand strategy assets (May – early Nov. 2022)
 - Phase 3 – Production of brand guidelines, brand toolkit (website), brand video, investment attraction brochure
 - Phase 4 - grassroots stakeholder workshops (March 2023)

(see HOT3 – Place Brand Strategy Development)

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB)

Spring 2023

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) is an important outcome of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy. Established in March 2020, the Board's primary function is to advise the Minister on the implementation of the YTDS.
- With the onset of the pandemic, YTAB became instrumental in advising on ways to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the tourism industry. YTAB provided 39 recommendations to government to help mitigate COVID-19 impacts and to position the Yukon's tourism sector for recovery.
- As we have moved past pandemic relief to a focus on recovery and destination development, the role of YTAB as an advisory body is evolving.

Additional response:

- We are currently working with YTAB to review its Terms of Reference to better position the Board to support the new, post-pandemic realities facing the tourism industry. A schedule of meetings over the next year is also being developed.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- YTAB's role is evolving from the role it took on during the pandemic. Some stakeholders will want re-assurance that YTAB is getting back to the mandate that was envisioned for YTAB before the pandemic struck.
-

Session Briefing Note
Yukon Tourism Advisory
Board (YTAB)

Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture**Background:**

- YTAB members are recruited through the Yukon government's Boards and Committees process and appointed to represent a range of stakeholders and perspectives.
- YTAB has been designated as a Category C Yukon government board. The Category C designation is consistent with a Board that makes decisions or recommendations with a medium-to-high impact on government or the public. Board costs such as per diems and travel are covered within the existing Tourism and Culture budget.

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Spring 2023

Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework (YSTF) and INSTO Membership

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework is an important tool in measuring conditions and making progress towards sustainable tourism in the territory.
- Key actions include:
 - Developing the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Dashboard, which will make tourism-related data available online for the public. The dashboard will launch this Spring.
 - Establishing the Yukon Sustainable Tourism working group that will oversee the framework and advise on priority issue areas. The group includes 13 representatives from tourism organizations, municipalities, other Government of Yukon departments and Yukon First Nations organizations.
 - Planning the first Yukon Sustainable Tourism Summit for Spring 2023 where results of the framework will be shared and discussed by the sector and technical experts.

Additional response:

- To support and advance the Framework, the Yukon has become a member of the UN's International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO).

Context—this may be an issue because:

- People may be curious about the status of the framework and the initiatives the department has undertaken since the framework was developed.

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Spring 2023

Yukon Sustainable Tourism Framework (YSTF) and INSTO Membership

Tourism and Culture

Background:

- Establishing the YSTF was a goal of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy, as well as the *Our Clean Future* strategy. It was endorsed by Canada's national tourism authority, Destination Canada, as well as numerous Yukon-based tourism organizations.
- The YSTF measures annual conditions across 17 key elements of tourism, including resource management; governance; economy; environment; and people and culture.
- To support and advance the Framework, the Yukon has become a member of the UN's International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO).
- INSTO is a network of 31 tourism destinations across the globe committed to monitoring the impacts of tourism on tourism destinations. The Yukon is the second Canadian INSTO member, and the first north of 60.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Tourism Industry Labour Needs**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government recognizes the labour shortage in the Yukon is impacting the tourism sector. In calls with tourism ministers across Canada, every jurisdiction has identified this as one of the most pressing issues facing the industry.
- Yukon government has a number of initiatives in place through the department of Economic Development to help address labour market shortages:
 - The Staffing UP program offers funding to Yukon employers to aid in recruiting, training and retaining staff.
 - A 10-year Immigration Strategy, which was developed with extensive consultation with Yukoners.
 - The Community Program stream of the Yukon Nominee Program and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Philippines on immigration.

Additional response:

- On a federal level, the Government of Canada has dedicated new resources to address the immigration backlog since early 2022 and implemented adjustments to the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program that relaxed the rules and allowed employers to bring in more temporary workers from abroad since April 30, 2022.
- A Recruitment and Retention Task Force was established by the Yukon Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon. We look forward to the recommendations this body will make.

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Tourism Industry Labour Needs

Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Many tourism businesses continue to experience significant challenges with recruiting and retaining employees.

Background:

- Recruiting, training and retaining staff across all tourism sectors were challenges prior to COVID-19. These were identified as priorities to address in the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy.
- We are committed to working with industry, the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board, other Yukon government departments, and the federal government to find sustainable solutions.
- Canada as a country has been facing a persistent labour shortage averaging roughly 1 million unfilled jobs since the final quarter of 2021, which is 80% higher than pre-pandemic levels.
- Canada's immigration application backlog also hit a historic high in August 2022.

Session Briefing Note

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Community Tourism Destination Development Fund

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- In October 2022, the department announced a new \$1 million Community Tourism Destination Development Fund to support community projects across the Yukon that focus on sustainable, community-driven tourism initiatives.
- 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.
- Interest has been very high to date, with the department receiving 20 applications for Tier 1 and 24 applications for Tier 2 from seven different communities. The projects range from building new infrastructure to developing new experiences.

Additional response:

- Businesses and organizations can apply under Tier 1 for projects with total budgets up to \$100,000 and under Tier 2 for projects with total budgets between \$100,001 and \$500,000.
- The annual deadlines for Tier 1 and 2 applications is February 15 and March 15, respectively.
- Applications are assessed on:
 - relative community impact;
 - immediate readiness or ability to begin contributing to destination development;

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Spring 2023

Community Tourism Destination Development Fund

Tourism and Culture

- projects that provide long-term sustainable benefits; and
 - innovation in the approach to partnership and community building.
 - The timelines for funding decisions are:
 - within 30 business days for Tier 1; and
 - within 45 business days for Tier 2.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The fund is new and there may be questions about it.
-

Background:

- The development of outstanding visitor experiences, coupled with leveraging and expanding existing seasonal and community capacity was identified as a pillar of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy.
- The department identified a gap in funding for businesses and organizations who were developing sustainable visitor services and infrastructure and, as a result, created the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund. The fund has budget approval until March 31, 2026.
- Support for destination development offered through the program will help communities realize some of the opportunities from increased tourism visitation and rebuild capacity lost during the pandemic.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Carcross and Tourism**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The department recognizes the challenges and opportunities for responsible tourism development and management in Carcross and provides support to address issues as they arise.
- As part of a pilot project, Tourism and Culture is investing in projects identified by Carcross businesses and organizations that support broader destination and community development. Funding was provided to:
 - Carcross Tagish Limited Partnership to develop a Master Plan for the Carcross Commons with the goal of increasing visitor capacity and visitor experiences;
 - Cabin Fever Adventures to develop a staff housing unit for tourism sector workers in the community;
 - Caribou Crossing to re-brand and develop and implement a marketing strategy to diversify their audience); and
 - Caribou Hotel to upgrade their 11 hotel rooms, the kitchen, the restaurant and the saloon.

Additional response:

- The department also:
 - Worked with Highways and Public Works to improve signage on the public restrooms in the community;
 - Worked with local businesses to improve the route for large buses in the community;
 - Is organizing Tourism Cafés to discuss issues and opportunities with Carcross tourism stakeholders.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Carcross and Tourism

Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The community of Carcross has mixed views on the benefits of tourism. It is important to demonstrate that Tourism and Culture is aware of issues in Carcross and is committed to managing them and supporting the community.
-

Background:

- Our partners in Carcross see tourism as having great potential, but they want it to be better managed – with more direct benefits to local businesses and residents.
- Consistent with the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS), the Yukon government has a key role in supporting tourism in Carcross and ensuring the destination is managed sustainably.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Digital Enhancement Support for Tourism

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The pandemic accelerated the necessity of digital technologies and solutions in the tourism sector. To acknowledge this adaptation, the department conducted an audit to assess the local tourism sector's adoption and use of digital solutions and platforms.
- This project will give a snapshot of the industry's digital "readiness". The results will inform future programming and funding by the department.
- In addition to the audit, the department launched Go Digital Yukon, which provides tourism stakeholders with:
 - A digital media toolkit with templates and tools for digital marketing plan and tactics;
 - Online workshops led by digital marketing experts;
 - 1-on-1 coaching with a digital expert to give guidance and provide customized solutions; and
 - Up to \$3,000 in funding to use towards digital marketing content creation.
- As of January 1, 2023, almost 90 Yukon tourism partners have enrolled in and/or are participating in the Go Digital Yukon program.
- The total budget for the program is \$300,000, with \$72,000 allocated for the learning resources and services and \$228,000 allocated to funding for the tourism partners' digital marketing enhancements.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The tourism sector, in the Yukon and globally, have been facing challenges adapting to the digital economy and the rapid changes in the digital space.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Digital Enhancement Support for Tourism

Tourism and Culture

Background:

- The evolution happening in the digital space is impacting the tourism sector and it is very difficult for small businesses to keep up with the changes and make the most of online opportunities.
- In Spring 2022, Destination Canada launched Canada's Tourism Renaissance: Our Strategy for Recovery, which specifically highlighted the need for sector digitization.
- In addition to the programs offered by the department, the federal government launched the Digital Adoption Program to help small to medium-sized businesses become more digitally evolved.
- Information about this program has been shared with the tourism sector as well.
- The first Go Digital Tourism Summit was held on January 31, 2023. The in-person event, held in partnership with Yukonstruct and TIA Yukon, had over 70 participants attend representing a range of tourism and tourism-related businesses.
- Topics at the Summit included tourism-specific digital strategy; online branding; social media; and more.
- Attendees also had the opportunity to network with Yukon-based digital service providers and funders.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Whitehorse Airport Airside Improvements****Highways and Public Works****Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is making crucial investments to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of Yukoners with safe and reliable aviation infrastructure for years to come.
- A number of improvements to the airside of Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport are needed to replace aging infrastructure and keep the airport up to standard.
- This work will ensure the airport can support the current and future airport operations.
- The improvements include work on the main runway, upgrading the parallel runway, developing airport land for commercial uses and replacing the apron panels.

Additional response: Taxiway upgrades

- The reconstruction of the apron concrete panels is complete.
- Upgrades to the parallel runway will be substantially complete in 2023. In addition, the realignment, paving and lighting of Taxiway G is also expected to be completed in 2023.
- During this construction, Highways and Public Works will continue to work with our aviation partners to ensure that arriving international flights will continue and receive the best service possible.

Additional Response: YG v. Norcope Enterprises Ltd. Judgement

- The previous apron replacement project completed in 2014 has been the subject of legal proceedings between the Yukon government and the constructor, Norcope Enterprises Ltd. since 2017.

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2023

Whitehorse Airport Airside Improvements

Highways and
Public Works

-
- On November 14, 2022, the Supreme Court of Yukon released its decision that Norcope has been ordered to pay the Yukon government \$2.3 million in damages.

Additional Response: Maintenance Facility

- Planning work is underway for the replacement of the airport maintenance facility, which is critical to the operation of the airport.
- The new facility is being considered in a location that maximizes the land available for commercial aviation operators at the airport.

Additional Response: Airport Runway Tender

- The tender to reconstruct the main runway was advertised on October 12, 2022, and closed on February 22, 2023.
- The department is still working through the evaluation process and, as such, cannot provide additional information at this time.
- We will update the parties involved, including Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, once we have information we can share on this project.

Additional Response: General

- Yukon's aviation system is essential for connecting our communities, building our economy and linking the Yukon with the rest of the world.
- The Yukon government continues to make strategic investments to keep our aerodromes and airports safe and open for business.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There are numerous airside projects happening at the Whitehorse Airport over the coming years.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Whitehorse Airport Airside
Improvements****Highways and
Public Works**

Background:

- A major patching program was undertaken in 2017 for the main runway, which was primarily aimed at reducing potential foreign object debris.
- A Hot-In-Place asphalt recycling rehabilitation was completed in 2018, which was estimated to extend runway life by an additional five years. This allowed time for the options analysis and planning of a more robust surface treatment, including subsurface drainage and lighting.
- The construction tender for the realignment, paving and lighting of Taxiway G, and associated improvements to lease parcel servicing was awarded, and work started in spring 2022.
- The construction tender to upgrade the parallel runway was awarded to Terus Construction Ltd and Skookum Asphalt for approximately \$21 million. Construction began last spring. It is now substantially complete with a few seasonal deficiencies.
- Planning for work on the main runway is currently underway.
- In summer 2022, pavement friction results for the main runway began to decline to levels which triggered remedial action.
- In 2022, a surface texturing treatment was performed to restore the main runway to an acceptable condition.

Session Briefing Note

Arts and Culture Recovery

Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The creative and cultural sectors are important contributors to the socio-economic life of Yukoners. While there were significant setbacks and financial hardships, the challenges presented by the pandemic have resulted in innovative and new ways of creating, performing, and engaging, which we expect will continue as part of a longer-term adaptation.
- Throughout the pandemic, Yukon government supported the creative and cultural sectors through enhanced funding opportunities and new temporary programs. Some examples include:
 - In 2021-22, the department made an additional \$500,000 available for public events through the *On Yukon Time: Great Yukon Summer Edition*.
 - In 2022-23, the department widened the scope of eligibility for the Touring Artist Fund, including support for tours within Yukon.
 - Throughout the period impacted by COVID-19, the department has maintained a high level of flexibility in our funding agreements.
- In *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries*, the strategy outlines 10 priority actions as a Phase 1, which focuses on the actions that support the sector's recovery.

Additional response:

- On September 1, 2022, the department launched the new Express Micro-grant funding program, one of the Phase 1 actions. The Micro-

Session Briefing Note

Arts and Culture Recovery

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Tourism and Culture

grant program aims to increase access to funding for first-time applicants and applicants from equity-deserving communities.

- In January 2023, the department launched the *Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant* funding program, modelled after the *Express Micro-grant*, but intended to specifically support artists, arts workers and cultural carriers who identify as Indigenous. The program is a novel partnership between Canada Council for the Arts and the Government of Yukon.
- In March 2023, the department launched the *Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund*, which supports artists and cultural workers to focus on their career development and increases their potential to earn a substantial amount of their income from their practice. (see also DPT 4 Funding programs)

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The creative and cultural industries, the third funding program (Action 1.4 sector-specific fund), was launched in March 2023 – it is a new fund.
- The sector continues to be affected by the pandemic, and inflationary pressures.

Background:

- Implementing the creative and cultural industries strategy (see also C6 Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries strategy) is a primary contributor to recovery initiatives. New types of funds, more funding, improved funding access, and marketing will all support growth in the industries.

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Archives

Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Since 1972, Yukon Archives has acquired, preserved, and provided access to the Yukon's written, visual and audio records.
- The community celebrated the 50th anniversary of Yukon Archives in December 2022 in a number of ways, including social media initiatives, guest speakers, and a well-attended open house. A new Artist in Residence opportunity has been launched to mark the occasion as well.
- Yukon Archives partners with First Nations citizens, organizations, and governments on a number of initiatives, such as: increasing accessibility of the materials; improving accuracy of record descriptions; and sharing expertise on preserving and managing archival records.

Additional response:

- The Yukon's documentary heritage is a source of pride for Yukoners, and we encourage researchers and citizens to connect with Yukon Archives to learn about this treasure trove of material.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The archival community in the Yukon is deeply committed to the preservation of the Yukon's documentary heritage and periodically raises questions or issues with the Minister.

Background:

Key facts

- Yukon Archives holds a variety of records, including government and non-government records and a library of published materials.
- The Archives Act:
 - Designates Yukon Archives as the official repository for records;

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Archives

Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture

- Grants the authority to acquire, preserve, and provide access to the Yukon's documentary heritage; and
- Mandates that Yukon Archives authorize final dispositions for all Government of Yukon records.

About the collections

- Holdings at Yukon Archives include letters, diaries, manuscripts, photos, films, videos, sound recordings, maps, architectural drawings, books, and newspapers.
- Yukon Archives has exhibits on display and available for loan.
- Exhibits are available for viewing online, and periodically in the Yukon Archives exhibition room, or at Arts Underground.

Digitization and Digital Preservation

- Yukon Archives is working on the digitization of video and sound recordings to address media format obsolescence, as well as building a program to preserve born-digital materials.

Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN)

- Yukon Archives has provided secure storage for CYFN archival records since 2002.
- Since 2017, CYFN has undertaken a project to identify, arrange and describe these records. Yukon Archives provides office space and support.

Yukon Archives stakeholders

- Friends of the Yukon Archives Society (FOYAS) works with Yukon Archives to acquire, preserve, and provide access to the Yukon's documentary heritage.
- Yukon Archives is entering into its seventh year of funding and providing support to the YCA's Community Archivist, who provides advice to archives throughout the territory on the preservation and management of records.

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Arts

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Arts Unit is mandated to foster the development and enhancement of the arts in the Yukon. Over \$4 million is invested each year to support the Yukon's arts sector, including \$2 million in applicant-driven funding.
- In 2022-2023, Yukon government funded 178 organizations, projects, and activities through the Arts Fund, Arts Operating Fund, Touring Artist Fund, Advanced Artist Award, Culture Quest, Cultural Industries Training Fund, New Canadians Event Fund, Express Micro-grant and Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant.
- The department launched a new *Express Micro-grant* funding program on September 1, 2022, which addresses action 1.5 of *Creative Potential*, the Yukon's creative and cultural industries strategy (CCIS).
- The *Express Micro-grant* is a rolling intake with \$150,000 available annually to support the creative and cultural sector to respond swiftly to unique and timely opportunities.
- From September 2022 to March 2023 there were 38 recipients of the *Express Micro-grant*, located in Whitehorse, Watson Lake, Mayo, Carcross and Dawson City.
- The department also launched the *Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant* funding program on January 1, 2023. This is a partnership initiative between the Canada Council for the Arts and the Government of Yukon and mirrors the *Express Micro-grant*, but is available specifically for Indigenous applicants.

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Spring 2023**Arts**Tourism and Culture

- From January to March 2023 there were 15 recipients of the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant, located in Whitehorse, Watson Lake, Carcross and Dawson City.
- In December 2022, a new Indigenous Outreach Liaison position was created. This position is currently based in Dawson City and is tasked with helping Indigenous artists, cultural carriers navigate funding opportunities and support them in the application processes.
- In March 2023, Yukon government announced a new funding program starting in 2023-24. The Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund will support three individuals for up to a full year with \$50,000 to support their creative or cultural career and business skill development.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and the Canada Council for the Arts co-hosted the third international Arctic Arts Summit in Whitehorse, Yukon. The summit took place from June 27-29, 2022, to coincide with the Adäka Cultural Festival. This is the first time it was hosted in Canada.
- In 2021, the Yukon Permanent Art Collection (YPAC) celebrated 40 years. YPAC now holds over 500 original works of art and is displayed in more than 30 locations around the Yukon. The Yukon Arts Centre storage vault, where the majority of the collection is stored, has reached capacity. (see also – C8 Arts and Heritage Collections Facility).
- In addition to its funding programs, the Arts Unit directly funds four organizations: Yukon Arts Centre, Dawson City Arts Society (also known as the Klondike Institute of Art & Culture), Northern Cultural

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Arts

Tourism and Culture

Expressions Society and Yukon First Nations Culture & Tourism Association.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is currently not enough adequate storage to house and care for the art collections, hindering the ability to purchase more works in the future and add locations to our rotation program.
- Artists and arts organizations continue to struggle to recover from COVID-19, and manage inflationary pressures. The capacity of arts organizations and their ability to retain qualified staff is a common challenge.

Background:

The Arts Unit in the Cultural Services Branch:

- Provides funding to artists, organizations, and collectives and fosters professional development;
- Helps Yukon artists access their audiences on territorial, national and international stages;
- Helps preserve and celebrate our cultural legacy through the Yukon Permanent Art Collection, public art and other government art collections;
- Is committed to creating meaningful partnerships and providing support for Indigenous arts practices, and
- Helps Yukon visual artists and craftspeople connect with audiences through Visual Art and Craft Strategy initiatives.

The department delivers ten funding programs for artists, arts events and organizations:

- Arts Fund, Arts Operating Fund, Touring Artist Fund, Advanced Artist Award, Culture Quest, Cultural Industries Training Fund, New Canadians Event Fund, Express Micro-grant, Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant, Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund.

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Spring 2023

Heritage, Museums and First Nation Cultural Centres

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Government of Yukon is committed to supporting the protection, preservation, and interpretation of the Yukon's human and natural history, in partnership with Yukon First Nations and other organizations.
- As climate change and development activities impact our northern landscape, we are working diligently with Yukon First Nations to collect, manage, study, and interpret the heritage resources encountered as part of these changes.
- We are pleased to support 19 Yukon First Nations cultural centres and museums through funding and the provision of specialized advice and expertise in collections management and conservation.

Additional response:

- The Yukon is home to fascinating and internationally significant archaeological artifacts and palaeontological specimens. Protecting, preserving, and interpreting the Yukon's heritage resources is critical for scientific research and sharing Yukon's stories.
- Government of Yukon, along with museums, cultural centres, and Yukon First Nations have developed a draft Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums Policy. (see also C13 Museums and First Nations Cultural Centres Policy)

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The significant scientific discoveries in the Yukon are frequently in the media and often of high public interest.
- A new Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums Policy is under development.

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Spring 2023

Heritage, Museums and First Nation Cultural Centres

Tourism and Culture

Background:

Archaeology/Palaeontology Programs:

- The preservation of organic materials in alpine areas (ice patches) is exceptional in southern Yukon and, as a result, artifacts have remained intact in snow and ice for thousands of years.
- Palaeontological specimens that have been preserved in permafrost for more than 10,000 years are being unearthed in the Klondike goldfields as a result of partnerships with miners.

Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums:

- Government of Yukon supports eight First Nation cultural centres, three municipal museums and eight not-for-profit museums and operates Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre.
- Two YG funding programs support museums and cultural centres totaling over \$2 million annually. (see also DPT4 Funding Programs)

Yukon Geographical Place Names:

- Government of Yukon recognizes the importance of traditional names used by Yukon First Nations people for geographic features and areas.
- Work is underway with Yukon First Nations through the Yukon Geographical Place Names Program to record and name geographical features throughout the Yukon.

Yukon Scientists and Explorers Act:

- The Yukon Scientists and Explorers Act states that anyone entering the Yukon to carry out scientific research requires a license. Research carried out for commercial purposes is exempt. The department is responsible for licensing under the Act.

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Spring 2023

Historic Sites

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Government of Yukon works closely with Yukon First Nations governments and communities to support the research, conservation, and interpretation of our historic places.
- Yukon is the only Canadian jurisdiction that has co-owned and co-managed historic sites with self-governing First Nations.
- These include: Rampart House and LaPierre House with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; Fort Selkirk with Selkirk First Nation; Conrad with Carcross Tagish First Nation, and Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy & Fort Constantine with Trondëk Hwëch'in (see table below for full list).

Additional response:

- In 2022, an improved renewable energy system was installed at Fort Selkirk. A renewable energy system is also planned for Forty Mile Historic Site and Rampart House Historic Site in 2023. These are part of Our Clean Future implementation.
- The department's interpretive program develops interpretive panels for historic sites, rest stops, and self-guided walking tours in collaboration with communities and First Nations.
- A new "Sights and Sites" app was launched last year which provides information on over 200 points of interest, including historic sites, campgrounds, wildlife viewing locations and interpretive spots along Yukon Highways.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukon Historic Sites are tangible expressions of the Yukon's history and heritage and are valued and enjoyed by Yukoners, who often advocate for the protection, interpretation, and conservation of the sites.

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Spring 2023

Historic Sites

Tourism and Culture

Background:

- The Historic Sites Unit administers the Yukon Historic Resources Fund, the Historic Properties Assistance Fund and the Heritage Trails program to provide funding for the study, conservation, development and interpretation of historic sites and trails. (see also DPT 4 Funding Programs)
- There are 11 Yukon Historic Sites and 22 municipal historic sites designated under the *Historic Resources Act*. The Rampart House Yukon Historic Site **period of notice of intent end April 25, 2023.**
- Priority projects for 2023/24 include:
 - Design and installation of new Welcome to Yukon signs at key gateway locations.
 - A contract for log conservation and teaching at Robinson Roadhouse, Building 1, Block2.
 - Lifting and stabilizing the Community House on Herschel Island.
 - Work with Yukon First Nations, municipalities, and stakeholders to document historic places throughout the Yukon for interpretation, development assessment review and understanding. Specifically, continued documentation of sites on Yukon's North Slope with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.
 - **Launch the newly completed Beaver Creek Walking Tour**

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Historic Sites

Tourism and Culture

First Nation	Site Name	Co-owned ¹	Co-managed ²	Designated a Yukon Historic Site under the Historic Resources Act	Mineral rights withdrawn	Notes
Selkirk First Nation	Fort Selkirk	✓	✓	August 6, 2010.	✓	Management Plan, Interpretation Plan (2004), Preservation Plan complete. Updated Heritage Management Plan approved June 2021.
First Nation of the Nacho Nyak Dun	Lansing Post	No (NND R-13B)	No	Pending confirmation from NND to go forward.	NND R-13B Category B land	Management Plan complete, signed by Chief and Minister, February 2018.
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy, Fort Constantine	Yes (Pending transfer of private lot)	✓	Waiting for confirmation from TH to go forward with designation.	✓	Pending status of private lot within the site. Correspondence with owner and legal review ongoing. Management Plan, Interpretation Plan (2007), complete. Management Plan (2006) due for update.
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation	Rampart House LaPierre House	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	Nomination underway.	✓ ✓	Management Plan (1999), Interpretive Signage Graphic Design Guidelines (Rampart House 2007, LaPierre House 2016). Draft Management Plan complete completed March 2023.
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Tagish Post	✓	✓	Can go forward if CTFN interested	✓	Will be considered by CTFN after Conrad Management Plan is completed. Dependent on resources of YG and CTFN

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Historic Sites

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Tourism and Culture

First Nation	Site Name	Co-owned	Co-managed	Designated a Yukon Historic Site under the Historic Resources Act	Mineral rights withdrawn	Notes
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Conrad	✓	✓	Once title is raised, can designate	✓	Heritage Management Plan complete (2021). Interpretation Plan 2021. Interpretive Manual complete (2021).
Kwanlin Dūn First Nation	Canyon City	No (YG land)	✓	Can go forward if KDFN interested	✓	Dependent on interest of KDFN to move forward and available resources of YG and KDFN. Interpretation Plan complete (1995).
Champagne Aishihik First Nation	Sha'washe ³	No (CAFN R-8A)	✓	Dependent on recommendation through development of Management Plan		Dependent on interest of CAFN to move forward and available resources of YG and CAFN.

¹ Co-owned: The site will have two owners, in which fee simple title is accorded (raised) in respect of both parties as tenants in common.

² Co-managed: Applicable schedules to Chapter 13 of the FAs, specifies that management plans for the sites be developed for final approval by the Minister and the First Nation. And, are subject to dispute resolution under 26.3 if they can't come to agreement.

³ Sha'washe: Identified as a Special Management Area under Chapter 10 of the CAFN Final Agreement.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

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

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

- Approximately \$500,000 was allocated to new initiatives starting in fiscal year 2022/23, and we have implemented four key actions, with more underway.
- In 2023-24, three new programs will provide an additional \$450,000 to the creative and cultural sectors. These are the: Express Micro-grant, the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant, and the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund. (see DPT 4 Funding Programs)
- An expanded professional development workshop series was offered by the department in 2022-23, and further industry development is planned for 2023/24.

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

Tourism and Culture

- Government of Yukon, along with museums, cultural centres, and Yukon First Nations has also developed a draft Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums Policy, a priority action in *Creative Potential*. (see also C13 Museums and First Nations Cultural Centres Policy)
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Action 1.4 (sector specific fund) has not yet been delivered, and there may be questions on its status.
-

Background:

- The Yukon's 2018 Culture GDP was \$59.7 million, representing 2% of the total territorial economy. Canada's 2018 Culture GDP was \$56.1 billion, representing 2.7% of Canada's total economy. Moving Yukon to 2.7% through implementation of this strategy will increase Yukon's GDP by \$21 million per year.
- The creative and cultural industries sector encompasses the creation, production, promotion, distribution and commercialization of cultural goods, as well as the labour force and institutions required to support it.
- Yukon has the third-highest concentration of artists in the country (1.14%) and the highest concentration of cultural workers (5.3%) in Canada (2016).

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Dawson City Museum (Old
Territorial Administration Building)**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government is supporting the revitalization of the Old Territorial Administration Building in Dawson City, a designated National Historic Site of Canada.
- This project will improve the energy performance of the building and will assist in extending the life of this important asset.
- The Dawson City Museum Society has received federal funding to upgrade its exhibits. The Departments of Highways and Public Works and Tourism and Culture are working collaboratively with the society to plan the project and expand exhibit space to the second floor.

Additional response:

- The project is progressing in phases to minimize disruptions to the museum's operations.
- Phase 1 of the work is now complete. This included flooring and structural work that allowed the Dawson City Museum to install new display cabinetry.
- Phase 2 was awarded in May 2022 to Wildstone Construction Ltd. and is currently underway with the work expected to be complete by summer 2023. There have been no change orders to date. Phase 2 includes a new roof, a new sprinkler system, exterior painting and structural upgrades in the attic.
- Phase 3 is planned to start in summer 2023 which will include a re-constructed and heated crawlspace, exterior ramps and stairs, landscaping, drainage work, a revitalized parking lot and a new water service.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Dawson City Museum (Old
Territorial Administration Building)**Highways and
Public Works

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Old Territorial Administration Building is a well-known historic landmark in Dawson City.
-

Background:

- The Old Territorial Administration Building is a historically significant property both for its architecture and because it was the territory's administrative building from 1901 to 1952. It is also the oldest insured Yukon government building.
- The building currently houses the Dawson City Museum, Dawson City Court and Environment Yukon offices.
- The government purchased the property in 1976 and undertook a major renovation including some exterior work in the 1980s.
- There is a co-management agreement in place between Highways and Public Works and Tourism and Culture to preserve heritage properties such as this one.
- Projects scheduled for this building include:
 - a roof upgrade and exterior painting;
 - structural enhancements to the second floor;
 - retrofits to enhance the building's energy performance; and
 - upgrades to the building's fire protection systems.
- In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the department spent \$1.365 million on design work and building rehabilitation.
- Future work packages are required to complete the remaining improvements which will include mechanical and electrical system replacements, new windows and interior renovations.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Arts and Heritage Collection Facility

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Department of Tourism and Culture has a legislated and ethical responsibility to provide the proper care for heritage and art collections that we hold in public trust.
- Many items in our collections are irreplaceable and globally-significant. A number of items are held in care on behalf of Yukon First Nations.
- The department with assistance from Highways and Public Works, has been pursuing a new combined facility for Yukon government's art and heritage collections. Combining storage creates efficiencies and provides specialized and more accessible storage.
- Once funding is secure, the design of the facility will occur with the participation of Yukon First Nations and other partners.

Additional response:

- The current storage facilities are very deficient and present medium to high risk of deterioration or damage to the collections.
- Over the next year, we are continuing to proceed with confirming location, advancing site planning and design for this new facility.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The capital dollars for an arts and heritage collections facility are no longer included in the five-year capital plan or the 2023/24 budget.
- The department has been working with Highways and Public Works for a number of years on this project. We identified a potential site along the Alaska highway that is Kwanlin Dün First Nation land, and a conceptual site plan was developed.
- At the request of Yukon University and the previous Minister of Tourism and Culture, we also explored a potential site on campus. This exploration is still

Session Briefing Note

Arts and Heritage Collection Facility

Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture

underway, and will possibly culminate in a MOU addressing the collection facility and YukonU's Polaris building.

Background:

- Government of Yukon is the current steward of approximately 75,000 archaeological artifacts and approximately 50,000 palaeontological specimens, and an impressive and extensive art collection of over 500 pieces on behalf of Yukoners.
- All of these collections are growing, and a functional building program has been completed based on a 20-year growth forecast.
- The Beringia ice-age fossil record in the Yukon is globally significant, yielding important scientific information about extinct ice-age fauna and the impacts of climate change. The archaeological record in the Yukon is world-renowned for its studies in ice-patch archaeology and the history of early humankind on the continent.
- With the adoption of a distributed community museum model in the Yukon Museum Policy of 1989, it was the intention to build a central resource facility that could assist cultural institutions throughout the Yukon.
- Since the development of that museums policy, 16 studies have cited the need for a facility, and many have advised of the imminent risk to Yukon collections in its absence.
- The June 2021 Minister of Tourism and Culture's mandate letter stated: "Continuing to work to establish a heritage resource centre for the conservation and protection of Yukon's archaeological, paleontological and cultural artifacts."

Session Briefing Note

South Canol Heritage Reserve

Spring 2023

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- In September 2022, the Government of Yukon became aware that historic objects from the South Canol Truck Dump were taken to the Teslin landfill.
- This site located close to Johnson's Crossing is a heritage reserve managed by the Department of Tourism and Culture and consists mainly of WWII era trucks. A nearby interpretive pullout with additional trucks and historical information remains intact.
- Teslin Tlingit Council, with funding from Canada, coordinated the removal of these historic objects, with the understanding that the site represented a financial and environmental liability to the First Nation. However, the reserve is owned and managed by the Government of Yukon.

Additional response:

- The Canol era vehicles have been set aside at the landfill. Some may still be of value. The Department of Tourism and Culture and Teslin Tlingit Council plan to jointly engage Teslin community members to determine next steps for the site. This work is planned for later this year.
- The South Canol Truck Dump is one of 16 sites included in a heritage reserves planning project aimed at assessing the importance and future desired state through public engagement.
- Collaborative heritage management is a commitment and priority for the Yukon government. A collaborative approach and open communication will help ensure Yukon's heritage and historic resources are preserved and managed for the benefit and understanding of future generations.

Session Briefing Note

South Canol Heritage Reserve

Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The initial removal of vehicles to the Teslin landfill received media attention and significant social media attention.
 - It is anticipated there will continue to be public interest in this topic until a solution is developed.
-

Background:

- On October 13, 2022, representatives from Yukon government, Teslin Tlingit Council, and Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs met to discuss process gaps, concerns regarding contaminated soil at sites where historic resources are located, and how to better collaborate in the future for management of similar sites.
- The parties agreed on several tangible steps to improve communication related to sites within Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory, and throughout the Yukon, that may have both contamination and historic resources.
- On December 1, 2022, representatives met again to discuss scenarios for next steps and it was agreed to work with the community of Teslin to discuss options. This will provide the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the full impact of the Canol Project on people and the environment for future site development and interpretation.

Session Briefing Note

UNESCO World Heritage Nomination

Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- A UNESCO world heritage nomination for Tr'ondëk-Klondike was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in early 2021. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is the lead on this project with support from Government of Yukon, Parks Canada, and the City of Dawson.
- Tr'ondëk-Klondike is a testament to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's enduring relationship with the land and their successful adaptation to a dramatically changing world initiated by the Klondike Gold Rush.
- The nomination is undergoing a review process, which included a site visit from a world heritage expert. The World Heritage Committee was anticipated to issue its decision in summer 2022; however, the meeting was postponed.
- The meeting, and anticipated decision, has been rescheduled for September 2023 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Additional response:

- The site nomination includes eight component parts that tell the story of colonialism and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's experiences and adaptation in their homeland.
- The Tr'ondëk-Klondike Advisory Committee, Government of Yukon, City of Dawson, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government and Klondike National Historic Sites - Parks Canada have all worked together in support of the nomination.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- A decision on whether to inscribe Tr'ondëk-Klondike is expected in September 2023. If recommended, it will be a cause for celebration and further

Session Briefing Note

UNESCO World Heritage Nomination

Spring 2023

Tourism and Culture

implementation action. A decision to inscribe would generate substantial media attention.

Background:

- In 2004, “The Klondike” was placed on Canada’s Tentative List for potential inscription on UNESCO’s World Heritage List.
- The Advisory Committee worked from 2013 to 2017 to develop a nomination for Tr’ondëk-Klondike. This nomination was recalled by the State Party for further work on the nomination. A new concept proposal was submitted to ICOMOS for an upstream review in 2019 and a new nomination was developed by conducting research, heritage values workshops with stakeholders, and management planning exercises. The new nomination was submitted in 2021.
- Costs for the development of the 2021 nomination were \$254,000, with Government of Yukon providing \$80,000. The remainder of the funds were provided by Parks Canada and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. In addition, Government of Yukon provided staff time valued at approximately \$50,000 to support preparing the nomination.
- These costs were on top of the earlier costs of preparing the 2017 nomination, which is estimated at \$1.6M.
- At the World Heritage Meeting in October 2023, the Committee will make the final decision on inscription. It can also defer its decision and request further information on sites from the State Party.
- If inscribed, the Stewardship Committee, composed of representatives from each Party will implement the Management Plan. The Stewardship Committee, composed of representatives from each Party, is well-positioned for collaborative management of Tr’ondëk-Klondike.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Collaborative Management of Heritage Resources

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- As part of the Yukon Forum process, representatives from all 11 Self-Governing First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), and Government of Yukon signed the 'Heritage MOU' that formally established the Heritage Working Group in 2019.
- Since that time, the working group has been meeting regularly and has developed a Terms of Reference and a work plan that lays out priority areas for collaborative heritage management.
- Supporting the working group upholds the Yukon Forum commitment for Yukon government and Yukon First Nations to work together in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

Additional response:

- The advancement of the work plan is an important step towards achieving the objectives of Chapter 13 of the Umbrella Final Agreement and Yukon First Nations Final Agreements.
- Yukon government provides funding for a position at CYFN to support the working group to implement the work plan.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the Yukon Forum and the progress of the HWG's work.

Background:

- This collaborative initiative reflects a renewed and positive approach to ensuring Yukon's heritage and historic resources are preserved and managed for the benefit and understanding of future generations.
- Government of Yukon is providing the Council of Yukon First Nations with \$140,000 annually for 3 years starting in 2021 to support the working group.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Collaborative Management of Heritage Resources

Tourism and Culture

- The draft Yukon Forum Heritage Work Plan addresses the collaborative management of heritage and historic resources in Yukon in four areas:
 - Respectful partnership and shared vision;
 - Review of relevant legislation and policies;
 - Review of operational structures and procedures; and
 - Communication protocols.
- The two top priorities for the HWG are:
 - Collaborative Heritage Management. Yukon government's *Historic Resources Act* is dated and does not align with First Nation Final Agreements. The HWG is undertaking preliminary research into developing mechanisms to support collaborative heritage management in the Yukon.
 - Public Education and Awareness. A heritage campaign has been developed with a \$50,000 contribution from Tourism and Culture. The Yukon's Living Heritage is an award-winning campaign that brings awareness to protect and preserve heritage.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Fossil Trade and Palaeontology Regulation Development** Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Tourism and Culture is aware of ongoing trade of mammoth ivory in the Yukon and regularly receives reports of commercial ivory sales.
- All palaeontological finds in the Yukon, including mammoth tusks and ivory, are historic objects and intended to be protected under the *Historic Resources Act*.
- Heritage resources, which include mammoth ivory, are also managed under Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and legislation.
- The department is in discussions with partners on how to improve the collaborative management of palaeontological resources, and modernize the heritage legislation.

Additional response:

- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is an active partner in protecting heritage resources within its Traditional Territory, an area with a high volume of significant finds.
- A public awareness campaign was launched in Spring 2022, and was aimed at raising awareness about what to do when encountering heritage resources and historic objects.
- There is long-standing collaboration between Yukon's palaeontology program and placer miners. The majority of Yukon's palaeontological fossils are unearthed through placer mining.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Fossil Trade and Palaeontology Regulation Development Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is an active fossil trade in the Yukon involving the sale of hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of ice age fossils which are protected under the *Historic Resources Act* and First Nation heritage legislation.
- The department is seeking approval to develop palaeontology regulations, which may not be well-received by placer miners and ivory dealers.

Background:

- The *Historic Resources Act* (HRA) was established in 1991 to protect Yukon historic sites and objects, including palaeontological objects (i.e. the fossil remains of plants and animals).
- According to the HRA, no one may search for, investigate, excavate, disturb, or otherwise alter a palaeontological site on Yukon lands except in accordance with a permit under the HRA.
- In addition, fossils, which are defined as heritage resources, are protected under the Umbrella Final Agreement and Yukon First Nation final agreements.
- To date, the regulations to create permits and other procedural mechanisms to manage palaeontological objects have not been developed, resulting in nationally and internationally significant palaeontological objects going unreported and being taken out of the territory.
- Yukon's palaeontological objects are a non-renewable natural resource, some of which have are scientifically significant at an international level. Key objects include the bones, tusks and skulls of woolly mammoths; ice age horses and camels; as well as the occasional discovery of ancient, mummified soft tissue.
- For many years, it was thought that the scientific value of most mammoth tusks and ivory was limited; however, newer technologies enable deeper study of tusks, and the international scientific interest and value of mammoth tusks and ivory is increasing in importance.

Session Briefing Note

Museums and First Nations Cultural Centre Policy Development

Spring 2023

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- We are pleased to support 19 First Nation cultural centres and museums through financial agreements and by providing expertise and resources for collections management and conservation.
- Support to First Nation cultural centres and museums is guided by a policy, which is outdated and no longer reflects the current realities and operational practices of these cultural and heritage institutions.
- A new Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums Policy is nearing completion. The new policy will establish eligibility to access funding, and clarify the scope of funding and support services provided by Tourism and Culture.

Additional response:

- Tourism and Culture staff met with representatives from Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and museums at the annual roundtable, which took place in November at the Yukon Transportation Museum.
- Work on the new policy has included in depth sector engagement and a draft engagement report has been shared. Further research is currently underway and the first draft of the policy will be completed in April 2023.
- Following the policy approval, a review of funding levels and consideration of inflationary factors will occur to determine a longer-term funding strategy. We are currently considering interim measures for additional funding.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Museums and First Nations Cultural Centre Policy Development

Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Museums Policy dates to 1989. It includes out of date language, and does not reflect the services currently provided to museums and cultural centres, or the distinct role that First Nation cultural centres play in communities.
 - The Yukon Historical and Museums Association (YHMA) has recently requested, on behalf of its membership, annually-increased operational funding for museums and cultural centre based on the Consumer Price Index.
-

Background:

- *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative Economy and Cultural Industries*, Government of Yukon's strategy to support the creative and cultural industries, recommends the development of a new Yukon Cultural Centres and Museums Policy.
- The Museums Unit provides partial funding and support services to 19 museums and First Nation cultural centres in the Yukon and oversees the management of the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre. (see DPT 4 Funding Programs)
- Between 2015/16 and 2017/18 operational funding for museums and cultural centres increased by 30%. In 2022/23, YG provided an additional 13.2% to their base operational transfer payment agreement amounts, based on Consumer Price Index since the last increase in 2017/18.
- The Museums Unit was created in 1984 and a key guiding document, the Yukon Museums Policy, came into effect in 1989. The policy describes its purpose and includes a policy statement. The policy also defines a Yukon museum and includes policy guidelines.
- Services for cultural centres and museums are provided through the Museums Assistance Program (operational and project funding), Collections Care Program (conservation and collections management) and First Nations Heritage Program (capacity development and cultural programming).

Session Briefing Note**Museums and First Nations
Cultural Centre Policy
Development**

Tourism and Culture

- The Yukon does not have museums legislation. Other jurisdictions in Canada refer to the establishment of museums and/or the distribution of funding and support services in legislation.
- The decentralized system adopted in the Yukon is based on a model that included a proposed Historic Resources Service Centre in Whitehorse with professional staff, facilities, and resources to assist museums that was never constructed.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Dempster Fibre Line**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- Work is progressing on the Dempster Fibre Line, extending 800-kilometres along the Dempster Highway from Dawson City, Yukon, to Inuvik, Northwest Territories.
- The project will benefit communities in the Yukon and Northwest Territories by providing a backup line in the event of a service disruption.
- Construction of the new line began in summer 2021 and is scheduled to be completed in 2024. The new line will connect to the existing Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link in Inuvik.
- Approximately half of the installation has been completed, including the installations under the three major rivers – the Mackenzie, the Peel and the Arctic Red.
- The work on the fibre line is seasonal, and crews have demobilized for the winter. Installation work will be resuming in the spring.
- This construction work is taking place in challenging terrain which requires the use of specialized equipment and construction methods to minimize impacts to the environment.

Additional response:

- ROHL Global Networks, in partnership with Dagoo Services, was awarded the construction contract in May 2021. The construction contract total is \$94 million.
- This \$94 million includes the contract increase of \$24.9 million in 2022.
- The budget increase in 2022-23 Supp 2 was \$5.7 million.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Dempster Fibre Line**Highways and
Public Works

- The total amount for 2022-23 is \$32.7 million.
- Input from Yukon University scientists, as well as First Nations traditional knowledge keepers was incorporated to inform various environmental components during the design of the project.
- Environmental protection is a key value of this project. Stantec and Tetrach are subcontracted to mitigate the impacts of this project on the environment, particularly on permafrost.
- The contractor follows an environmental plan with specific directions that were approved through the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board process to protect values such as flora and fauna, wetlands and water bodies, and other sensitive environments.
- All fuel spills are treated immediately by removing the contaminated soil and remediating the location as per regulatory requirements.

Third response: First Nation Participation

- First Nation participation was a large component of this value-driven, negotiated tendering process.
- The Government of Yukon is actively engaged on the project with three Yukon First Nations and five Indigenous groups in the Northwest Territories.
- Twenty per cent of the construction contract amount is dedicated to a First Nations and Indigenous Participation Plan for Yukon First Nations and Indigenous communities in the Northwest Territories.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Dempster Fibre Line**Highways and
Public Works

- This is providing opportunities for First Nation businesses and subcontractors, in the form of direct employment benefits, and training and capacity development.

Fourth response: Engagement

- We continue engaging with First Nations and Indigenous governments to ensure the success of this project. We regularly meet to ensure that economic opportunities are made available to local businesses and Citizens.
- Most recently we supported the contractor in holding open houses and job fairs in the communities of Dawson City, Old Crow, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic, Aklavik, and Fort McPherson. The events were advertised on social media and printed flyers were mailed to all households in these communities.
- Tsiigehtchic open house will take place this week. So far, the events were well attended.
- We encourage all First Nation businesses and citizens to apply for contracts and positions available through the Dempster Fibre Line Project.

Fifth Response: Heritage Disturbance Incident

- In June 2022, the department informed the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun governments about a heritage disturbance incident that occurred in the highway right of way during the construction work last year.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Dempster Fibre Line**Highways and
Public Works

- Work stopped immediately and equipment was removed from the site. The department also commissioned an assessment of the impact and shared a report with the affected First Nation governments.
 - The department has been working closely with each First Nation's heritage department and is looking forward to working on next steps.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- This is a major infrastructure investment that is critical for the Yukon's backup fibre connection for the territory.
-

Background:**General**

- Construction of the project will be complete in 2024. It is likely that residual warranty work and clean up activities will be required, which could take an additional year. For this reason, a 2025 timeline was submitted to the regulatory boards.
- Regulatory permits for the project were issued after approval by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board in the Northwest Territories and a recommendation was received from the Yukon Socio-Economic Assessment Board in the Yukon.
- Scientists and highway engineers from Yukon University, and the governments of Yukon and Northwest Territories have participated in several design reviews.

Budget

- Over \$30 million was spent on construction of the Dempster Fibre Line in 2022-23.
 - The federal government is contributing \$59 million to the project.
 - Northwestel is contributing \$15 million as an upfront payment on a 20-year lease with exclusive rights to operate the line.
-

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2023****Dempster Fibre Line**Highways and
Public Works

Relationship with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

- In October 2022, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in issued a press release withdrawing support for the project.
- In December 2022, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief said in a radio interview that talks with the government were productive.
- Project teams from both governments continue to work collaboratively to resolve remaining issues and continue a positive relationship on the project.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Highway Rest Areas**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Highway rest areas are an important service for tourists and Yukoners alike.
- Highways and Public Works is leading an initiative to provide a higher, consistent level of services for rest stops with a standardized distance between them, allowing tourists to rely on the Yukon system of rest stops for outhouse and garbage services.
- Tourism and Culture is working with Highways and Public Works to ensure that proposed changes to standardize and improve Rest Areas will meet the needs of tourists and continue to highlight and interpret Yukon's points of interests.

Additional response

- The department has worked on a number of interpretive plans with Yukon communities that include scenic routes and rest stop interpretation.
- Over the last few years, the cost of maintaining rest stops has increased significantly, leading to budget pressures, but also, highlighting a need for a more strategic approach to rest stop management.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners and tourists travel the highways and require outhouses and waste receptacles.
-

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2023****Highway Rest Areas**Tourism and Culture

Background: (from HPW)

- The department of Tourism and Culture has identified \$315,000 in funding in 2023-24 towards interpretive signage upgrades and rest area maintenance. This is an increase of \$190,000 this fiscal to cover rising maintenance costs.
- There are currently approximately 130 rest areas and pullouts on the Yukon highway network, owned by either HPW, T&C, Environment, Community Services, or Parks Canada.
- Tourism and Culture has a total of 19 rest stops under its responsibility, which can include any combination of garbage receptacles, outhouses, picnic tables, and interpretive signage.
- The average distance between pullouts is 28 km. The maximum distance on class 1–3 highways is 70 km. About half of the 130 pullouts have outhouses.
- The service standards will specify minimum and maximum spacing between sites based on highway classification as well as the amenities that will be available.
- This would see upgraded amenities at selected sites, such as EV charging and power, potential closure of some sites, and transfer of ownership of some sites.

Session Briefing Note

Welcome to Yukon Signs

Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Welcome to Yukon signs are located at key points of entry into the Yukon. The current signs are over 25 years old and are in need of replacement.
- Replacing the Welcome to Yukon signs will address key recommendations in the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy: “improve signage to better support visitor experiences”. There is \$475K for new sign design and fabrication in Tourism and Culture’s capital budget for 2023/24.
- We are looking at this as an opportunity to showcase the new Yukon Place Brand. We held five stakeholder workshops in March to introduce the Place Brand tool kit. Based on workshop feedback we are making some adjustments and the tool kit will be launched online in April.
- Further stakeholder workshops will follow. One aspect of these workshops will be to discuss integrating the Place Brand into the new Welcome to Yukon signs.
- Our intention is to install one new sign at a pedestrian location at the Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre this year. This will further test the concept and get public input. In advance of that, public open houses will be held to let people know what to expect.
- Once we have final designs, we plan to install new signs at eight highway border locations and three pedestrian locations (Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre, and the Whitehorse and Dawson Airports).

Session Briefing Note

Welcome to Yukon Signs

Spring 2023
Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The design of new welcome to Yukon signs will be of interest to Yukoners.
-

Background:

- The Department of Tourism and Culture is working with Fathom Studios to design new Welcome to Yukon Signs. The department's marketing agency of record, Cossette Communications in partnership with Aasman Brand Communications, is providing input into integrating elements of the new Yukon Place Brand.
- Two types of sign concepts are under consideration:
 - Large (8 meter long), three-dimensional interactive installations that will provide a backdrop for visitors to take photos. These can be installed at pedestrian locations or at highway pullouts where there is sufficient space and outside of the highway right of way; and
 - Smaller (2 metres wide by 3 metres tall) two-dimensional signs for highway locations where space is limited to adhere to highway regulations.

**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).

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.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

Land Development

- The Government of Yukon continues to support new land development to increase the supply of land available for housing development. This includes:
 - Government-led land initiatives in Whistle bend, as well initiatives to sell the 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.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2023

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- \$6.9M for First Nation Energy Efficiency Program and \$8.4M for Community Housing retrofits under the Low Carbon Economy Fund (LCEF) provided on a 75% (Canada) - 25% (territory) cost-matching ratio between 2019 and 2024. (See TAB #60 & #61)
- \$4.1M for the construction of a Housing First residence for vulnerable individuals (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.

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.

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

Finance
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

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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

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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

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- Our energy programs are successfully encouraging Yukon residents and local businesses to reduce their energy use, save money and choose low carbon options to live and move.
- Energy efficiency programs are available for the transportation sector, renewable heating sector, and the construction sector focusing on high efficiency buildings.
- For existing homes, the Energy Branch offers the Good Energy rebate program for high performance heating systems and upgrades to thermal enclosures including insulation and windows and high performance new homes. Taking these measures will save homeowners money on their energy costs.
- For commercial and institutional buildings, the Energy Branch offers rebates for greenhouse gas-reducing retrofits and renewable heating.
- For First Nation and municipal buildings, the Energy Branch offers retrofit and funding support through its Community Institutional Energy Efficiency Program.
- There are two current incentives for wood, one for harvesters and one to offset fuelwood costs:
 - In October 2022 we launched the timber harvesting incentive to provide registered Yukon timber harvesting businesses an incentive of \$10 per cubic metre of timber harvested or sold between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023. We have paid out \$163,000 to industry so far.
 - In September 2022, we launched a new firewood rebate to offset the increased costs of firewood for home heating. The rebate provides \$50 for each cord of firewood purchased, up to a maximum of 10 cords. As of February 14, 2023 we processed 586 applications, and paid out approximately \$69,850 in rebates for 1,389 cords of firewood.

Yukon Housing Corporation:

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

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- The 47-unit housing complex at 401 Jeckell Street in Whitehorse opened in January 2023. The building provides new homes to Yukoners, including 5 three-bedroom, 12 two-bedroom, 16 one-bedroom and 14 bachelor units;
- The Opportunities Yukon 45-unit Cornerstone Development in Whitehorse opened in summer 2022 and is providing supportive living and accessible housing;
- Triplex housing units in Watson Lake, Mayo and Whitehorse were completed in spring 2022 and are providing affordable homes to families in each of these communities;
- In Old Crow, the 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing complex is under construction with expected completion in summer 2023; and
- The 10-Plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake is included in the Northern Carve-Out. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2023-24.

Other highlights from the plan

- More homes will be created for Yukon families in rural communities through the construction of three duplexes in Dawson City, Mayo, and Carmacks. These homes are on track for completion in summer 2023.
- The demolition of Macaulay Lodge in Whitehorse was completed in October 2022. Planning for the redevelopment of the site to support mixed commercial and residential use is underway.

Health and Social Services:

For 2022-23:

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

For 2023-24:

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

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

Remote work policy in support of employees working in communities

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

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Recommended response:

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

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Additional response:

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

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.

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

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.

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Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2022-23

Spring 2023

Supplementary Overview

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Additional response:

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

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Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2022-23

Spring 2023

Supplementary Overview

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

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.