



**Legislative Assembly**  
**Briefing Binder**  
Fall 2024

**French Language  
Services Directorate**



# FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Legislative assembly briefing notes

## FALL 2024

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#### Recommended response:

- We are committed to supporting departments in broadening the availability of services in French to the public.
- We are working to develop a new range of solutions that will empower employees to provide specific services and information in French to the public.
- We are continuing to support access to bilingual healthcare services and have increased the number of bilingual services providers from 32 to 36.
- We are deploying a live video interpretation service. This service supports immediate and seamless French-language services when bilingual employees are unavailable.

#### Additional response:

- We have equipped all Yukon Hospitals with the video interpretation service.
- We have provided several Mental Wellness and Substance Use offices with the same service.

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

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

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#### Background:

- In the last year, FLSD started to operate under a new structure focused on streamlining its processes with departments and redesigning its programs and services to better fulfill its mandate and support departments in complying with the Yukon Languages Act:

- For the 2024-2025 year, a total of 76 Designated Bilingual Positions (DBP) are strategically located across departments\* to provide a wide range of services in French to the public.
- We have improved the effectiveness of DBP by identifying public-facing positions for designation and reallocating designations to ensure these positions are prioritized for designation in alignment with FLSD's mandate.
- FLSD commits \$350,000 annually to the Yukon Hospital Corporation to support French-language services. There are designated bilingual staff working in both the Whitehorse General and Dawson City Community hospitals.
- We are working with departments to identify, develop plans for piloting and maintain designated points of service (DPS) to provide consistent services in French (e.g., reception desks and transactional services).
- We continue to focus our French language training and linguistic support services exclusively to Government of Yukon employees to empower them in providing wide-ranging services and information in French to the public.
- We introduced a new French-language skills assessment model to better support departments' staffing efforts. The new model is more flexible and rooted in the practical needs of employees serving the public bilingually.

\*Excluding FLSD and Whitehorse General Hospital

**Approved by:**

Sierra van der Meer  
Deputy Minister, FLSD

09/03/2024

#### Recommended response:

- We are committed to providing timely and accurate information to Yukoners.
- We publish emergency communications in French almost in real-time, including during the evenings and weekends.
- Yukoners can follow us on social media at @LeYukonFr to learn more about our programs and services and our latest news in French.

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

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

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#### Background:

- In 2023-24, FLSD started operating under a new structure to better support departments and public bodies in complying with the Yukon Languages Act.
- Building on its centralized services, the new Bilingual Communications division provides strategic advice and support to help departments effectively communicate and connect with French-speaking audiences.
- FLSD centralized services include:
  - standardized translation; and
  - management of the government's French-language social media (@LeYukonFR) and web presence, such as Yukon.ca, Flood Atlas, Wildfire Hub and other websites.

### Improved bilingual communications

FLSD

- The new division is enhancing its processes, making the best use of its translation tools, and redesigning its programs to serve departments more efficiently and cost-effectively while meeting the increasing demand for translation services and fast turnaround times.
- As artificial intelligence is changing the communications and translation industries, the division is actively seeking opportunities to increase its expertise and use technologies to their full potential while addressing any challenges.

#### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer  
Deputy Minister, FLSD

09/03/2024

## **Increase access to services in French for legal aid and legal education**

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FLSD

### **Recommended response:**

- French-speaking Yukoners have been requesting better access to justice in French.
- FLSD has entered into a funding agreement with Canadian Heritage totaling \$ 690,000 over three years to improve access to French-language services in armlength organizations providing legal aid and legal education.

### **Additional response:**

- FLSD is collaborating with the department of Justice, the Yukon Public Legal Education Association (YPLEA), a non-profit organization providing legal information to the public and the Yukon Legal Services Society (YLSS), providing a lawyer at no or very low cost to ensure that low-income individuals have access to justice.
- Services in French are not systematically available in these two latter points of services and are only provided on an ad hoc basis.
- With this agreement, FLSD increases its commitment under the current Canada-Yukon Agreement on French Language Services.

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

- The 2023 modernization of the Official Languages Act of Canada highlights the importance to support, protect and promote sectors that are essential for the vitality of official language minority communities, like the justice sector, a shared competence between Canada and provinces/territories.
- The inclusion of a linguistic clause related to proceedings in section 23 of the Divorce Act in 2021 might result in more pressure on the Justice system.

## **Increase access to services in French for legal aid and legal education**

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FLSD

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### **Background:**

- Justice Canada supports the delivery of legal services in the Yukon, including services provided in French, through the Canada-Yukon Agreement Respecting Access to Justice Services 2022-2023 to 2026-2027.
- As this agreement could not be amended, FLSD entered a temporary bridge funding agreement with Heritage Canada to close the gap identified in the provision of legal services in French. We anticipate that Justice Canada will integrate the new services established under the project in future agreements.
- This project aligns with one of the priorities of the 2023-2025 Strategic Framework for French language services, "Increase access to French-language legal services surrounding the court system, such as legal aid, victim services and family law support."

### **Approved by:**

Sierra van der Meer  
Deputy Minister, FLSD

09/03/2024



## **Leveraging technologies to increase access to healthcare services in French**

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FLSD

### **Recommended response:**

- The French Language Services Directorate (FLSD) and Health and Social Services (HSS) have identified the need to develop and implement innovative strategies to strengthen the accessibility and delivery of timely healthcare services in French across the territory. This will be done through a 5-year research project.
- FLSD has entered into a five-year agreement (2023-2028) with Health Canada and Canadian Heritage increasing its commitment by \$1.5 million under the current Canada-Yukon agreement on French-language services.

### **Additional response:**

- The Government of Yukon has one of Canada's most compelling language regimes\*.
- Complying with the Yukon *Languages Act* and increasing access to French-language services requires thoughtful and comprehensive planning and delivery of services rooted in language policy.

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

- This initiative places YG at the forefront of the Canadian francophone sector in terms of language policy and the planning and delivery of French-language services. We anticipate there will be growing attention from local and national stakeholders and the media toward the end of the project.
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### Leveraging technologies to increase access to healthcare services in French

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FLSD

#### Background:

- This project supports the recommendations of the *Putting People First* report and vision to build a system that is inclusive, cooperative, and promotes equality.
- It also supports one of the priorities of the 2023-2025 Strategic framework for French-language services, “Strengthen our health infrastructure capacity to deliver timely primary care services in French.”
- FLSD engaged with the French-speaking public and organizations in December 2022 and released the What We’ve Heard report “French-Language Services: Exploring the Next Steps” on June 14, 2023. Access to timely health care services has been, and remains, a high priority for French-speaking Yukoners for over a decade.
- The first strategy will focus on collecting healthcare data to determine patients' preferred language of care, while the second will target the development of digital solutions to improve access to French-language healthcare services in the Yukon. These strategies will undergo testing at two selected service points of HSS.
- By testing the strategies, FLSD and HSS will be able to identify best practices for delivering health care services in French.

\*According to Madam Justice Hubbart in *Kilrich Industries Ltd. v. Halotier*, 2007 YKCA 12 (47)

#### Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer  
Deputy Minister, FLSD

09/03/2024

## **Access to post-secondary education in French**

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FLSD

### **Recommended response:**

- Access to post-secondary education in either official language is important.
- There are no institutions offering post-secondary programming to students wishing to pursue their studies in French in the Yukon.
- French-speaking organizations in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut signed an agreement in June 2024 to increase the offering by creating a pan-territorial governance structure that is independent of existing post-secondary institutions.

### **Additional response:**

- The Collège Nordique francophone in Yellowknife is the only **accredited** institution offering post-secondary education in French in the North. Programming focuses mostly on early childhood education, languages and administration.
- **Additionally, the Centre de formation Qaujimanik, offering French-language adult education and training services, started to operate in the fall of 2023 in Nunavut.**
- Yukon Government wants to make the best use of resources in the territory.

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

- The issue was raised on several occasions in the two French-speaking territorial media, Aurore boréale and ICI Grand Nord.

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### **Background:**

## **Access to post-secondary education in French**

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FLSD

- In March 2022, the Government of Canada introduced a bill to modernize the *Official Languages Act*. The goal was to, among other things, respond to the decline of French in the country and support official-language minority communities.
- In July 2022, the federal government announced a 3-years 4,2 million dollar funding to the Collège Nordique francophone to help increase access to French-language post-secondary education by offering programs aimed at meeting the labor market in the Northwest Territories.
- In June 2023, l'AFY commissioned a study to gauge the value of offering post-secondary education in French in the Yukon.
- L'AFY has received funding from the Government of Canada to study the creation of a pan-territorial governance structure for post-secondary education in the North.

### **Approved by:**

Sierra van der Meer  
Deputy Minister, FLSD

09/03/2024

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Clinics**Health and Social  
Services

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**Government priority:**

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

**Key Messages:**

- We are working with our partners to expand access to both primary care services and mental health services across the territory.
- In December 2023, we opened the Whitehorse Walk-in clinic to provide Yukoners with greater access to primary care providers and same-day services.
- Opening the new walk-in clinic in Whitehorse offers Yukoners a new access point for primary care and decreases pressures on the hospital emergency department for non-urgent medical needs.
- In November 2022, we opened the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre to increase the number of Yukoners connected with a primary care provider and to provide Francophone Yukoners with better access to French-speaking providers.
- We continue to work to connect every Yukoner to a primary care provider as per recommendation 2.2 of Putting People First.

**Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre:****Key facts:**

- The Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre first opened its doors on November 7, 2022. The clinic is located at 9010 Quartz Road.

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Services

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- In addition to delivering high quality health and wellness services in both French and English, the clinic provides an additional access point for primary health care services.
- Registered patients can access primary health care services by booking an appointment in advance, or by accessing same-day appointments that will be set aside for urgent or emerging primary health care needs.
- An application process was set up for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre to ensure that all Yukoners wanting the opportunity to obtain primary health care services have the chance to provide relevant information and give their informed consent.
- Applications are reviewed and prioritized by a team of healthcare professionals at the clinic. Acceptance or waitlist status are determined by the capacity of the clinic's primary care providers and pre-established population health determinants.
- The population health determinants include several considerations such as current attachment to a primary care provider, complexity of care needs, and their primary language and need for services in French or interpretation support, among others.
- As of August 26, 2024, there have been a total of 2,837 eligible applications for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre.
- 1,832 patients received their first appointment and have been connected with a primary care provider.
- 92 others have been offered access to the clinic but have not yet completed their intake form and/or signed their service agreement.
- If someone is not initially accepted, they will be added to the waitlist and notified when the opportunity for an intake is available.

# Session Briefing Note

**Fall 2024**

## Clinics

Health and Social  
Services

- Work continues with physician partners to identify primary care providers to deliver contracted services at the Clinic.

### Background

- At present, the clinic is prepared to take on 5,000 patients but is taking a triaged approach to ensure that those requiring immediate access receive it.
- In 2024 –25, we budgeted **\$2.66M** (\$2,655,935) for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre.
- Once fully staffed, the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre staff complement will include one Clinic Manager, five Nurse Practitioners, one Registered Nurse, one Licensed Practical Nurse, two Medical Office Assistants, one Social Worker and one full-time equivalent contract Physician.
- The clinic is supported by three part-time contract Physicians including one French speaking physician who provides consultation services and patient care.
- There are currently five bilingual staff members with recruitment underway for additional bilingual full-time and AOC staff.
- The current and target staff complements are:

Position	August 2024	Target
Clinic Manager	1	1
Nurse Practitioners	4	5
Registered Nurse	1 + 1 AOC	1
Licensed Practical Nurse	1 + 1 AOC	1
Medical Office Assistants	1 + 1 AOC	2
Social Worker and	1	1
Contract Physician	3 part time	1 full time

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Services

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**Collaborative care:****Key facts:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to exploring opportunities for collaborative care and co-location of allied health professionals in primary health care settings. The aim is to create teams that work together to support community health and wellness.
- We are working with the Yukon Medical Association and other stakeholders to identify effective ways to implement team-based care across the territory.
- We are exploring opportunities to integrate allied health professionals, such as mental health professionals, social workers, and chronic disease nurses, into primary health care practices to enhance the quality of care.
- The development of team-based care models involves careful consideration of various complex factors, including patient needs, allied health human resources, and clinic capacity.
- This work aligns with the broader goals of the Putting People First report and supports our objective to provide Yukoners with high-quality, timely care from the most appropriate provider.

**Community Health Centre closures:****Key facts:**

- We acknowledge the challenges faced by our community health centres, particularly those related to staffing shortages that sometimes result in temporary service reductions or closures.



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- Ensuring continuous access to health care is our top priority, and we are actively working on solutions, including recruitment and retention strategies, to minimize disruptions in service.
- This summer, we have seen an improvement in staffing levels across our health care facilities, leading to minimal service reductions across the territory.
- Our health human resource recruitment and retention strategies have been successful in attracting health care professionals, contributing to the stability of services across the territory.
- The Department of Health and Social Services welcomed nurses from the Department of National Defense. These nurses have been working at the Watson Lake and Dawson City Community Hospitals since May 2024.
- We remain committed to strengthening our health care system by investing in long-term staffing strategies that will help keep our community health centers open and accessible to all Yukoners.
- We will continue to build on these successes to ensure that all Yukoners have access to reliable and consistent health care services throughout the year.

**Hearing Services:****Key facts:**

- There is no referral necessary to access services provided through Hearing Services.

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Services

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- Hearing Services is currently experiencing a reduction in services due to staffing shortages. We are working to identify options and improve service availability for eligible Yukoners.
- In communities, screenings for newborns and kindergarten age children are accessed through community health nurses. For those who are coming to Whitehorse from the communities, efforts can be made to co-ordinate a hearing appointment with your schedule.

**Background:**

- Hearing Services can be accessed in Whitehorse Monday to Friday between 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.
- Hearing services include:
  - Hearing loss evaluation,
  - Newborn hearing screening,
  - Hearing-aid consultation and fitting,
  - Hearing-aid repairs,
  - Assistive-listening devices and,
  - Custom earplugs for swimming, sleeping, musicians and working in noise.

**Mayo Community Health Centre physician staffing:****Key facts:**

- A new physician was contracted to service Mayo starting in May 2024.
  - Residents of Mayo currently benefit from monthly in-person visits as well as virtual care services.

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Services

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- Recruitment for additional primary care support is ongoing to ensure there are sufficient ongoing services available in the community.

**Old Crow Health and Wellness Centre****Key facts:**

- Old Crow Health Centre is staffed with two Primary Health Care Nurses and two Nurse in Charge on rotation who work in opposite rotation.
- The new Health and Wellness Centre happily opened and has been serving the community since July 2024.
- The new Health and Wellness Centre in Old Crow was completed in partnership with the Vuntut Gwitchin Government, which helps ensure that health and social services meet community needs via an integrated poly clinic approach that is culturally safe and inviting.

**Vaccine Clinic:****Key facts:**

- Throughout the COVID-19 response, the Whitehorse Vaccine Clinic was based at the Yukon Convention Centre.
- As of September 27, 2023, the vaccine clinic has relocated to its new location on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Ogilvie in the NVD Place Mall.
- This move supports efforts to integrate COVID-19 vaccinations into our ongoing health service operations while supporting our immunization team to offer vaccines at a location that meets our programming needs.
- The clinic is a satellite location for the Whitehorse Health Centre and is operating as the Whitehorse Health Centre – NVD Place.
  - The Whitehorse Health Centre – NVD Place is offering COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccinations, as well as appointments for publicly funded vaccines for people over the age of five.

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Services

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- Routine publicly funded vaccines and programming continue to be offered at the Whitehorse Health Centre (9010 Quartz Road), with a focus on patients under five years of age.
- Yukoners are also encouraged to contact pharmacies, which have COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccination appointments available.

**Background:**

- The lease for the space at NVD Place runs from March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2026 at a reduced lease rate during renovations and was valued at \$49,682.
  - Once renovations were completed and the space occupied on October 1, 2023, the full rental rate of \$324,730 annually came into effect, for a total value of \$374,412.50.

**Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic:****Key facts:**

- In January 2023, as part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement, we committed to improving the delivery of and access to health care across the territory.
- The Department of Health and Social Services opened the Walk-in Clinic on December 18, 2023.
- On April 29 the Walk-in Clinic opened at its permanent location at Mat 108 Jarvis St. in the Mah's Point building.
- The clinic is serviced by an interdisciplinary team including two permanent nurse practitioners and two physicians contracted to provide regular clinic hours for the next six months.
- We continue to work with our partners at Yukon Medical Association to recruit various part time contract physicians to provide primary care at the Walk-in Clinic.

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## Clinics

Health and Social  
Services

- The clinic is open Mondays to Wednesday 9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 5:30pm and Thursday to Friday 9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm.
- Yukoners seeking an appointment can visit the clinic but are encouraged to call 867-471-0035 to check wait times and book a same day appointment.
- As of July 31, 2024, the clinic has provided care to over 3,362 patients.
- The Walk-in Clinic is fully staffed by one clinic manager, two nurse practitioners, two licensed practical nurses, three medical office assistants, and one social worker.
- We budgeted **\$1.43M** for 2024-25 to support the operations of the Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic.

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Date approved]

**Recommended response:**

- Francophone immigration is a valued and important contributor to supporting the needs of Yukon employers and communities.
- The Yukon is the third most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, making us an attractive settlement destination for French-speaking immigrants.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work in partnership with the Government of Canada and L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) to recruit bilingual immigrants and help them integrate into Yukon communities.

**Additional response:**

- In 2024, two francophones (and their households), were approved under the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- Between 2016 and 2021, the Yukon was the only Canadian jurisdiction to increase the number and proportion of those who speak predominantly French at home (up from 2.4 to 2.6 per cent).
  - The number of Yukon residents who identified French as their exclusive first official language grew by more than 200.
  - In 2021, French was the first official language spoken by 4.5 per cent of the Yukon's population.
  - In 2021, the rate of English-French bilingualism in the Yukon was 14.2 per cent.
- Since 2007 when the YNP was established, 131 nominees (including their households) from French-speaking countries have been approved through the program.

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

- In January 2024, Canada announced several new initiatives to support Francophone immigration outside of Quebec.
- Canada has released the *Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-28*.

# Session Briefing Note

## Francophone Immigration

**TAB 48**  
**Fall 2024**  
Economic Development

### Background:

- On January 16, 2024, Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced several initiatives to support Francophone immigration outside of Quebec, including:
  - Release of the new "Policy on Francophone Immigration", to replace the 2019 Francophone Immigration Strategy;
  - Renewal and expansion of the Welcoming Communities Initiative; and
  - Development of a Francophone Immigration Support Program.
- Whitehorse was selected as one of 14 communities across Canada under the three-year Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative. Under the initiative, AFY receives \$102,079 per year (2020-24) to create programs and activities to help French-speaking newcomers integrate into the community.
- Increasing francophone immigration is a high priority of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Vision Action Plan (VAP). The VAP outlines shared goals for immigration based on FPT collaboration, consultation, and cooperation.
- The Immigration Unit offers bilingual services for clients and is represented on the "Réseau d'immigration francophone au Yukon".
- AFY receives federal funding to provide settlement services including language instruction, orientation to healthcare, education and information on the employment sector.
- The Yukon's top source francophone countries are France, Belgium, Switzerland and Morocco.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

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**Recommended response:**

- Settlement services are an important part of welcoming and integrating newcomers to the Yukon into our communities.
- The Department of Economic Development provides settlement support to Yukon Nominees through information sessions, worksite monitoring and community outreach.
- L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) and the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon (MCY) provide settlement assistance through a range of integration services and programs on behalf of Canada, including linking newcomers with community cultural groups, fostering connections to support their settlement into the Yukon.
- Settlement services include support in finding housing, employment language instruction (tutoring) and referrals to government services such as childcare, education and health care. Canada invested \$1.57 million for settlement services for permanent residents (PR) in the Yukon in 2022-23, and \$1.70 million in 2023-24.
- In May 2024, the Government of Yukon delivered an outreach session in Carmacks.

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

- Settlement services and the ability of newcomers to integrate into society remains an area of topical interest.
- Retention is a key interest of many Yukon communities. The Yukon Community Program draws additional focus on settlement and retention in rural Yukon.

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**Background:**

- Settlement services are generally funded by the federal government to support permanent residents to integrate and establish themselves in the economic, social, political and cultural aspects of their chosen community, whereas Temporary Residents (international students, foreign workers, refugee claimants) are usually supported by the province or territory.



# Session Briefing Note

## Settlement Services

- The Immigration Unit provides the following settlement services directly to its Yukon Nominee Program clients (foreign workers and employers):
  - Review and interpretation of the Nominee Tri-Partite Agreement;
  - Employee and employer worksite monitoring;
  - Mandatory workplace standards information sessions; and
  - Community Outreach visits in Whitehorse, including a weekly drop-in session which is open to foreign workers and international students.
- The Canada-Yukon Local Coordination Working Group is made up of government and non-government organization representatives and meets regularly to promote effective communication and collaboration between Canada and the Yukon on settlement outcomes, pre-arrival services, integration programs and policy issues.

### Settlement Agencies:

- In 2023-24, MCY received \$1.5 million in funding from IRCC through Yukon Tourism Education Council in support of Canada's Settlement Program (ends in 2025) for people who have permanent resident status and refugees.
- MCY offers needs and assets assessment, referral and outreach services, community connections, employment related services, language assessment and training, literacy programs, and Settlement Worker in School program.
- Over the past five years, up until March of 2024, MCY has provided services to 1,161 clients.
- AFY received \$205,872 in total funding for 2023-24.
- AFY has the following agreements with IRCC:
  - Francophone Welcoming Community pilot project (\$102,079/year);
  - Francophone Settlement (\$65,000/year); and
  - Réseau en immigration francophone du Yukon (\$25,000/year).
- AFY offers needs and assets assessment, referral services, community connections, and employment related services.

### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

October 1, 2024  
Date approved

**Recommended response:**

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

**Additional response:**

- The department has worked with stakeholders and government partners to ensure the new strategy will meet the territory’s needs now and into the future.
- Public engagement that asked Yukoners for their ideas and experiences with the Yukon Nominee Program and Yukon Business Nominee Program concluded in December 2020.
  - We published the *What We Heard* report in July 2021.
- As with many other Canadian locales, housing supply and affordability is an ongoing challenge faced by current residents and by immigrants seeking to settle in the Yukon. The strategy will include actions to work together to meet the housing needs for our community.

**If asked about timeline:**

- The strategy is taking longer than expected to complete as the department works to:
  - ensure the strategy aligns with other government priorities; and
  - reflects changes to the immigration landscape since the initial engagement occurred in 2020.
- The department regularly collaborates with Yukon stakeholders, including employers, employees and settlement agencies for the delivery of the Yukon Nominee Program, providing officials with insight into their current priorities and concerns.
- The department also engages with its federal counterparts at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada on changes to federal immigration policy, including Francophone immigration measures.

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

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

**Background:**

- The previous 10-year immigration strategy was developed in 2010 by the Immigration Strategy Working Group.

**Approved by:**

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

September 3, 2024  
Date approved

## French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing

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Education

### Value:

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

### Recommended response:

#### Programming

- Currently, the overall student demand for French Immersion programming is being met.
- The Government of Yukon plans to continue École Selkirk Elementary School as a 'dual track' English program/French Immersion school.
- We have committed to long-term planning for French as a second language programs with the French Second Language Advisory Committee.
- The French Second Language Advisory Committee includes representation from the Department of Education, School Councils, Canadian Parents for French, school administrators and teachers.

#### Early French Immersion (Kindergarten):

- Early French Immersion is a popular program in Whitehorse, offered at Whitehorse Elementary school and École Selkirk Elementary school.
- For the 2024-25 school year we committed to offer 18 Kindergarten seats at Selkirk Elementary school and 54 seats at Whitehorse Elementary school, for a total of 72 seats.

### French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing

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Education

#### French Immersion teacher recruitment:

- We continue to monitor and plan for enrolment in French Immersion including the recruitment of qualified French language teachers. French language teachers are in high demand across Canada. Recruiting for these positions remains a challenge.
- We continue to attend job fairs both in person and virtually at post-secondary institutes where we know there are qualified French language teachers, to help with targeting our recruitment efforts.
- We are pleased to be a partner with L'Association Franco-Yukonnaise (AFY) and Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY) on a recruitment initiative, and we thank L'AFY for its initiative in applying for this funding.
- We have also increased advertising on job boards in post-secondary institutions that offer French language education programming.
- We have continued with pooled competitions and early posting for teaching positions in French Immersion Elementary schools for the 2024-25 school year, thanks to the dedication of our school administrators and superintendents.

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

- There is considerable interest in French second language programming and there may be questions about access to this programming, particularly in early grades.

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#### **Background:**

##### Programming

- All Yukon schools under all school authorities, including those offering French Immersion, are expected to follow B.C. curriculum and graduation programs.

### **French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing**

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Education

- French Immersion Elementary schools may follow different philosophies for teaching reading, however, they are both expected to follow B.C. Curriculum.
- The balance of instructional time between the two languages may differ at Selkirk and Whitehorse Elementary, but the long-term outcomes are the same.
- French Immersion is a popular program in Whitehorse, and is offered at Whitehorse Elementary School, Selkirk Elementary School and F. H. Collins Secondary School.
- Whitehorse Elementary School is a 'single track' school offering only French Immersion programs. Selkirk Elementary School and F. H. Collins Secondary School are 'dual track' schools meaning that both French Immersion and English language programs are available.

#### Early French Immersion (Kindergarten) registration for 24-25 school year:

- The kindergarten registration information night was held virtually on January 24, 2024, for the 2024-25 school year.
- Kindergarten French Immersion registration was open from February 1st to February 18, 2024.
- A lottery system was held on February 20, 2024, because the demand for Early French Immersion (Kindergarten) registration exceeded capacity.
- As of September 5, 2024, there are 0 students on the waitlist for kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year.
- As of September 5, 2024, Whitehorse Elementary School has 3 cohorts of Kindergarten and 3 cohorts of Grade 1.
- As of September 5, 2024, Selkirk Elementary School has 1 cohort of Kindergarten and 1.5 cohorts of Grade 1.

#### Early French Immersion 24-25 school year:

- For the 2024-25 school year, French Immersion seats are still available to families wishing to enroll their child at the Kindergarten or Grade 1 levels.
  - As of September 5, 2024:

### French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing

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Education

- Whitehorse Elementary School has 1 seat available in kindergarten and 15 seats in Grade 1.
- Selkirk Elementary School has 0 seat available in kindergarten and 5 seats in Grade 1.
- Since 2015-16, when the demand for Early French Immersion registration began to exceed capacity, the department has used a lottery system for admission to these programs, run with Canadian Parents for French.
- Every year since the lottery process has been in place, all students who desire a place have been able to enroll in French Immersion in Kindergarten or Grade 1.

#### French Immersion teacher recruitment

- Part of the hiring process includes language testing by the French Language Services Directorate. They work closely with the Department of Education to ensure this testing is prioritized.
- As of February 22, 2024, we have a 1.0 French Immersion teacher vacancy at F.H. Collins Secondary School. This teaching assignment is being covered by other staff on a temporary basis.
- Retention in French Immersion drops in high school, so the demand for French Immersion is currently forecasted to be met by the program at F.H. Collins Secondary.

#### French Second Language Advisory Committee:

- The French Second Language Advisory Committee was formed in 2010 to strengthen French as a Second Language education in Yukon.
- This advisory body includes representation from the Department of Education, School Councils, Canadian Parents for French, school administrators and teachers.
- Education has committed to long-term planning for French as a second language programs and a vision statement has been created in Spring 2023 in collaboration with the French Second Language Advisory Committee.

# Session Briefing Note

Tab# SP05

Fall 2024

Education

## French Immersion – Programming, Enrollment and Staffing

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Approved by:

Mary Cameron

2024-09-05

Deputy Minister, Department of Education

Date approved



#### Value:

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

#### Recommended response:

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

#### Additional response:

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

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

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

#### Background:

- The CSFY rents space at 486 King Street in Dawson City for the in-person French Minority Language program of instruction.
- As of August 12, 2024, 15 students were enrolled in the French Minority Language program of instruction; pre-K to grade 6.

- Under the terms of the agreement, the CSFY will provide an in-person French Minority Language instruction program in Dawson City for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- In 2023-24 this program is funded as part of a Transfer Payment Agreement with CSFY in the amount of \$763,000 for the 2024-25 fiscal year, as part of the mediation agreement.
- Funding for 2024-25 and 2025-26 will follow the existing CSFY funding agreement.
- The government is not constructing a school facility for the CSFY in Dawson City as part of the agreement.
- This program will run for a minimum of three years, during which time an assessment will be undertaken of the ongoing need and suitability of the program.
- Department officials continue to meet with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and CSFY officials regularly.

#### History of the in-person French Minority Language program of instruction in Dawson

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

#### The CSFY becomes manager of the daycare

- In September 2023, the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY) officially became manager of the Garderie du petit cheval blanc, an establishment offering early childhood education and childcare services.
- This transition, which had the support of the CSFY school community and the organization that previously managed the Daycare, ensures the future of the establishment.

# Session Briefing Note

Tab# EP02

Fall 2024

**CSFY – Commission scolaire  
francophone du Yukon**

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Education

Approved by:

[Mary Cameron](#)

[2024-09-03](#)

Deputy Minister, Department of Education

Date approved

## Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

FLSD works in partnership with YG departments and other public bodies to support the delivery of publicly accessible services and information in French. Our accomplishments are the result of successful collaboration with them.

Accomplishment	Significance
July 2024 FLSD entered a 3-years funding agreement with Canada for a project related to improving access to justice in French	FLSD, the Yukon Department of Justice, the Yukon Law Services Society and the Yukon Public Library Education Association are working together to strengthen the delivery of French-language services in these NGOs providing legal aid and education.  This \$690k project falls under a bridge funding agreement with PCH, and it is expected to be taken over by Justice Canada starting 2027.
January 2024 In partnership with HSS FLSD secured an additional \$2.2M federal funding to lead a five-year digital health project.	FLSD and HSS are engaged in a 5-year research project aimed at developing two strategies to collect data and expand access to French-language health care at two pilot points of service. This will help us identify best practices for delivery health care services in French.
November 2023 The Legislative Assembly tabled the 2023-25 Strategic framework for French-language services	The 2023–25 framework helps guide the government’s actions and investments to keep current with the evolving priorities of the growing Yukon French-speaking community.  The four priorities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• leveraging technology.</li><li>• keeping people safe.</li></ul>

## Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• recruiting and supporting bilingual employees; and</li><li>• supporting a thriving French-speaking community.</li></ul> <p>The framework echoes the feedback gathered from Yukoners and stakeholders regarding areas of success, potential improvements and future actions to enhance access to French-language services and information.</p>
October 2023 In partnership with CS <i>L'heure du conte</i> , a new activity for the Whitehorse Public Library clients	The Whitehorse Public Library offers songs, stories, play and movement in French for children aged 2 to 4 and their families through the new weekly <i>L'heure du conte</i> (Story time).
October 2023 In partnership with HSS Bilingual services available through the Health Promotion Unit	Students in Yukon schools have access to bilingual sexual health prevention sessions. All Yukoners have access to bilingual smoking cessation services.
June 2023 In partnership with HSS and CS Increased access to Emergency and Primary healthcare in French	FLSD has equipped all Yukon Hospitals and Whitehorse-based ambulances with interpretation services.
May 2023 In partnership with Environment Bilingual services available in Tombstone Territorial Park	The Tombstone Interpretive Centre staff delivers services and information in French to visitors.

## Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

April 2023 CS New online Wildfire Hub launched	CS launched the bilingual Wildfire Hub at the beginning of the 2023 wildfire season to strengthen public safety and provide information regarding potential fire impacts. This new tool also supports YG's bilingual emergency responsiveness.
April 2023 Funding to help strengthen Les Essentielles and the Yukon French-speaking community	We partnered with the Government of Canada and financially supported Les Essentielles to buy the building that houses their organization. The Government of Yukon's contribution of \$300,000 reflects our commitment to support organizations working to ensure gender equity and the vitality of our growing Yukon French-speaking community.

### Approved by:

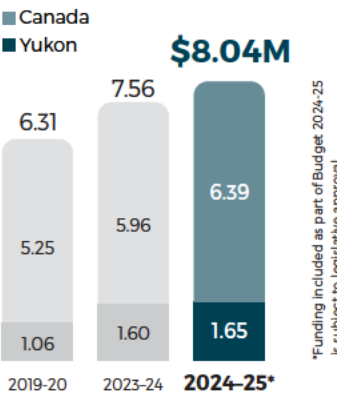
Sierra van der Meer  
Deputy Minister, FLSD

09/03/2024

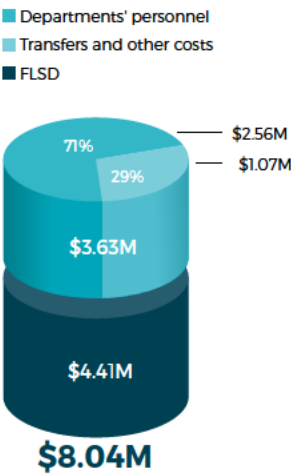
# FLSD AT A GLANCE

(JULY 2024)

## Funding for French-language services



## Allocation of funding (2024-25)



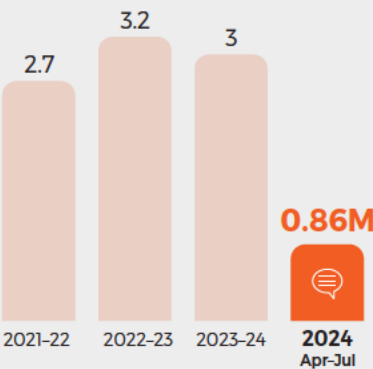
## Designated bilingual positions (DBP)

Health and Social Services	36
Justice	13
Highways and Public Works	4
Tourism and Culture	4
Community Services	3
Education	3
Energy, Mines and Resources	3
Workers' Safety and Compensation Board	3
Environment	2
Public Service Commission	2
Economic Development	1
Executive Council Office	1
Women Gender Equity Directorate	1



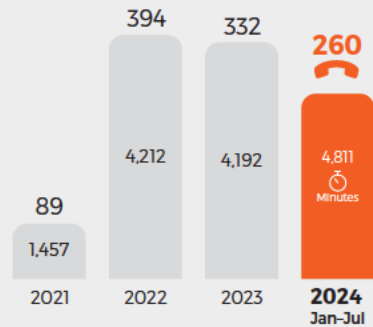
## Translation

Number of words



## Interpretation

Number of calls (video + over-the-phone)



Top five languages requested (Jan-Dec 2023)

- Cantonese
- American Sign Language
- French
- Mandarin
- Tagalog



## Training and language support

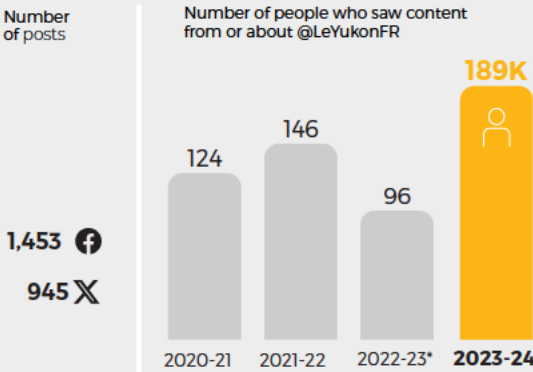
(Jan-Dec 2023)

- 54** people signed up for the online Active Offer training *Hello, Bonjour - Your role in providing service in French*
- 67** participants took part in the new 14 French Catch-up workshops to improve their French grammar, communication skills and confidence
- 76** learners from the Yukon government and Yukon Hospital Corporation took French-language classes with an organization supported by FLSD
- 8** public-facing employees received one-on-one weekly language support catered to their position
- 24** people enrolled in the self-paced online course *Basic French for Healthcare Workers*



## Communications

Social media @LeYukonFr



We secured additional funding from the Government of Canada to increase access to health care and justice services.

Leveraging technologies to increase access to health care services in French

This five-year project aims to increase the timely delivery of health care services in French. The Government of Canada is contributing just over \$2.2 million.

FLSD and the Department of Health and Social Services will lead the development of two strategies:

- A data collection strategy to identify patients' preferred language of services, which will help us plan for the future.
- A digital solutions strategy that recommends ways to expand access to French-language health care.

Increasing access to services in French for legal aid and education

This three-year project aims to increase access to French-language legal services surrounding the court system, such as legal aid. The Government of Canada is contributing \$600,000.

FLSD will work with the Department of Justice and the non-profit organizations Yukon Legal Services Society (YLSS) and Yukon Public Legal Education Association (YPLEA) to develop structures and bilingual capacities to offer cost-effective and high-quality legal services in French in the Yukon.

These projects support priorities of the 2023-2025 Strategic framework for French-language services.

# CONFIDENTIAL

## Information Note

### Strategic Framework on French-language services and communications 2023-25

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FLSD

#### Topic:

- Our government released the 2023-2025 Strategic framework for French-language services on November 14, 2023.
- Thanks to the work accomplished over the last years, we are in a strong position to build on our successes and expand the delivery of bilingual services and information to all Yukoners. The new framework will help direct our efforts to better meet the evolving needs of the growing numbers of French-speaking Yukoners.
- Our new roadmap focuses on the following four priorities:
  1. Leveraging technology to overcome language barriers.
  2. Keeping people safe by increasing access to timely emergency, primary care, and legal services in French.
  3. Recruiting and supporting bilingual employees who are experts in their fields.
  4. Supporting a thriving French-speaking population in the Yukon and to foster its vitality for generations to come.

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#### Background:

- Guided by continuous engagement with the public and various stakeholders, FLSD has produced a series of strategic frameworks.
- The first strategic framework was released in 2013 and helped us set the direction and work toward providing more services in French in the Yukon.
- Following the second strategic framework released in 2018:
  - We improved our bilingual emergency communications responsiveness.
  - We revamped our policy and guidelines on French-language services and communications.
  - We significantly bolstered the delivery of online and in-person services.
- The public engagement in the fall of 2022 helped us map the needs of French-speaking Yukoners and align them with the government's priorities and the funding allocated by the Government of Canada. We published a *What We Heard* report, June 2023.



# CONFIDENTIAL

## Information Note

### Supporting Francophone immigration outside Quebec

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FLSD

#### Issue

- In January, the federal government announced a series of initiatives to support Francophone immigration outside Quebec and strengthen the presence of French in Canada.
  - These measures include:
    - a new Francophone immigration policy;
    - the renewal and expansion of the Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative, of which Whitehorse is a participant.
    - a new program to support Francophone immigration; and
    - the implementation of the Action Plan for Official Languages.
  - FLSD continues to support the Department of Economic Development in the context of francophone immigration and labour market development.
- 

#### Background

- The Yukon, like many other provinces and territories, is facing a labour shortage in various sectors such as health, childcare or construction. French-speaking newcomers contribute not only to filling the overall gaps in the job market but are also the beneficiaries and providers of French-language services.
- The Yukon Government is working to reduce barriers to foreign credential recognition and to streamline regulatory processes for healthcare professionals. This could mean more French-speakers in these positions throughout the territory.
- In October 2024, Ottawa announced a new 2025-2027 Immigration Levels Plan with the goal to reduce permanent residents' targets. Meanwhile, these targets for Francophone immigration grew from 2023 and now represent 8.5% in 2025, 9.5% in 2026 and 10% in 2027.
- In 2023, more than 19,600 French-speaking immigrants settled in Francophone communities outside Quebec.

# **CONFIDENTIAL**

## **Information Note**

### **Supporting Francophone immigration outside Quebec**

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FLSD

- Between 2016 and 2021, the proportion of Canadians who spoke predominantly French at home decreased in all the provinces and territories, except the Yukon.
- Whitehorse, one of the 14 Welcoming Francophone Communities in Canada, is receiving funding from Ottawa to foster the integration of French-speaking newcomers.

#### Recommended response:

- Yukoners continue to face challenges across the housing continuum, which include:
  - Homelessness and a lack of access to housing with services;
  - A lack of affordable rental supply; and
  - High house prices and mortgage rates.
- Exceptionally high building costs and high borrowing costs due to interest rates are creating significant challenges for both Yukon Housing Corporation and partners.
- The corporation's five-year strategic plan, Creating Home, will help transform affordable housing service delivery through the adoption of a more client-centred and collaborative approach that integrates support and leads to better outcomes for Yukoners.

#### Additional response:

- Across governments, we are working with stakeholders to develop new land parcels, increase housing stock while also responding to the findings of the 2022 Office of the Auditor General Report on Housing.
- We continue to advance projects that provide new housing to meet Yukoners' needs.

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#### Context:

- The combination of high rental costs, limited affordable housing options and difficulties in securing mortgages, continues to be a challenge for many Yukoners.

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#### Background:

##### General housing information in the Yukon

##### Homelessness

- At least 197 people were experiencing homelessness in the 2023 Whitehorse Point-in-Time Count. This included: 58% men; 38 % female; 4% other.

##### Rental housing

- According to the Census 2021, within the renter population in Whitehorse:

## Housing Issues

## Yukon Housing Corporation

- 22.7% of households live in unaffordable housing;<sup>1</sup>
- 17.9% live in unsuitable housing; and
- 10.5% live in inadequate housing.

### Rents and vacancy rate, Yukon (YBS)

	<a href="#">October 2022</a>	<a href="#">April 2023</a>	<a href="#">October 2023</a>	<a href="#">April 2024</a>
Median rent (all types)	\$1,300	\$1,325	\$1,350	\$1,420
Vacancy rate (all types)	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	1.8%

### Housing construction

- Labour shortages contribute to higher construction costs and are leading to lower residential construction output.<sup>2</sup>

### Residential building construction, Yukon (YBS)

	<a href="#">January-June 2023</a>	<a href="#">January-June 2024</a>
# residential permits issued*	518	329 (-35% decrease)
\$ value of new permits*	\$59.4 million	\$47.6 million (-20% decrease)

\*In addition to new dwelling units, residential permits include renovations, garages, and additions. The totals do not include permits issued for plumbing or stoves.

### House prices

- Yukon Bureau of Statistics reports that there were 84 real estate transactions recorded in Whitehorse in the first quarter of 2024 – a decrease of 35 compared to the first quarter of 2023 (119).
- While average prices for single-detached homes in Q1-2024 had fallen relative to Q1-2022 and Q1-2023, condo prices for Q1-2024 had increased 13% since Q1-2023.

### Average House Prices, Whitehorse (YBS)

Residence type	Whitehorse Average House Prices		
	<a href="#">2023 Q1</a>	<a href="#">2024 Q1</a>	% Change
Single-detached house	\$635,000	\$629,500	-0.9%
Condominium	\$403,800	\$456,400	13.0%

<sup>1</sup> Housing costs are considered “unaffordable” when they exceed 30% of household income.

<sup>2</sup> Northern Housing Report, 2023

### Yukon Housing Corporation Approach to Address Housing Issues

#### Creating Home – YHC’s new strategic plan

- Creating Home draws on a recognized framework intended to re-design and transform health care delivery, called the Quadruple Aim, and adapts it to housing.
- This innovative approach to housing delivery will lead to better outcomes by:
  - Improving the client and provider experiences;
  - Strengthening community wellbeing; and
  - Contributing to a sustainable future.
- Creating Home represents a significant shift in how Yukon Housing Corporation operates and delivers housing services.

#### Capital builds recently completed by YHC or partners:

- Since 2022, 10 YHC-led projects have been completed, creating a total of 77 new residential units; and
- 8 major partnership projects have been completed through the Housing Initiatives Fund, creating over 276 new units.

#### YHC projects completed 2022-2024

YHC Project	Construction Start Date	Construction Completion Date	Number of Units
401 Jeckell Street, Whitehorse	May 2020	December 2022	47
RHI affordable triplex, Whitehorse	June 2021	June 2022	3
RHI affordable triplex, Watson Lake	June 2021	March 2022	3
RHI affordable triplex, Mayo	June 2021	March 2022	3
Accessible duplex, Mayo	July 2022	June 2023	2
Accessible duplex, Carmacks	August 2022	July 2023	2
RRDC staff trailer, Ross River	June 2023	December 2023	3
10-plex*, Old Crow (*Asset owned by HPW and managed by YHC)	Summer 2021	January 2024	10
Accessible duplex, Faro	Summer 2023	Spring 2024	2
Affordable duplex, Dawson City	August 2022	June 2024	2
Total units completed (YHC projects):			77

### Major partnership projects completed 2022-2024

Project (Lead)	Construction Completion Date	Number of Units
Bringing Citizens Home, Whitehorse (Champagne and Aishihik FN)	Summer 2022	20
Cornerstone multi-use building, Whitehorse (Opportunities Yukon)	July 2022	53
Normandy Living seniors supportive residence, Whitehorse (KBC)	December 2022	84
Boreal Commons apartments, Whitehorse (536754 Yukon Inc)	January 2023	87
Affordable modular housing, Mayo (Na-Cho Nyäk Dun FN)	March 2023	8
Jëje Zho 12-bed men's shelter, Dawson City (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in FN)	July 2023	8
VGFN elders complex, Old Crow (Vuntut Gwitchin FN)	January 2024	9
VGFN mobile homes, Old Crow (Vuntut Gwitchin FN)	March 2024	7
Total units completed (major partnerships):		276

### Underway or upcoming housing capital projects for YHC and partners

#### YHC – Underway (113 units):

- 10-unit Supported Living Residence in Watson Lake
- 34-unit residential building with 8 accessible units in Dawson (former Korbo Apartments)
- 45-unit residential building, which includes 9 accessible units in Whitehorse (former Ryder Apartments)
- 6 staff units across three duplexes in Burwash Landing
- 18 two-bedroom units – purchase of 190 Olive May Way in Whitehorse

#### YHC – Upcoming (37+ units):

Community housing	Staff housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 units in Mayo</li> <li>• 6-plex in Teslin</li> <li>• 6-plex in Carcross</li> <li>• 6-plex Haines Junction</li> <li>• Accessible triplex in Whitehorse</li> <li>• Accessible duplex in Ross River</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible duplex in Destruction Bay</li> <li>• Accessible duplex in Pelly Crossing</li> </ul>

Major partnership projects underway (299 units):

Project	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Number of Units
Safe at Home Society's permanent supportive housing project "The Hearth"	March 2024	Spring 2026	67
Safe at Home Society's temporary housing project at 408 Alexander	May 2024	October 2024	17
DDDC's affordable rental project "Winter Crossing"	Spring 2024	Spring 2026	105
Northern Community Land Trust Society's "Project 1096"	June 2024	December 2025	32
HIF-7 funding recipients	Spring 2024	Fall 2026	78
Total units			299

### Rent subsidy programs to make life more affordable for renters and seniors

- July 2023, the corporation acquired an additional 16 units for lease from Normandy, for a total of 26 units to lease to clients through its rent supplement program.
- Since 2020, the corporation has supported over 300 households pay rent through the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit. As of September 2024, 170 clients are receiving monthly support.

### Support for homeowners

- March 8, the corporation announced the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit Homeowner Stream for homeowners in severe core housing need<sup>3</sup> with annual household incomes under \$100,000:
  - Clients received a one-time payment of \$1,000.00 for Whitehorse homeowners and \$1,500.00 for homeowners living outside of Whitehorse.
- June 2023, the Yukon government launched an \$8.25 million flood recovery program for residents and businesses affected by flooding in the Klondike Valley.
- April 2023, Yukon Housing Corporation launched the expanded Yukon Home Ownership Program to provide qualified households with mortgages to build or buy their homes across the territory, including Whitehorse.
- The program was recently discontinued due to low uptake and the corporation is currently exploring alternative program options to support homeownership.

<sup>3</sup> Severe core housing need is spending 50% or more of a household's income on shelter costs.

- In 2020, Yukon Housing Corporation launched the revised Home Repair Program to support low to moderate-income Yukon homeowners to remain in their homes and age in place by providing funding to address mobility requirements, repairs or core housing needs.

### Support for new residential land development

September 2024	<p>As part of the Government of Yukon's ongoing commitment to increase land and housing availability and support business growth, new residential and industrial lots were released in partnership with municipalities and Yukon First Nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seven residential lots in Haines Junction, Mayo and Watson Lake; and</li> <li>three industrial lots in Teslin and Haines Junction</li> </ul> <p>This was the sixth lot release this year and is a direct result of the Government of Yukon's historic investment in land development. Through the lotteries and tenders process, the Government of Yukon has released 685 lots across the territory since 2021 and is on track to release over 1,000 lots by 2026 (TAB #59).</p>
August 2024	<p>As part of its efforts to work in collaboration with municipalities and Yukon First Nations governments to address housing and business space needs across the territory, the Government of Yukon released 33 new residential lots across the Yukon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twelve lots were made available in Carmacks and Faro</li> <li>21 country residential lots were made available in the Lone Tree subdivision north of Teslin.</li> </ul>
June 2023	Government of Yukon partnered with the Government of Canada and the City of Dawson to develop four new residential lots in Dawson.
February 2023	120 lots, including single family, multi-family and townhouse lots in Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.
March 2023	Government of Yukon partnered with Liard First Nation on developing 43 new residential lots on Frances Avenue in Watson Lake.
March 2023	74 residential lots in Logan, Mayo and in Whitehorse's Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.
November 2022	Signed a loan agreement with Kwanlin Dün First Nation's arm's-length development corporation, Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership, for a new



	residential land development project at Copper Ridge West in Whitehorse, the first large-scale residential land development on settlement land in the Yukon. An amended loan agreement was signed August 2023 with Chu Níkwän for the same development.
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25-09-24  
**Date approved**

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Our Clean Future Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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#### **Recommended response:**

- We recognize the urgency of the climate emergency and launched Our Clean Future in September 2020 to map our route forward.
- The Government of Yukon continues to make significant progress on implementing Our Clean Future.
- In 2023, we announced the addition of 42 new actions to help us reach our climate goals, which brings the total number of climate actions to 178.
- These new actions are a product of the important work of the Yukon Climate Leadership Council, the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change, Navius Research and the findings in the Climate Risk Assessment report.
- We continue to track our progress on goals, targets and actions. Information on our progress was most recently published in [November in the 2023](#) Our Clean Future Annual Report and on the Our Clean Future website.
- Since releasing Our Clean Future in 2020, the Government of Yukon has completed [68](#) Our Clean Future actions, [105](#) are in progress or ongoing and [5](#) have not yet been started.

#### **Additional response:**

- As we continue to address climate change, it is important for us to look back on our progress as we diligently work towards our objectives.
- Under Our Clean Future, the government is focused on ensuring the Yukon is highly resilient to climate change impacts by 2030. (See ENV BN #21)

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

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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- This year, we:
  - Completed flood maps for the Southern Lakes region, [Teslin](#) and Carmacks. Flood hazard mapping for Old Crow and the City of Dawson and the Klondike Valley are expected to be completed in 2025. [A flood hazard mapping study for Mayo is also underway and will be completed in 2026.](#)
  - Worked with municipalities and First Nations governments to finalize the Community Wildfire Protection Plans in Faro, Haines Junction, Teslin, the [City of Dawson and Whitehorse](#). [Plans for Beaver Creek, Mayo, Old Crow, Watson Lake, Destruction Bay and Burwash Landing are underway.](#)
  - Advanced climate change preparedness by initiating development of a permafrost monitoring system for key public buildings, and guidelines to address climate hazards in major infrastructure projects.
  - Established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors.
  - Completed flood risk mapping for all transportation corridors in the Yukon.
- We are committed to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and we support Yukoners in the transition to cleaner transportation options and energy efficient homes and buildings.
- This year, we:
  - Began providing rebates for medium-duty electric vehicles.
  - Passed an electric vehicle charging station regulation under the *Public Utilities Act* to allow First Nation governments, private

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Our Clean Future Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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businesses and municipalities to sell electricity through electric vehicle charging stations.

- Installed electric vehicle chargers in every road-accessible community in the Yukon, enabling zero-emissions travel throughout the territory. 19 fast charging stations are now operational throughout the territory, [and one new Level 2 charger in Swift River](#). (See EMR BN #30)
- Since 2020, we have provided rebates for 518 energy efficient new homes, exceeding our 2030 target of 500.

#### **Third response:**

- Existing actions put us on track to reduce the Yukon's emissions by 30 per cent by 2030. However, there is still significant work required to meet our target reduction of 45 per cent by 2030.
- [One of the major drivers of emissions is population – more people means more cars on the road and more homes to heat.](#)
- [However, as the population of the Yukon continues to grow, we aren't seeing the rate of emissions increase that we would expect.](#)
- [We are seeing lower emissions per Yukoner than we saw in 2010.](#)
- [This is a promising sign that the emissions intensity of everyday life for Yukoners may be starting to decrease.](#)
- We [passed](#) legislation to set a target of a 45 per cent reduction in mining sector emissions per unit of production by 2035.
- We will continue to build on Our Clean Future as we learn more and implement new actions. This will be reflected in future annual reports.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Our Clean Future Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

- We will continue to find opportunities to reach our targets as we work with experts, stakeholders and partner governments across the territory and beyond.

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

- Climate change and the government's progress in delivering on Our Clean Future commitments is of interest to Yukoners.

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#### **Background:**

- Our Clean Future was released on September 14, 2020, and now has 178 actions, of which 136 are original actions and 42 are new actions. These actions seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030.
- The Government of Yukon reports annually on progress for the implementation of Our Clean Future. Four Annual Reports have been published to date, with the latest report released on [November 12, 2024](#) (capturing [2023](#) data).
- The Our Clean Future website was launched in December 2023, which shows the government's commitments and successes towards fighting climate change.

#### **Approved by:**

Dennis Berry

November 19, 2024

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Paul Moore

November 13, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Supplementary Overview**

#### **(Corporate Note)**

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#### **Recommended response:**

- The 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 1 forecasts an overall gross increase of \$150.1 million in O&M spending, with an offsetting increase of \$20.7 million in recoveries. The net increase in new O&M spending is forecast at \$129.4 million.
- Capital spending for Supplementary Estimates No. 1 reflects a slight overall gross decrease of \$299,000 in spending and a \$4.2 million decrease in recoveries, resulting in a net increase in spending of \$3.9 million. These adjustments are mainly the result of updated cashflow forecasts for various projects.
- Revenues are projected to decrease by \$8.8 million, primarily due to a revenue forecast update from Canada which revised the projection for Corporate Income Tax downward by \$6.7 million as well as a reduction in royalty payments from Victoria Gold of \$2.5 million. This is partially offset by a \$350,000 increase for driver licenses due to recently increased fees.
- The Yukon government continues to maintain a surplus. As part of the 2024-25 Main Estimates, the Yukon government budgeted for a \$50 million contingency to address emergency pressures. \$50 million of the contingency has been applied towards the pressures identified in the Supplementary Estimates No. 1.
- The use of the contingency fund allows the government to present a revised surplus of \$75.4 million as part of these Supplementary Estimates. Changes in the Supplementary Estimates result in a revised year-end net debt of \$530.4 million

**Session Briefing Note**  
**Supplementary Overview**  
**(Corporate Note)**

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**Additional response:**

- The Supplementary Estimates reflect an O&M increase mainly for:
  - \$50 million for payments to the Receiver for environmental protection work at the Eagle Gold Mine;
  - \$34 million for pressures in Insured Health reflecting support for the wellbeing of Yukoners;
  - \$21 million for wildland firefighting costs in response to the significant fire season experienced in the territory and which helped ensure the safety of Yukoners; and
  - \$10 million for various Yukon Hospital Corporation funding requirements including the added O&M costs of converting ten beds at the Thompson Centre for Acute Care use.
- For the Supplementary Estimates, updates to the 2024-25 Capital Plan have resulted in a decreased allocation of \$299,000. Notable changes include:
  - \$1.9 million towards the completion of the Mental Wellness Unit at Whitehorse General Hospital;
  - \$1.9 million for long-term and acute care bed optimization at Whistle Bend Place and Whitehorse General Hospital;
  - Decrease of \$3.2 million due to cash flow revisions for the construction of the school in Burwash Landing;
  - Decrease of \$600 thousand for the creation of new campsites aligning costs with the revised project timeline.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Supplementary Overview**

#### **(Corporate Note)**

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- There is an increase of 46.6 in FTEs (Full Time Equivalents) for Supplementary Estimates No. 1. These are primarily to hire new long-term care staff in support of additional care beds at Whistle Bend Place, for the Aging with Dignity initiative and new FTEs for schools including teachers, clerical and custodial staff.
- There is also an increase in FTEs related to a transfer in the Capital Planning Office from Highways and Public Works capital budget to Finance in the O&M budget.

#### **Corporate approach to fiscal sustainability:**

- We continue to work to ensure that government spending is allocated in a way that meets key priorities and long-term goals.
- To meet these priorities, departments continue to follow established processes to ensure that funding is distributed efficiently and effectively across public services and programs.
- This means regular financial scrutiny is applied to decision-making and that new requests for funding are approved in a financially sustainable way, while continuing to provide the services that Yukoners expect.
- This coordinated approach to funding ensures that government can respond to new and evolving challenges, while managing resources responsibly.



**Session Briefing Note**  
**Supplementary Overview**  
**(Corporate Note)**

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

- The 2024-25 Second Appropriation Act is tabled in the fall session and will be the subject of debate.

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**Background:**

- Supplementary Estimates are used annually by a government to account for unforeseen spending at the time of tabling the annual Budget. It is common to have one or two spending updates throughout the fiscal year.
- They are tabled during the fall and spring sessions, debated and voted on in the legislature and provide departments with increased spending authority for O&M and Capital for the current fiscal year.

**Approved by:**

Jessica Schultz

September 19, 2024

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Deputy Minister, Finance

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Date approved

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

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**Recommended response:**

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in the Yukon.
- Our government is deeply committed to advancing reconciliation through collaboration and partnership with Indigenous governments and groups.
- We continue to share our progress toward addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, most recently through a progress report and Pathways magazine both released in Fall 2023.
- The magazine and report provided an update on the actions being taken across the Yukon government and in collaboration with First Nation governments and groups in areas including child welfare, health, education and justice.

**Additional response:**

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments are leaders in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- While there is still work to do, targeted investments are resulting in meaningful change and creating better programs and services for all Yukoners.
- We will continue our collaborative work to implement and report on the Calls to Action, including through work on the Yukon Forum joint priorities and by implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations.

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

- The 2023 mandate letters include a commitment to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC's) Calls to Action.
- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement includes a commitment to working with Yukon First Nations to continue to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through targeted investments.

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

- The TRC report *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future* was released in 2015 and contains 94 Calls to Action on redressing the harms resulting from Residential Schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. There are 32 Calls to Action that relate directly to YG.
- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations (YFNs) collaborated on addressing the Calls to Action under the 2017 Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan and through other reconciliation initiatives, such as supporting the important work of the YFN-led Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project.
- The Government of Yukon has taken additional steps to address the Calls to Action, including:
  - establishing the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations Initiatives at the Department of Education, signing an agreement to establish a YFN School Board and entering into education agreements with all YFNs (speaks to Calls 7 and 10 directed to the federal government);
  - supporting Indigenous athletes and the North American Indigenous Games (Call 88);
  - implementing the YFN Procurement Policy (relates to Call 92) and the Representative Public Service Plan: *Breaking Trail Together* (relates to Call 7);
  - working with YFNs and Yukon Indigenous women's groups to implement the Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy* (MMIWG2S+ Strategy) (relates to Call 41);
  - participating at the Trilateral Table on the Wellbeing of YFN Children and Families to address gaps for culturally appropriate parenting programs (Call 5); and
  - receiving input from YFNs on Health and Social Services programming through the Mental Health Advisory Committee (relates to Call 19).

**Approved by:****Justin Ferbey****2024 08 20**

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)**

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#### **Recommended response:**

- Inflation has continued to improve in recent months, but Yukon households continue to see their budgets stretched by elevated prices, with lower-income households often feeling the worst effects.
- The Government of Yukon continues to monitor inflation and its impact on Yukoners, so that we can take steps to ease the burden.
- As inflationary pressures continue to lessen, efforts to make life more affordable for Yukoners and to help industry are shifting from short-term assistance to measures with the potential to provide longer-term benefits, such as actions to improve home affordability.

#### **Additional response:**

- The Main Estimates for this year has continued to build on existing supports for Yukoners by making sure they can access essential services at prices they can afford.
- Budget 2024-25 included investments to advance affordable housing projects across the territory. From the Housing First Project in Watson Lake to the recently awarded replacement of the Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse, the Yukon government is taking action to build more affordable homes for Yukoners, especially those in vulnerable situations.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)**

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- There is also over \$42 million in continued funding for early learning and childcare. This includes funding for the universal childcare program, which has reduced childcare fees to less than \$10 per day, on average.
- We are also making life more affordable and leading the nation with our Yukon-wide dental program, which has \$5.4 million in continued funding for 2024-25.
- To make sure that more people have the option of staying home when they are sick, the Temporary Paid Sick Leave was extended.
- We also extended the Interim Electrical Rebate, which provides welcome relief from power bills to Yukoners across the territory.
- In addition to items included in the 2024-25 Main Estimates, additional initiatives in many departments are continuing to assist Yukoners with the cost of living.
- The Department of Community Services, for example, is developing a program that will see free transit passes provided to non-governmental organizations, vulnerable populations and youth.
- The Department of Health and Social Services will also provide additional funding of \$777,000 for Safe at Home to provide temporary supportive housing at 408 Alexander Street.

## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)**

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- These are just a few examples of the many programs and initiatives that continue to support Yukoners.

#### **Third response**

- The Government of Yukon has also remained responsive to higher inflation in recent years through its various grants and subsidies, which are indexed to inflation. These include:
  - Subsidies for medical travel
  - The Yukon Child Benefit
  - Social Assistance Payments
  - Student Financial Assistance
  - Seniors' benefits
  - The Pioneer Utility grant
  - The Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation
  - Residential rent caps
- The Yukon's minimum wage is also responsive to price changes, as its annual change is tied to inflation in the previous year.
- After growing 6.8 per cent in 2023, the minimum wage increased a further 4.9 per cent to \$17.59 per hour on April 1, 2024.
- The Yukon's minimum wage is the second highest wage in Canada, behind only Nunavut's minimum wage of \$19.00 per hour.

## Session Briefing Note

### Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- These increases also contribute towards the strong earnings growth we continue to see in the territory, where average weekly earnings grew 6.1 per cent over the first half of 2024. This is the strongest growth in the country.

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

- Inflation has fallen from historical highs, but Yukoners are still dealing with higher prices for a variety of goods and services following a lengthy period of elevated inflation.
- The moderation of inflationary pressures that began to take hold late last year has continued into 2024. Growth in the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been much lower in every month in 2024, and inflation in recent months has been near or below the historic average of 2 per cent.

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#### Background:

##### Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

- Following ten increases in the overnight rate since March 2022, the Bank of Canada has made three 25 basis point cuts in 2024, with the overnight rate dropping from 5.0 per cent to 4.25 per cent. Expectations of further rate cuts this year and in 2025, could further reduce pressure on shelter prices as mortgage rates decline.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- Both locally and nationally, price pressures have lessened, and inflation continues to trend towards historic norms. The current outlook for the Whitehorse CPI reflects expectations of a return to 'normal' levels of inflation, with the inflation forecast of 2 per cent in 2024, much improved from 4.9 per cent in 2023 and 6.8 per cent in 2022. Beyond 2024, annual inflation is expected to remain at 2 per cent over the remainder of the five-year forecast.

### PROGRAMS AND OTHER MEASURES THAT SUPPORT AFFORDABILITY

Five-Year Capital Plan projects supporting housing affordability (Yukon Housing Corporation)

- The **Old Crow 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing** facility is complete and opened in April 2024.
- Construction of the **10-plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake** began in the summer of 2023. It is scheduled to be completed in the fall 2024.
- Construction of the **Faro and Dawson Duplex** projects started in summer 2023 and is now complete.
- Groundwork began at the old **Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse** in September 2024 and we are aiming for completion in spring 2026. When completed, the new complex is anticipated to deliver over 45 new units.

Universal Child Care Program (Education)

- Universal child care is available to all Yukon families using licensed child care spaces. The universal child care program has reduced fees to less than \$10 per day, on average, for families across the Yukon.



## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Inflation and Affordability**

#### **(Corporate Note)**

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#### Dental Care program (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon's Dental Program was launched in 2023 and provides \$1,300 per year in dental benefits to Yukoners without dental coverage. The program will cover dental treatments necessary to relieve pain and infection, prevent disease, treat cavities, and restore chewing and social function. It will also offer full coverage for preventive care, such as routine dental cleaning.

#### Paid sick leave program (Economic Development)

- On April 1, 2023, the Department of Economic Development launched the Paid Sick Leave Rebate. The program runs for two 12-month blocks:
  - April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024; and
  - April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate is a temporary program that offers up to 40 hours of paid sick leave to employees and self-employed Yukoners that earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94/hour. The program includes all illnesses (and injuries not covered by any other Act, benefit, or program). The program is available to employees regardless of whether their employer offers paid sick leave, though employees must use all paid sick leave available to them through their employer before they are eligible for the Paid Sick Leave Rebate. The program is still in effect and will run until March 31, 2025.

#### Yukon Child Benefit (Health and Social Services and Finance)

- The Yukon Child Benefit provides monthly payments to modest and low-income households who have children under 18. The maximum benefit per child is now tied to inflation, effective the 2023–24 benefit year.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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### Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement provides a monthly income supplement for eligible Yukoner senior's receiving Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from the federal government. This amount is adjusted for inflation in October, each year.

### Inflation Relief Rebate and Interim Electrical Rebate (Yukon Development Corporation)

- The Inflation Relief Rebate, a \$50 rebate that was automatically applied to electrical customers' bills, was a temporary measure to address inflation. The Inflation Relief Rebate was most recently applied to all ATCO Electric Yukon and Yukon Energy bills for November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- The Interim Electrical Rebate continues to provide residential electrical customers with a maximum rebate of \$22.62 per month based on the electricity they consume, up to 1,000 kilowatt hours (up to \$271.44 per year). This affordability measure will continue until March 2025.

### Social Assistance Review (Health and Social Services)

- Health and Social Services is undertaking a review of the Yukon's Social Assistance rates to inform options to improve the delivery of the program and ensure it is meeting the needs of program clients.
- While the review is underway, the department is providing a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.

### Out of Home Childcare Increases (Health and Social Services)

- To offset inflationary cost of living increases and provide sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of children placed in their care, Health and Social Services provided an ongoing 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers of children in out of home care in 2023-24, on top of the annual indexed increase.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- Combined, this amounted to a 16.46 per cent rate increase for community and extended family caregivers. The new rates are as follows:
  - o Whitehorse: \$46.86 per day
  - o Rural Communities: \$50.16 per day
  - o Old Crow: \$86.40 per day
- Rates are indexed annually to the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index, with an increase of 2.4% scheduled to take effect in October 2024.

### Supportive Housing (Health and Social Services)

- \$777,000 for Safe at Home will go towards establishing temporary supportive housing at 408 Alexander Street.

### Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit Rental Subsidy (Yukon Housing Corporation)

- The Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit offers a rental subsidy for low-to-moderate income renters.

### Comprehensive Municipal Grant (Community Services)

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant is how the Government of Yukon directly funds municipal governments. This core funding supplements municipal resources and pays for vital services, like the provision of fresh drinking water, the collection of solid waste and recycling, recreation programming and other services as required under the Municipal Act and other legislation.
- The high inflation seen in 2022 (6.8 per cent) increased the grant payments provided in April 2024. This resulted in a \$2.3 million increase for Yukon municipalities with overall contributions of over \$24.5 million for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

**Session Briefing Note**  
**Inflation and Affordability**  
**(Corporate Note)**

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Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency and offset costs (Energy, Mines and Resources)

- Energy efficiency rebate 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.
- Between January 1, 2018, and June 30, 2024, 286 high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory.
- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program that offer up-front funding, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits more accessible and affordable for Yukoners.

**Approved by:**

Jessica Schultz

September 25, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy Minister  
 Department of Finance

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Carbon Pricing  
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

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**Recommended response:**

- Since its introduction in 2019, the Government of Yukon has been supportive of carbon pricing as a policy to help us reduce emissions and move toward our ambitious climate targets.
- We take a balanced approach to carbon pricing in the territory, one which considers the need to reduce emissions as well as the fair return of carbon pricing revenues to Yukoners.
- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral. We are committed to both reducing carbon emissions in the territory and to returning all the federal government's revenues to Yukoners.
- Returning proceeds to individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations, businesses, and mining operations is a critical part of our approach to carbon pricing in the Yukon.
- We are returning 100 per cent of the federal carbon levy to these five rebate groups who receive more, on average, than they pay in carbon pricing levies.

**Additional response:**

- The departments of Environment and Finance work together to coordinate with our federal counterparts to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory and to ensure the needs of the territory are recognized in national policy.
- This includes retaining control over how revenues are distributed back to Yukon individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and businesses.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Carbon Pricing  
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

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- It also includes excluding the carbon price from electricity generation and aviation, in recognition of the unique constraints of our northern jurisdiction.

**Third response:**

- Carbon pricing is just one tool in our toolkit to address the climate emergency.
  - We continue to implement Our Clean Future to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions and, more broadly, to reduce the impact of the carbon levy on Yukoners.
  - In December of last year, we announced 42 new actions under Our Clean Future as part of the third Our Clean Future annual report outlining the progress we have made on the strategy.
  - Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our target of reducing our emissions by 45 per cent by 2030.
  - Ensuring that we utilize every policy lever at our disposal, including carbon pricing, is essential to meet our goals.
  - Together, we are finding solutions to reduce our emissions while strengthening our economy and supporting our industry partners.
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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Carbon pricing remains a highly sensitive topic across the country with many provinces and territories voicing their own perspective on how they would like to see this pricing mechanism handled moving forward.

**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Carbon Pricing  
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

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- In October 2023, the federal government announced a temporary 3-year exemption for home-heating oil from the federal carbon price, with the intention of helping Atlantic Canada in particular.
  - While Atlantic Canada welcomed this change, the exemption has received considerable backlash. Most provincial governments (except for British Columbia) have called for extending the carbon price exemption to all home-heating fuels (including natural gas).
  - Critics also argued that the exemption undermines the credibility of the carbon tax and may weaken the incentives to switch to lower carbon heating options.
- 

**Background:**

- The federal Draft Regulations Amending the Fuel Charge Regulations stipulate that all heating oil will be exempt from the fuel charge starting November 8, 2023, until April 2027.
- This means that light fuel oil consumption in all buildings, including residential, commercial, and institutional, will be exempt from the fuel charge.
- Nearly half (49.2% in 2022) of Yukon homes use oil-based heating.
- In Yukon, individuals, businesses, placer/quartz mining operations, Yukon First Nations governments and municipal governments are all eligible for a rebate for carbon pricing.
- Individuals who live outside of Whitehorse receive a remote supplement, which was recently increased from 10 to 20% (and is now in line with the federal remote supplement for backstop jurisdictions including Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan).
- On September 12, 2024, British Columbia's Premier David Eby announced that if the federal government were to remove the carbon pricing backstop, then British Columbia would end the carbon levy in the province.
- British Columbia has had its own carbon pricing system in place since 2008.

# Session Briefing Note

## Carbon Pricing (Corporate Note)

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- British Columbia and the Yukon were the remaining supporters of carbon pricing as a climate change policy, with all other provinces publicly opposing the federal system. In late 2023, the newly elected Premier of the Northwest Territories also called for an exemption from the federal carbon levy for the territory.
- To date, Canada has been firm on granting no exception to the backstop.

### Approved by:

Dennis Berry

October 2, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
A/Deputy Minister of Environment

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved

Jessica Schultz

October 1, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister of Finance

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved



## Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts

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ECO-FIN-EMR

### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the seriousness of the heap leach failure that occurred at the Eagle Gold mine on June 24 and is treating the response as a government priority that reflects the urgency of the situation.
- Our priorities are to ensure the health and wellbeing of Yukoners and to protect the environment.
- An Independent Review Board has been established to investigate the heap leach failure that occurred at the Eagle Gold mine. Three highly qualified experts are on the Independent Review Board. The objective of the investigation is to determine the causes of the heap leach facility failure.
- We are committed to working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to develop remediation strategies for the failure. A joint team of technical experts hired by the Government of Yukon and the First Nation meet on a regular basis to inform our actions.
- For the most up to date information on the situation at Eagle Gold Mine and actions we are taking, you can visit [Yukon.ca/victoria-gold-updates](https://Yukon.ca/victoria-gold-updates).

### Additional responses:

- On August 14, 2024, PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. was appointed by the court as Receiver of the assets and property of Victoria Gold Corp.

## Eagle Gold Mine -

ECO-FIN-EMR

### Impacts

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The Receiver is responsible for overseeing remediation of the heap leach failure and its environmental impacts, including compliance with territorial and federal orders.

- The Government of Yukon is committed to a thorough accounting of events leading up to the failure and the development of recommendations so that a similar event does not happen again in the Yukon.
- Once the causes of the failure are determined by the Independent Review Board, this information will inform the most appropriate subsequent steps and potential investigations, including consideration of a public inquiry.
- As of September 4, 2024, there are 27 liens against Victoria Gold worth over \$58.7 million.

### *Environmental and health impacts:*

- The Department of Health and Social Services is monitoring impacts on human health. This includes ongoing review of any technical information and water sampling results, as well as situational reports, as they become available. Results from surface water samples taken show that the regulated drinking water system serving the area continues to meet the guidelines for drinking water quality.
- Water is sampled both at the site and downstream of Victoria Gold's Eagle Gold Mine. Water samples are collected regularly at select sites to monitor water quality. The results of the testing will let us know the

## **Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts**

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ECO-FIN-EMR

impacts and inform next steps.

- Technical experts from the Government of Yukon, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans are working closely together to monitor the fish and wildlife in the surrounding areas of the Eagle Gold Mine.

### *Economic and labour market impacts:*

- Operations ceased at Eagle Gold Mine after the heap leach failure occurred. This situation has changed the outlook for mineral production in the Yukon and resulted in a notable downward revision in the medium-term outlook for the Yukon's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The 2024-25 Interim Fiscal and Economic Update released in early October includes the latest forecasts for real GDP.
- At the close of 2023, Victoria Gold had 471 direct hires and another 134 on contract.
- Of the more than 600 employed, the company reported that about 34 per cent were local, amounting to approximately 200 local workers. This represents about 0.8 per cent of the territorial labour force.
- Any possible negative impacts on the labour market are expected to be short-lived, as many displaced workers are likely to be reabsorbed into what is currently a tight labour market. The Yukon's unemployment rate is about half the national figure and the local job vacancy rate has been among the highest in the country throughout

## Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts

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ECO-FIN-EMR

2024.

- Monitoring of labour market data, such as the number of unemployed and the number of Employment Insurance claimants, for potential impacts of the mine closure is ongoing.
- As the Eagle Gold situation continues to unfold, we should have a better understanding if there may be longer-term impacts for the local economy.

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

- The June 24, 2024 heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold Mine affects the environmental and socio-economic wellbeing of Yukoners – from an environmental and business perspective.

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### Background:

- On June 24, 2024, a failure occurred at the heap leach facility of the Eagle Gold Mine operated by Victoria Gold Corporation.
- On July 30, 2024, the Premier provided remarks to the Council of Yukon First Nations' General Assembly on a variety of topics including mining and the incident at Eagle Gold Mine
- On August 5, 2024, the Premier provided a statement on mining activity in the Traditional Territory of First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- On August 14, 2024, the Government of Yukon with First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, submitted an application for receivership of Eagle Gold Mine.
- On August 16, 2024, the receivership was granted. It was appointed to PricewaterhouseCoopers. Implementing a receiver is an established process under federal bankruptcy legislation. Decision making and responsibility has

## Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts

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ECO-FIN-EMR

shifted from Victoria Gold to PricewaterhouseCoopers, with direction from the Yukon government.

- As of September 20, 2024, the Government of Yukon has done 10 technical briefings to continue to keep Yukoners informed with up-to-date information.
- The Yukon.ca website is updated on a regular basis along with weekly information bulletins to inform the public on the Victoria Gold heap leach failure's current situation.

### Approved by:

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October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Lauren Haney

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

[Date approved]

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October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Finance

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