

WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION BOARD

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING BOOK – FALL SESSION 2024

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Assessment Rates

WSCB

Recommended response:

- This government commends the Board of Directors of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board for the commitment and effort they invest every year in establishing assessment rates that are fair to employers and workers.
- The rates determine the amount of money that employers contribute to the Compensation Fund so that the Fund can support workers who are injured.
- Rates are about caring for the workers who fuel Yukon's economy.
 - Employers and workers can help lower those rates by reducing workplace injuries and supporting the successful return of injured workers to the workplace.
- Assessment rates remain stable for 2025 with slight decreases across all industry groups.
- The Chair and President/CEO of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board will appear before the Legislative Assembly this fall.
 - I encourage members to ask questions at that time.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions may arise about 2025 assessment rates which were announced in September 2024.

Background:

- Assessment rates are driven by three factors:
 - Costs associated with caring for workers who are injured in Yukon workplaces, such as wage loss benefits and healthcare costs.
 - The performance of the Board's investment portfolio, which historically has been favourable.
 - Administration costs, including providing services to workers and employers.

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Assessment Rates

WSCB

- Assessment rates reflect industry performance over a 10-year period. Even if an employer is performing well, with a solid health and safety program and few workplace injuries, they may experience a rate change due to overall rate group performance.
- An assessment rate is the amount an employer pays for every \$100 of assessable payroll.
- Rate group assessment rates will change in 2025 as follows:

Rate group	2025 rate	2024 rate	Change
Resources & Transportation Low	\$2.03	\$2.30	(11.7%)
Resources & Transportation Medium	\$3.78	\$4.15	(8.9%)
Resources & Transportation High	\$6.47	\$7.51	(13.8%)
Construction Medium	\$3.13	\$3.35	(6.6%)
Construction High	\$4.39	\$5.00	(12.2%)
Services Low	\$0.77	\$0.80	(3.8%)
Services Medium	\$1.42	\$1.53	(7.2%)
Services High	\$1.96	\$2.19	(10.5%)
Government	\$1.86	\$1.93	(3.6%)

- The government rate group includes the Government of Yukon, municipalities and First Nations.
- No industries will be reclassified in 2025.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

September 16, 2024

President/CEO, WSCB_____
Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 1.2

Fall 2024

Employer Rebate 2023

WSCB

Recommended response:

- This government commends the Board of Directors of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board on its prudent management of the Compensation Fund in the best interests of workers and employers. The Board of Directors is committed to maintaining the Compensation Fund at a target range of between 121% and 129% of total liabilities.
- Maintaining the target range ensures rates charged to employers represent the actual costs of the system and reduces volatility in the rates.
- At the end of 2023, the Compensation Fund's funded position was 142%, largely due to strong investment returns.
- At the Annual Information Meeting in September, the Board of Directors announced a \$10 million rebate.

Additional response:

- The Chair and President/CEO of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board will appear before the Legislative Assembly during this session.
 - I encourage members to ask them questions about rates and rebates at that time.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions may arise about the \$10M rebate which was announced at the Annual Information Meeting.

Background:

- The compensation system is funded by assessments collected from employers who are registered with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

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Employer Rebate 2023

WSCB

- The Board of Directors is committed to maintaining the Compensation Fund at a target range of between 121% and 129% of total liabilities. The target range is established by terms set out in the Board's funding policy.
- Distributing the Compensation Fund's surplus reserves to eligible employers in the form of rebates accelerates the movement of the fund towards its target levels.
- At the end of 2022, the funded position was 131%, just above the target range.
- At the end of 2023, the funded position was 142%, largely due to strong investment returns.
- Maintaining the target range ensures rates charged to employers represent the actual costs of the system and reduces volatility in the rates.
- In September 2024, a \$10 million rebate was announced by the Board of Directors.
- This rebate will be distributed as a credit to employers' accounts.
- Not including the 2023 rebate, WSCB has distributed five rebates to employers:
 - 2015 approximately \$10M
 - 2016 approximately \$10M
 - 2017 approximately \$10M
 - 2018 approximately \$5M
 - 2020 approximately \$10M
- In total, approximately \$79M has been returned to employers through rebates and rate subsidies.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

September 16, 2024

President/CEO, WSCB_____
Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 2.1

Fall 2024

Victoria Gold Heap Leach Failure

WSCB

Recommended response:

- Workers' Safety and Compensation Board can confirm one reported injury as a result of the heap leach failure and the two instances of workers receiving First Aid treatment.
- There are no reports of serious injuries.
- Safety officers continue to monitor workplace safety for all workers who remain at site.

Additional response:

- This government has appointed an Independent Review Board to look into the cause of the heap leach failure earlier this summer.
- Additionally, workplace health and safety officers continue to investigate the heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold Mine site through the lens of worker health and safety.
- Each investigation has a specific focus and will remain independent of each other.
- As Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, I do not become involved in workplace safety investigations.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Victoria Gold reported a heap leach failure at Eagle Gold Mine on Monday June 24, 2024. There may be questions about any potential intersection of the Independent Review Board investigation on the investigation undertaken by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

Background:

- Victoria Gold reported a heap leach failure at Eagle Gold Mine on Monday June 24, 2024.
- One injury was reported as a result of the heap leach failure. Two workers received First Aid treatment on site.

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Victoria Gold Heap Leach Failure

WSCB

- The Ontario Superior Court of Justice appointed Pricewaterhouse Coopers as the receiver to manager Victoria Gold's former assets under the direction of the Government of Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon appointed a three-person panel of experts to look into the cause and factors behind the heap leach failure.
- The review will look at the design, construction, operation, maintenance and monitoring of the heap leach facility.
- The review is expected to take between six to eight months with the results made public.
- WSCB investigation will also examine these issues along with an examination of the broader issue of safety management and the diligence taken to prevent this failure.
- The *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* states a Minister shall not be directly or indirectly involved in the determination of a claim for compensation, an assessment matter or in any workplace health and safety matter.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

September 5, 2024

President/CEO, WSCB_____
Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 2.2

Fall 2024

Victoria Gold Workplace Infractions

WSCB

Recommended response:

- I am aware of orders issued by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board at Victoria Gold Corp. arising from dust collection issues with the crusher at the Eagle Gold Mine in early 2024.
- Workplace health and safety officers worked with Victoria Gold Corp. to ensure compliance with the orders issued to them.
- I can also confirm that concerns about drug and alcohol use at the Eagle Gold Mine were taken seriously by safety officers.
 - Safety officers remained satisfied that drug and alcohol policies were enforced at the mine site.
- The health and safety of all Yukon workers is important to this government and a priority for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.
- Every worker has the right to work in an environment where hazards are appropriately identified and controlled to the greatest extent possible.
 - This is what workplace health and safety officers work to support.
- As Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, I do not become involved in workplace safety investigations.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Victoria Gold reported a heap leach failure at Eagle Gold Mine on Monday June 24, 2024. There may be questions about recent workplace infractions at the mine specifically around media reports detailing reported drug and alcohol use on site.

Background:

- Safety officers visited the Eagle Gold Mine on December 19, 2023. Two orders were written on December 21, 2023 with regards to dust collection issues.
- Victoria Gold developed a plan to return the ventilation system to compliance.

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Victoria Gold Workplace Infractions

WSCB

- Under the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act*, Part 3, section 65(a), a safety officer may make an order to stop the use and supply of equipment at a workplace if the safety officer is of the opinion that the equipment is not in safe operating condition.
- Safety officers received reports of repercussions for drug and alcohol use at the Eagle Gold Mine.
- Safety officers heard that drug and alcohol policies were enforced during their inspections and through direct conversations with workers at the mine.
- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Board does not release specific details about drug- and alcohol-related incidents as these reports contain personal information.
- The *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* states a Minister shall not be directly or indirectly involved in the determination of a claim for compensation, an assessment matter or in any workplace health and safety matter.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

September 5, 2024

President/CEO, WSCB

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 2.3

Fall 2024

BC Wildland Firefighter Fatalities

WSCB

Recommended response:

- The safety of all firefighters, including Yukon wildfire crews is a priority for this government.
- Workers' Safety and Compensation Board has reviewed the WorkSafeBC reports into the two fatalities at the BC Wildfire Service.
- Workplace Health and Safety Officers are in the process of following up with Yukon Wildland Firefighters and Yukon First Nations Wildfire to engage with the two groups and review their safety procedures.

Additional response:

- We are taking action on all the findings from WorkSafeBC and building on our commitment to safety and support for all Yukon firefighters.
- This government recognizes the invaluable contribution of every Yukoner who fights fires, whether full- or part-time, professionally or as a volunteer.

(See BN 3.1 Wildland Firefighter Cancer Presumption for additional information)

Context—this may be an issue because:

- WorkSafe BC recently issued two separate reports into the deaths of firefighters at the BC Wildfire Service in 2023. There have been several articles and broadcast stories in the national media.

Background:

- A WorkSafeBC report released in July 2024, found several safety failures leading up to the death of a 19-year-old wildfire fighter.
- On July 13, 2023, a burning cedar fell on Devyn Gale, fatally injuring her, while she was fighting a wildfire near Revelstoke, B.C.
- Two firefighters were also injured, while trying to free Gale.

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BC Wildland Firefighter Fatalities

WSCB

- Based on its investigation, WorkSafeBC called the hazard management and supervision prior to the incident "ineffective" and "inadequate."
 - It said young, inexperienced firefighters were deployed to the area without sufficient training.
 - In addition, the agency found the B.C. Wildfire Service has a culture that normalizes risks around dangerous trees even though it is aware of the related safety concerns.
-
- A WorksafeBC report into a firefighter's death in a utility vehicle crash on July 28, 2023 has blamed a series of failures by the BC Wildfire Service.
 - The report says 25- year-old Zak Muise and his supervisor were riding in the UTV near Fort St. John, when it was driven through a ditch to avoid an oncoming truck.
 - It says neither Muise nor his supervisor were wearing helmets despite the manufacturer providing and requiring them.
 - The report says a netting system to keep occupants inside the UTV in the event of a rollover was damaged and ineffective.
 - This is something that would have likely have been identified if a pre-use inspection had been carried out.
 - The report states says the wildfire service didn't adequately supervise the use of utility vehicles, lacked procedures and training, and didn't ensure proper inspection.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

September 5, 2024

President/CEO, WSCB_____
Date Approved

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Wildland Firefighter Cancer Presumption

WSCB

Recommended response:

- This government recognizes the invaluable contribution of every Yukoner who fights fires, whether full- or part-time, urban or wildland, professionally or as a volunteer.
- Applying precautionary principles and taking measures to reduce harmful exposures for all firefighters is a prudent approach to prevent injury.
- A McGill University study confirmed that different fires in different areas produce different potential exposure risks
- Furthermore, a recent article published in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene* found that the majority of studies show exposure to carcinogens for wildland firefighters did not exceed the occupational exposure limits.
- Yukon Wildland Firefighters are not trained, equipped, or permitted to enter or apply water to structures once they are on fire; they may instead assist in applying structure protection such as sprinklers or pumps on buildings, assisting with evacuation, establishing fuel breaks and extinguishing organic materials near buildings.
- Given the importance of prevention in preventing worker injuries, Yukon Government is reviewing the possibility of implementing regulations that would set limits as a means to reduce on-the-job exposure to known harmful materials for wildland firefighters.

Additional Response:

- A regulation covering presumptive cancer coverage for firefighters under the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* came into force on July 1, 2022.
- There are now 19 cancers included under the presumption, including pancreatic and thyroid, alongside three cancers that primarily affect women.
 - This latter addition recognizes the increasing role that women are taking on in fighting fires.

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Wildland Firefighter Cancer Presumption

WSCB

- Any worker not covered under the presumption who contracts cancer as a result of their employment can still apply for compensation.
- These claims will be adjudicated by qualified and competent staff members of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

Additional Response:

- An October 2024 paper noted the dynamic nature of wildland firefighting and suggested that in order to implement the most effective mitigation strategies, more research was necessary.
- Workers' Safety and Compensation Board agrees that more research is needed, and WSCB will continue to monitor that work.
- British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario are the only Canadian jurisdictions that explicitly include wildland firefighters under the legislated cancer presumption.
- Confirming directly with the provinces, as of November 2024, neither Nova Scotia nor Quebec provide presumptive cancer coverage to wildland firefighters, while New Brunswick legislation clarifies that firefighters are entitled to benefits if they have been exposed to hazards of a fire scene other than a forest scene.

Additional response:

- There remains a lack of strong causal evidence of a relationship between wildland firefighting and an increased risk of occupational cancers.
- While this government recognizes that there is a trend towards applying a more inclusionary approach in the cancer presumptions, we continue to take an evidence-based approach to decision-making.
- The presumptions for cardiac arrest and PTSD apply equally to all firefighters including wildland firefighters.

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Wildland Firefighter Cancer Presumption

WSCB

- At the request of this government, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board continues to monitor the research regarding the link between cancers and wildland firefighters.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- YEU recently released a video questioning the exclusion of presumptive cancer coverage for Yukon wildland firefighters.

Background:

- Yukon enacted presumptive legislation for firefighters in 2011.
 - Full-time, part-time, volunteer and wildland firefighters are entitled to compensation benefits if they suffer a cardiac arrest whilst participating in an emergency response or within twenty-four hours of the end of actively participating in an emergency response.
 - Full-time, part-time and volunteer firefighters were covered for ten different types of primary site cancer, subject to a minimum service period.
- The ten cancers originally covered through the presumptive legislation were:
 - primary leukemia
 - primary non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
 - primary site bladder cancer
 - primary site colo-rectal cancer
 - primary site esophageal cancer
 - primary site kidney cancer
 - primary site lung cancer
 - primary site brain cancer
 - primary site testicular cancer
 - primary site ureter cancer
- The additional cancers included as part of the new *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act*, enacted in July 2022 are:
 - multiple myeloma
 - primary site breast cancer
 - primary site cervical cancer
 - primary site ovarian cancer

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Wildland Firefighter Cancer Presumption

WSCB

- primary site pancreatic cancer
 - primary site penile cancer
 - primary site prostate cancer
 - primary site skin cancer
 - primary site thyroid cancer
- There are now nineteen cancers included as part of the presumption.
- Wildland firefighters are excluded under presumptive work-related cancer legislation in several jurisdictions including Yukon.
- British Columbia, Ontario and Manitoba include wildland firefighters under their presumptive cancer legislation.
- There is a large body of research papers on the subject of the prevalence of cancers amongst firefighters.
- There is significant evidence that firefighters develop mesothelioma at more than double the rate of the general population.
 - Mesothelioma is caused by exposure to asbestos fibers; asbestos is common in older buildings and firefighters could be exposed when battling fires in these locations.
- For other forms of cancer, the evidence of increased prevalence amongst firefighters is not as strong.
- Wildland firefighters are currently excluded from the cancer presumption.
- There is little evidence of an increased risk of cancer for wildland firefighters.
- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Board and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) continue to monitor the research and share any new information to inform future decision making.
- Wildland firefighters in Yukon are not typically exposed to burning manufactured materials that structural firefighters deal with.
- The IAFF has raised concerns that manufactured materials release significant amounts of carcinogenic chemicals when they burn, thereby increasing cancer risk.
- Research remains ongoing with regards to the link between certain cancers and wildland firefighters.

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Wildland Firefighter Cancer Presumption

WSCB

- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) published their report in spring 2023 on the relationship between firefighters and cancer.
- The results are as follows:
 - There is evidence of cancerous occupational exposure for firefighters, specifically mesothelioma and bladder cancer.
 - There is positive association of occupational exposure for firefighters for colon cancer, prostate cancer, testicular cancer, malignant melanoma of the skin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (positive associations were observed but factors such as chance or bias could not be ruled out).
 - For other types of cancer, the evidence is inadequate.
 - Overall, occupational exposure as a firefighter is carcinogenic.
- This study recommended that its evaluation of occupational exposure as a firefighter should be presumed to apply to all firefighters, including men and women, and to all firefighting settings (e.g., municipal, wildland, vehicular) and employment arrangements (career, part-time, volunteer).
- A paper from October 2024 titled *A review of occupational exposures to carcinogens among wildland firefighters* noted that “the wildland fire environment is dynamic” and “future work in this field should explore the use of real-time monitoring to better understand exposure variability and possibly provide fire managers with crucial information that could inform when and where implementing certain mitigation strategies may be the most effective.”
- This same article found that exposure concentrations to carcinogens for wildland firefighters did not surpass accepted occupational exposure limits.
- The Federal Minister of Health tabled the *National Framework on Cancers Linked to Firefighting* on October 7, 2024. This framework notes that “workers’ compensation aims to provide compensation to workers who are injured due to their work as outlined in their respective workers’ compensation legislation.”

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

November 12, 2024

President/CEO, WSCB_____
Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 3.2

Fall 2024

Workplace Violence and Harassment

WSCB

Recommended response:

- This government is proud of our efforts to improve health and safety in Yukon workplaces, and we are delivering on our commitment.
- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Board is continuing the work of communicating the importance of health and safety to Yukon workers and employers.
- Violence and harassment are not welcome in any Yukon workplace.
- The *Violence and Harassment Prevention Regulation* came into force September 4, 2021 and provides a regulatory framework to prevent and mitigate workplace violence and harassment.
- Tools that have been developed by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board to help workers and employers prevent workplace violence and harassment include a Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention Guide, policy and procedures templates, slide show templates and a Safety Talk on this issue.
- I encourage any worker or employer who has questions to contact the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions as to the role of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board when it comes to workplace violence and harassment.

Background:

- Workplace violence is generally understood as the threatened, attempted or actual application of physical force toward a worker that is likely to cause harm or lead a worker to believe that they are likely to be harmed.

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Workplace Violence and Harassment

WSCB

- Workplace harassment is generally understood as any objectionable comments or behaviours that we know, or should know, are likely unwelcome.
 - This includes any inappropriate comments or objectionable behavior relating to a worker's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, age, disability, religious beliefs or ethnic background.
- Risks of violence and harassment are higher in some sectors including health care, education, government, emergency services and the service sector.
- When a complaint or incident of violence and harassment is reported to WSCB, the role of the safety officer is to check to ensure employers, supervisors and workers are complying with workplace violence and harassment prevention requirements.
 - They may do this as part of a general inspection of a workplace or when investigating a specific complaint or incident.
 - Safety Officers do not resolve or mediate specific allegations of harassment or violence in the workplace.
 - Orders are written if the employer has gaps in their policies or procedures.
- A worker who has or may have suffered any work-related injury, including an injury that results from violence and harassment in the workplace, needs to tell their employer what has happened and seek any required medical attention as soon as possible.
- To file a claim, a worker needs to submit an "Application for Compensation Benefits" form to WSCB. The claim must be filed within 12 months of the injury.
- Case managers at WSCB process claims looking at all of the evidence and may ask for additional information if needed to make a decision for entitlement. Each claim is decided on its own merits and on a case-by-case basis.

Approved by:

Kurt DieckmannPresident/CEO, WSCBSeptember 5, 2024Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 4.1

Fall 2024

Claims Eligibility for Yukon Contract Workers

WSCB

Recommended response:

- If an employer hires employees to work in Yukon, they are required to register with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board and pay assessment premiums.
- This includes:
 - Businesses with workers and/or contractors and subcontractors;
 - Corporations with directors and/or workers;
 - Proprietors or partners who hire workers; and
 - Societies with workers.
- By registering with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, employers and workers are protected against lawsuits relating to a work-related injury.
- In addition, workers who are injured at work are eligible to apply for compensation benefits.
- Employers who fail to register with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board may be subject to administrative penalties, administrative fees and interest charges.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- CBC aired an interview that questioned whether contract hospital workers brought into Yukon are covered by workers' compensation.
-

Background:

- Every association, corporation, individual, partnership, person, society or unincorporated organization or other body having in their service one or more workers in an industry in Yukon is an employer and must register with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

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Fall 2024

Claims Eligibility for Yukon Contract Workers

WSCB

- An employer must register within 10 days or the date they commence employing workers in the Yukon.
- An employer must report their annual payroll and pay assessment premiums. There is a minimum assessment premium of \$150.
- An employer that fails to register with the board within the required 10 calendar days of commencing or recommencing a business may be subject to an administrative penalty alongside an administrative fee of 10% of the assessment premiums that would have been payable at the time of registration and applicable interest.
- Workers are covered under the workers' compensation system even if their employer fails to register with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

President/CEO, WSCB

September 5, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 4.2

Fall 2024

Claims Eligibility for Yukon Workers who are not Job
Attached (e.g., Victoria Gold)

WSCB

Recommended response:

- Preventing injuries is one of the most important responsibilities in the workplace.
- When injuries do occur, workers and employers must work together to facilitate an injured worker's early and safe return to health and work.
- There are cases where the injured worker is no longer working for the employer; for example, completion of a project, lay-off or the employer is no longer operating.
- When a worker is considered employable by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, but is not job attached to their employer, that worker may be eligible for an employment readiness program of benefits and services designed to improve the worker's ability to successfully re-enter the labour market.
- At the discretion of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, employment readiness may be followed by further programming supports to assist the worker to return to the workforce.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Injured workers who were employed with Victoria Gold may have questions about their compensation benefits now that the company has been placed into receivership.

Background:

- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Board encourage workers, health care providers, employers and other parties to work co-operatively as a Case Management Team and to explore all reasonable, creative and flexible solutions to design plans that will facilitate

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Fall 2024

Claims Eligibility for Yukon Workers who are not Job
Attached (e.g., Victoria Gold)

WSCB

the worker staying at work, when possible, or facilitate the worker's early and safe return to work when the worker, functionally, cannot stay at work.

- Employment readiness programming of up to four weeks, including loss of earnings benefits and the cost of employment readiness services, may be available to workers unable to return to the employment they had at the time of the work-related injury, but who are capable of re-entering the work force.
- Employment readiness services may include:
 - a. résumé writing and preparation;
 - b. instruction and/or assistance on how to complete application forms;
 - c. job interview preparation; and
 - d. instruction on how to access information regarding job opportunities.
- At the board's discretion, employment readiness may be followed by further programming support where the worker locates an employer willing to provide an employment opportunity requiring, for example, a period of on-the-job training. This would help to reduce or eliminate the worker's loss of earnings.
- Workers who travel outside of their home community while participating in the employment readiness program may be eligible for cost reimbursement.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

President/CEO, WSCB

September 5, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 4.3

Fall 2024

Psychological Injury Claims Including PTSD

WSCB

Recommended response:

- Psychological injuries continue to be a priority for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board and this government.
 - The board accepts psychological injury claims that meet the requirements set out by legislation and policy.
 - Unfortunately, we continue to see Yukon workers suffering from these types of injuries at work.
- Whenever we talk about psychological injury, we have to remind ourselves that prevention is the key.
- Regulations aimed at preventing workplace violence and harassment received assent on September 4, 2020 and came into force on September 4, 2021.
- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Board has produced guidelines and training materials for workers and employers and continues to work with stakeholders as they develop their Violence and Harassment prevention programs.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Mental health issues continue to be a topic of discussion and front of mind in Yukon workplaces.
- There may be interest in the progress of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board's efforts towards preventing psychological injuries.

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Fall 2024

Psychological Injury Claims Including PTSD

WSCB

Background:

- The regulations for preventing workplace violence and harassment received assent on September 4, 2020.
- Two areas of change are:
 - A new regulation that addresses violence and harassment as workplace hazards; and
 - Enhancements to existing regulations about hazard assessment.
- The PTSD presumption came into effect when the amendments made to the *Workers' Compensation Act* in Bill 8 received assent on November 27, 2017.
- Claims for psychological injury may be denied because the worker does not have a diagnosed psychological injury, as required by the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* and policy, or the injury was found to be caused by something other than work duties.
- Introducing the PTSD presumption increased awareness of psychological injury in the workplace. The numbers of claims for PTSD and other psychological injuries leveled off in 2019.
- Costs for psychological assessment and treatment are leveling off as well, but represent a significant percentage of overall medical claims costs. Use of early and safe return to work interventions and a supportive, collaborative case management approach have been found to enhance success and reduce costs.
- Ongoing treatment, case management, and workplace support are often required long-term for workers with psychological injuries.
- Mental health has been affected with COVID-19 and we see an impact in treatment costs, which are increasing and the duration of claims is extending.
- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Board supports an after-school running program to promote mental health for girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people aged 9-16.
- The goal is to build psychological resiliency through education and self-esteem development and prevent psychological injury at an early age.
- The aim of the program is to equip youth with resiliency so that recovery is swift should an injury occur.

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Psychological Injury Claims Including PTSD

WSCB

- This program is currently being run out of the Health Promotions Unit within the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Northern Safety Network Yukon (NSNY) offers courses on workplace harassment and violence prevention.
- CCOHS likewise offers courses on the psychological health and safety of workers.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) offers courses on the national standards for psychological health and safety in the workplace.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

President/CEO, WSCB

September 5, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 5.1

Fall 2024

Enforcing the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act*

WSCB

Recommended response:

- The health and safety of workers is important to this government and a priority for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.
- Every worker, in every Yukon workplace, has the right to work in an environment where hazards are minimized.
 - This is what the Board's workplace health and safety officers work to support.
- Sometimes safety officers write orders to enforce compliance with the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act*.
 - Whenever possible, safety officers work with employers and workers to resolve issues before taking enforcement actions.
 - When compliance is not achieved, safety officers may issue administrative penalties or other enforcement measures.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Complaints about enforcement activities often follow the actions of workplace health and safety officers.

Background:

- Part 3 Workplace Health and Safety of the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* establishes a framework of internal responsibility. Within this framework, every party in a workplace is responsible for protecting both their own health and safety and that of others in the workplace.
- Part 3 Workplace Health and Safety of the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* sets out the rights and responsibilities of everyone in the workplace.
- The *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* and Regulations establish minimum standards for dealing with workplace hazards and provide for enforcement of the law where necessary.

Session Briefing Note 5.1

Fall 2024

Enforcing the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act*WSCB

- Safety officers monitor compliance with laws and regulations governing workplace safety.
- Safety officers explain to employers how to comply with Part 3 Workplace Health and Safety of the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* and Regulations, and help them to implement appropriate measures such as safety procedures and protocols. They can also issue orders and other enforcement measures as permitted under the Act.
- The Annual Report provides information on enforcement activities.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

President/CEO, WSCB

September 5, 2024

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- The *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* strictly prohibits me, as Minister responsible, from getting involved in any claim for compensation, an assessment matter or in any workplace health and safety matter.
- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Board follows the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* and policies when making decisions.
- If an injured worker or an employer disagrees with a decision, I would encourage them to take advantage of the comprehensive reconsideration and appeal process provided by the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act*.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Workers and employers sometimes approach a Minister's office or opposition members to request resolution of disputes they have with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

Background:

- The *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* states a Minister shall not be directly or indirectly involved in the determination of a claim for compensation, an assessment matter or in any workplace health and safety matter.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

President/CEO, WSCB

September 5, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 5.3

Fall 2024

Reconsideration and Appeal Opportunities for Workers and Employers

WSCB

Recommended response:

- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Board delivers services to Yukon's workers and employers while operating at arm's length from government.
- The *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* provides mechanisms for workers and employers to appeal decisions made by the board.
 - I encourage everyone to use the appropriate appeal channels if they disagree with any decision.
- The Workers' Advocate Office can assist injured workers with claim-related matters, and the Employer Advisor, through the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, is a resource for employers.
- As Minister responsible, I am prohibited from getting involved in appeals or appeal decisions.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Workers and employers sometimes approach the Minister's office or opposition members to request resolution of disputes they have with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

Background:

- If there is disagreement with a decision made on claims, assessments, workplace health and safety orders or administrative penalties, a request may be made to have these decisions reconsidered and then appealed. There are two levels:
 - Reconsiderations are internal reviews of the initial decision by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board
 - Appeals are external reviews of the decision by the independent Appeal Tribunal
- Reconsiderations are documentary reviews of the file.
- After reviewing the file, written submissions and any other relevant information, the decision maker will provide their decision, including rationale, to the parties.

Session Briefing Note 5.3

Fall 2024

Reconsideration and Appeal Opportunities for
Workers and Employers

WSCB

- After receiving the reconsideration decision, if the parties are still not satisfied with the decision, an appeal can be submitted to the Appeal Tribunal, an independent, quasi-judicial body.
 - The tribunal's decisions are final and binding.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

President/CEO, WSCB

September 5, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 5.4

Fall 2024

Reprisals Against Workers

WSCB

Recommended response:

- The safety of workers in all Yukon workplaces is important to this government and to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.
- Everyone in the workplace has a responsibility to report, act on and resolve workplace safety concerns.
 - I encourage workers to report workplace safety concerns to their supervisor. This is an important way to make everyone in the workplace safer.
- In those rare cases where a worker believes they have been disciplined, dismissed or otherwise penalized by their employer for seeking compliance with the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act*, their concerns may be investigated by a safety officer.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Workers and employers sometimes approach the Minister's office or opposition members to request resolutions of disputes they have with Workers' Safety and Compensation Board.

Background:

- Sections 53-56 of the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* establishes a prohibition on certain acts.
- A reprisal against a worker is the act of dismissing, disciplining or penalizing a worker because they have sought compliance with the workplace health and safety part of the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act*.
- A worker who believes on reasonable grounds that an employer or trade union has taken or threatened to take reprisal against them may elect to make a written complaint either in accordance with the dispute resolution process set out in a collective agreement (if applicable) or to the board, wherein the board may refer the complaint to an arbitrator.

Session Briefing Note 5.4
Reprisals Against Workers

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Fall 2024
WSCB

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann
President/CEO, WSCB

September 5, 2024
Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 5.5

Fall 2024

Replacing the Mine Rescue Station

WSCB

Recommended response:

- As long as there is mining in the territory, Yukon will need a Mine Rescue Station to safely store and deploy rescue equipment and facilitate rescue training and exercises.
- Recently we have seen some of the larger mines shuttered, however, the Mine Rescue Station remains a base for the delivery of important health and safety services.
- The new Mine Rescue Station will allow for more training exercises with the building housing equipment such as the mine rescue rapid response truck and trailer.
- This is essential for all facets of mining, including smaller companies starting out in mineral exploration and development.
- The building is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2024.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be asked whether the Mine Rescue Station is still required with the closure of the Victoria Gold Eagle Gold Mine.

Background:

- In 1946, *An Ordinance Governing the Safe Operation of Mines in the Yukon Territory* made it mandatory for mine owners or agents to provide adequate mine rescue equipment, in good condition and available for use at all times. Under the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act*, mines are still required to have adequate rescue equipment on site.
- Under the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations*, the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Board* is responsible for delivering mine rescue training. The Mine Rescue Station is a key resource for delivering training and supporting mine rescue operations in the Yukon.
- Construction started in June 2023.

Session Briefing Note 5.5

Fall 2024

Replacing the Mine Rescue Station

WSCB

- The new Mine Rescue Station has many advantages:
 - The facility is built to withstand earthquakes and will have a backup generator.
 - In emergencies, the building will serve as an alternative site for the board's operations.
 - Its proximity to the airport allows for rapid emergency mobilization.
- The Mine Rescue Station is scheduled for completion by fall 2024.

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann

September 5, 2024

President/CEO, WSCB_____
Date Approved

Session Briefing Note 6.1

Fall 2024

Summary of Accomplishments

WSCB

Accomplishment	Significance	Priority	In mandate letter?
December 2023 Creation on an online fillable Employer Payroll Report (EPR) form	The Workers' Safety and Compensation Board has heard for many years from employers that the EPR form should be an online fillable form rather than part of a paper package sent through the mail. The latter option is still available for employers if they so desire but the majority of employers are completing and submitting their EPR forms online.	Medium	No
April 2023 to present Social media presence on timely and relevant workplace health and safety issues (e.g. working outside in summer heat, working with presence of wildfire smoke)	The Workers' Safety and Compensation Board has heard from stakeholders that they want timely workplace safety information delivered in real-time through social media.	Medium	No
January 2023 New App: Prevention of Workplace Violence and Harassment	This new app is a resource to deliver accurate workplace violence and harassment prevention information to Yukoners in an easy-to-access and secure manner. The app is designed to work from any mobile device.	Medium	No
January 2022 to present Facilitated the coming-into force of the <i>Workers' Safety and Compensation Act</i> with stakeholder communication sessions, outreach, updated policies, website, IT systems and forms	Implementation of <i>Workers' Safety and Compensation Act</i> required substantial internal and external updates to existing materials.	High	Yes

Session Briefing Note 6.1
Summary of Accomplishments

TAB 16
Fall 2024
WSCB

Accomplishment	Significance	Priority	In mandate letter?
January to July 2022 Policy Engagement to align statutory policy instruments with the new Act	Amendments to policies are required to fully implement the new Act on July 1, 2022.	High	Yes
December 2021 Assent of Bill 8, <i>Workers' Safety and Compensation Act</i>	Modern, clear legislation that recognizes and addresses the nature of work in the 21 st century, streamlines administrative processes, and enhances workplace safety through combined emphasis of workplace health and safety and compensation.	High	Yes

Approved by:

Kurt Dieckmann
President/CEO, WSCB

September 5, 2024
Date Approved

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.

Context:

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

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:

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

Rents and vacancy rate, Yukon (YBS)

	October 2022	April 2023	October 2023	April 2024
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.²

Residential building construction, Yukon (YBS)

	January-June 2023	January-June 2024
# 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		
	2023 Q1	2024 Q1	% Change
Single-detached house	\$635,000	\$629,500	-0.9%
Condominium	\$403,800	\$456,400	13.0%

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

² 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"> • 10 units in Mayo • 6-plex in Teslin • 6-plex in Carcross • 6-plex Haines Junction • Accessible triplex in Whitehorse • Accessible duplex in Ross River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible duplex in Destruction Bay • Accessible duplex in Pelly Crossing

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 need³ 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.

³ 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"> seven residential lots in Haines Junction, Mayo and Watson Lake; and three industrial lots in Teslin and Haines Junction <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"> Twelve lots were made available in Carmacks and Faro 21 country residential lots were made available in the Lone Tree subdivision north of Teslin.
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

Session Briefing Note

TAB #66
Fall 2024

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

	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

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 our 2022 Our Clean Future Annual Report and on the Our Clean Future website. The 2023 Our Clean Future Annual Report will be published in fall 2024.
- Since releasing Our Clean Future in 2020, the Government of Yukon has completed 45 Our Clean Future actions, 129 are in progress or ongoing and 4 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.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- 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)
- This year, we:
 - Completed flood maps for the Southern Lakes region and Carmacks. Draft flood maps for Teslin are available and will be finalized later this year. Flood hazard mapping for Old Crow and the City of Dawson and the Klondike Valley are expected to be completed in 2025.
 - Worked with municipalities and First Nations governments to finalize the Community Wildfire Protection Plans in Faro, Haines Junction and Teslin. We also published draft plans for the City of Dawson and Mayo.
 - 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.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- 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 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. (See EMR BN #30)
- Since 2020, we have provided rebates for 518 energy efficient new homes, exceeding our 2030 target of 500.
- In collaboration with the Yukon's public utilities, 9.7 megawatts of renewable electricity has been installed through the Micro-Generation program, exceeding our target of seven megawatts by 2030. (See EMR BN #10)

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.
- We are bringing forward 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.

ENV #20 / EMR #34

Fall 2024

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.

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.

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 December 19, 2023 (capturing 2022 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

Deputy Minister, Environment

September 25, 2024

Date approved

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

September 24, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

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)

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)

- 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)

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.

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

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in 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.

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)

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)

- 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)

- 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)

- 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.

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.

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)

- 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)

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)

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.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

- 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)

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

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

- 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.
-

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

- 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.

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Carbon Pricing (Corporate Note)

- 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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

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:

Justin Ferbey

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Lauren Haney

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

[Date approved]

Jessica Schultz

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Finance

[Date approved]