



Economic Development

2026 Spring Sitting

Minister of Economic Development

Honourable Jen Gehmair



Department of Economic Development 2026 Spring Session Briefing Book

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Economic Development 2026-27 Budget

Port of Skagway/Marine Services Platform

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Topic: Port of Skagway tidewater access.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is not continuing to lead the development of a Marine Services Platform in Skagway.
- Industry is best position to attract private investment and ensures the project effectively aligns with industry needs.
- The Government of Yukon will continue to work with Skagway on areas of mutual economic interest, which include access to tidewater.
- There are also several significant funding pressures that require immediate attention to ensure safety, energy reliability, and essential services relied on by Yukoners. These include major investments in health care and energy projects, which have led to some difficult decisions for the upcoming fiscal year.

Key facts and stats:

- A non-binding terms sheet was signed by the Government of Yukon and the Municipality of Skagway on September 7, 2023.
- In October 2023, Skagway passed an ordinance requiring ore moving through the port to be containerized and signaled interest in limiting the impacts of ore shipment traffic during the summer cruise season.
- Yukon government funded the platform design, totaling \$739,266 (CDN), in 2023.
- Yukon government entered into a funding agreement with Skagway in summer of 2025 to support permitting work and advance project timelines. \$60,000 was paid to Skagway in 2025-26 to initiate this process.

Port of Skagway/Marine Services Platform

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Status:

- Port of Skagway is the closest ice-free, deep-water port to most of the Yukon.
- The Port of Skagway still contains infrastructure that can enable ore export by various means (i.e. in shipping containers). However, there is currently no option for bulk exports in Skagway and the nearest bulk terminal is in Stewart, B.C.
- We do not intend to advance the Export Cooperation Agreement under the current terms.
- The Yukon government informed stakeholders about the decision not to proceed with funding of the Marine Service Platform in March 2026.

If asked if industry were consulted before deciding to cancel the project:

- We are in regular communication with industry partners, including those with near-term plans in Skagway about port infrastructure. We will continue to engage in forums such as the Yukon Chamber of Mines' Joint Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

If asked why we are no longer pursuing tide water access:

- While the Government of Yukon remains supportive of securing tide water access for mineral exports through Skagway, we believe that any Port project must be industry led and include private investment.
- It is our view that the project will have a greater chance of success and be better aligned with industry needs if it is led by industry

Port of Skagway/Marine Services Platform

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proponents and supported through private investment. This includes activities relating to platform design, loading methods, and staging facilities.

If asked about the status of the Export Cooperation Agreement:

- We do not intend to advance the Export Cooperation Agreement under the current terms.

If asked about an alternative for ore export:

- The Port of Skagway still contains infrastructure that can enable ore export by various means (i.e. in shipping containers). However, there is currently no option for bulk exports in Skagway and the nearest bulk terminal is in Stewart, B.C.

If asked about how this might impact the Yukon-Alaska relationship:

- The Yukon-Alaska relationship has been strong long before the ore dock discussions and will endure long after this. Our Department continues to be actively involved in conversations with Skagway on issues of mutual economic interest including transportation and tourism.

Approved by:	
<u>Sierra van der Meer</u>	<u>April 21, 2026</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Topic: Eagle Gold mine sales process.

Key messages:

- The sale of the Eagle Gold mine is being conducted by the Court-appointed Receiver, PricewaterhouseCoopers, with Bank of Montreal serving as the Financial Advisor.
- On April 23, 2026, the court-appointed Receiver, with the consent of the Government of Yukon, entered into an exclusivity agreement with Boroo Pte Ltd. for the sale of Eagle Gold Mine and certain related assets.
- The exclusivity agreement is an important next step of the sales process and is part of the due diligence process for the potential sale of the mine.
- The Government of Yukon provided input into the sale process to help ensure that the interests of Yukoners are protected. This includes setting out criteria to ensure that any potential buyer is responsible, experienced and well-resourced.
- A successful sale of the Eagle Gold Mine would create an opportunity for the Yukon government to recover funding advanced through the receivership loan, as the government has a super-priority charge over Victoria Gold Corp's assets to secure these advances.

Key facts and stats:

- An exclusivity agreement in the context of this sale process means that, for a defined period of time, (in this case, 90 days, which can be extended for a further 90 days if the agreement conditions are met, including Yukon government's consent), the Receiver is negotiating

the potential sale of the Eagle Gold Mine with a single interested party.

- The exclusivity agreement provides the interested party with limited, temporary rights to advance due diligence. This is expected to include access to further information and the mine site.
- The **Sale Process**, which started in July 2025, is a Receiver-led process and is subject to court approval in all aspects, including approval of a final transaction.
- The Government of Yukon has been consulted by the Receiver on every step of the process, including the development of **the Sale Process materials**, and reviewing letters of intent.
- A new operator will be subject to the Yukon's mining and environmental regulatory regime and required to maintain environmental compliance. A condition of closing the transaction will be that the purchaser posts reclamation security as required by the Government of Yukon.
- The winning bid is conditional upon Court approval and approval of the Government of Yukon.

Status:

- The total authorized loan for 2024–25 and 2025–26 is \$220 million.
- Yukon government will be consulted on final bids, and the preferred bid must be approved by the Government of Yukon.

If asked about Engagement with the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun:

- As the party leading the sale process by court Order, the Receiver has engaged with affected First Nations as part of the Sale Process, including as it relates to this exclusivity agreement.
- The potential purchaser has met with non-technical representatives of the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun. The purpose of those meetings was to present preliminary plans for acquiring the mine and restarting the operations.
- The exclusivity period will give the purchaser and the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun an opportunity to discuss the types of agreements that the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun would like to see in place for the transaction to proceed and for mining operations to restart. This may include a new benefits agreement.
- An ideal final bid would demonstrate support from the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun and include any negotiated agreements or arrangements.
- As stated in the Receiver's update, there are no agreements that have been reached with the Yukon Government or the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun. The exclusivity period is intended to advance those conversations.

If asked about Boroo Pte Ltd.:

- The sales process focused on ensuring that any potential buyer is responsible, experienced, and well-resourced, and does not restrict bidders based on nationality. These criteria help protect the interests of Yukoners, workers, and the environment.

- The interested party is Borro Pte Ltd. as noted by the court-appointed Receiver on their website.
- Borro Pte Ltd. has expressed serious interest in acquiring the Eagle Gold Mine and has entered into an exclusivity agreement as part of the **Sale Process**.
- Any buyer will still need to obtain all applicable required federal and Territorial regulatory approvals before re-starting operations. These processes include environmental oversight and engagement with affected First Nations and stakeholders.
- Foreign investment has long played an important role in Canada's and Yukon's resource sector, particularly as Canada works towards diversifying its trading partners.
- Foreign investments in Canada are regulated under the federal *Investment Canada Act*.

Should Yukoners be concerned about a foreign company purchasing Eagle Gold Mine:

- The sales process focused on ensuring that any potential buyer is responsible, experienced, and well-resourced, and does not restrict bidders based on nationality. These criteria help protect the interests of Yukoners, workers, and the environment.
- The buyer will still need to obtain all applicable required federal and Territorial regulatory approvals before re-starting operations. These processes include environmental oversight and engagement with affected First Nations and stakeholders.

- Foreign investment has long played an important role in Canada's and Yukon's resource sector, particularly as Canada works towards diversifying its trading partners.
- Foreign investments in Canada are regulated under the federal *Investment Canada Act*.

If asked about when activities might re-start at mine:

- Regulatory authorizations will be required prior to re-starting operations or undertaking any development work on site.
- The First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun and relevant stakeholders will be engaged during the regulatory processes.
- Any re-start decisions will be informed by the Independent Review Board's investigations and recommendations and will be subject to current regulatory and policy requirements.

If asked about a timeline for the potential sale:

- There is no confirmed timeline for finalizing the sale and it is subject to a variety of factors.
- Any final decision on a buyer will still require review and approval by the Court, based on the Receiver's recommendation at the end of the process.
- Yukon government's consent as regulator and receivership lender to the Receiver is required for any sale transaction to be completed.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

May 4, 2026
Date approved

The Joining of EcDev and T&C Economic Development Tourism and Culture

Topic: Establishment of new department; Economic Development, Tourism and Culture.

Key messages:

- The Department of Economic Development and the Department of Tourism and Culture will now operate under a single budget with a newly established department: Economic Development, Tourism and Culture.
- Joining the two departments together will build resiliency, provide greater budget flexibility, and enable the new department to address larger policy and program challenges, within existing resources.
- The goal is to improve efficiency while maintaining the same high standard of service delivery, without growing government.
- There are no immediate changes to reporting structures or staffing, roles, responsibilities, and day to day work will continue as they are today.
- Staff and stakeholders will be engaged in next steps, as we explore how to further integrate administrative and work functions in a way that best serves Yukoners.
- As we continue to transition toward operating more fully as a single department, I am excited by the opportunities for effective change that will help us better serve Yukoners and I look forward to working with staff, industry, and partners to achieve this together.

Key facts and stats:

- The departments of Economic Development and Tourism and Culture have historically collaborated on business support, creative industries,

The Joining of EcDev and T&C Economic Development Tourism and Culture

film and media, and regional economic development.

A consolidated vote will better reflect this operational alignment.

- This change is not about reducing resources, it's about using them more effectively. By consolidating the budget, we can improve coordination and alignment between the two organizations, making it easier to plan jointly, prioritize shared work and direct resources where they have the greatest impact.

Status:

- Department staff and Yukon Employees Union were informed of the upcoming change ahead of a public announcement March 10
- Yukon First Nations and key stakeholders were notified prior to public announcement on March 11, 2026.
- The change will take effect April 1, 2026.

If asked about whether this change is to cut costs:

- The intent is not to reduce services or programs, rather to improve efficiency.
- The Departments of Economic Development and Tourism and Culture have always collaborated on business support, creative industries, film and media, and regional economic development.
- A consolidated vote will better reflect this operational alignment.
- A more unified structure helps reduce duplication, streamline decision making, and support clearer long-term planning.

The Joining of EcDev and T&C Economic Development Tourism and Culture

If asked about whether programs will lose funding because of this change:

- No. Program commitments remain unchanged. The combined budget structure simply allows us to manage shared priorities more effectively.

If asked about how this will affect the public/stakeholders:

- There will be no immediate disruption to programs. The clients we serve should expect the same level of service with the long-term goals of more coordinated and responsive programming.
- Collaboratively with our partners we will work methodically to explore opportunities for better alignment of programming and modernization of service delivery, ensuring minimal disruption to our clients and staff.
- This step-by-step engaged approach will enable short-term practical improvements, support departmental actions and inform future decisions to better serve Yukoners.

If asked about if any positions will be eliminated or reclassified:

- This change does not put any positions at risk. There are no layoffs, or reductions associated with the combination of the two departments.
- All existing roles remain in place, and all staffing levels are being maintained.
- This is an administrative shift only and does not alter job security, job descriptions or reporting relationships.
- The government is committed to stable staffing and ensuring that employees are not negatively affected.

The Joining of EcDev and T&C Economic Development Tourism and Culture

If asked about how success will be measured for the joining of the two departments:

- We will know this change is working when we see stronger collaboration across the teams and we hear positive feedback from staff.
- We'll also look for feedback from stakeholders that our program delivery and administrative processes feel clearer, more consistent, and easier to navigate.
- Success will also show up in the day-to-day: less duplication, fewer competing priorities, and better alignment on how we allocate resources and manage our budgets.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, EDTC

March 19, 2026
[Date approved]

Topic: Develop and implement a Red Tape Reduction Framework.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to reducing the regulatory burden on businesses and Yukoners.
- This is a government-wide initiative, led by Economic Development.
- We will improve and streamline our internal processes, so government services are faster, more consistent and easier for businesses to navigate. We are also working across departments to cut Red Tape and make it easier for businesses to operate in the Yukon.
- We have launched an online feedback form – in both French and English – to gather input from Yukoners on where they have experienced administrative burdens when interacting with the Government of Yukon.
- I look forward to hearing what individuals and businesses have to say to move this important work forward and create positive change for Yukoners.

Key facts and stats:

- The Minister's mandate response letter directed the Department to prioritize the development and implementation of a Red Tape Reduction Framework. Red Tape, also called administrative burden, means the time, effort and costs that businesses face when trying to access government programs, follow government rules or complete required processes.

Status:

- The Department is reviewing options and best practices to determine what a framework could look like. We are also looking at long-term tools such as legislation and regulations that could support this work.
- We are exploring different policy approaches to remove inefficient, redundant, and outdated regulations and processes that make it harder and less predictable to do business in the Yukon.
- This work will require support from the whole government. Planning is underway to work closely with other government departments as we move this initiative forward.
- The online feedback form and Red Tape Reduction webpage are now live on yukon.ca, in both French and English.

If asked about status of the Red Tape Reduction Framework:

- We will conduct a review of Red Tape and outdated regulations in the Yukon. This work will be guided by best practices used in other parts of Canada. We will work with federal, provincial and territorial partners to explore best practices and determine what could work well for the Yukon.
- This work is ongoing and will continue over the course of our mandate.
- Some improvements are already underway and we will continue rolling out changes over the course of our mandate to ensure they are thoughtful, coordinated and effective.

If asked about timing to see results of the Red Tape Reduction Framework:

- The Department is actively developing the plan for the framework.
- It is important that the Government of Yukon takes a careful and well-planned approach to ensure the Red Tape Reduction Framework in Yukon is implemented successfully, for the benefit of the businesses and all Yukoners.

If asked about the government's engagement approach:

- The Department is exploring different way to engage with the business community to make sure we understand and address their most important concerns about Red Tape.

If asked about the Red Tape Reduction campaign page and online feedback form:

- The Department is pleased to announce the launch of the new webpage dedicated to Government of Yukon's work on red tape reduction.
- The online feedback form provides the opportunity for Yukoners, businesses and organizations to share their experiences regarding administrative burdens they have encountered.
- Our hope is that the information gathered will help the Government of Yukon understand where red tape exists and help prioritize improvements to government services and regulations.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

May 6, 2026
Date approved

Economic Overview

Economic
Development

Topic: Current economic conditions in the Yukon.

Key messages:

- Yukon's economic data reflects resilience with certain sectors showing strong performance despite recent challenges.
- Real (inflation adjusted) gross domestic product fell by 2.5 per cent in 2024 following the Eagle mine failure and is expected to be flat or marginally down in 2025.
- The Yukon's Labour market is strong, with more people working, high job opportunities and good average pay compared to the rest of Canada. The territory also has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.
- Our government is committed to growing our economy, driven by a thriving and prosperous private sector.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon's population continues to grow, reaching 47,952 at the end of Q3 2025.
 - The labour force grew 2.6 per cent to 28,300 in 2025 with an overall unemployment rate of 4.2 per cent for the year.
 - Average weekly earnings were up 3.4 per cent in 2025.
 - Inflation averaged 3.2 per cent in 2025, up from 2.0 per cent in 2024 but less than half of the 2022 peak.
 - Retail sales were up 1.1 per cent in 2025, with gasoline and fuel vendors' sales down 6.8 per cent over the year.
- Tourism is a bright spot with total border crossings up 6.8 per cent in 2025 over crossings in 2024.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 19, 2026
Date approved

Topic: How the department is supporting the government's mandate.

Key messages:

- The department is committed to creating strong conditions for private sector growth, supporting Yukon businesses, and contributing to the long-term economic well-being of Yukoners.
- We support a wide range of sectors, including digital, technology, media, mining, entrepreneurs and other emerging and established industries, through targeted programs, partnerships, and strategic initiatives.
- We are also improving our internal processes and working across government to reduce red tape and make it easier to do business in the Yukon.
- I look forward to working with the Department and stakeholders to advance these important initiatives to deliver change for Yukoners.

Key facts and stats:

- The Minister directed the Department to prioritize:
 - The development and implementation of a Red Tape Reduction Framework;
 - Conducting a review of the Yukon Nominee Program to align its delivery with the shifting needs of the labour force;
 - Building a skilled, responsive workforce that supports economic growth and industry;
 - Attracting investments, partnerships and enabling infrastructure to create sustainable economic growth; and

- o Improving program delivery to support partners and client service.
- The department has moved all Community Development Fund applications to the online fund management system, SmartSimple. Other Economic Development programs will transition to the system as well, creating a more streamlined and efficient process for applicants.
- Yukon is supporting national efforts to reduce barriers to internal trade. We are participating in new national agreements that make it easier to move goods, labour, services and investments across Canada. This includes the Memorandum of Understanding on Interprovincial Trucking and the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods.

Status:

- The department is working on identifying opportunities that align with our commitments and will support Yukon businesses through existing programs in 2026-27.
- The Government of Yukon will be undertaking a review of the Yukon Nominee Program in 2026 to ensure the program balances the needs of our growing economy with the capacity of our infrastructure to support all Yukoners.
- Through the Committee on Internal Trade, we are taking concrete steps toward promoting the free movement of goods, services, labour and investment to and from our territory.

If asked about the Red Tape Reduction Framework:

- This work is ongoing and will continue over the course of our mandate.
- Some improvements are already underway and we will continue rolling out changes over the course of our mandate to ensure they are thoughtful, coordinated and effective.

If asked about the review of the Yukon Nominee Program:

- The Government of Yukon will be undertaking a review of the Yukon Nominee Program in 2026 to ensure the program balances the needs of our growing economy with the capacity of our infrastructure to support all Yukoners.
- Letters have been sent to key stakeholders inviting them to participate in the Yukon Nominee Program Review.

If asked how we will build a skilled workforce:

- Through the Building UP, Staffing UP and Working UP programs, Yukon provides funding support to organizations, businesses and individuals to develop the skills and capacities needed in a strong labour market.
- The priority remains filling unfilled jobs in health care and trades by supporting Yukoners to develop the skills needed.
- The Foreign Credential Recognition program continues to support Internationally Educated Health Professionals to gain the certifications needed to work in their professions in the Yukon.

If asked how the Department is attracting investments, partnerships and enabling infrastructure:

- The Department of Economic Development supports investment attraction through programs, promotional activities, strategic partnerships and sector specific initiatives, such as mining investment attraction.
- Our government recognizes that attracting investment is essential to private sector growth and to delivering broader economic benefits for Yukoners.
- Our programs are designed to support the growth of Yukon's private sector by helping businesses attract the investment they need to expand, innovate, and create good jobs for Yukoners.

If asked how the department will improve program delivery for clients:

- The Department of Economic Development and the Department of Tourism and Culture will now operate under a single budget with a newly established department: Economic Development, Tourism and Culture.
- Joining the two departments together will build resiliency, provide greater budget flexibility, and enable the new department to address larger policy and program challenges, within existing resources.
- The goal is to improve efficiency while maintaining the same high standard of service delivery, without growing government.

Approved by:	
<u>Sierra van der Meer</u>	<u>March 19, 2026</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Topic: Businesses, particularly those in the downtown core, have faced significant challenges in operating safely.

Key messages:

- The Crime Prevention Grant program is in the second year of a planned three-year partnership with the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce.
- The grant is being used by the Chamber to offer training programs for front-line workers at businesses across Whitehorse focusing on de-escalation and conflict resolution.

Key facts and stats:

- The 2024-25 pilot program provided:
 - Security assessments for 17 businesses and organizations with a waitlist of one;
 - Four safety and de-escalation training courses with participation by 86 individuals from 56 businesses and organizations. There was a waitlist of 11 for further courses; and
 - Updated and improved the “Who’s Minding Your Business” security checklist.
- Some of the training was delivered in collaboration with Yukon University.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 12
Spring 2026

Crime Prevention Grant Program

Economic
Development

Status:

- Economic Development has a \$60,000 Transfer Payment Agreement with the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce to deliver the program during the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- The details of the final year of the program have not been finalized.

Approved by:

Brian MacDonald
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 13, 2026
Date approved

Topic: Paid Sick Leave Rebate program for employers.

Key messages:

- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate program is scheduled to end on March 31, 2026, as intended. Submissions that include leave after this date will not be eligible for rebates.
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate program was introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic and has outlived the public health challenge that it was created to address.
- We encourage private-sector employers to provide sick leave to their staff.
- We will continue to prioritize support that help businesses strengthen their operations, increase competitiveness, and plan for the future through funding programs such as the Economic Development Fund.
- Our advisors continue to work closely with industry, businesses, Yukon First Nations and their development corporations to identify opportunities and support projects that contribute to a strong and resilient Yukon economy.

Key facts and stats:

- The program's budget is \$825,000 in 2025-26, bringing the total **budget amount** to \$2.3 million over the three-year program.
- We are currently in the third year of the program (2025-26), as of March 24, 2026:
 - A total of \$550,500 was rebated to 122 businesses, enabling them to provide paid sick leave to 883 employees for a total of 22,549 hours of paid sick leave; and

Paid Sick Leave Rebate

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- Employees earned an average hourly wage of \$24.41 and, on average, claimed 25.53 hours of paid sick leave, resulting in an average rebate of \$623.44 per employee.
- In 2025-26, the top 10 business users were responsible for approximately half of the total spending.
- Under the program, individuals are eligible for up to 40-hours of paid sick leave across all their employers. Employees with multiple employers can only receive up to 40-hours of paid sick leave in total.
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate program is optional for employers, and rebates are paid directly to eligible businesses and not to individual employees.

Status:

- The rebate program was established in April 2023 for a two-year period ending March 31, 2025, and was extended to March 31, 2026, in Budget 2025. Since its inception, the program was always intended to be time limited.
- On March 23, 2026, user forms on Yukon.ca were updated to include an information bulletin to remind businesses of the March 31, 2026, expiration date. The email autoreply that is sent to all Paid Sick Leave Rebate claimants was also updated at this time with the same reminder.
- On March 20, 2026, the Department sent an email to all businesses that received rebates over the past 12 months to remind them of the program's end date on March 31, 2026.

If asked about what the government is doing to support small businesses:

- We are committed to supporting small businesses and have begun work on a red tape reduction framework that will help businesses across the Yukon operate more efficiently and eliminate unnecessary barriers.
- The department is also undertaking a review of the Yukon Nominee Program to better understand existing gaps and how the program can more effectively meet labour market needs.
- We continue to work closely with our small business partners to support them in achieving their workforce goals through funding programs such as Building Up and Staffing Up.

If asked about the open letter from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business on November 11, 2025, that called for maintaining the PSLR program as a means of helping small businesses:

- We intend to support small businesses by eliminating red tape and staying out of the way of their day-to-day business.

What review did the Department conduct prior to deciding not to continue the program:

- The program was introduced during the pandemic to respond to a specific need. The government has been clear that COVID-19 response measures are not intended to continue indefinitely. This program was always intended as time-limited and ends as planned on March 31, 2026.

Approved by:

<u>Brian MacDonald</u>	<u>April 1, 2026</u>
Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Topic: The Trade Resilience Program was launched in July 2025 with a budget of \$1 million.

Key messages:

- The Trade Resilience Program was designed as a time-limited measure to support Yukon businesses impacted by U.S. trade decisions and Canadian countermeasures, in anticipation of market disruptions caused by the Trump tariffs.
- Demand for the program has been modest. Approximately 50 per cent (\$504,000) of the fund has been awarded to businesses and industry associations so far.
- The anticipated trade-related disruption did not materialize to the extent expected and many Yukon businesses were able to manage impacts without requiring program support.

Key facts and stats:

- Businesses faced increased uncertainty due to heightened U.S. trade tensions, including new and retaliatory tariffs, changes to “de minimis” rules, and the upcoming review of the Canada, United States and Mexico Agreement.
- Some Yukon businesses are also exposed to supply chain disruptions and related pressure due to reliance on other jurisdictions.
- Key features of the Trade Resilience Program:
 - The program supports time-limited adaptation initiatives that help Yukon businesses and industries respond to trade-related disruptions;

- Funding is available through three streams: individual business adapting their operations, industry organizations leading collective efforts, and commissioned projects to help the Yukon economy adapt;
- The program is not a revenue replacement or cost recovery program and is intended to complement, not duplicate, other territorial or federal support; and
- Given the ongoing uncertainty, and the highly unpredictable leadership in the U.S., the Trade Resilience Program is based on the principle of remaining flexible and nimble.

- See table below for a complete list of funded projects:

Business/Organization	Project Name	Amount
Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce	Arctic Summit 2026: Securing Sovereignty and Investment along the Arctic Passage.	\$50,000

75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(ii), 77(1)(a)

Dakwakada Capital Investments LP	Alaska Trade Mission to Anchorage	\$100,000
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75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(ii), 77(1)(a)

TOTAL		75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(ii), 77(1)(a)
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Trade Resilience Program

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Development

Status:

- The Trade Resilience Program will remain active through March 31, 2026; we expect approximately 50 per cent of the funding (~\$500,000) to lapse. Demand for the program was lower than anticipated.

If asked about whether the program will continue in 2026-27 fiscal year:

- The program was always intended to be time limited.
- Yukon businesses continue to have access to support through existing tools, such as the Economic Development Fund, which can support businesses adapting to evolving trade related challenges, ensuring continuity of assistance beyond the time limited Trade Resilience Program.

Approved by:	
<u>Sierra van der Meer</u>	<u>March 19, 2026</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Topic: The Department provides funding for organizations that support innovation and entrepreneurship.

Key messages:

- The Department collaborates with businesses and industry associations to make strategic investments and create the conditions for a strong, growing private sector, supporting startups and fostering entrepreneurship across the Yukon.
- The Department has valued partnerships with Yukonstruct, Yukon Venture Angels, Tech Yukon, and Mitacs to deliver physical spaces, educational programming and networking opportunities that foster an innovative environment.

Key facts and stats:

- The department provides financial support to the following organizations:
 - Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship – \$850,000 in 2025-26 (year 2 of a 3-year agreement, with program scheduled to conclude March 31, 2026);
 - Yukonstruct – \$250,000 in 2025-26 (year 2 of a 3-year agreement);
 - TechYukon – \$280,000 in 2025-26;
 - Yukon Venture Angels - \$95,000 in 2025-26 (year 2 of a 3-year agreement); and
 - Mitacs - \$80,000 in 2025-26.
- The Yukon University Board of Governors have decided to end the Innovation and Entrepreneurship program by March 31, 2026.

- Yukonstruct is a non-profit society for innovators, freelancers, startups, developers, students, inventors and creatives offering workshops and shared workspace at its Northlight Innovation Hub.
- Tech Yukon is the technology industry association for the Yukon, representing 28 Yukon technology companies.
- Yukon Venture Angels fosters private sector investment in the Yukon, engaging residents interested in supporting and investing in local enterprises to grow the territory's private sector economy.
- Mitacs facilitates business internships for graduate students from Canadian universities to help businesses execute projects that align with an intern's field of study.
- In collaboration with Tech Yukon, the Department supported ten early-stage tech companies from the Yukon to participate in the Web Summit conference in Vancouver in 2025. We look forward to exhibiting again this year in Vancouver.

Status:

- We are currently assessing proposals from both Tech Yukon and Mitacs for financial support in 2026-27 fiscal year.
- We expect our Transfer Payment Agreement with Yukon University Innovation and Entrepreneurship to end on March 31, 2026.

If asked why the Government of Yukon allowed the Innovation and Entrepreneurship program to end? Could more have been done to prevent this:

- We are grateful for the work that I&E has done in this space, and we respect their decision to close. We are confident that strong Yukon

organizations can take on the role that I&E once played. We will continue to work with partners across the Yukon to ensure that innovators and entrepreneurs get the support they need.

- This decision was made by Yukon University, who would be best positioned to provide further details.

If asked how the Department is supporting the innovation sector in the absence of I&E:

- There are many other organizations across the Yukon's innovation ecosystem that provide services to entrepreneurs.
- The Yukon government retains partnerships with Yukonstruct, Yukon Venture Angels, and Tech Yukon to support their activities.
- We continue to partner with the innovation ecosystem to deliver on programs such as:
 - Yukonstruct's Startup Bootcamp, Pathfinding services, and Innovation Week;
 - Investment workshops for entrepreneurs and angel investors;
 - Sponsoring the Mitacs Accelerate Research and Business Strategy Internship Program; and
 - Tech Yukon's Digital Adoption Program.
- The Economic Development Fund is also accepting applications year-round to support business opportunities.
- We have also included [\$705,000] in our budget this year to support new and emerging technology and innovation projects that align with government priorities. We are currently in discussion with industry partners on topics like AI and new technology development. Given the

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Supports for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Economic
Development

pace of this sector, it is important that we remain flexible to these opportunities.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 2, 2026
Date approved

Topic: Economic Development Fund supports business growth, innovation, and diversification across the Yukon.

Key messages:

- The Economic Development Fund supports Yukon First Nations, businesses and communities to strengthen economic resilience, innovation and diversification.
- The Government of Yukon recognizes the private sector as the foundation of economic growth. Our role is to create conditions for businesses to succeed.
- We are committed to making strategic investments that strengthen the private sector, support economic opportunities across the territory and deliver long-term benefits for Yukoners.

Key facts and stats:

- The Economic Development Fund provides funding to eligible Yukon First Nations governments and development corporations, businesses, municipalities, non-profits, and industry associations.
- This funding supports projects that advance business innovation, productivity, competitiveness, market expansion and economic diversification.
- The fund operates through three tiers:
 - Tier 1: Rolling intake up to \$30,000;
 - Tier 2: Applications between \$30,001 and \$100,000, with scheduled intakes on April 15 and September 15; and
 - Tier 3: Applications over \$100,000, up to a maximum of \$500,000 per project with intake on January 15.

- The total allocation for the Economic Development Fund in 2025-26 is \$1,960,000.
- Projects may receive funding for up to 75 per cent of eligible costs. Capital expenses are eligible for funding of up to 50 per cent.
- The fund supports both short-term capacity building (planning, feasibility, training) and longer-term capital and innovative investments.
- Economic Development Fund reports are published annually on Yukon.ca
- From April 1, 2025 to March 1, 2026, 35 projects were approved under the Economic Development Fund for a total of \$1,557,448 including multi-year projects (Tier 1 and Tier 2).

Status:

- The department is currently assessing applications received under the January 15, 2026, Tier 3 intake.
- The department is advancing work to transition Economic Development Fund applications to the SmartSimple online fund-management system. This modernization will streamline processes, improve client accessibility, and reduce administrative red tape.
- During the 2024-25 fiscal year, 68 projects were approved through the Economic Development Fund with a total contribution commitment of \$1,836,888.
- For the period April 1, 2025 to March 1, 2026, the communities receiving the most dollars were Whitehorse at 89 per cent, followed by Haines Junction at 4 per cent. When comparing, Whitehorse received 89 per cent and rural Yukon received 11 per cent of funding.

If asked about unsuccessful applications:

- The Economic Development Fund is a competitive program and is often oversubscribed, meaning not all eligible applications can be approved within available funding.
- The department provides feedback to unsuccessful applicants and works with proponents to identify future opportunities or alternative support.

If asked about the breakdown between funding for communities:

- Regional Economic Development Advisors work directly in communities to identify and support projects that will create economic opportunities in their region.
- We assess the overall economic impact on the territory, including job creation and sector development while also considering regional benefits and how a project may support economic activity in specific Yukon communities.

Approved by:	
<u>Sierra van der Meer</u>	<u>March 19, 2026</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Topic: The Business Incentive Program provided rebates to Yukon businesses on eligible Yukon government contracts that hired Yukon workers, used Yukon-made goods and services.

Key messages:

- The Business Incentive Program ended on July 8, 2025, as part of Yukon's efforts to reduce internal trade barriers.
- We will continue to provide rebates to eligible businesses for contracts that were open at the time of the program's cancellation. However, new procurements published after July 8, 2025, are not eligible for the program.
- The Business Incentive Program was introduced during a period of economic difficulty, but with Yukon's consistently high labour force participation and low unemployment rates over the past decade, the program no longer fulfilled its intended purpose.

Key facts and stats:

- The program provided two types of rebates for Yukon government procurements:
 - Construction rebates for labour and apprentice costs, youth employment, and Yukon materials; and
 - Goods and Services rebates for items produced locally and purchased by the Yukon government.
- In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Business Incentive Program paid \$511,276 in rebates to seven businesses for eight projects in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This does not include applications under assessment for multi-year projects.

- Since the start of the 2025-26 fiscal year, the department has processed one Business Incentive Program application totaling \$60,665.
- This program was created in 1990 in response to economic decline and high unemployment in the Yukon and across Canada. For more than a decade, Yukon's labour force participation rate has been among the highest and its unemployment rate is among the lowest in Canada.
- The Business Incentive Program only gave businesses a rebate for using Yukon content when they won a Yukon government procurement contract below the Canadian-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement limits (approximately \$353,300 for goods and services and \$8.8 million for construction).

Status:

- The Business Incentive Program rebates will continue to be paid out on eligible contracts published prior to July 8, 2025. Contracts published after this date are ineligible for Business Incentive Program rebates.

If asked how this removes internal trade barriers:

- The Business Incentive Program was non-compliant with the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, as it gave preference to local content and discriminated against other Canadian jurisdictions.
- Canceling the program and removing the associated Yukon's Canadian Free Trade Agreement exception does not impact the

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Business Incentive Program

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Yukon's ability to provide preference or advantages to Yukon First Nations.

Approved by:

Brian MacDonald
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 13, 2026
Date approved

Topic: Overview of the Department's investment attraction efforts.

Key messages:

- The Department of Economic Development supports investment attraction through programs, promotional activities, strategic partnerships and sector specific initiatives, such as mining investment attraction.
- Our government recognizes that attracting investment is essential to private sector growth and to delivering broader economic benefits for Yukoners.
- Our programs are designed to support the growth of Yukon's private sector by helping businesses attract the investment they need to expand, innovate, and create good jobs for Yukoners.

Key facts and stats:

- Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Program: A partnership between the Government of Yukon and participating financial institutions that guarantees 65 per cent of the principal, up to \$100,000 for eligible businesses.
 - No new applications have been received this fiscal.
- Yukon Business Investment Tax Credit: A 25 per cent individual tax credit for Yukon investors that allows Yukon-based businesses to issue shares in exchange for an agreed upon return and tax credit.
 - ^{77(1)(a)} were approved for \$4 million in each of the 2025 and 2024 Tax Years by utilizing the Yukon Business Investment Tax Credit program.

- Yukon Business Nominee Program: Since 2001, 52 candidates have been nominated for Permanent Residence under the Yukon Business Nominee Program, resulting in 32 established businesses and \$25.3 million in investment.
 - No new businesses were nominated under the Yukon Business Nominee Program in 2025-26.
- Events and Trade Shows: The Department of Economic Development promotes Yukon's investment potential through national and international events, including major mining and innovation conferences, and coordinated trade missions with Global Affairs Canada.
- Partnerships: Through collaboration with organizations such as Yukon Mining Alliance, Yukon Venture Angels, Invest in Canada, and others, we are able to reach more markets and increase the pool of potential investors in the Yukon.

Status:

- So far this year, Economic Development has participated at the Association for Mineral Exploration (AME) Round Up, Vancouver Resource Investment Conference (VRIC) and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention to promote investment opportunities in the Yukon.
- The Department supported the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce's Arctic Summit conference in February 2026.

Approved by:	
<u>Brian MacDonald</u>	<u>February 13, 2026</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Topic: Departmental initiatives to support investment attraction in the mining sector.

Key messages:

- Mining remains a cornerstone of Yukon's economy. The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting responsible mineral investment that creates opportunities for Yukoners and their communities.
- The department supports the sector through funding programs, infrastructure projects, and promoting Yukon's mineral potential globally.
- The Department is strengthening the mining sector by investing in strategic partnerships, infrastructure, and coordinated marketing to attract responsible mineral investment.

Key facts and stats:

- Industry Transfer Payment Agreements:
 - We are currently in year 1 of a 3-year agreement with the Yukon Mining Alliance to host the annual property tours and to lead and facilitate investment attraction activities for the mining sector. The Transfer Payment Agreement is valued at \$397,000 per year; and
 - We are currently in year 3 of a 3-year agreement with the Yukon Chamber of Mines to provide financial support for the Yukon Geoscience forum and for Yukon Night at AME Round Up. The Transfer Payment Agreement is valued at \$65,000 per year and we expect this to be renewed in 2026-27 fiscal year.

- Pan-Territorial Marketing Initiative:
 - In March 2024, CanNor approved a three-year pan-territorial marketing initiative between Yukon, Nunavut, and Northwest Territories, later branded as Invest North of 60;
 - CanNor approved the project with a contribution of \$420,000 which would be supplemented by territorial contributions totaling \$210,000 over three years. ^{77(1)(a)} was selected as the contractor to support those efforts; and
 - The initiative was launched at the Prospectors and Developers Association Conference in March 2025, and it returned in March 2026.
- Other Funding:
 - In 2025, the department commissioned a study by ^{77(1)(a)} Analytics to assess the economic and socio-economic benefits to the Yukon from the development of mining. The report will be available later this year.

Status:

- The Department participates in monthly update calls hosted by the Yukon Chamber of Mines Joint Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.
- We have participated at AME Round Up, Vancouver Resource and Investment Conference and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Convention so far this year.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 19, 2026
Date approved

Miners Lien Act – re: Victoria Gold

Economic
Development

Topic: Several Yukon businesses have liens registered with Victoria Gold and are worried they will not have priority over other debtors in the event of the sale of Eagle Gold.

Key messages:

- Under the *Miners Lien Act*, registered lienholders have priority for repayment over other debts, including mortgages, for the value of work, services or materials provided to the mine for a period of 60 days.
- Where a mining company has been placed into receivership the overall order of repayment for all creditors, including lienholders, is set by federal insolvency legislation including the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*.
- As Federal law takes precedence, the priority set out in the *Miners Lien Act* priority can be overridden by federal insolvency rules. In the case of the Eagle Gold Mine, this includes the super-priority charge approved by the court to secure the Government of Yukon's funding for environmental remediation through the receivership.
- Any sale of the Eagle Gold Mine must be approved by the Court under federal insolvency legislation. Yukon businesses will have the opportunity to present their interests through this court-supervised process, including any requests for priority consideration.

Key facts and stats:

- The *Miners Lien Act* protects contractors and subcontractors by enabling them to claim liens against mines for up to 60 days' worth of unpaid goods and services provided for mineral recovery.

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Miners Lien Act – re: Victoria Gold

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- Since the June 2024 failure event at the Eagle Gold Mine (Victoria Gold Corp), 30 claims of lien against Victoria Gold have been registered, totaling \$60,237,639.
- As of February 5, 2026, the Victoria Gold liens registry indicates that 14 contractors or subcontractors have filed their Supreme Court-issued certificate of pending litigation with the Mining Recorder's Office.

Status:

- In the 2024 Spring sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, the New Democratic Party called on Government of Yukon to pursue process changes to reduce “hardship” for local businesses and to “make the *Miners Lien Act* work for Yukoners and not global corporations”, citing the closures of Wolverine Mine (2015) and Minto Mine (2023).
- On November 19, 2024, in the Fall Session, the New Democratic Party then called for the Government of Yukon to rewrite the *Miners Lien Act* to prioritize local creditors in Yukon mine closures.
- The *Miners Lien Act* is subject to federal insolvency laws, meaning if any amendments were to be contemplated, they must align with federal legislation.
- Any potential changes to the legislation would have to be forward-looking and could not apply to existing insolvency proceedings.

Approved by:

Brian MacDonald
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 13, 2026
Date approved

Topic: On December 12, 2025, Yukon University's Board of Governors supported a motion to end the Innovation and Entrepreneurship program by March 31, 2026.

Key messages:

- The Department of Economic Development collaborates with businesses and industry associations to make strategic investments and promote an entrepreneurial culture that attracts and supports startups.
- Yukon University Innovation and Entrepreneurship has been focused on areas of innovation that contribute to the social and economic prosperity of the Yukon, including technology development, climate action, community development and sustainable resource development.
- The Department has upheld a strong partnership with Yukon University to deliver physical spaces, educational programming and networking opportunities that foster an innovative environment.
- We respect the decision made by Yukon University to move on from this programming and we will continue to explore new opportunities to support innovation across the territory.

Key facts and stats:

- Innovation and Entrepreneurship operate arms-length from Yukon University, and it is not integrated into the University's core research or academic programs.

- The Department is a long-time funder of the program and is currently in year 2 of a 3-year TPA in the amount of \$850,000 per year (\$597,000 programming plus \$253,000 operations and admin).
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship's programs include the following:
 - Innovation Fund - provides grants to businesses and entrepreneurs;
 - Incubate North - business incubator for businesses looking to grow and expand their markets;
 - Wrap-Around Services - connects entrepreneurs with subject-matter experts in niche areas such as legal, IP, corporate finance, etc.; and
 - Summer Business School - helps guide students to launch new business ideas over the course of a summer.
- Historically corporate sponsors contributed funding to Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Yukon University does not provide financial support to the program. Innovation and Entrepreneurship sublets space from Yukonstruct at Northlight Innovation Hub. Annual rent increases projected over the next 5-years would have put financial strain on Yukon University.

Status:

- The program will conclude on March 31, 2026 and funding planned for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in 2026-27 fiscal year will be redirected to other innovation initiatives.

If asked why the Government of Yukon allowed the Innovation and Entrepreneurship program to fail? Could more have been done to prevent this:

- While we are disappointed by the closure, we respect the independent decisions of Yukon University's board of Governor's regarding future activities at Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- This decision was made by Yukon University, who would be best positioned to provide further details.

If asked about the future of innovation in the Yukon:

- There are many other organizations across the Yukon's innovation ecosystem that provide many services to entrepreneurs.
- The Yukon government retains partnerships with Yukonstruct, Yukon Venture Angels, and Tech Yukon to support their activities.
- We continue to partner with the innovation ecosystem to deliver on programs such as:
 - Yukonstruct's Startup Bootcamp, Pathfinding services, and Innovation Week;
 - Investment workshops for entrepreneurs and angel investors;
 - Sponsoring the Mitacs Accelerate Research and Business Strategy Internship Program; and
 - Tech Yukon's Digital Adoption Program.
- The Economic Development Fund is also accepting applications year-round to support business opportunities.

Approved by:

Brian MacDonald
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 13, 2026
Date approved

First Nations Collaborative Initiatives

Economic Development

Topic: Overview of departmental funding allocated to Yukon First Nations governments, development corporations and Yukon First Nations-led organizations.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to strengthening government-to-government partnerships and supporting First Nations-led economic priorities within Traditional Territories.
- Through targeted investments, we support capacity building, workforce participation, business development, and long-term economic reconciliation.
- Yukon First Nations governments and their development corporations play a critical role in growing and diversifying Yukon's economy.
- Funding from the Department of Economic Development advances economic reconciliation by supporting First Nation-led participation in the economy, workforce development, and entrepreneurship.

Key facts and stats:

- This fiscal year (current to March 1), \$1,926,726, roughly 9.5 per cent of our transfer payment budget is supporting Yukon First Nations governments, development corporations and First Nations-led organizations.
- \$1,926,726 in economic development funding includes:
 - \$998,289 in Labour Market Development funding;
 - \$267,302 through the Economic Development Fund;
 - \$407,860 through the Community Development Fund;
 - \$128,275 in support through the Trade Resilience Fund; and
 - \$125,000 to the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce.

- Funding has been provided for community-level initiatives and larger-scale development projects that align with First Nations economic priorities to support:
 - Governance and organizational capacity;
 - Strategic and economic planning;
 - Feasibility studies;
 - Business establishment and expansion;
 - Labour market participation; and
 - Projects with lasting community benefits.
- Departmental support has been delivered through the Labour Market Development programs, Building Up and Staffing Up, Economic Development Fund, Community Development Fund and Trade Resilience Fund. Examples include:
 - dāna Nāye Venture's service provision for Yukon First Nations youth, focused on career development in the financial and economic sectors;
 - All Ready Homes' development of a prototype modular show home, showcasing housing innovation for Yukon communities;
 - Yukon First Nations Education Directorate delivery of culturally relevant mobile trades training programs, creating career pathways for Indigenous youth throughout Yukon;
 - Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's capacity building and service provision to strengthen capacity and labour market support for their citizens;
 - Yukon First Nations Wildfire's 'Wildlife Warrior Program', providing workplace-based opportunities for youth to increase their Skills for Success in a culturally relevant environment;
 - International trade mission to Alaska for Yukon First Nations Development Corporations and First Nations owned businesses

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First Nations Collaborative Initiatives

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to meet with counterparts from Alaska's Native Corporations to support trade resilience; and

- o Bears' Lair entrepreneurship camp for indigenous youth aged 11-18 hosted in Haines Junction by Sha Shāw Corporation.

Status:

- Current investments reflect a stronger focus on capacity building, workforce readiness, and Indigenous-led business development.
- Advisors continue to work collaboratively with Yukon First Nations partners to align funding with community priorities and readiness.

If asked about how is the department advancing First Nations economic reconciliation:

- Advancing economic development opportunities for Yukon First Nations is essential to meeting commitments under Chapter 22 of the Umbrella Final Agreement.
- Investing in First Nations-led initiatives strengthens Yukon's overall economic resilience and boosts participation in the labour market.
- Flexible multi-program funding allows the department to respond to the changing economic conditions and priorities identified by communities.
- The government remains committed to building strong government-to-government relationships with Yukon First Nations.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 19, 2026
Date approved

Topic: Overview of the Performing Musicians Fund.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon launched the Performing Musicians Fund in 2022. It is a comprehensive funding program for Yukon musicians to foster continued growth in this vibrant creative industry.
- Eligible activities under the Performing Musicians Fund include:
 - Refining skills for sound recording, such as preproduction activities or workshop registration;
 - Professional sound recordings intended for commercial release, as well as costs related to showcases and auditions to secure bookings; and
 - Costs associated with marketing new music.
- Investing in the sector ensures that both emerging and established musicians can build viable careers, while fostering a resilient creative economy.

Key facts and stats:

- The annual budget for the Performing Musicians Fund is \$300,000.
- Between April 1, 2025 and February 4, 2026, the Department of Economic Development approved 25 applications, including eight established musicians and 17 emerging musicians, for a total of \$317,265.
- 2025-26 is the first year the Performing Musicians Fund has been fully subscribed to.

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Performing Musicians Fund

Economic
Development

Status:

- The Media Development branch holds regular meetings with the industry association Music Yukon, focusing on the sustainable growth of the Yukon music industry and supporting local musicians.

If asked about canceled November 2025 Performing Musician Fund intake:

- Economic Development advertised a third intake of the Performing Musicians Fund for November 25, 2025. This intake was cancelled because the program budget was fully allocated during the second intake August 2025.
- Due to the election and subsequent caretaker period, we were unable to announce the cancellation until November 21, 2025.
- We recognize the efforts of individuals who had planned to apply to this intake. These applicants were contacted directly through media advisors and provided with information on alternative funding options where appropriate.

Approved by:	
_____	_____
Brian MacDonald	February 13, 2026
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Topic: General overview of screen media funding programs.

Key messages:

- Economic Development's media funding programs help to provide economic benefits and employment opportunities for Yukoners.
- Media Development projects generate four dollars in Yukon production spend for every program dollar invested, creating jobs for Yukoners and supporting local businesses. This translates into local job creation and direct spending that benefits Yukon businesses.

Key facts and stats:

- The Media Development branch administers the Media Training Fund, Predevelopment Fund, Development Fund, and the Media Production Fund.
- Between April 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026, the department approved 20 applications totaling \$2,005,305 including:
 - 11 applications for a total of \$76,924 under the Media Training Fund;
 - three applications for a total of \$41,230 under the Predevelopment Fund;
 - two applications for a total of \$45,750 under the Development Fund; and
 - four applications for \$1,841,401 under the Media Production Fund.
- These 20 projects are expected to invest approximately \$5.85 million in the Yukon, creating dozens of local jobs, building capacity,

Screen Media Fund Programs

Economic
Development

supporting Yukon businesses and contributing to economic diversification.

- Annual Media Development Fund Reports are published annually online at Yukon.ca and lists all supported projects.

Status:

- The four Media Development funding programs launched in 2022 replacing five outdated programs.
- We expect demand to continue to exceed available funding and the Department will continue to take a strategic approach to supporting the sector.

If asked about Screen Production Yukon Association Studio:

- Screen Production Yukon Association will be moving out of their studio space in the old convention center by March 31, 2026.
- The organization received two years of CanNor funding to conduct a feasibility study for operating a studio for Yukon filmmakers. The study showed that operating a studio of that size is not financially viable at this time, especially for a non-profit organization. Screen Production Yukon Association is now exploring options for a new location with a smaller, more manageable studio.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 19, 2026
Date approved

Topic: Overview of the Community Development Fund and its role in supporting eligible community-led projects across the Yukon.

Key messages:

- The Community Development Fund supports local projects and events that create long-term, sustainable economic, cultural and social benefits across the Yukon.
- The fund helps local organizations bring their ideas to life, whether that's strengthening community connections, building local skills or supporting long-term growth and well-being.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to working closely with communities to ensure the fund remains responsive, accessible, and focused on long term impact.

Key facts and stats:

- The Community Development Fund is for projects that:
 - Generate economic benefits, including local spending, employment, investments in the Yukon and filling community infrastructure gaps; and
 - Deliver measurable improvements to social, cultural and overall long-term wellbeing of Yukon residents and communities.
- Funding is provided through dispersed across three tiers:
 - Tier 1 for requests of \$20,000 and less (four intakes per year);
 - Tier 2 for requests between \$20,001 and \$75,000 (two intakes per year); and
 - Tier 3 for requests over \$75,000 (one intake per year).

- Annual Community Development Fund reports are published online on Yukon.ca.
- From April 1, 2025 to March 1, 2026, 43 projects were approved under the Community Development Fund, for over \$1.9 million in funding. Several projects are multi-year initiatives.
- So far, this fiscal year, 17 projects outside of Whitehorse have been approved for a total of \$785,597 representing 39 per cent of the total approved budget for fiscal year 2025–26 (as of March 1, 2026).

Status:

- September 2025 and January 2026 Tier 1 were decided in February 2026. January 2026 Tier 3 will be decided in April 2026. Successful applicants will be notified within one week of the decision.

If asked about declined or unsuccessful applications:

- The Community Development Fund is often oversubscribed, and not all applications can be funded.
- Some applications may also be deemed ineligible if they do not meet program criteria.
- Community Development Advisors work closely with applicants to help them understand the program requirements and, where possible, support the development of eligible and competitive applications.

If asked about rural-urban split in funding:

- This fiscal year (2025–26), 39 per cent of the department's Community Development Fund support was allocated to communities.

- This includes over \$785,000 in funding to support 17 projects outside Whitehorse.
- Community Development Advisors work directly in communities to identify and support projects that will create social and economic opportunities in their regions.
- We assess each project according to overall impacts on the territory, including job creation and sector development. We also consider regional benefits and how a project may support economic activity in specific Yukon communities.

If asked about how much funding has been allocated to non-profits

- Annual Community Development Fund annual reports are available on Yukon.ca and include a list of all approved projects.
- In fiscal year 2024-25, we approved funding for 42 projects within the non-profit sector. In 2025–26, 35 non-profit projects were approved.
- To be eligible for the Community Development Fund, applicants must be a registered non-profit organization, a not-for-profit corporation incorporated under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, charitable organizations, a municipal government, a First Nation government, or a First Nation development corporation engaging in a community-level initiative.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 19, 2026
Date approved

Topic: The Government of Yukon provides support through projects and programs that bolster economic development across the territory.

Key messages:

- Communities have benefited from a variety of funds administered by the department, including the Community Development Fund and Economic Development Fund.
- Communities also receive support from Media Development funding programs. Many screen-based media projects film in locations throughout the Yukon and spend their budgets in multiple communities.
- The department provides economic immigration programs to help businesses across the territory meet their labour needs.
- Economic Development also supports labour market development initiatives of employers and organizations through Staffing UP and Building UP programs.

Key facts and stats:

- From April 1, 2025 to March 1, 2026, the department approved \$3.6 million in Community Development Fund and Economic Development Fund support. Of this amount, 27 per cent (\$938,916) went to communities outside of Whitehorse. These include:
 - North region (Dawson City, Eagle Plains, Keno, Mayo, Old Crow): \$105,889;
 - West region (Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction): \$496,641;

- Central region (Carmacks, Faro, Pelly Crossing, Ross River): \$137,964; and
- Southeast region (Carcross, Southern Lakes, Teslin, Watson Lake): \$198,422.
- In 2025, 43 Yukon Nominee Program applications were approved in rural communities.
- In the January 2026 intake for the Yukon Nominee Program, 18 per cent of invitations to apply were issued to employers in Yukon's rural communities.
- From April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, the department approved \$4.1 million in Building UP and Staffing UP project support. Projects outside of Whitehorse received 22 per cent of total funding (\$953,264):
 - Carcross - \$22,800;
 - Carmacks - \$62,480;
 - Dawson City - \$533,255;
 - Haines Junction - \$75,759;
 - Mayo - \$9,800;
 - Teslin - \$239,170; and
 - Watson Lake - \$10,000.
- Between April 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026, the department approved 20 applications to the Media Development branch totaling \$2,005,305.
- These 20 projects are expected to invest approximately \$5.85 million in the Yukon, creating dozens of local jobs, building capacity, supporting Yukon businesses and contributing to economic diversification.

- o Approximately \$3.87 million of that investment will go into communities outside of Whitehorse.

If asked about how communities receive support and guidance in accessing programs and funding:

- Regional Economic Development Advisors and Community Development advisors make regular visits to the communities to meet with potential applicants, provide application support and promote their programs.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 19, 2026
Date approved

Topic: Economic Development plays a key role in strengthening Yukon's labour market, investing in projects that help connect Yukoners and employers with the skills, training and support they need to succeed.

Key messages:

- A strong labour market is necessary to deliver on the government's mandate to:
 - Create the conditions to allow the private sector to grow and lead economic growth;
 - Plan for energy and education infrastructure improvements;
 - Increase housing availability; and
 - Increase access to front-line healthcare services.
- Through the Labour Market Development Branch, we are investing in programs that help connect Yukoners and employers with the skills, training and support they need to succeed.
- These investments include partnerships that build workforce capacity, advance skills development and support apprenticeship and post-secondary learning across the territory.

Key facts and stats:

- For the 2025-26 fiscal year, the government has dedicated over \$7 million to labour market programming, with support from the Government of Canada. This amount will be almost \$8 million in 2026-27.
- The Tariff top up for Yukon totals \$914,000 for fiscal year 2026-27 in addition to the approximately \$3.5 million already provided annually under the Labour Market Development Agreement.

- Budget 2026 supports the following programs:
 - Building UP – Provides funding to organizations that offer services and support to job seekers and employers;
 - Staffing UP – Supports employers in attracting, training and developing the talent they need to grow their business;
 - Working UP – Delivered by the Department of Education, this program helps individuals achieve their learning and career goals, including support for apprenticeship and trades training; and
 - Foreign Credential Recognition Project - which provides strategic and program funding to help internationally trained healthcare workers apply their skills and experience to work in the Yukon.

Status:

- Primary funding for labour market programs comes from the Canada-Yukon Labour Market Transfer Agreements, specifically;
 - The Canada-Yukon Labour Market Development Agreement, with funding provided by Employment and Social Development under Part Two of the Employment Insurance Act; and
 - The Canada-Yukon Workforce Development Agreement with funding provided by Employment and Social Development under the Department of Employment and Social Development Act.
- Key priorities of the Labour Market Development branch are to:
 - Support equity seeking, under-represented groups towards labour market success, including Yukon First Nations, youth,

- persons with disabilities, newcomers in regulated professions, and women in trades and technology;
- o Reduce the number and duration of posted, unfilled jobs in the Yukon; and
- o Address skills shortages in healthcare, construction trades and front-line service workers.

If asked about youth employment:

- Youth employment is a priority for the department. The Labour Market Development Branch is actively pursuing projects to support youth employment in the Yukon, helping young people build the skills and opportunities they need to succeed.
 - o In February 2026, Yukon youth aged 15 through 24 had an unemployment rate of 13.8 per cent, almost triple the overall Yukon rate of 4.7 per cent.
- At the national level, federal Labour Market Ministers have identified youth unemployment as a shared priority. A federal-provincial-territorial ministers meeting is planned for the spring to identify key needs and next steps to address youth unemployment.

If asked about the “tariff top-up” to the Labour Market Development Agreement:

- In response to the U.S. tariffs, The Government of Canada has offered a “top-up” to the Labour Market Development Agreement. This funding will support workers and employers in sectors impacted by the tariffs and global uncertainty.

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Labour Market Development- Programs and Funds

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- The top up for Yukon totals \$1,523,233 allocated across three fiscal years.
- The Department of Economic Development has signed the agreement and sent it back to the Government of Canada for their signatures.
- These resources are dedicated to connecting available workers to available jobs in the Yukon by providing training support to individuals and wage and training support to employers.

If asked about when the implementation of additional “tariff top-up” funding will begin:

- Implementation timelines will be confirmed once the fully signed agreement has been received.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 24, 2026
Date approved

Foreign Credential Recognition Project

Economic
Development

Topic: The Foreign Credential Recognition Project is making progress in supporting credential recognition and workforce integration for internationally educated health care professionals in the Yukon.

Key messages:

- The Foreign Credential Recognition Project is a four-year, \$3.65 million federally funded initiative that helps internationally educated health professionals join Yukon's healthcare workforce by simplifying credentialing and removing barriers.
- The Project works across government departments and provides targeting funding to modernize licensing pathways and supports employers integrating new health professionals by helping translate research and policy work into practical, on-the-ground results.
- Recent milestones include the one-year anniversary of the Navigation Service for internationally educated health care professionals and the signing of funding agreements to launch a transition-to-practice program for internationally educated nurses.

Key facts and stats:

- Funded by Employment and Social Development Canada.
- Project launched in February 2024 and runs through January 2028.
- Led by the Department of Economic Development, in coordination with the Departments of Community Services and Health and Social Services.
- Key deliverables include research, the Foreign Credential Recognition Navigation Service, and an employment readiness program for internationally educated nurses.

Foreign Credential Recognition Project

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- Since its launch, the navigation service has supported internationally educated health care professionals through individualized information, referrals, and access to targeted funding.
- As of March 17, 2026, the service has engaged 149 individuals, created 109 action plans, and committed \$214,820 in direct financial assistance since program launch.
- There are 16 individuals who have achieved a license to practice in Yukon. However, placement in employment remains a challenge as employers continue to require minimum years of Canadian experience prior to hiring.
- To date, two of the 149 individuals have employment that reflects their credentials. Two additional individuals currently engaged in the Yukon Hospital Corporation transition to practice program were previously supported to get their Yukon licenses.

Other key investments to date:

- \$48,569 allocated to research on bridging program models and best practices.
- \$100,000 allocated to Community Services to advance the modernization of the Health Professions Act.
- \$25,000 allocated to Community Services to support work to help streamline licensure pathways for internationally trained physicians.
- \$95,335 allocated to Health and Social Services to develop the transition-to-practice program.
- \$589,000 allocated to the Yukon Hospital Corporation and Health and Social Services to support wages for internationally educated nurses while they participate in the transition-to-practice program, covering

Foreign Credential Recognition Project

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the period up to March 2027, with an initial objective of fully integrating 13 Internationally Educated Nurses into the labour force.

- \$30,000 allocated to training material development.

Status:

- Health and Social Services **has** **launched** the transition-to-practice program, with the first intake starting **in** March 2026.
- A research report on bridging and alternative program models was received in January 2026. The report includes recommendations focused on best practices, program content, and actions to improve the experience of internationally educated health professionals in the territory.
- Plans for the employment readiness program are currently being developed and are expected to be finalized by April 2026.

If asked about staffing shortages in the health care system:

- The Yukon continues to experience unfilled positions in the healthcare sector, mirroring a nationwide challenge as the sector struggles to find certified healthcare professionals to meet growing demand.
- Addressing this shortage is crucial to maintaining a resilient health care system that can provide high-quality care to all Yukoners.
- Streamlining the foreign credential recognition process is one way to increase the labour supply in the Yukon's healthcare sector.

We also welcome the federal government's new initiatives to address physician shortages across Canada and look forward to exploring how they can be leveraged to connect more Yukoners to family doctors.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 24, 2026
Date approved

Topic: The Yukon Nominee Program is an economic immigration program that supports labour market needs while ensuring job opportunities are safeguarded for Canadians and permanent residents.

Key messages:

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada have set an allocation of 282 for the Yukon Nominee Program in 2026. This is a reduction of 125 spots from 2025.
- With limited nominations available, on January 12, 2026, the department announced a list of priorities for this year, along with an operational guidance document that lays out specifically how the program will operate this year.
- Employers are required to submit an online expression of interest form during one of the two intake periods before receiving an invitation to apply to the program.
 - An expression of interest intake model efficiently identifies the candidates that align with the priorities before the employer commits resources to completing an application. It also helps the department effectively manage its resources.
 - The first intake in January received 324 eligible submissions with the second intake period scheduled for July.
- Employers must be able to demonstrate that there is a genuine labour market need and that they have been unable to find suitable Canadian or permanent resident candidates to qualify for this program.
- The consistent application of the criteria found in the published operational guidance and program policy ensures fairness for all

Yukon employers and foreign nationals who are seeking to use this program.

Key facts and stats in 2025:

- In January 2025, the Yukon received an allocation of 215. In August 2025, the Yukon received 67 additional spots, and in October 2025, received 125 more, for a total of 407.
- 60 carry-over applications were assessed and an additional 389 invitations to apply were sent out to those that aligned with priorities.
- After applications were withdrawn and refused, a total of 312 nominations were approved.
- The top five countries of origin were India (226), Philippines (14), China (12), Ukraine (8) and Taiwan (5).
- The top five occupations were food counter attendants and kitchen helpers (41), early childhood educators (36), retail salesperson (31), cashiers (25) and hotel front desk clerks (14).
- Of the 312 applications approved, 269 were in Whitehorse, and the remaining 43 were from Dawson City (7), Haines Junction (6), Carmacks (5), Watson Lake (4), Ross River (4), Carcross (4), Mayo (3), Faro (2), Eagle Plains (2), Destruction Bay (2), and one each in Teslin, Pelly Crossing, Burwash Landing and Beaver Creek.

Status:

- The first 2026 intake period has concluded. A total of 358 submissions were received, with 324 deemed eligible. Of those, 175 received invitations to apply, along with 52 individuals who had received temporary measure letters of support in 2024 or 2025.

- As of March 10, 2026, 168 applications were submitted, 47 declined the invitation to apply and 12 applications were deemed ineligible at intake.
- The second 2026 intake period will occur from July 6 to 17. All applications received through the two intake periods must be assessed with a determination made by December 31, 2026.
- The department will be undertaking a Yukon Nominee Program review in 2026.

If asked about Yukon Nominee Program priorities:

- The Yukon Nominee Program priorities for 2026 are:
 - Regulated health care professionals;
 - Employers in rural Yukon; and
 - Foreign nationals who:
 - have lived and worked in the Yukon for at least one year;
 - are Yukon University graduates;
 - are Francophone or French-speaking; or
 - received a Temporary Measure Letter of Support in 2024 or 2025.
- These priorities reflect our government's priorities as well as requirements identified by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.
- The priorities were informed by feedback received in 2025, as well as discussions with chambers of commerce and industry organizations.

If asked about work permit extensions/temporary measure letter of support:

- The Government of Yukon previously offered a temporary measure where foreign nationals whose work permits would expire in 2024 or 2025, could request a support letter from the Government of Yukon to apply for a new, up to two-year, Yukon-specific work permit.
- The foreign national still needs to be nominated by their employer in 2025 or 2026 for permanent residency through the Yukon Nominee Program.
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada did not renew its temporary public policy to allow the Yukon to offer this opportunity for 2026. Work permits and permanent resident visas are the responsibility of the Government of Canada.
- Foreign nationals with questions or concerns about work permits should reach out to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, or to our local Member of Parliament, Brendan Hanley.

If asked about Government of Yukon's use of the Yukon Nominee Program:

- The Yukon Nominee Program is currently oversubscribed with more employers seeking to use the program than there are available nominations.
- We are committed to supporting the private sector's labour market needs, to allow businesses to grow and lead economic growth.
- The Government of Yukon does not currently use the Yukon Nominee Program for recruiting government positions but remains committed to attracting and retaining talent through other strategies.

- The Government of Yukon will undertake a review of the Yukon Nominee Program in 2026 to ensure the program balances the needs of our growing economy with the territory's needs and objectives.

If asked about the Government of Canada's announcement of 5,000 additional spaces for licensed doctors:

- We welcome the Government of Canada's announcement and are reviewing the details to understand how the Yukon can benefit.
- Doctors are typically considered self-employed in the Yukon. Under the current program criteria, self-employed individuals are not eligible for nomination through the Yukon Nominee Program.
- The Government of Yukon does not directly nominate individuals; nominations must be tied to eligible employers and established program streams.
- The Government of Yukon is actively working to address these challenges and to identify pathways to attract more physicians to the territory. This work aligns with priorities set by the Government of Canada.

If asked about the Government of Yukon's advocacy for more allocations:

- In 2025, the Government of Canada released its 2025-27 Immigration Levels Plan, which included a 50 per cent reduction in nominee allocations across Canada.
- The Government of Yukon will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of the Yukon and will

engage with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to ensure the Yukon's labour market needs are communicated.

If asked about specific applicant or nominee:

- In the interest of protecting personal information, I am unable to speak about the specifics of individual files.
- Individuals are encouraged to reach out to the Department of Economic Development's Immigration Branch to address concerns or seek additional information on the Yukon Nominee Program.
- Foreign nationals with questions or concerns about work permits should reach out to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, or to our local Member of Parliament, Brendan Hanley.

If asked about how the Department has communicated with employers and foreign nationals:

- The Department first announced the Yukon Nominee Program 2026 operational process on January 12, 2026. This release identified the priorities for this year and included the operational guidance that outlined important dates for the year and how expressions of interest would be scored and selected.
- All employers who submitted an expression of interest received notification of the outcome of their submission, and those who were invited to apply received detailed instructions on the process.
- The department also updated the application handbook for 2026 to ensure program requirements were complete and clear to applicants.

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Yukon Nominee Program

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- Ongoing engagement with program applicants was maintained through direct email communication that reminded of deadlines, and five mandatory information sessions were held.
- The Government recognizes that the immigration process can be complex, particularly in a rapidly evolving immigration landscape, and that it is deeply personal experience for those navigating it.
- To support our clients through the process, the department also holds weekly drop-in sessions for stakeholders and clients to seek answers to their questions and is reachable by phone and email. Many applicants used these opportunities to seek answers to their questions while completing applications.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 19, 2026
Date approved

Yukon Nominee Program Review and Operations

Economic
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Topic: With a rapidly changing immigration landscape, oversubscription of the Yukon Nominee Program, and initial recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General, the government will conduct a review of the Yukon Nominee Program in 2026.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to undertaking a review of the Yukon Nominee Program in 2026 to ensure the program balances the needs of our growing economy with local infrastructure capacity.
- Foreign nationals who want to make the Yukon their home can fill key labour gaps and advance our territory's development, infrastructure and healthcare priorities.
- We look forward to hearing feedback from program users and stakeholders on how this program can best meet the Yukon's labour market needs.

Key facts and stats:

- In 2021, the Yukon Nominee Program received more applications than available nominations. This trend continued and led to a temporary pause on applications from Whitehorse-based employers in May 2024.
- In 2025, the Yukon Nominee Program introduced a new expression of interest intake model to select those interested in applying to the program that align with the identified territorial priorities.
- In 2024, the RCMP executed two search warrants for information held at the Department of Economic Development.

Yukon Nominee Program Review and Operations

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- The Government of Canada is committed to reducing Canada's temporary resident population from 6.2 per cent in 2023 to under 5 per cent by the end of 2027 by:
 - stabilizing international student numbers;
 - planning and assessment of demand for temporary foreign workers; and
 - including temporary residents in the Immigration Levels Plan.

Status:

- The department is currently developing clear objectives and an approach to gather feedback and assess current program challenges.
- The department will share more information in the coming months.

If asked about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation:

- The RCMP executed search warrants on June 3, 2024, and December 20, 2024, for information held at the Department of Economic Development.
- All applicable records were provided in full compliance with the search warrants.
- We cannot speak on behalf of the RCMP about any ongoing investigation related to the Yukon's immigration programs or program users but remain committed to fully cooperating with law enforcement.

If asked about Office of the Auditor General Performance Audit:

- The Auditor General of Canada had been planning to undertake a performance audit of the Yukon Nominee Program and the Yukon

Yukon Nominee Program Review and Operations

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Business Nominee Program. On November 15, 2024, it was announced that this audit would be postponed out of respect for the ongoing investigations by the RCMP.

- On January 14, 2025, the Auditor General of Canada issued a Management Letter providing four suggestions for the Department of Economic Development regarding the Yukon nominee program and Yukon business nominee program:
 - Evaluate resources for the Immigration Branch;
 - Consider establishing mechanisms to restore confidence in the immigration programs;
 - Establish ways to improve the balance of power between employers and employees; and
 - Determine if the Yukon Nominee Program is addressing the Yukon's labour market needs.
- While the management letter's recommendations are not audit findings, we view them as valuable independent feedback to help inform a program review and improve the Yukon Nominee Program.

Approved by:

Brian MacDonald
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 13, 2026
Date approved

Yukon Business Nominee Program

Economic
Development

Topic: The Yukon Business Nominee Program provides a pathway to permanent residency for international entrepreneurs.

Key messages:

- The Yukon Business Nominee Program is designed to attract and retain skilled international entrepreneurs, to add diversity and innovation to the Yukon's economy while ensuring that opportunities are safeguarded for Yukoners and other Canadians.
- The Yukon Business Nominee Program has successfully attracted and retained skilled international entrepreneurs to Dawson City, Mayo, Faro, Haines Junction and Whitehorse, creating jobs and enhancing economic diversification.
- The criteria are designed to support businesses that are sustainable, contribute to the Yukon's economy and align with identified priority sectors.

Key facts and stats:

- Since 2001, 52 candidates have been nominated for Permanent Residence through the Yukon Business Nominee Program.
- The program requires a detailed business plan and supporting documentation over the first two years of operation to confirm that the business is active and that the applicant and their family have made the Yukon their year-round residence.
- Once all requirements have been met, the applicant can be nominated for permanent residency.

Status:

- The program assesses applications as they are submitted. There are currently two applications under assessment.

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Yukon Business Nominee Program

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If asked about current court cases involving Yukon Business Nominee Program clients:

- We are aware of the proceedings between Yukon Business Nominee Program clients and their former immigration consultant.
- The Government of Yukon is not a named party to these cases and does not have any information on their current status.
- A lawsuit was filed against the Government of Yukon in January 2026. Because the matter is currently before the courts, I'm not able to comment on it.

If asked about the closure of two businesses opened under the Yukon Business Nominee Program:

- We are aware of the closure of these businesses.
- I am unable to comment about the specifics of individual immigration files.

If asked about how many businesses have applied to the program recently:

- In the past three years, there have been 17 business concepts assessed; nine in 2023, two in 2024 and six in 2025.
- While the program has not accepted any new business concepts since 2022, we will continue to support foreign nationals interested in starting or acquiring a sustainable business in the territory through the program.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 19, 2026
Date approved

Topic: The integration of Francophone and other international newcomers who intend to make the Yukon their home supports workforce retention and strengthens the territory's cultural diversity.

Key messages:

- The Department of Economic Development provides settlement support to Yukon Nominees through collaboration with employers, information sessions, worksite monitoring and community outreach.
- The Francophone community plays a vital role in Yukon's cultural and economic landscape by strengthening bilingualism, supporting workforce needs, and fostering inclusive communities.
- The Government of Canada supports local service providers, such as l'Association franco-yukonnaise and the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon to provide integration services and programs.
- These services include delivering language and cultural awareness training, assisting with finding housing and obtaining referrals to government services such as childcare, education and health care.

Key facts and stats:

- The 2021 census reported French as the first official language for 4.5 per cent of the Yukon population.
- In 2025, the Yukon Nominee Program approved nominations for ten Francophone candidates.
- In 2025-26, Canada invested \$2.2 million for settlement services for permanent residents in the Yukon, an increase of 7.5 per cent from 2024-25.

- Canada's 2026-28 Immigration Levels Plan increased the target for Francophone admissions outside Quebec to 9 per cent in 2026, 9.5 per cent in 2027 and 10.5 per cent in 2028.

Status:

- The Government of Yukon continues to work in partnership with the Government of Canada and L'Association franco-yukonnaise to recruit bilingual immigrants and help them integrate into Yukon communities.
- In 2026, as in 2025, foreign nationals who are Francophone or French speaking are priorities for the Yukon Nominee Program.

If asked about the Government of Canada's allocation of 5,000 additional spaces for Francophone candidates:

- We support Canada's commitment to strengthening Francophone immigration outside of Quebec.
- To utilize these additional spaces, the Yukon Nominee Program will award 2026 Expression of Interest submissions an additional 5 points for French speaking foreign nationals.

If asked about Interim Federal Health Program:

- The Interim Federal Health Program provides temporary health coverage for refugees, asylum claimants, protected persons and resettled refugees, until they access provincial or territorial health care programs.
- Canada's Budget 2025 introduced co-payments for supplemental healthcare services to help manage the demand and to keep the program sustainable.

- Starting May 1, 2026, beneficiaries will pay \$4 per prescription and 30 per cent of the cost for other supplemental services like dental, vision and counselling. Basic medical care will continue to be fully covered.
- As on October 1, 2025, there were 1,948 non-permanent residents living in the Yukon, including 54 asylum claimants.

If asked about refugees or Ukrainian applicants:

- The Yukon is committed to supporting global citizens who have been impacted by catastrophic natural disasters and those who are victims of violence in contravention of international law. We want to reiterate our support for Ukrainians.
- We are not specifically prioritizing applications for individuals of any nationality. In 2025, eight Ukrainians were approved through the Yukon Nominee Program.
- For Ukrainians that have made the Yukon their home throughout the war, many will fall under the priority areas for 2026 – such as having lived and worked in the Yukon for at least one year or being a recipient of the temporary measure letter of support.

On February 27, 2025, the federal government announced that those Ukrainians in Canada under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel can now apply for new three-year open work permits up until March 31, 2026.

Approved by:	
<u>Sierra van der Meer</u>	<u>March 19, 2026</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Sale of Goods

Economic
Development

Topic: Overview of Yukon's participation in the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods.

Key messages:

- Our government is pleased to take part in the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods.
- In February 2026, Yukon signed this first-of-its-kind agreement between provinces and territories. It is an important step toward making it easier to buy and sell goods across Canada. national-level agreement, which is the first of its kind in Canada.
- This Agreement will help goods move more freely into and out of the Yukon by reducing unnecessary rules between jurisdictions. That means fewer barriers for businesses and more choices for consumers.
- We are committed to cutting red tape, improving the cost of living for all Yukoners and creating more opportunities for local businesses to grow.
- As we continue to work with our federal-provincial-territorial partners, we will continue to advocate for removing the internal trade barriers that have the biggest impact on Yukoners, our communities, and our businesses.

Key facts and stats:

- Mutual recognition strengthens trade by guaranteeing that goods that can be lawfully sold in one province or territory can be sold in another without further regulatory or technical testing or requirements.
- The Agreement covers all goods, aside from food, unless listed as a general or Party-specific exclusion. The Agreement does not currently

Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Sale of Goods

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cover services or certain goods including alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, pharmaceutical products.

- The goals of the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods are to strengthen Canada's domestic market and bolster supply chains; improve productivity, regulatory transparency and business confidence; and demonstrate resilience in response to global economic uncertainty.
- Parties may expand the scope of the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods through future negotiations.

Status:

- Reducing barriers to internal trade has become a matter of heightened interest since January 2025, due to global economic uncertainty and U.S. tariffs on certain Canadian exports.
- On November 19, 2025, the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods came into force when nine Parties signed, including: Alberta, Canada, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec.
- All signatures are expected in February 2026, with Yukon and Nunavut being the final two Parties to sign the Agreement.
- Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods signatories must implement the Agreement within their jurisdictions by June 30, 2026 or sooner.
- On January 29, 2026, First Ministers directed officials to advance progress on expanding mutual recognition to other priority sectors.

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Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Sale of Goods

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If asked about expanding Yukon's mutual recognition efforts to regulations on food:

- The department is working quickly to have the Agreement in place by June 30, 2026.
- We continue to look closely at how we can work with other provinces, territories and the federal government to expand mutual recognition efforts to other goods or sectors.

Approved by:

Brian MacDonald
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 13, 2026
Date approved

International Trade and Canada- U.S. Trade Discussions

Economic
Development

Topic: An update on Canada-U.S. trade discussions.

Key messages:

- International trade discussions have increased since the United States introduced new tariff measures affecting Canadian businesses and workers.
- Recent U.S. trade actions highlight the importance of trade diversification and expanded market access to strengthen Canadian supply chains.
- Barriers to trade have a bigger impact in the North, where the cost of living and doing business is higher than elsewhere in Canada and supporting infrastructure is limited.
- The Government of Yukon works with Global Affairs Canada, provincial and territorial partners, and Yukon businesses to identify opportunities and adapt in a changing trade environment.
- Our goal is to help protect the Yukon's market access, support business resilience, and maintain stable trading relationships and supply chains.

Key facts and stats:

- Since January 2025, the U.S. has introduced several tariffs affecting Canada, including measures targeting steel, aluminum, autos, lumber, copper and agriculture.
- In addition, because the U.S. removed its "de minimis" duty-free threshold, duties now apply to all Canadian shipments under \$800 unless they qualify under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement.

International Trade and Canada-U.S. Trade Discussions

Economic
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- The six-year review of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement must occur no later than July 1, 2026.
- Canada has noted that approximately 85 per cent of Canada-U.S. trade remains tariff free and average applied tariffs on Canadian goods are approximately 5.6 per cent, compared to a global average of 16 per cent.

Status:

- Yukon is monitoring developments and engaging through federal-provincial-territorial trade policy processes.
- Budget 2025-26 included a \$1 million, Trade Resilience Program, to help Yukon business adapt to emerging trade barriers and supply chain disruptions.
- The department has set up an Interdepartmental Trade Policy Working Group to coordinate trade policy across departments for both international and domestic trade.

If asked about the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement Review:

- The Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement review process provides an opportunity for parties to work together to ensure the agreement continues to work as intended and meets current needs.
- We strongly support federal actions to help the North benefit from the agreement by improving trade-enabling infrastructure, border crossings, Indigenous trade, and upstream critical minerals value chains.

If asked about U.S. trade policy and tariffs:

- Despite challenges resulting from U.S. tariff measures on Canadian goods, the U.S. and Alaska in particular, remain Yukon's most important international trading partner.
- Outside the mineral sector, Yukon has a small number of export ready businesses. Nevertheless, trade disruptions can have a significant impact and may limit growth opportunities for the territory.
- Yukon supports a coordinated Team Canada approach to address unjustified tariffs, advance diversification and business support measures, and strengthen Canada-U.S. trade relations.

If asked about provincial and territorial tariff response measures on U.S. liquor:

- Since March 2025, Yukon has stopped the purchase of alcohol made in the U.S., pulling remaining product from our government-operated liquor stores while selling remaining product to our licensees.
- As the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement review approaches, we continue to participate in the Team Canada approach to U.S. tariffs. We will continue to work closely with our partner governments across Canada as we assess Yukon's trading interests and measures on alcohol made in the U.S.
- Yukon fully supports a strong, unified negotiating position for Canada.

Approved by:

Brian MacDonald
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 13, 2026
Date approved

Internal Trade Barrier Removal- Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Economic
Development

Topic: Overview of federal-provincial-territorial efforts to reduce internal trade barriers toward creating a single Canadian economy.

Key messages:

- Our government is committed to working with all provinces, territories and the federal government to reduce internal trade barriers and create a more unified, resilient Canadian economy.
- Reducing barriers to internal trade is critical to supporting Yukon's economic growth and cutting red tape for Yukon businesses.
- Internal trade barriers affect northern regions like the Yukon more than other parts of Canada. Because we already face higher costs to live and to business, extra barriers can drive prices even further and make it harder for businesses to operate and grow.
- We are committed to advocating for the unique needs of our jurisdiction as we focus on trade initiatives that will have the greatest impact. Our approach is informed by business and industry stakeholders.

Key facts and stats:

- The Committee on Internal Trade is comprised of federal-provincial-territorial Ministers and is the decision-making body responsible for implementing the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- National-level Progress: Recent federal-provincial-territorial achievements toward removing internal trade barriers include:
 - May 2025: Development of a Labour Mobility Action Plan, aiming to establish a 30-business day service standard,

Internal Trade Barrier Removal- Canadian Free Trade Agreement

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streamline labour mobility applications and introduce transparency requirements;

- June 2025: Memorandum of Understanding on Direct-to-Consumer Sales for Alcohol, which was signed by 11 Parties—including the Yukon;
- July 2025: A 30 per cent reduction in the total number of Party-Specific Exceptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, including the removal of five Yukon exceptions;
- November 2025: Implementation of the landmark Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods, which Yukon signed in February 2026;
- December 2025-January 2026: Establishing a body of federal, provincial and territorial Internal Trade Commissioners to expand internal trade opportunities for all Canadian businesses;
- February 2026: A national Memorandum of Understanding on Interprovincial Trucking in February 2026; and
- March 2026: Implementing a Financial Services Chapter into the Canadian Free Trade Agreement in March 2026.

Status:

- On January 29, 2026, First Ministers directed officials to explore opportunities to reduce regulatory burden in housing and construction, and to expand mutual recognition to other priority sectors.
- Internal Trade Priorities for 2026: All Parties have committed to maintaining momentum to reduce internal trade barriers in 2026 with a view to creating one Canadian economy and have agreed to focusing on high impact informed by Canadian businesses' priorities.

Internal Trade Barrier Removal- Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Economic
Development

If asked about Yukon's 2025-2026 efforts to reduce our Party-Specific Exceptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement:

- In 2025, Yukon removed five exceptions as part of Team Canada efforts to strengthen commitments under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement. Removals included exceptions limiting procurement, real estate agents, forestry, fisheries and agricultural land use.
- Potential future changes to Yukon's exceptions need to be approached carefully and informed by the priorities of Yukon businesses and communities.

If asked about Government of Yukon's efforts to reduce red tape and promote economic development for the territory:

- Our government is taking decisive action to cut red tape and make ensure that Yukon businesses can benefit from freer trade within Canada.
- In 2026 alone, Yukon signed three national initiatives, including the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods, the Memorandum of Understanding on Interprovincial Trucking and the Protocol of Amendment to implement a Financial Services Chapter into the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- We continue to look carefully at how we can better align our rules for labour and goods with other provinces and territories. The goal is to make it easier for Yukon businesses to access markets, attract investment and seize opportunities across Canada so they can grow and stay strong during global economic uncertainty.

Approved by:

Brian MacDonald
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 13, 2026
Date approved

Party-Specific Exceptions- Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Economic
Development

Topic: Status update on Yukon's exceptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

Key messages:

- Party-specific exceptions allow Yukon to keep certain rules or protections that support local businesses and communities.
- We are reviewing Yukon's exceptions and exploring the best way to move forward to balance trade with protecting Yukon businesses.
- Some of our exceptions help to protect Yukon businesses and ensure they remain competitive and take part in trade across Canada.
- As we work with federal-provincial-territorial partner governments to enhance strengthen Yukon's position as a domestic trading partner we will continue to advocate for the unique economic development needs of our territory, communities, local businesses and industries.

Key facts and stats:

- Under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement all Parties share general exceptions that exclude measures for Indigenous Peoples, social services, language, culture, gambling and betting, and other sensitive areas.
- Parties can also retain exclusions through Party-Specific Exceptions, reflecting local economic priorities.
- Yukon has 24 exceptions, the second highest among all Parties.
- Exceptions are viewed as barriers to trade. However, eliminating exceptions could make it more difficult for local businesses to participate in domestic trade.

Party-Specific Exceptions- Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Economic
Development

- In August 2025, the department began gathering stakeholder input to inform future decisions on whether Yukon should remove additional exceptions, including:
 - Exceptions permitting Yukon residency requirements for rural land lotteries, agricultural land ownership, and wilderness tourism licenses for the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve;
 - Yukon's Regional Economic Development exception, which allows the Yukon government to provide Yukoners' preference for 10 government procurement contracts under \$1 million annually; and
 - The Yukon's exception excluding Municipalities, Academic Institutions, Schools and Hospitals from procurement obligations under Canadian Free Trade Agreement, Chapter 5 (Government Procurement).

Status:

- In January 2026, the department paused work on evaluating the exception excluding Municipalities, Academic Institutions, Schools and Hospitals from procurement obligations.
- The department is considering next steps as it relates to the exceptions: residency requirements for rural land lotteries, agricultural land ownership, and wilderness tourism licenses for the Glacier Bay, and Yukon's Regional Economic Development exception.

If asked about the department's recent consultation with stakeholders:

- In August 2025, the department began seeking input from Yukon First Nations governments, industry stakeholders and municipalities to understand the risks and benefits of reducing our exceptions.

Party-Specific Exceptions- Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Economic
Development

- Based on preliminary feedback we received, in January 2026, the department paused efforts to remove the exception excluding Municipalities, Academic Institutions, Schools and Hospitals from procurement obligations under Canadian Free Trade Agreement for this reason, we concluded our information gathering.
- Department officials remain available to answer questions about how the Canadian Free Trade Agreement impacts Yukon businesses, industries and communities.

If asked about whether Yukon will remove exceptions in the future:

- We are committed to supporting Yukon's private sector by engaging stakeholders and promoting policies and initiatives that enhance competitiveness for all Yukon businesses.
- Any potential future changes to Yukon's exceptions need to be approached carefully and informed by the priorities of Yukon businesses and communities.

If asked about impacts of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement exceptions on Yukon First Nations:

- The Canadian Free Trade Agreement does not affect aboriginal or treaty rights or prevent Yukon from implementing trade-related measures that provide preference or advantage of some sort to Yukon First Nations.
- All Parties share a broad carve out for "any measure adopted or maintained by a Party with respect to Aboriginal peoples" through Article 800 of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

Approved by:

<u>Brian MacDonald</u>	<u>February 13, 2026</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Topic: Positions on Arctic security and opportunities in security and defence.

Key messages:

- The Canadian Institute of Arctic Security project has concluded as planned.
- Our government is committed to a government-to-government approach on Arctic security through established channels.
- We will continue to build and maintain strong relationships with the federal government, other territories, and Yukon First Nations when it comes to Arctic security.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to understanding its role in Arctic security and we will continue this work.
- The national focus on Arctic security creates opportunities for the Yukon to attract federal investment and we will continue to advocate to Canada so Yukon can fully realize the investments opportunities.

Key facts and stats:

- The Canadian Institute of Arctic Security was established in 2024 under ministerial direction from the previous government.
- The Government of Yukon's role in the Canadian Institute of Arctic Security project will conclude on March 31, 2026.
- The Government of Yukon received funding for the Canadian Institute of Arctic Security project from CanNor of \$300,000 across fiscal 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Status:

- Since 2022, the Yukon government has actively engaged on Arctic security issues, leading initiatives such as the Yukon Arctic Security Advisory Council report and the development of the Canadian Institute for Arctic Security.
- The objective of the Canadian Institute of Arctic Security project term is to:
 - Deliver information and connections on Arctic security that are valuable for Yukon government, Indigenous governments, the public, and businesses; and
 - Develop options for the Canadian Institute of Arctic Security to exist long-term.

If asked about the economic opportunities in security and defence:

- We know that Canada has significant commitments in defence and security as it ramps up to its NATO contribution level and delivers on the Arctic Infrastructure Fund.
- Defense infrastructure, training and other opportunities are expected to expand in the North.
- The Yukon government will continue to advocate to Canada so Yukon can fully realize the investments opportunities.

If asked about the Canadian Institute for Arctic Security:

- Our government is committed to a government-to-government approach on Arctic security issues.
- The Canadian Institute of Arctic Security project has concluded as planned.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 60
Spring 2026

Arctic Security

Economic
Development

- Our government will continue to build and maintain strong relationships with the federal government, other territories, and Yukon First Nations when it comes to Arctic security.

Approved by:	
<u>Brian MacDonald</u>	<u>February 13, 2026</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Topic: Yukon and relations between Canada and the United States

Key messages:

- The U.S., particularly Alaska, is the Yukon's closest international partner, with shared interests in Arctic security, critical minerals, and infrastructure, such as Shikwuk Highway and the Port of Skagway.
- U.S. tariffs harm bilateral relations. Yukon supports a Team Canada approach to the 2026 Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement review.
- Alaska is a critical partner for the Yukon on connectivity, regional security and economic partnerships.
- Yukon and Alaska share more than a border; we share interests, connections and northern realities that can be leveraged through increased cooperation.
- Following Governor Dunleavy's visit to the territory for the Arctic Winter Games, we are identifying opportunities to deepen collaboration, and we have had some initial discussions about a potential legislative exchange with the Alaska State Legislature.

Key facts and stats:

- U.S. Ambassador to Canada Pete Hoekstra visited the Yukon for Arctic Winter Games on March 8-9, 2026, accompanied by the U.S. Consul General in Vancouver, Shawn Crowley. Premier Dixon met Consul General Crowley in Vancouver on January 26, 2026.
- Governor Dunleavy also met with Premier Dixon on March 8, 2026 while in Whitehorse for the Arctic Winter Games.
- Yukon and Alaska have an intergovernmental relations accord and MOUs on highways and public safety - particularly in relation to

missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two spirit people (MMIWG2S+).

- Through partnership with Alaska and the U.S., US \$37 million in project funding was secured for the Shakwak highway over the next several years.
- The Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) trilateral review begins in 2026.
- Yukon's two-way merchandise trade with the U.S. totaled \$206.3 million in 2024, of which almost \$147.5 million was with Alaska.

Status:

- In response to U.S. tariffs, Yukon announced retaliatory measures, including the removal of U.S. liquor from YLC shelves.
- Yukon continues to look for opportunities to strengthen its ties with the State of Alaska.
- The Yukon is exploring a Yukon-Alaska Parliamentary Exchange for the 2026 calendar year. The U.S. Consulate General Vancouver has offered to support initial planning and outreach.
- The Speaker, as President of the Yukon Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, will lead discussions on the exchange.

If asked about Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

- We recognize the importance that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) has for Indigenous and local communities, eco-tourism and biodiversity.

- Yukon's Legislative Assembly passed a resolution in December 2025 to protect the Porcupine Caribou Herd and oppose the sale of oil and gas leases in ANWR.

If asked about Port of Skagway

- The Yukon sees significant value for ore export infrastructure in the Port of Skagway for both the community and Yukon's mining industry.
- We met with Mayor Hanson and other Skagway officials on the margins of AME Roundup in January 2026 to discuss the project.
- Yukon faces significant budgetary pressures, which makes it difficult to commit to such a project. We remain open to finding a path forward on tidewater access.
- **If pressed on federal involvement** –Yukon recognizes Skagway's authority to exercise local government powers under Alaska's State Constitution and Statutes.

If asked about Greenland:

- We firmly support Greenland's sovereignty and right to self-determination. Only Greenland and Denmark can determine its future.
- U.S. threats against Greenland sovereignty harm Arctic security and NATO unity, which harms all our shared interests in a more secure region.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 56
Spring 2026

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council
Office

- Yukon values its cooperation with Greenland, Alaska, and the U.S.
Cooperation between Allies in the Arctic is more critical than ever.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

March 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Topic: Critical minerals are key to economic growth in the Yukon's mining sector and to Canada's place in the global supply chain.

Key messages:

- Yukon hosts deposits of 12 of Canada's 34 critical minerals, and occurrences of an additional 13.
- In 2025, the Yukon saw exploration activity for the following critical minerals: copper, zinc, tungsten, nickel, cobalt and platinum group metals.
- Yukon Mineral Exploration Program funding evaluation criteria includes additional weighing for critical mineral projects.

Key facts and stats:

- As defined by Canada, critical minerals must meet two criteria: the supply chain is threatened and there is a reasonable chance that Canada can produce the mineral.
- Critical minerals must also either be essential to Canada's economic or national security, be required to transition to a sustainable low-carbon and digital economy, or position Canada as a strategic partner in the global supply chain.
- Canada's Budget 2025 proposes \$3.5 billion over five years to Natural Resources Canada for various funds to support critical minerals projects. This includes:
 - \$2 billion over five years, starting in 2026-27, for the Critical Minerals Sovereign Fund for strategic investments to develop critical minerals projects and companies; and

- \$371.8 million over four years, starting in 2026-27, for Natural Resources Canada to create the First and Last Mile Fund for the development of critical minerals projects and supply chains.

Status:

- In the Yukon, industry spent an estimated \$85 million on critical minerals exploration in 2025, accounting for 43% of all exploration expenditures.
- In January 2026, the Government of Yukon signed a Memorandum of Understanding with British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut to position Canada's west as the preferred global supplier of critical minerals.

If asked about Natural Resource Canada's Critical Minerals

Infrastructure fund:

- The Yukon-B.C. Grid Connect project is advancing with \$40 million from the federal Critical Mineral Infrastructure Fund for pre-construction planning.

If asked about Natural Resource Canada's Critical Minerals and Geoscience Data program:

- Yukon Geological Survey received \$250,000 from Natural Resources Canada's Critical Minerals Geoscience and Data Program to digitize critical mineral exploration data from assessment files.

Session Briefing Note

#51

Spring 2026

Critical Minerals

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Improved access to critical mineral data will help assess mineral potential for land use planning. The funding is in place until 2027.

Approved by:

Jeff O'Farrell

February 6, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Topic: Status of the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan

Key messages:

- The independent Dawson Regional Planning Commission is developing the Final Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan.
- When the final plan is released, the Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will conduct public engagement and consultation to determine whether to accept, reject or modify the plan. This step is required under the Chapter 11 treaty obligations.
- We support a regional plan that balances the growth of industry, while respecting ecologically sensitive and culturally important areas.

Key facts and stats:

- Chapter 11 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement provides the Commission with the autonomy to develop and recommend a plan for the Parties' consideration. The Commission completed the Recommended Plan on June 10, 2022.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submitted their proposed modifications to the Recommended Plan to the Commission pursuant to 11.6.4 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement on April 30, 2024.
- The Government of Yukon commenced consultation with the White River First Nation, pursuant to a bilateral Consultation Agreement and legal duty to consult, in May 2024.
- On August 21, 2024, White River First Nation submitted a written consultation response to the Government of Yukon.

- The Government of Yukon submitted their proposed modifications to the Recommended Plan to the Commission pursuant to 11.6.2 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement on November 25, 2024.

Status:

- The Commission has been working to develop the Final Recommended Plan since the Parties submitted their proposed modifications.
- The Commission is expected to release the Final Recommended Plan before April 2026.
- As part of the planning process, interim protections from mineral staking or coal disposition are placed on areas proposed by the Commission. The current prohibition order reflects the Recommended Plan. The intention is for these interim prohibitions to remain in place while the Parties determine their response to the Final Recommended Plan.

Approved by:

Jeff O'Farrell

January 30, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Yukon Mineral Exploration Program

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Topic: Yukon Mineral Exploration Program supports the development of mineral resources in the Yukon.

Key messages:

- Mineral exploration is a key driver of the Yukon's economy. The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program supports our commitment to revitalize the development of our natural resources and ensure viable mineral exploration and mining.
- This program attracts external investment and encourages on-the-ground exploration activity that advances placer and hard rock exploration projects.
- This year's Yukon Mineral Exploration Program funding of \$1.4 million is projected to leverage \$2.4 million in private investment.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program (YMEP) provides partial risk capital to locate, explore and develop mineral projects to an advanced exploration stage.
- For the 2025 exploration season, the program received 67 applications for funding (40 hard rock and 27 placer applications). 39 projects have been approved for funding (20 hard rock and 19 placer projects).
- For 2025, the Yukon Geological Survey estimates total hard rock exploration expenditures of \$199 million by 51 explorers across 77 projects.



Yukon Mineral Exploration Program

Energy, Mines and Resources

- Half of the money spent in 2025 was for gold exploration. Copper projects saw 21 per cent of spending, followed by lead-zinc (12 per cent), tungsten (10 per cent) and silver (7 per cent).
- The largest number of exploration projects occurred on the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (26), followed by Kaska Nation's asserted traditional territory (16), Selkirk First Nation (13) and the Traditional Territories of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (12). All other Yukon First Nations saw fewer than 10 projects.

Status:

- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program was recently updated to include extra weighting for projects that primarily target critical minerals.
- For the 2025 season, the criteria were updated to disallow funding of off-claim work and claim staking. This was in response to concerns from the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun that the Government of Yukon was funding exploration work where no First Nation consultation had been conducted.

Approved by:

Jeff O'Farrell

February 6, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Topic: Government of Yukon hiring through the Yukon Nominee Program

Key messages

- The Yukon Nominee Program is an employer-driven immigration program designed to address labour market needs while safeguarding employment opportunities for Canadians and permanent residents.
- Employers must demonstrate a genuine labour market need and demonstrate that efforts to recruit suitable Canadian or permanent resident candidates were unsuccessful before accessing the program.
- The Government of Yukon does not currently use the Yukon Nominee Program for recruiting government positions but remains committed to attracting and retaining talent through other strategies.

Key facts and stats

- The program is delivered by the Department of Economic Development in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.
- While primarily used by the private sector, the program is also available to municipal and First Nation governments.
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada have set an allocation of 282 for the Yukon Nominee Program in 2026.
- Demand for the Yukon Nominee Program has exceeded available allocations since 2021 leading to increased pressure on program capacity. This led to a temporary pause on applications from Whitehorse-based employers in May 2024.
- In 2025, the Yukon Nominee Program introduced a new expression of interest intake model, to select those interested in applying to the program that align with the identified territorial priorities.

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Nominee Program

TAB #26
Spring 2026
Public Service
Commission

Status

- In 2026, employers are required to submit an online expression of interest during one of the two intake periods before receiving an invitation to apply to the program.
- The January intake received 324 eligible submissions and 227 were invited to apply based on program priorities for 2026. The second intake period is scheduled for July 2026.
- The application submission period for those employers who received invitations to apply ended on March 4, 2026, and received applications are currently being assessed.

If asked about Government of Yukon using Yukon Nominee Program spots for hiring

- The Government of Yukon does not currently use Yukon Nominee Program spots for recruiting for government positions.
- We are focused on supporting the private sector's labour market needs, to allow businesses to grow and lead economic growth.

Approved by:

Lyle Dinn	March 20, 2026
_____ a/Public Service Commissioner	_____ [Date approved]

Topic: Key highlights from the 2026–27 Main Estimates.

Key messages:

- The 2026–27 Main Estimates represent a balance of fiscal discipline in the face of our current financial situation and investment in key priorities to improve the lives of Yukoners.
- The Government of Yukon needs to focus investments on critical priorities and, in time, balance spending.
- Budget 2026 includes gross O&M expenditures of \$1.97 billion, addressing O&M pressures in health and energy affordability, as well as housing, education and public safety.
- The 2026–27 Main Estimates forecast a \$81.8 million deficit as we continue to prioritize service delivery for Yukoners while undertaking further planning for future capital investments.
- As we identify strategic capital investments in future years, these additions to publicly owned assets will have an upward effect on the surplus.

Key facts and stats:

- 2026–27 Operations and Maintenance Expenditures total \$1.97 billion, plus a \$100 million contingency vote, with recoveries totaling \$188 million.
- Capital expenditures are estimated at \$385 million, with \$105.8 million in recoveries.
- Revenue will increase by \$138 million, or 7.6 per cent, over the 2025–26 Main Estimates, which is driven mainly by increased federal transfers.

- Transfers from Canada are forecast to increase by \$130.8 million, due to an increase in the Territorial Formula Financing Grant.
- Tax and General Revenue are expected to increase by \$7.7 million compared to last year's Main Estimates.

Ensuring Reliable Power for Yukoners and Protecting the Integrity of the Electricity Grid:

- Budget 2026 reflects our commitment to make energy affordable through the \$13 million the Affordability Rate Relief program, for rebates on residential electricity bills.
- Major investment in our energy grid is required to ensure our grid is stable. We have earmarked up to \$100 million in additional debt space for Yukon Energy Corporation to undertake critical investments in its infrastructure this year, including upgrades to the Mayo site.

Improve timely access to frontline health care services for Yukoners:

- We have prioritized support to ensuring access to front-line health care, reflected through increased investment in the Yukon Hospital Corporation.
- The 2026–27 Main Estimates include an additional \$12.5 million in O&M funding. Including increases at the supplementary estimates, this is a \$15.8 million or 11.7% increase in O&M funding for the hospital corporation over the 2025-26 Main Estimates.
- We will also move ahead with planning for the Whitehorse General Hospital Expansion and have allocated \$4 million in capital for that planning work in 2026–27.

Theme 3: Increase the affordability and availability of housing and land

- Budget 2026 includes investments to expand the availability of housing stock and make homes more affordable.
- \$16.2 million has been allocated to complete the replacement of the Korbo apartments in Dawson and \$9.2 million for the replacement of the Ryder apartments in Whitehorse.
- The 2026-27 Main Estimates also include \$1.1 million for an anticipated lease agreement for 75 units at the new Winter Crossing development in Whistle Bend.
- \$22.2 million is allocated to advance land development in Whitehorse and rural Yukon.
 - In Whitehorse, work will continue on the Range Point Subdivision. Additionally, Whistle Bend Phases 12 and 13 will be completed, with design work completed for Phases 10 and 11.
 - In rural Yukon, work is planned on the Dredge Pond Phase II subdivision in Dawson and Mitchell Road lots in Faro.

Theme 4: Put the needs of students at the centre of our education system

- Budget 2026 provides additional funding totaling \$2.7 million for more teachers and learning assistants to support students.
- As we continue to assess improvements to how the Department of Education supports our education system, we are moving ahead with planning for a new school in Whitehorse, with \$400,000 for planning in 2026–27.

- Construction of the new school in Burwash will continue, with \$17.3 million in capital earmarked for that project in 2026–27.

Theme 5: Restoring public safety and keeping communities safe

- Budget 2026 includes a significant \$4.3 million increase in funding for the RCMP, which will allow for the hiring of 10 new officers and two support staff, as well as upgrading equipment.
- In addition, \$3.1 million in capital upgrades will be invested in RCMP detachments.
- We are investing an additional \$550,000 for gear, equipment and training for the Fire Marshal’s Office. With the \$812,000 provided at the 2025–26 Supplementary Estimates to address ongoing personnel pressures, this is a \$1.4 million year-over-year increase to the Fire Marshal, or a 62 per cent increase in that budget from the 2025–26 Main Estimates.

Theme 6: Creating the conditions to allow the private sector to grow and lead economic growth

- To streamline and refocus government’s investment in our tourism, cultural and economic sectors, we are merging the departments of Economic Development and Tourism and Culture.
- The capital budget includes up to \$7.5 million to complete delayed planning work on the proposed Convention Centre.

Approved by:

Katherine White

March 16, 2026

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved