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Topic: Highlights of the 2026-27 budget.

Key messages:

- Our government is investing in the justice system.
- We have increased funding to the RCMP to ensure they have the resources to match Yukon's growing population and to counter the impacts of organized crime in the territory.
- Our government has also increased funding to strengthen the courts and support swift justice for victims.

Key facts and stats:

- In June 2025, Public Safety Canada changed the Terms and Conditions of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP), which has affected how Community Safety Officer (CSO) program funding is allocated (see BNs #40 and #44).
- The Government of Yukon (Yukon) signed a bilateral funding agreement with the Government of Canada (Canada) under the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence for \$16.4 million over four years, \$6 million of which has been allocated to the Department of Justice (see BN #4).
- Yukon's five-year Access to Justice Services Agreement with Canada (expiring in 2027) provides:
 - \$3.5 million for Legal Aid (see BN #100);
 - \$263,000 for the Yukon Public Legal Education Association;
 - \$223,000 for Gladue report writing (see BN #60); and
 - \$798,000 for Indigenous Courtworker programs (see BN #63).
- Canada has allocated \$4 million from 2023 to 2028 (\$799,638 annually) under the Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund, which has allowed the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit to

expand its capacity (see BN #49) and funded initiatives including the Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan (see BN #43) and the BGC Yukon youth crime prevention program.

Status:

- Highlights of the Department's 2026–27 O&M budget (of a total \$143.4 million):
 - \$22.3 million for administration and in-year payments of the Jack Hulland Elementary School class action lawsuit settlement;
 - \$5.9 million increase (5.6 per cent) from the previous year in funding for RCMP;
 - \$1.3 million increase for five additional positions to address overtime at Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC).
- Highlights of the Department's 2026–27 capital budget (of a total \$4.5 million):
 - \$3.1 million for renovations to Old Crow and Haines Junction RCMP detachments, and lifecycle investments to maintain Yukon RCMP's infrastructure portfolio;
 - \$985,000 for building security and communication system upgrades at WCC;
 - \$130,000 for equipment to keep WCC staff and inmates safe;
 - \$82,000 for court videoconferencing and audio equipment.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-26

Date approved

Topic: The Department of Justice funds the justice-related work of service providers, community organizations and First Nations governments.

Key messages:

- Our government is committed to investing in First Nations governments, non-governmental organizations and community organizations to strengthen the justice system.
- We are committed to working in collaboration with these organizations to deliver better results for Yukoners.
- The Department of Justice regularly discusses funding pressures with service providers and does not automatically adjust funding levels based on annual inflation.

Key facts and stats:

- The Department provides funding to organizations including RCMP, Yukon Legal Services Society (YLSS), Yukon Utilities Board (YUB), Yukon Review Board (YRB), and Yukon Human Rights Commission (YHRC).
- The Department administers funding to the Indigenous Court Worker Program, Crime Stoppers, Supervised Community Housing, Yukon Public Legal Education Association (YPLEA), and partners to support the work of the Justice Wellness Centre, Sexualized Assault Response Team, and Community Safety plans.
- In July 2022, the governments of Canada and Yukon signed a five-year Access to Justice Services Agreement, which funds YLSS, YPLEA, Gladue report writing, and Indigenous Court Worker programs.

Status:

- The Department of Justice is providing over \$61 million to the following programs for the 2026–27 fiscal year:

Funding for Justice Organizations

Justice

- \$52.9 million to RCMP (including the Territorial Police Service Agreement, First Nations and Inuit Policing Program, and 911 services);
- \$3.5 million to YLSS (Legal Aid);
- \$1,1 million to YHRC;
- \$798,000 to Yukon First Nations for the Indigenous Court Worker Program;
- \$919,000 to Connective for the men's Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program;
- \$307,000 to community justice projects;
- \$895,000 to YUB;
- \$223,000 to the Council of Yukon First Nations for Gladue report writing;
- \$400,000 for allocation to Yukon First Nations through the Community Safety Planning funding program;
- \$175,000 to YRB;
- \$10,000 to Crime Stoppers Yukon Community Association;
- \$263,000 to YPLEA.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-23

Date approved

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – Yukon's implementation

WGED

Topic: Yukon is wrapping up year three of its four-year implementation plan for the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

Key messages:

- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate and the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services, along with external partners, continue to implement the Yukon's National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
- As part of this year's implementation plan, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate is providing close to \$1 million in time-limited operational funding to seven equity-seeking organizations and the Yukon Women's Coalition.
- Our government will advocate for the continuation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence bilateral agreement for the remaining five years of the action plan.
- The Directorate is also continuing to fund the Yukon First Nation Violence Prevention Fund, in the amount of \$425,000 in 2026-27. This fund supports Indigenous-led gender-based violence prevention projects aligned with Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon continues to experience some of the highest rates of gender-based violence in Canada, with disproportionate impacts on Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit+ individuals.
- The Government of Canada provides \$16.4 million to Yukon over four years to support implementation efforts in the territory. The

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – Yukon's implementation

WGED

Government of Yukon matches this contribution with existing spending on related initiatives.

- Of the federal funding for 2026-27, \$1.710 million is allocated to the Women and Gender Equity Directorate, \$1.81 million is allocated to the Department of Justice, and \$750,000 was allocated to the Department of Health and Social Services.

If asked about the future of the National Action Plan:

- I know that jurisdictions across the country, including our own, are advocating strongly for continued financial investment in this National Action Plan.
- While we have not received any confirmation from the federal government about future financial investment, I look forward to working with our federal, provincial and territorial counterparts to secure an extension for the full 10 years.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

March 18, 2026

[Date approved]

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – Justice Actions

Justice

Topic: The Department of Justice is leading multiple actions under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

Key Messages:

- The Department of Justice continues to work with the Women and Gender Equity Directorate and Department of Health and Social Services to advance implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
- We are using these funds to deliver initiatives aimed at addressing gender-based violence from multiple angles including prevention; breaking the cycle of violence in families; intervention; specialized care; court support; trauma healing for justice-involved Yukoners and First Nations-led responses to gender-based violence.
- Completed actions include training aimed at preventing gender-based violence, as well as the development of a travel-assistance inventory guide to inter-community travel for victims of gender-based violence.

Additional Messages:

- Gender-based violence is a concern for Yukoners and has far reaching impacts in every Yukon community.
- Gender-based violence affects Indigenous women disproportionately. We are working to ensure that our efforts are consistent with the intent, priorities and actions of the implementation plan for Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy.

Key facts and stats:

- In July 2023, the governments of Yukon and Canada entered a four-year agreement to advance the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (expiring March 31, 2027).

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – Justice Actions

Justice

- Over the four years, the Government of Canada is providing \$16.4 million. The Department of Justice will receive approximately \$6 million of this total.
- Initiatives led by the Department of Justice are:
 - **Media literacy** - primary prevention initiatives aimed at improving understanding of the roots of gender-based violence (GBV) and educating and mobilizing youth as anti-violence leaders.
 - **Services for children and youth** - implementation of multi-disciplinary responses for child and youth victims of crime.
 - **Transportation for victims of violence** - victims of GBV require safe inter-community transportation options and financial support when leaving their home communities to seek safety and/or to access clinical, legal or other critical services (see BN #72).
 - **Integrated case assessment teams for high-risk intimate partner violence cases** – initiative focused on developing a collaborative approach to identifying, assessing and managing risk while preventing lethality in cases of intimate partner violence.
 - **Support for justice-involved people** - makes resources and programs available to justice-involved people in facility and community-based corrections.
 - **First Nations-led responses to GBV** – a partnership model that supports building community capacity to respond to GBV.
 - **Measures to address non-consensual disclosure of intimate images** - policy work is ongoing; public engagement is completed.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Topic: The Government of Yukon is implementing a variety of actions to address the opiod and substance use crisis.

Key messages:

- We are committed to addressing the opiod and substance use crisis through collaborative work with partners including Blood Ties Four Directions, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the RCMP and other Yukon government departments.
- We will continue to examine ways to strengthen supports in the territory for education, treatment, prevention and enforcement to address the opiod and substance use crisis that is affecting every community.
- This year's budget includes funding to support the Crime Reduction Unit of the RCMP, whose work addresses organized crime and drug trafficking in the Yukon.

Additional messages:

- In addition to investing in new policing resources to respond to organized crime and drug trafficking, the Department of Justice supports treatment programming at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and provides ongoing support through Yukon Community Corrections.
- Therapeutic courts in the Yukon and the Justice Wellness Centre also provide treatment support when offending behaviours are driven, in part, by underlying substance use issues.

Key facts and stats:

- 149 substance-use related deaths occurred in the territory between April 2016 and December 31, 2025, 127 of them opiod-related.
- 18 confirmed drug toxicity deaths occurred between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

- In January 2022, a Substance Use Health Emergency was declared by the Government of Yukon.
- Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation have also made emergency declarations.

Status:

- Current actions led by the Department of Justice include:
 - funding for Car 867 (the Mobile Crisis Response Team) that responds with an RCMP member and a mental health nurse);
 - increasing resources available through Community Corrections;
 - supporting Indigenous-led, community-based therapeutic courts and other restorative justice approaches; and
 - increasing capacity of the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit.
- Actions supported by other initiatives include:
 - Community Safety Planning Program for Yukon First Nations;
 - Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan process and engagement (in partnership with City of Whitehorse);
 - prevention of gender-based violence and improvements in delivering services to victims (National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence; expansion of the Sexualized Assault Response Team; and
 - expansion of therapeutic court programming.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Implementation of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy

WGED

Topic: Implementation of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People Strategy

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to the implementation of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People Strategy in partnership with Indigenous governments, Indigenous women's organizations, families and survivors, community partners and the federal government.
- The all of Yukon approach to the strategy relies on all signatory partners to prioritize their commitments to achieve successful implementation.
- The directorate continues to offer secretariat support and work alongside partners to finalize the governance structure that will guide implementation and accountability work going forward.
- A technical gathering was held this April 2026. The gathering brought together partners identified in the Implementation Plan. The outcome was identifying services currently being offered by partners, prioritizing needs for success, identifying potential next steps and collaboration.

Key facts:

- Murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people is an ongoing issue across Canada, where they continue to be four times more likely than their non-indigenous counterparts to be victims

Implementation of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy

WGED

of violence or homicide; the current number of missing and MMIWG2S+ people in Canada are in the thousands.

- There are more than eighty signatories to the formal declaration of commitment to the strategy, including all Yukon's political parties, government of Canada, First Nations governments and organizations, municipal governments, RCMP, local businesses, youth and other community organizations serving Indigenous Yukoners.
- The 2nd annual report on implementation will be released this year for the Accountability Forum. The previous annual report showed 52% of milestones were in progress, 11% were ongoing, 4% were complete, and 33% had not yet started.
- As requested by the Families at the 2024 Accountability Forum, community visits are currently being facilitated by the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle for families to provide feedback on the oversight and governance model moving forward.
- In August 2026, partners plan to meet with families to present the findings of the second annual report, hear feedback and discuss next steps for implementation, accountability and governance.

Status:

- This work is currently under way and respects 1.1 of the Strategy that states: Keep families at the heart of "Changing the Story" by providing ongoing support and involvement including the implementation of this Strategy.

Session Briefing Note

TAB05
Spring 2026

Implementation of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy

WGED

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

April 21, 2026

Deputy Minister, WGED

[Date approved]

Topic: An independent review of segregation and restrictive confinement provisions in the *Corrections Act* is underway.

Key messages:

- An independent review of segregation and restrictive confinement provisions added to the *Corrections Act* in 2020 is underway and will be completed by later this summer, in accordance with the timelines laid out in the *Corrections Act*.
- The review was built into the Act when amendments were made in 2019 to strengthen the Act's provisions respecting the use of segregation and restrictive confinement at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.
- An independent contractor has been retained to conduct portions of the review, including interviewing both staff and inmates at the correctional centre as well as reviewing relevant literature.

Key facts and stats:

- Evidence has shown that extended periods of confinement can have negative impacts on an individual's mental health and overall wellbeing.
- In May 2018, Mr. David Loukidelis issued the 2018 Whitehorse Correctional Centre Inspection Report that included recommendations specific to segregation at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.
- To respond to these recommendations and align correctional services in Yukon with the universally accepted Mandela Rules regarding solitary confinement, changes were made to the *Corrections Act* and *Regulations*.
- The amendments, which came into force in June 2020, focused on the use of segregation and restrictive confinement.

- The changes also included a requirement for a review of the new provisions to begin within five years of coming into force.
- The Minister is required to table a report respecting the findings of the review in the Legislative Assembly by summer 2026.

Status:

- In January 2026, the department contracted Rumsey Consulting Ltd. to complete the evaluation, with the work expected to be completed by early summer 2026.
- Rumsey Consulting has completed the jurisdictional review and is currently in the engagement portion of the review.
 - On April 6 through 9, 2026, Rumsey Consulting was on-site and completed engagement sessions with inmates, staff, and external stakeholders.
- Rumsey Consulting has added a brief description of the project to its website, under a section that highlights previous and current projects completed with them.
- After the evaluation is completed, the Department of Justice will work on a report for the Minister to table in the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the Act's requirements for the review.

Approved by:

Mark Radke	2026-04-13
Deputy Minister, Justice	Date approved

Topic: The territorial Court of Appeal Act is outdated, and the Government of Yukon and Yukon's Court of Appeal are working together to amend it.

Key messages:

- Yukon's current Court of Appeal Act relies on references to B.C.s Court of Appeal and B.C.'s legislation as enacted in 1971.
- B.C. repealed and replaced that legislation in 2022; the rules of the court have evolved significantly since 1971.
- Yukon needs to revise its legislation governing the Court of Appeal to ensure the framework aligns with modern court practices and is not reliant on outdated references.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon Court of Appeal consists primarily of judges appointed to the B.C. Court of Appeal.
- The Department of Justice recently received a consultation paper from the B.C. Court of Appeal outlining recommended amendments to remove inconsistencies and improve efficiency.
- Consistency of process between Yukon and B.C. facilitates access to justice and predictable resolution of appellate matters.
- Work is underway to inform our government's response to the consultation paper, beginning with engagement with the judiciary and the legal community.

Status:

- In 2025, the Chief Justice of the B.C. Court of Appeal identified that Yukon had not been contributing financially to the operation of the Yukon Court of Appeal.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was created, which requires the Government of Yukon to contribute two per cent of the wage costs of

Court of Appeal Act Amendments

Justice

B.C.'s Court of Appeal annually, to cover costs of the territory's appeals.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

2026-02-18

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

Topic: The Department of Justice has been consulting with the Yukon Human Rights Commission about changes to improve the *Human Rights Act*.

Key messages

- The Government of Yukon is working with the Yukon Human Rights Commission on potential amendments to the *Human Rights Act*.
- The changes being considered include recommendations from the Yukon Human Rights Commission, as well as issues identified by the Department of Justice and Yukon Ombudsman.
- Changes have been proposed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Yukon Human Rights Commission while updating the Act to be consistent with human rights laws across Canada.

Additional response:

- The Commission has asked for changes to the *Human Rights Act* to improve its ability to administer complaints by:
 - adding a 60-day deadline to apply for a judicial review of a decision made by the Commission;
 - giving the Director authority to stop a complaint after an investigation if the complainant has refused to accept a reasonable settlement offer;
 - removing the requirement to conduct pay equity research;
 - increasing fines for offences and introducing a two-tier system; and
 - enabling a hearing to continue when the Chief Adjudicator becomes unable to continue adjudication of that hearing.
- In 2024, the Yukon Ombudsman concluded that some aspects of the *Human Rights Act* and its regulations lead to unfairness and recommended the following legislative changes:
 - increasing the number of Commission members from five to seven; and
 - adding a 60-day deadline to apply for judicial review of a decision made by the Commission.

Key facts and stats

- The purpose of the *Human Rights Act* is to promote human rights and “to discourage and eliminate discrimination” based on protected grounds.
- A major function of the Commission is to deal with complaints about human rights discrimination.
- According to the Commission’s 2024-25 annual report:
 - 64 complaints were received;
 - 37 complaints were accepted;
 - 121 complaints were carried over from the previous fiscal year;
 - 9 complaints were settled;
 - 11 investigations were completed; and
 - 141 complaints were open as of March 31, 2025.
- The Ombudsman’s report also recommended moving oversight of the Commission’s budget from the Department of Justice to the Legislative Assembly, which would also require legislative changes.
- This change will require the consent of the Legislative Assembly.

Status

- The Ombudsman’s 2024 recommendations are under discussion.
- Government undertook a public engagement on proposed changes to the *Human Rights Act* from March to May 2025.

If asked about funding pressures related to the Commission

- The Department is working closely with the Commission (see BN #92).

If asked about the Commission’s backlog of complaints

- The Department of Justice is continuing to consult with the Commission on options for improving services for Yukoners.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-30

Date approved

Topic: The Government of Yukon has made a new *Income Exempt from Garnishment Regulation* under the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* that allows it to resume maintenance enforcement actions.

Key messages:

- We respect the Court of Appeal's decision from September 2025 in *Rogers v Maintenance Enforcement Program* that found it unlawful to not have a regulation in place under the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* to prescribe an amount of income that would not be garnished.
- Our government has worked quickly to address the regulatory gap so that enforcement could resume.
- The Government of Yukon has introduced the *Income Exempt from Garnishment Regulation*, which came into effect March 13, 2026.
- The Regulation sets the minimum amount of income that can be exempt from being collected for child and spousal support payments.
- Currently, the lowest amount of income set out in those guidelines is \$16,000 per year, which is based on the federal guidelines for child support payments in the Yukon.

Additional messages:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that many families rely on support payments enforced through the Maintenance Enforcement Program.
- This government has prioritized supporting Yukon families that depend on child and spousal support payments.
- Yukon's *Maintenance Enforcement Act* allows the government to take a range of enforcement actions against people who fall behind in making support payments (e.g., garnishing income and benefit payments).
- People can register with the Maintenance Enforcement Program to enforce ongoing payment of their support orders.
- Having this Regulation in place resolves uncertainty that was affecting some people who rely on the Maintenance Enforcement Program to

Maintenance Enforcement Regulation

Justice

enforce court-ordered child or spousal support payments that are owed to them.

Key facts and stats:

- Child support obligations are based on court orders, which consider rates set in the Federal Child Support Guidelines.
- Section 22 of the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* requires a regulation to establish a threshold for exempting some income from garnishment.
- A September 2025 Yukon Court of Appeal decision found the lack of the required regulation to be “unlawful”. The Department of Justice paused new enforcement actions in 2025 until a regulation was in place.
- Federal Child Support Guidelines provide standardized tables of jurisdiction-specific rates in a regulation under the federal *Divorce Act*.
- The amounts ordered are based on the paying parent’s income and the number of children subject to an order for support.
- Judges may award support amounts different from the standardized tables, but close adherence to the tables is the norm.
- Under the federal guidelines, Yukon residents can be required to pay support obligations if they have an annual income greater than \$16,000.

Status:

- The *Income Exempt from Garnishment Regulation* was made on March 13, 2026.
- With this Regulation in place, the Maintenance Enforcement Program has resumed normal operations.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Topic: Yukon is introducing legislation that allows us to join other Canadian provinces and territories in holding opioid makers and sellers accountable for certain predatory practices through litigation.

Key messages:

- Territorial opioid litigation legislation will give the Yukon another tool to address the substance use crisis.
- Since 2018, every other Canadian province and territory has enacted opioid damages and health care cost recovery legislation.
- The purpose of the legislation is to allow governments to recover health care costs from opioid manufacturers, consultants and wholesalers who have engaged in harmful practices, such as misrepresenting the addictiveness of opioid products.

Key facts and stats:

- Federal data indicates that more than 50,000 opioid toxicity-related deaths, plus many thousands of opioid-related hospitalizations and medical emergencies, have occurred in Canada between 2016 and 2026.
- Yukon government declared a Substance Use Health Emergency in January 2022 (see BN #5 – Opioid and Substance Use Crisis).
- Several Yukon First Nations governments have made emergency declarations (Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation).
- In 2018, British Columbia enacted an *Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*, enabling government class actions against opioid manufacturers, wholesalers and consultants to hold them financially accountable for “opioid-related wrongs.”
- Since the passing of British Columbia’s legislation, all other provinces and territories except Yukon have passed similar legislation.

- Enacting legislation in the Yukon will allow the territorial government to participate with other jurisdictions in opioid-related litigation and potentially recover damages and costs.

Status:

- With the passing of a new Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act, Yukon will mirror the legislative framework already in place in all other Canadian jurisdictions.
- The litigation launched under British Columbia's opioid cost recovery legislation is a class action that focused first on the pharmaceutical manufacturer Purdue (maker of the opioid Oxycontin).
- This ongoing class action has now turned to additional defendants (i.e., other opioid manufacturers, wholesalers and consultants).

If asked about the potential outcome of current class actions:

- We do not yet know the outcome of ongoing litigation.
- Further information will be made available as the litigation progresses.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-17

Date approved

Topic: Status of work on amending the *Public Utilities Act*.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is considering changes to the *Public Utilities Act* to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of electricity regulation in the Yukon.
- Potential amendments were developed to modernize the Act, while maintaining the Yukon Utilities Board's independence and authority over its procedures.
- Our government continues to explore legislative changes that reduce administrative burden and adapt to the territory's growing energy needs.

Key facts and stats:

- The *Public Utilities Act* sets out a system to regulate the generation and sale of electricity in the territory.
- The Act establishes the Yukon Utilities Board (the Board) to independently set electricity rates and to oversee major capital expenditures of public electricity utility companies (see BN #21).
- A public engagement was held in 2025, based on potential amendments informed in consultation with officials from other Government of Yukon departments (Energy, Mines and Resources and the Yukon Development Corporation), utilities, and the Board.
- Engagement topics included expanding the Board's roles, responsibilities, and avenues to deal with complaints against a public utility.

Status:

- The Government of Yukon is considering input received through public engagements to inform the next steps for potential amendments.

If asked about the next steps to complete this work:

- Significant work has been completed to advance amendments.
- The Government of Yukon is currently assessing if there are other advisable changes to the Act to support the provision of safe, reliable and affordable electricity to Yukoners.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-17

Date approved

Topic: In 2022, the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* was amended to mandate legislative review by 2027.

Key Messages:

- The review of the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, or SCAN Act, presents an opportunity to hear from Yukoners, review best practices around the country, and inform potential improvements to legislation that support community safety.
- As part of the SCAN Act review, the department completed public engagement with Yukoners and stakeholders in September 2025.
- To date, work on the review of the SCAN Act has included public engagement, as well as work with the SCAN Unit, departmental policy team, and legal services to identify issues with, and potential amendments to, the Act.
- A report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly by 2027.

Additional messages:

- The *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* (SCAN Act) enables members of the public to file a complaint with the SCAN Unit about specified illegal activities occurring habitually on a property that adversely impact the community.
- This provides one mechanism to disrupt illegal activities that are negatively affecting the safety of Yukon communities.

Key facts and stats:

- The SCAN Act has not been substantively reviewed since it was enacted in 2006, though some amendments have been made.
- The SCAN Unit has received over 1,800 complaints since 2006.
- The Northwest Territories is currently considering developing SCAN legislation, which has garnered some media attention and raised questions about SCAN's activities in the Yukon.

Status:

- Work on the review of the SCAN Act has included public engagement and work with the SCAN Unit, policy team, and Legal Services to identify Act amendments.
- Public and media responses to the application of the SCAN Act are polarized.
- See also BN #49, Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Program.

If asked whether the unit can still evict tenants:

- The 2024 Yukon Supreme Court decision in *Wright v Yukon* found that five-day evictions under s.3(2) of the Act violated the tenant's Charter right to security of the person, and the court struck down that provision of the Act as unconstitutional.
- The SCAN Unit now supports landlords seeking to evict tenants for reasons relating to SCAN investigations through a 14-day eviction clause in the *Residential Tenancies Act*, or through a Community Safety Order from the Supreme Court.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Topic: The construction of a Yukon Coroner's Service building (morgue and offices) has been deferred.

Key messages:

- We have decided to defer the construction of a purpose-built facility for the Yukon Coroner's Service until we finalize our long-term capital planning.
- We recognize that there are concerns with the existing morgue.
- The Government of Yukon still sees the value and need for a new facility to house the Yukon Coroner's Service in the long term.
- This is a significant investment and will need to be balanced with the other long-term infrastructure needs of the territory for capital investments.
- We will be considering these needs holistically as we undertake longer term capital planning.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon Coroner's Service (YCS) has experienced a steady increase in calls for service in recent years.
- In 2024-25, there were 300 reported Yukon resident deaths in the Yukon, resulting in 106 coroner cases.
- The YCS requires additional morgue capacity, and the existing facility does not meet modern health and safety standards.
- In 2020, the Government of Yukon authorized the development and design of a new facility that would offer additional morgue capacity and improved infrastructure to support the Coroner's Service.

If asked about why the capital project is no longer proceeding in its originally proposed location (on the Yukon Hospital Corporation campus in Whitehorse):

- Although the Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC) was initially supportive, the Board of Trustees (BOT) raised concerns about the proposed location in the fall of 2024, including:
 - foot traffic potentially going through the hospital to access the morgue;
 - plans to expand the Whitehorse General Hospital in that location;
 - YHC's need to preserve ongoing access to the lot; and
 - cultural concerns with the morgue being adjacent to the hospital's maternity ward.
- Unable to mitigate all concerns raised by the BOT, we have explored more than a dozen alternate locations since January 2025.

If asked about what work has been completed to date:

- The project team has now considered and assessed multiple sites, prolonging timelines while identifying additional challenges and costs related to geotechnical assessment, civil engineering, increased site work and access to its services.
- Between 2021 and 2025, the Government of Yukon spent approximately \$683,000 to support this project.
- These expenditures have supported:
 - building design;
 - specialty advice about morgue standards; and
 - contracts to evaluate the feasibility of potential locations.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Topic: Recent rate increases for electricity, and the role Yukon Utilities Board plays in establishing electricity rates.

Key Messages:

- We need investments in energy infrastructure to ensure power, but Yukoners have been clear that people cannot afford a 34 per cent increase to electricity rates.
- Our government is committed to exploring ways to alleviate the financial burden this rate increase will have on Yukoners.
- We have introduced interim Affordability Rate Relief from January to March 2026 as we develop sustainable measures to increase affordability for families.
- Combined, the Affordability Rate Relief and the Winter Energy Affordability Rebate provide immediate relief of up to \$60 a month on January, February and March 2026 electricity bills.

Additional messages:

- The *Public Utilities Act* sets out a system that regulates the sale of electricity in the Yukon.
- The Yukon Utilities Board is an independent administrative body responsible for making decisions in the public interest to govern how utility companies provide services in the territory and how much they can charge.
- The Government of Yukon supports the Yukon Utilities Board in fulfilling its responsibility to make evidence-based decisions consistent with national standards for utility regulation, while protecting the interests of Yukoners.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon Utilities Board (the Board) comprises five members responsible for making decisions that support the public's interest in delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity to consumers.

- Public utility companies must apply to the Board to set rates through a General Rate Application (GRA), or for specific short-term adjustments. There are two regulated public utilities in the Yukon:
 - Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC); and
 - ATCO Electric Yukon.
- The rate setting process relies on forecasts of the utilities' costs.
- As the actual cost to generate, transmit and distribute power gradually diverges from the forecasted cost due to unpredictable factors such as environmental impacts and economic drivers, periodic review of current and forecasted cost is needed to update rates.
- In June 2025, the Board approved YEC's requested interim rate increases (Rider J) to cover projected revenue shortfalls in 2025 and 2026.

Status:

- On May 12, 2025, YEC filed their 2025–2027 General Rate Application with the Board.
- An increase of 34.3 per cent will be in place by January 1, 2027. The increase will be implemented incrementally, with adjustments introduced on July 1, 2025, January 1, 2026, and April 1, 2027.
- YEC maintains that significant increases are needed to: safeguard energy infrastructure; build new supplies of electricity; and strengthen the territory's electricity system to adapt to evolving customer needs.
- On March 12, 2026, the Board approved YEC's compliance filing and rate riders effective April 1, 2026, and January 1, 2027.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-23

Date approved

Topic: Work is ongoing to improve Yukon's Land Titles System to improve service, reduce timelines, and consider fees charged.

Key messages:

- In 2012, the Land Titles Office began a modernization project to improve its processes, policies and legislation.
- The modernization project continues to enhance the quality and accessibility of services, while maintaining the Land Titles Office's current level of accuracy and certainty in title.
- The Land Titles system has improved efficiency through modernization, including moving many services online.

Key facts and stats:

- Work on modernizing the land titles system has included repealing and replacing the *Land Titles Act* and *Condominium Act*, as well as digitizing land titles.
- This work has significantly reduced timelines from nine weeks to five-to-seven business days to register and process documents.
- The typical land transfer fee is around \$150 to \$350, depending on the value of the property/land.
- In comparison with most provinces and territories, the Yukon has some of the lowest transfer fees in Canada.

Status:

- Reviewing processes and fees to support affordable homeownership and efficient service delivery.
- The next phase of modernization is at the scoping and planning phase.

If asked what has been completed to date:

- The first two phases of the project are complete.

- So far, the Land Titles Office has:
 - carried through all registration functions required by the *Land Titles Act, 2015* and the *Condominium Act, 2015*;
 - developed a process and prescribed forms to enable Yukon First Nations governments to register Category A or Category B Settlement Land in the Land Titles Office without affecting Aboriginal rights and title;
 - digitized approximately 20,000 active titles;
 - digitized all but the oldest registered instruments and uploaded images into the electronic registry – there are about 600 remaining;
 - compiled title history for 80 per cent of active titles, or about 16,000 of approximately 20,000 active titles; and
 - opened the customer portal for the public to do online searches.
- Electronic submissions and fee review would require legislative amendments to accommodate electronic filing practices (e.g. use of electronic signatures), as well as IT work for implementation.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-17

Date approved

Topic: In October 2025, the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-14, An Act to amend the *Criminal Code*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and the *National Defence Act* (bail and sentencing).

Key messages:

- The proposed changes by the Government of Canada in Bill C-14 are intended to strengthen federal bail laws and toughen sentencing for repeat, violent, and organized-crime-related offences to improve public safety and better address repeat violent offending.
- We support the bail and sentencing reforms introduced in federal Bill C-14 as a key step toward improving public safety for Yukoners.
- Working collaboratively across sectors to address the root causes of crime, such as addressing housing and healthcare needs, remains a key aspect of the broader response to community safety and wellbeing.

Additional responses:

- Yukon communities continue to feel the impacts of violent repeat offending, property crime, and crimes linked to organized crime.
- Our government supports strengthening bail laws to end the cycle of release and re-offence that the Yukon is currently experiencing.
- Our government will continue to ensure the RCMP, bail supervision and enforcement, Court Services, Corrections and Victim Services have adequate resources and support.

Key facts and stats:

- Bill C-14 aims to strengthen bail and sentencing rules for repeat, violent, and high-risk offenders by:
 - expanding reverse-onus provisions, meaning an accused must show why they should be released if charged with certain offences while expanding aggravating-factor provisions—

requiring judges to impose stronger sentences in certain contexts;

- imposing mandatory consideration of weapon prohibitions and tougher sentencing responses for organized crime related offences; and
- clarifying how the principle of restraint is applied in cases involving violence to ensure bail decisions take public safety concerns directly into account.
- In January 2024, Bill C-48 came into effect, which introduced reverse-onus provisions for certain violent offences.
- Despite these reforms, concerns about repeat offenders continued.
- Canada's Premiers have repeatedly emphasized the need for tougher bail measures, writing to the federal government in January 2023, July 2024, and March 2025.
- On October 23, 2025, the federal government introduced Bill C-14, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the National Defence Act, to strengthen Canada's bail and sentencing framework further.
- The reverse-onus expansion under Bill C14 applies to a specific set of serious offences, including violent and organized crime-related auto theft; break and enter of a home; human trafficking; assault and sexual assault involving choking, suffocating, or strangulation; and extortion involving violence.
- We are in discussions with community partners to improve repeat offender management in response to public concerns (see BN #32).

Status:

- Bill C-14 passed in the House of Commons on February 13, 2026, and is currently before the Senate. The legislation remains subject to change as it proceeds through the legislative process.
- On March 18, 2025, the Premiers sent a letter to the Prime Minister requesting the federal government allocate resources to provinces and territories for the collection of reliable bail data, recognizing the importance of such data to the effective administration of bail systems and when addressing public concerns.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-31

Date approved

Hospital Designation Under the Criminal Code

Justice & HSS

Key messages:

- On September 25, 2025, the Whitehorse Correctional Centre was removed as a designated hospital for placement of an accused person under the jurisdiction of the Yukon Review Board.
- On February 5, 2026, our government re-designated the Whitehorse Correctional Centre as a hospital under the *Criminal Code*.
- We support the use of the mental health system to address the needs of mental health patients wherever possible.
- Whitehorse General Hospital's status as a designated hospital remains unchanged, and the hospital continues to be the preferred location for short-term care of accused persons under the jurisdiction of the Yukon Review Board wherever possible.
- However, we believe that retaining the designation of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre remains important for exceptional circumstances to protect the safety of hospital staff, clients, and the public.

Key facts and stats:

- Hospital Designation under s. 672.1 of the Criminal Code of Canada pertaining to persons deemed Not Criminally Responsible or Unfit for Trial is laid out in Ministerial Order 1993/011.
- Yukon Review Board clients who receive a disposition from the Board requiring long-term placements (30+ days) must be transferred out of territory because the Yukon does not have a forensic hospital.
- When a Yukon Review Board Accused is placed on a custodial disposition that requires placement in an in-patient forensic psychiatric hospital, Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services (HSS) contracts with an out-of-territory facility, covers the cost of care, and makes all

Hospital Designation Under the Criminal Code

Justice & HSS

necessary arrangements for transportation to and from the facility, including transport to and from Yukon Review Board hearings in Yukon.

- A recommendation to remove the designation of Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC) as a hospital was published in the 2018 “Independent inspection of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre” referred to as the “Loukidelis Report”.
- The 2018 report cited R v Nehass, 2017 YKSC, wherein the judge strongly recommended that the “Yukon government revoke the designation of the WCC as a hospital”.
- The WCC designation has been maintained due to the lack of an appropriate forensic inpatient facility in the Yukon that could remove the need for occasional use of the correctional facility for this purpose.
- In exceptional circumstances, the Fireweed Mental Health Unit at the Whitehorse General Hospital may not have the ability to house a Yukon Review Board person, and in this event, in absence of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre being designated, there was no safe alternative.

Status:

- Ministerial Order 2026/03 was made on February 5, 2026, and reinstated the designation of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre as a hospital under the *Criminal Code*.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

Deputy Minister, HSS

2026-03-19

Date approved

Date approved

Topic: Improvements to repeat offender management through increased collaboration and supervision.

Key messages:

- Addressing repeat offenders is something our government takes very seriously.
- We are supporting multiple pathways to reduce recidivism through the provision of behavioural programming and enhanced client support, as well as supporting increased supervision.
- Yukon Community Corrections has improved the way it manages repeat offenders by leveraging existing resources and integrating ongoing activities into its case management approach.
- The Department of Justice is also actively engaged with key partners, including the RCMP, the Yukon Legal Services Society (“Legal Aid”), the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and other Canadian jurisdictions.

Additional messages:

- Key components of the improved approach include:
 - better defined roles and responsibilities within the Department;
 - increased communication with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada to inform bail hearings;
 - more robust supervision and case management by Yukon Community Corrections, including additional supports for adults on bail; and
 - continued collaboration with the RCMP for monitoring, including curfew checks.
- Our approach promotes behavioural change through programming, supports, and enhanced supervision.

Key facts and stats:

- The Prolific Offender Management (POM) program ran as a pilot from 2011 to 2014, promoting targeted interventions and risk mitigation as part of case management.
- Activities from the pilot have been folded into regular operations in the Department of Justice.
- In fall 2024, Yukon Community Corrections initiated discussions with partners to improve management of repeat offenders.
- These discussions informed improvements to repeat offender management that were implemented in January 2025.
- A refined bail verification process has also been presented to the judiciary.

Status:

- The Government of Yukon initiated discussions with the RCMP, Legal Aid, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and other jurisdictions to improve repeat offender management in response to public concerns about offence patterns in the Yukon.

If asked about the definition of a repeat offender:

- There is no universally recognized definition of a repeat offender among stakeholders, which remains a subject of ongoing discussion.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program

Justice

Topic: Supervised housing is a key component of the criminal justice system that provides structured support to individuals reintegrating into communities after incarceration.

Key messages:

- MNP Consulting was engaged to evaluate the effectiveness of the Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program, and to determine whether the intended outcomes of the programs were being achieved.
- The Department of Justice received MNP's evaluation report in February 2025.
- The evaluation recommended significant changes such as the relocation of the men's program off the Whitehorse Correctional Centre grounds and changes to the service model for women.
- Analysis of the evaluation will inform the scope and design of future programs.

Additional response:

- The Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program provides supervision, housing and structured support to justice-involved individuals as they return to their communities after serving a sentence in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.
- The Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program is part of a suite of programs delivered through the Department of Justice aimed at reducing recidivism by providing appropriate support for individuals as well as improving safety at a community level.

Key facts and stats:

- The men's program is in a repurposed Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC) wing and has capacity for 20 residents.

Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program

Justice

- Connective has operated the men's Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program (SHARP) since 2020.
- Clients in the men's program receive person-centred support and access programs based on their individual needs, including:
 - criminogenic programming;
 - outreach services, including employment support and education;
 - Indigenous-focused programming;
 - community living services;
 - peer support; and
 - food security support.
- Between May 1, 2020, and January 26, 2026, Connective provided services to 195 bail and probation clients and 24 federal parole clients.

Status:

- The Department of Justice is reviewing the recommendations and considering the next steps.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Inmate Counts

Justice

Topic: Inmate counts at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre are a frequent focus of public and political interest.

Key messages:

- In the Yukon, incarceration rates have declined over the course of the last decade, influenced by many factors.
- In 2022, the number of admissions began to increase, aligning with national trends.
- First Nation persons are over-represented throughout the criminal justice system in the Yukon and across the country.
- The Department of Justice supports action, both locally and at the national level, to address the over-representation of Indigenous people in the correctional system.

Additional response:

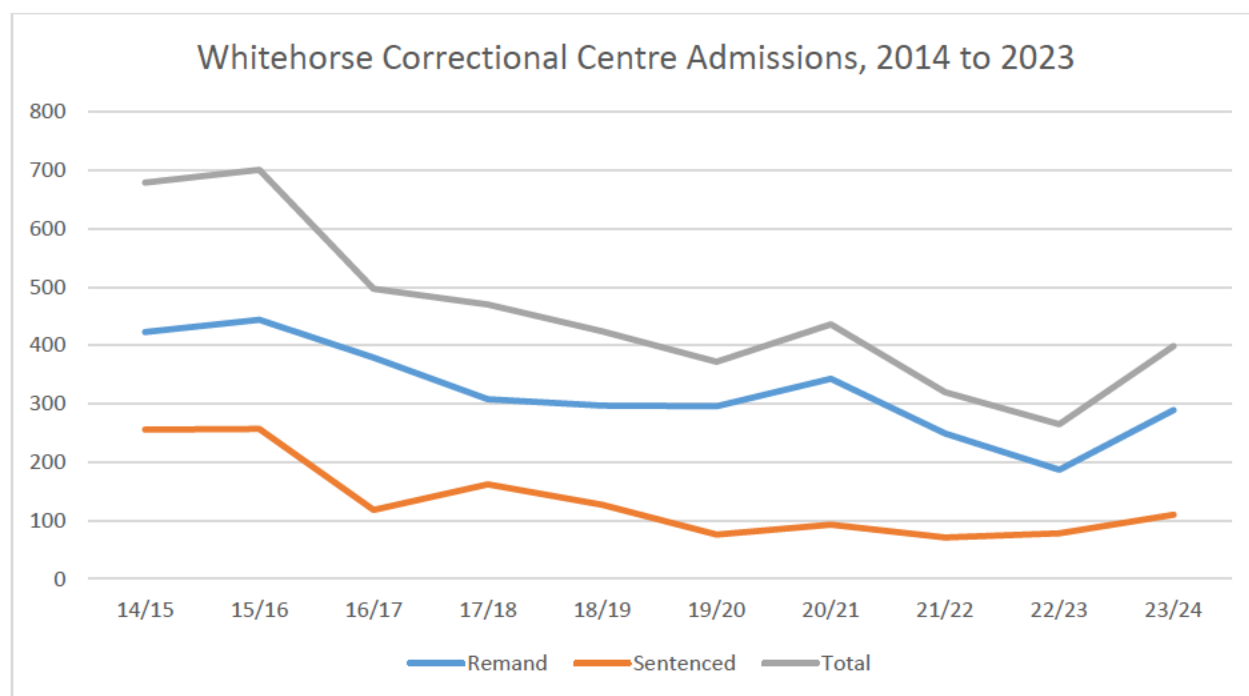
- The Yukon has a low custodial population in comparison to other Canadian jurisdictions.
- The courts control the number of individuals sentenced and remanded to custody.
- Sentenced is a state of confinement where an individual has been ordered by the courts to serve a period of incarceration.
- Remand is a state of confinement where an individual has not been convicted, and they are in custody awaiting trial or a bail hearing.
- In 2025, more than three quarters of admissions were individuals remanded.
- The Department of Justice works with Yukon First Nations governments and other partners to address the complex and systemic factors that contribute to the overrepresentation of First Nation persons throughout the criminal justice system.

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Inmate Counts

Justice

Key facts and stats:

- An admission is counted each time a person begins custody, so the same person may be counted multiple times each year.
- In 2025, 325 individuals were admitted to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC). Of those:
 - 239, or 73 per cent, self-reported as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis;
 - 255, or 78 per cent, were remanded;
 - 58, or 17 per cent, were sentenced;
 - 2 were immigration holds; and
 - 10 were held for federal sentences or parole violations.



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0014-01 Adult admissions to Correctional Services.

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Inmate Counts

Justice

Status:

- The Yukon's remand rate aligns with national trends.
- The proportion of First Nations persons in custody in the Yukon is similar to other Canadian territories.
- The proportion of First Nations admissions decreased by two per cent from 2024 to 2025.

If asked about ongoing work with Yukon First Nations to address the overrepresentation of First Nations persons in custody:

- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre continues to partner with Yukon First Nations governments and community leaders to:
 - deliver culturally appropriate and responsive correctional services and programs;
 - consider the needs of First Nations clients; and
 - foster the rehabilitation, healing and reintegration of clients.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-04-13

Date approved

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Programming

Justice

Topic: The Department of Justice works with Yukon First Nations governments and other partners to deliver client-focused services that support healing, rehabilitation and successful community reintegration.

Key messages:

- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre regularly reviews its programming and client supports to ensure that they align with legislated requirements and support clients effectively.
- The Department of Justice works with Yukon First Nations governments and other partners to deliver client-focused, culturally relevant services that support healing, rehabilitation and successful community reintegration.
- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre offers programming to all inmates, whether they are remanded or sentenced. However, programming is mandatory for sentenced inmates.

Additional messages:

- Programming is offered across four distinct areas: criminogenic; cultural and spiritual; educational; and recreational.
- Programs are delivered through Whitehorse Correctional Centre staff, First Nations Liaison Officers, contracted service providers, Yukon University, and other professionals.

Key facts and stats:

- Programming at Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC) includes:
 - educational and vocational training (with Yukon University);
 - health promotion sessions, offered through the WCC Health Services Unit;
 - cultural programming (including beading, carving, drumming, fire ceremonies, talking circles);

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Programming

Justice

- spiritual services (in partnership with multi-faith community leaders, including First Nations' Elders and Knowledge Keepers); and
- individual and group criminogenic programming to address factors underlying recidivism.
- Most programs are delivered in group settings or in one-on-one sessions led by qualified instructors. WCC also offers self-guided programming.
- Case Managers work closely with inmates to develop individualized care plans that address the programming requirements of each inmate.
- Individualized care plans include discharge planning for support and services, including referrals to Mental Health and Wellness; continued support from mental health professionals, such as counsellors; and referrals to community organizations.
- Case managers work with an array of community partners to ensure care plans are comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and aligned with the inmates' unique needs.

Status:

- WCC regularly reviews its client supports to update programs and funding to ensure alignment with adopted recommendations and regulated commitments.

If asked about programming or medical treatment for clients with mental health issues and/or substance use disorders:

- Therapeutic counselling may be individual or group-based and often includes individual counselling for criminogenic needs (e.g., in response to sexual offenses or spousal violence).

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Programming

Justice

- Specialized clinical services, including mental health and behavioural health supports, are delivered by qualified professionals.
- WCC provides individual and group counselling to address mental health or substance use concerns.
 - In conjunction with Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services, WCC can offer intensive group treatment sessions at the facility to address substance use issues.
- Clients with substance use disorders may also be referred to internal and external service providers.
- Opioid Agonist treatment is available through the WCC Health Services Unit for clients with opioid use disorders.
- WCC collaborates with other jurisdictions to facilitate inmate access to specialized in-patient addiction treatment and counselling services.

If asked about programming for First Nations clients:

- WCC ensures that staff training and programming offered to clients is reflective of Yukon First Nations cultures.
- WCC has two dedicated First Nations Liaison Officers whose work connects clients to available cultural and spiritual supports.
- The cultural program, 'Emphasizing First Nations Culture', is a contracted service that provides carving programs, drumming, fire ceremonies, sweat lodges, and talking circles.
- Culturally relevant programming is also provided in partnership with the Council of Yukon First Nations to support the involvement of Yukon First Nations Elders as Knowledge Keepers who provide on-site support for clients; guidance on spirituality and for ceremonies; one-on-one and group sessions; sharing circles; and activities such as carving, traditional beading and smudging.

Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Programming

Justice

- Targeted referrals are offered to First Nations inmates for ongoing community support, reintegration planning and individual assistance.
- Programming for First Nations clients may also include connecting clients with Indigenous Courtworkers.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

2026-03-30

Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

Topic: Community Safety Officer programs support community wellbeing.

Key messages:

- Funding for Community Safety Officer programs is administered through the Government of Canada's First Nations and Inuit Policing Program.
- In June 2025, the Government of Canada revised the terms and conditions of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program.
- These changes effectively ended the national Community Safety Officer pilot funding stream.
- Public Safety Canada, with support from the Government of Yukon, has made time-limited transition funding (of up to 12 months) available to support the temporary continuation of activities for existing pilot programs.
- This temporary funding will allow time for First Nations to assess program efficacy, enable data collection, and support sustainability planning for future funding approaches.

Additional messages:

- We are aware of Public Safety Canada's interest in linking future Community Safety Officer funding to territorial or provincial community safety officer-related legislation.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work with Yukon First Nations governments and with the Government of Canada to support future approaches that reflect the unique nature of community-led programs.
- The governments of Yukon and Canada will seek meetings with Yukon First Nations to understand their ongoing needs and to collaborate on the long-term direction of community safety initiatives.

Key facts and stats:

- Community Safety Officer (CSO) programs in the Yukon are designed, led, and implemented by Yukon First Nations governments; the Government of Yukon (Yukon) contributes funding only.
- Funding for CSO programs has previously been shared (52 per cent provided by Canada and 48 per cent by Yukon).
- In 2025-26, Yukon and Canada provided funding to four Yukon First Nations' CSO programs: Kwanlin Dün First Nation; Selkirk First Nation; Teslin Tlingit Council; and Carcross/Tagish First Nation. Yukon provided about \$214,000 per program.

Status:

- Canada's updated terms and conditions require territorial or provincial jurisdictions **to have a legislative or regulatory** framework in place for CSO programs to qualify for stream-three First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) funding starting in January 2026.
- Yukon currently has no such legislation **or regulatory framework** in place.

If asked about federal requirements for CSO legislation:

- Revisions to the terms and conditions for FNIPP funding were triggered by a 2024 report of the Auditor General of Canada.
- Yukon's CSO programs differ significantly from provincial enforcement-based models in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which include statutory powers and operate under provincial authority.
- Yukon's CSO's do not currently exercise statutory powers.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-30

Date approved

Topic: The Government of Yukon launched the Community Safety Planning program to support Yukon First Nations governments in community safety planning.

Key messages:

- The Community Safety Planning funding program provides up to \$200,000 to each Yukon First Nation government to support the development and implementation of Community Safety plans.
- First Nations governments are at various stages of community safety planning, and the Government of Yukon provides support through collaboration and formal funding agreements.
- The Government of Yukon and the City of Whitehorse have also signed a commitment letter to begin work on a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for Whitehorse.

Additional messages:

- Community safety planning is a key element of our government's plan to reduce crime and improve community safety and wellbeing in the Yukon.
- It is also a longstanding, shared priority grounded in commitments made at Yukon Forum, through community-driven safety assessments, and in Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy.

Key facts and stats:

- To date, \$840,000 has been spent and our government has signed agreements with six Yukon First Nations: Kluane First Nation; Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in; Liard First Nation; First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun; and Ross River Dena Council.

Status

- Three First Nations, community-led safety plans are complete, and three communities are doing safety assessments.
- The Department of Justice is in ongoing discussions with the Teslin Tlingit Council, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation.

If asked about federal involvement with Community Safety Planning funding for First Nations:

- In 2010, Public Safety Canada created the Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative (ACSPI) to support Indigenous communities in developing tailored approaches to community safety that reflect their concerns, priorities and unique circumstances, as well as funding for implementation.
- The Department of Justice continues to engage with our federal partners on their ACSPI to explore other funding opportunities that may be complementary to our safety programs.

If asked about community safety and wellbeing planning in Whitehorse:

- The Yukon government, in partnership with the City of Whitehorse, is working on a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan to help address community safety challenges in Whitehorse.
- We will work with partner agencies (Yukon First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Yukon RCMP, and the community) to advance Whitehorse's safety goals.
- This planning process also includes public engagement so that this work will be informed by Whitehorse residents and businesses.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Topic: The Yukon's overall crime rate is the third highest in Canada, and while there have been decreases in crime severity, rates of non-violent and property crime remain high.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to sustained investment in the Yukon's RCMP by providing resourcing including support for specialized units that investigate homicides, drug trafficking and organized crime.
- An effective response to crime requires a multi-pronged approach, balancing enforcement activities with supportive social programs and prevention initiatives that address the underlying causes of crime.

Additional response:

- Over the past 10 years, both the violent crime rate and the violent crime severity index have risen in Yukon. However, the increases observed across the rest of Canada have been even greater.
- Historically, crime rates in the territories have been much higher than the rest of Canada.
- The North faces disproportionate rates of poverty, overcrowded housing and food insecurity. These conditions are strongly correlated with higher crime rates across all Canadian jurisdictions.

Key facts and stats:

- The overall crime rate in the Yukon in 2024 was 21,878 incidents per 100,000 population, the third highest rate in Canada (overall crime rate excludes traffic violations and federal statute violations). Population base: 46,704 (Statistics Canada, July 1, 2024, estimate).

Status:

- Property and non-violent crime remain persistent challenges, particularly in urban areas.
- The Government of Yukon continues to align public safety investments with evidence-based enforcement, prevention and harm-reduction initiatives.

If asked about the influence of organized crime in the Yukon:

- Illicit drugs are a primary contributor to early deaths.
- Cocaine is the most prevalent illicit drug (estimated cocaine trafficking volume into the Yukon: 15–20 kilograms per month).
- Drug supply origin: primarily from organized criminal networks in British Columbia and Alberta.
- Organized crime presence: five organized crime networks active in the Yukon between 2020 and 2024.
- Firearms: in 2024, police in the Yukon reported 16 firearm-related violent crimes – an increase of one incident from 2023.

If asked about multi-pronged approaches that support crime prevention:

- Community-based initiatives further strengthen local safety, including First Nation-led community justice programs, restorative justice circles, community safety and wellbeing planning, Justice Wellness Centre programming, and support for Crime Stoppers Yukon.
- Youth-focused prevention and early intervention efforts include the Youth Justice Panel, the Youth Achievement Centre, and Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund initiatives delivered by the BGC Yukon.

Approved by:

Mark Radke
Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-04-07
Date approved

Table 1: Crime Severity Index, 2015 to 2024, Yukon and Canada

	2015	2024	% change
Crime Severity Index, Yukon	183	209	14
Crime Severity Index, Canada	70	78	11
Violent Crime Severity Index, Yukon	209	222	6
Violent Crime Severity Index, Canada	75	100	33
Non-Violent Crime Severity Index, Yukon	210	206	-2
Non-Violent Crime Severity Index, Canada	68	70	2

Changes in Crime Severity Indexes and Property Crime Rates from 2023 to 2024, Yukon and Canada:

	2023	2024	% change
Crime Severity Index, Yukon	218.58	209.24	-4.27%
Crime Severity Index, Canada	81.20	77.89	-4.08%
Violent Crime Severity Index, Yukon	267.08	222.14	-16.83%
Youth Crime Severity Index, Yukon	176.70	69.48	-60.68%
Youth Crime Severity Index, Canada	54.21	52.46	-3.23%
Non-Violent Crime Severity Index, Yukon	210.04	205.85	+2.39%
Property Crime Rate, Yukon	11,244	11,348	+0.92%

Table 2: Criminal Code Violations, Rate per 100,000 Yukon and Canada

Year	Violent Crime		Property Crime		Other	
	Yukon	Canada	Yukon	Canada	Yukon	Canada
2015	4,083	1,070	9,575	3,231	9,843	930
2016	4,013	1,076	8,973	3,238	8,921	982
2017	3,718	1,113	9,101	3,265	7,414	997
2018	3,928	1,151	9,529	3,348	6,269	1,013
2019	5,072	1,278	11,076	3,509	7,466	1,086
2020	5,136	1,265	10,749	3,085	7,138	989
2021	5,111	1,331	10,298	3,052	7,619	1,012
2022	5,239	1,377	10,282	3,325	6,260	997
2023	4,982	1,442	11,244	3,410	5,994	1,033
2024	4,958	1,433	11,348	3,236	5,571	1,003

Downtown Whitehorse Community Safety

Justice

Topic: Working collaboratively to improve safety in downtown Whitehorse.

Key messages:

- Our government is advancing its commitments to make downtown Whitehorse safer for families and businesses.
- We have been working closely with community partners, government departments, the City of Whitehorse, and the Yukon RCMP to address safety concerns, support the needs of businesses, and reduce crime in the downtown core.
- Our government has provided the resources the Yukon RCMP needs to work in combatting the illegal drug trade and enhancing safety in downtown Whitehorse.
- We continue to support the Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing Planning process to address Whitehorse safety concerns through a coordinated, evidence-based approach.
- The committee meets monthly and has recently launched the city-wide survey to collect feedback from residents of Whitehorse.

Additional messages:

- Our government's 2026-27 budget includes over \$2 million in ongoing funding for new RCMP positions, which will support public safety in Whitehorse and the communities.
- For Whitehorse, this includes increases to the Whitehorse Detachment, and community support roles along with support for specialized teams such as the Emergency Response Team and Crime Reduction Unit.
- In addition, our government continues to support the Mobile Crisis Response Team (Car 867). This joint RCMP/Health and Social Services initiative diverts individuals experiencing mental health crises away from the criminal justice system and ensures that they receive the most appropriate level of care for the situation.

Downtown Whitehorse Community Safety

Justice

Key facts and stats:

- Yukon RCMP recorded 24,468 occurrences in 2025-26, a year-over-year decrease of approximately 0.4 per cent (9,691 occurrences or 65 per cent of the calls occurred in the Whitehorse area).
- Of those 9,691 occurrences, 757 occurred at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter (WES).
- In 2025-26, WES accounted for 8 per cent of all downtown RCMP calls (down from 9.5 per cent the previous year).
- The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit expanded its capacity through federal funding under the Gun and Gang Violence Acton Fund (GGVAF).
- Yukon's 2023 to 2028 GGVAF allocation totals \$3,998,194.
 - GGVAF has supported initiatives including Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, and the BCG Yukon youth crime prevention program.
 - Additional activities related to crime prevention are being explored.

Status:

- The Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing planning process is supported by a multi-sector advisory committee who meets regularly to support the planning process and data collection.
- The Whitehorse Community survey has been launched to engage residents of Whitehorse.

If asked what specific action the government is taking right now to improve safety in downtown Whitehorse:

- Our government has increased funding to support additional RCMP members in Whitehorse as well as continued support for the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods unit.
- We are working in partnership with the City of Whitehorse to develop a Community Safety and Wellbeing plan for Whitehorse.

Downtown Whitehorse Community Safety

Justice

- The Government of Yukon has permanently funded Car 867, a joint RCMP and mental health response team.

If asked how the Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan addresses the concerns raised by residents and businesses:

- Safety plans use evidence and data to identify priority safety issues affecting residences and businesses.
- The Department of Justice, alongside the Community Safety and Wellbeing facilitators and City of Whitehorse are engaging with businesses and residents directly.
- We will work with community partners and stakeholders to identify action priorities identified in the plans and implement priorities.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

2026-04-07

Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

Topic: Implementation of federal changes that ban some models of firearms and the associated voluntary buyback program.

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the rights of legal firearms owners in the territory and supports an approach to gun control that helps protect public safety.
- The Government of Yukon has advocated to the Government of Canada that no territorially funded police resources should be used for the federal Assault Style Firearm Compensation program.
- The Government of Canada has affirmed that any costs related to the operating of the program in the territory will be covered by the federal government.
- Our government continues its work with law enforcement and federal partners to support initiatives that target illegal firearms, organized crime and violence.
- We remain available to facilitate discussions with the federal government, Yukon First Nations, Northern territorial partners and Yukon communities.

Additional response:

- Our government maintains that criminal activity is an issue that is distinct from legal firearm ownership.
- The federal Assault Style Firearm Compensation program focuses on licensed and vetted owners and not on the illegal firearms associated with organized crime.
- Legal firearm ownership plays a distinct role in the lives of many Yukoners, especially in rural and First Nations communities. In the Yukon legal firearms are:
 - tools for subsistence harvesting and food security;
 - integral to First Nations cultural practices; and

- necessary for wildlife protection and wilderness safety.

Key facts and stats:

- On March 24, 2026, the Legislative Assembly debated Motion No. 54, which asked the Government of Canada to consider a territorial carve-out from the federal Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program. The main motion passed 14–0, with the NDP caucus abstaining.
- On March 7, 2025, the federal government made firearms-related announcements that included expanding the list of prohibited firearms; enhanced firearms license ineligibility; revocation authorities; and a review of the firearms classification regime associated with changes resulting from federal bill C-21.
- The Assault Style Firearms Compensation Program for individuals rolled out January 17, 2026 (amnesty period until October 30, 2026).
- The federal government estimates there are approximately 476 prohibited assault style firearms in the territory.
- Prohibited firearms must be declared by March 31, 2026, to be eligible for compensation.
- Deactivation or disposal must be completed by a licensed gunsmith, with proof of deactivation submitted to receive compensation.
- Anyone with a prohibited firearm after October 30, 2026, will be breaking the law and may face criminal liability and the loss of their Possession and Acquisition Licence.

Status:

- The Government of Yukon is exploring options related to the impact of the federal buyback program in a manner consistent with the *Criminal Code* and the *Firearms Act*.

If asked about the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) position:

- Under the Canadian Firearms Program, the CFO position has no role in the buyback program (Yukon is currently served by British Columbia's CFO.)
- A recommendation of the Canadian Firearms Program Northern Services Review (2024) was to establish a CFO for the three territories.

If asked why Saskatchewan and Alberta are not part of this program:

- Saskatchewan and Alberta both have their own respective firearms legislation.
- Residents in those provinces may need to follow different avenues than in the Yukon.
- The changes to federal criminal law still apply in those provinces.

If asked about the buyback program:

- The Assault Style Firearms Compensation Program is an optional tool to support compensation for the implementation of Bill C-21.
- The Government of Yukon is not involved in this federal program.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-27

Date approved

Topic: Modernization of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program and implications for Yukon.

Key messages:

- The federal First Nations and Inuit Policing Program supports culturally responsive policing through Community Tripartite Agreements between federal, territorial and First Nations governments.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work collaboratively with the Government of Canada and other provinces and territories on modernizing the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program to better meet the needs of Yukon First Nation communities.
- We are strengthening policing partnerships and improving community-driven approaches to public safety through Community Tripartite Agreements and community safety planning and initiatives.

Key facts and stats:

- Government of Canada (Canada) has cost-shared Indigenous policing investments with provinces and territories through the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) since 1991.
- Funding is shared 52 per cent by Canada and 48 per cent by the province or territory.
- FNIPP aims to support personal security, accountable policing, and strong partnerships grounded in trust and participative decision-making.
- Canada has made substantial changes to FNIPP terms and conditions, effective January 1, 2026.
- FNIPP funding is accessible under four distinct streams:
 1. self-administered police services;
 2. contracted police service other than the RCMP;
 3. regulated Community Safety Officers; and
 4. other projects that contribute to community safety.

- Government of Yukon (Yukon) has previously accessed FNIPP funding for the Community Safety Officer (CSO) Pilot Program and Community Tripartite Agreements (CTAs).
- Under the new program terms, Yukon will only be able to access Stream 4 funding, as CSOs are not legislated in the Yukon. (see BN #40).
- RCMP CTAs will not be impacted by the revised Terms and Conditions as they are now governed separately under the FNIPP envelope.
- Yukon currently has 11 signed CTAs, funding 25 FNIPP officers.

Status:

- Yukon and Public Safety Canada co-hosted a CTA engagement meeting January 21 to 23, 2026, which focused on CTAs and the future of FNIPP operations in the territory.
- Canada has not introduced its previously planned legislation to recognize self-administered First Nation policing as an essential service.
- Yukon continues to engage with First Nation governments on modernizing CTA structures, priorities and approaches.

If asked about CTA participation gaps:

- Three Yukon First Nation governments do not have CTAs: Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (is in initial discussions), Teslin Tlingit Council (is seeking self-government arrangements on policing) and Selkirk First Nation (terminated their CTA effective March 31, 2024).
- Yukon continues working with these governments to identify community priorities and to explore renewed or alternative policing arrangements.

If asked about delays in establishing CTA positions:

- Yukon is collaborating with First Nation governments to address the housing and infrastructure challenges required to establish CTA positions with Kluane First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.

If asked about enforcement of Indigenous laws by RCMP:

- Yukon is aware that some First Nation governments are interested in RCMP enforcement of their laws.
- Effective enforcement requires that appropriate prosecution, adjudication and penalty mechanisms be in place.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-24

Date approved

Topic: The Government of Yukon has been advancing the use of restorative justice practices throughout the territory.

Key messages:

- The Integrated Restorative Justice Unit was evaluated at the end of its pilot phase in 2025, and we are considering next steps.
- Restorative justice offers a way to hold offenders directly accountable to those they have harmed and provides the person(s) harmed the opportunity to play an active role in the justice process.
- Public safety is supported when we use all available tools to stop cycles of reoffending and address harm in our communities.

Key facts and stats:

- Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019) included a call for all governments “to increase accessibility to meaningful and culturally appropriate justice practices by expanding restorative justice programs and Indigenous Peoples’ courts”.
- Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy (2020) includes an action to “improve options and coordination for youth and adult restorative justice in Yukon communities with a focus on the safety and dignity of victims”.
- Justice Canada leads ongoing work under a federal-provincial-territorial working group on restorative justice.
- The RCMP’s 2024–2027 Strategic Plan commits the service to increase the use of restorative justice as part of its approach.
- The Integrated Restorative Justice Unit (the Unit) provides restorative justice service delivery as an option for youth and adult clients.

- The Unit offers training opportunities, mentorship program development support, and co-facilitation support for restorative justice practices in communities.
- The Unit works closely with Justice Canada and Yukon First Nations to support the federal Indigenous Courtworker Program (see BN # 46).
- The Unit co-funds and supports eight Community Justice Workers and 12 Indigenous Courtworkers employed by Yukon First Nations governments.

Status:

- The Unit operated as a pilot project from 2021 to 2025.
- Results of an external evaluation are being looked at to determine the next steps.

If asked about whether the unit will continue to operate after the conclusion of the pilot:

- The Unit continues to be available to provide core services and is accepting referrals for youth and adult restorative diversion clients.

If asked about the unit's work with Indigenous courtworkers:

- The Unit has been working with Yukon First Nations and community stakeholders to identify needs, gaps and interests for Indigenous Courtworker supports in family court (see BN # 63).
- In November 2025, the Unit, together with KDFN and the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia, brought together Indigenous courtworkers from across the Yukon to network and train.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-17

Date approved

Topic: Funding and resources for Yukon's RCMP and First Nations Policing Program.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon works closely with the RCMP to maintain appropriate resourcing levels and funding in support of an effective police service.
- The Government of Yukon funds policing through investments in the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program and the Territorial Police Service Agreement with the Government of Canada.
- In the 2026–27 budget, we are increasing funding to the RCMP by \$5.87 million to enhance policing resources, operations and infrastructure in support of public safety across the territory.

Key facts and stats:

- Territorial RCMP policing services in the Yukon are cost-shared between the Government of Yukon (Yukon) and the Government of Canada (Canada).
 - Under the Territorial Police Service Agreement (TPSA), Canada funds 30 per cent of core policing costs; Yukon covers 70 per cent.
 - Under the First Nation and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP), Canada funds 52 per cent of the costs; Yukon contributes 48 per cent.
- Previously, Yukon provided funding to support 154 RCMP regular member positions (129 funded through the TPSA; 25 under the FNIPP).
- This year's funding will go towards the following:
 - over \$2 million for human resources, funding 10 new positions to strengthen specialized units and the support the detachments in Whitehorse and Yukon communities;

- supporting operations and equipment procurement (\$1.035 million);
 - addressing salary increases negotiated during the third round of RCMP collective bargaining (\$1 million).
 - the Mobile Radio System (an investment of \$1.108 million);
 - the Arrest Processing Unit (\$464,000 for); and
 - the capital budget (\$3.149 million) to build, renovate and maintain RCMP infrastructure.
- Territorial funding for police is under pressure due to new collective bargaining agreements, infrastructure investments, national initiatives and the shifting landscape of crime, both nationally and in the territory.
- Federal, provincial and territorial officials and RCMP are actively engaged in discussions on the future of RCMP contract policing with the current provincial and territorial RCMP police service agreements set to expire in 2032.

If asked about downtown Whitehorse public safety:

- Investments in the RCMP's Emergency Response Team and operational equipment respond directly to public concerns about increased crime and threats to business safety in the downtown core.
- This year's increase puts forward a new position for the Whitehorse Detachment, strengthening police capacity in Whitehorse.

If asked about First Nations policing and additional RCMP resources:

- New policing capacity under the FNIPP includes positions for Nacho Nyäk Dun, Kluane First Nation and Ross River Dena Council, alongside the establishment of an RCMP Indigenous Policing Liaison to enhance coordination between the RCMP and First Nation governments to support culturally responsive policing.

- Public Safety Canada, Yukon, Yukon First Nations and the RCMP are working together to determine where the additional RCMP positions will be deployed.
- Yukon's RCMP complement also includes a federally funded Federal Investigations Unit that supplements territorial policing with dedicated capacity for drug enforcement, organized crime, commercial crime, protective policing, border intelligence and enforcement of federal statutes.

If asked about RCMP infrastructure and detachment upgrades:

- The TPSA also funds RCMP infrastructure and real property planning with investments through the agreement's Accommodations Program Charge (APC), which operates in five-year budgetary cycles.
- The current APC Cycle Three totals \$19.627 million (over five years), supporting RCMP detachment renovations in Old Crow, upgrades in Haines Junction, and lifecycle investments across RCMP infrastructure.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-02

Date approved

Yukon Police Council and Policing Priorities

Justice

Topic: The Yukon Police Council gathers input from community stakeholders and partners to help shape the territorial policing priorities the Minister of Justice provides to the Yukon's RCMP.

Key messages:

- I look forward to reviewing the Yukon Police Council's recommendations and expect to communicate territorial policing priorities this spring.
- The RCMP are currently operating under the following policing priorities:
 - Enhanced policing targeted at the opioid and hard drug crisis;
 - Increase public trust;
 - Enhance prevention, investigation and enforcement activities related to violence against women, girls and the LGBTQ2S+ population;
 - Engage with and support children and youth;
 - Strengthen relationships with First Nations and First Nation governments and continue to implement First Nation policing activities;
 - Strengthen relationships with communities and partners and continue to implement community policing initiatives.
- Our government is committed to establishing policing priorities that reflect Yukon's values and the priorities of Yukoners as we work towards a safer Yukon for families, businesses and communities.

Additional response:

- The Yukon Police Council works to collect community perspectives and provide recommendations to the Minister of Justice who sets out the policing priorities every two years.

Yukon Police Council and Policing Priorities

Justice

- The Yukon Police Council is a citizen advisory council on policing in the Yukon. They work to promote ongoing dialogue between Yukoners, the Yukon RCMP and the Department of Justice.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon Police Council (the Council) is a citizens' council whose seven members are appointed by the Minister of Justice, with mandatory representation from at least three Yukon First Nations.
- The Council was created in response to one of the recommendations of Sharing Common Ground, the 2010 review of policing in the Yukon.
- The Council ensures that a broad representation of Yukon citizens have input into the territorial police service objectives, priorities and goals established by the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice delivers biennial policing priorities to the Yukon RCMP, informed by input from the Council.
- The Yukon RCMP provides quarterly progress updates to the Department of Justice and the Council on activities related to the territorial policing priorities and submits an annual report to the Minister of Justice in July.
- The Yukon's RCMP "M" Division also conducts its own process to determine operational policing priorities at the detachment level.

Status:

- In March 2024, the Council conducted an engagement session with members of the Whitehorse business community.
- In September 2024, Whitehorse City Council proposed adding policing priorities focusing on property crime and traffic enforcement.
- In December 2024, the Council met with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Chief and Council and 34 Whitehorse community stakeholders to gather input on policing recommendations centred on the City of Whitehorse.

Yukon Police Council and Policing Priorities

Justice

- In January 2025, the Council met with Whitehorse's Mayor and Councillors to provide an opportunity for newly elected municipal leaders to share their policing recommendations.
- In July 2025, the Council held its final engagement session with the KDFN Chief and Council to hear their policing recommendations.
- During the third quarter – September 1st to December 31st, 2025 -call volumes remained stable while targeted enforcement, community engagement, and ongoing collaboration with Yukon First Nations delivered measurable crime reduction and supported continued alignment with policing priorities.

If asked about how the Council informs policing priorities:

- The Territorial Police Service Agreement provides that the Minister of Justice may set policing priorities for the Yukon's RCMP "M" Division, as the territorial police service of jurisdiction.
- The Council contributes to this process by engaging annually with a range of First Nations governments, municipalities and community stakeholder groups.
- The Council's annual engagement process usually involves at least one visit to a Yukon community outside of Whitehorse.

If asked about why the priorities were delayed, or haven't been created

- The Policing Priorities are now provided on a biennial basis to allow meaningful engagement with Yukoners and to allow time for the RCMP to meet the set priorities.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-04-02

Date approved

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN)

Justice

Topic: The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit employs civil remedies to increase public safety while considering the needs of vulnerable persons.

Key messages:

- The SCAN Unit is governed by the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, which provides an avenue for civil remedies to address illegal activities that adversely affect neighbourhoods and undermine public safety.
- The SCAN Unit disrupts illegal activities by investigating confidential complaints.
- The SCAN Unit collaborates with Yukon First Nations governments, non-profit organizations and other Government of Yukon service providers to support vulnerable people.
- The SCAN Unit has signed protocols with 10 Yukon First Nations governments on the implementation of the SCAN Act in their communities and works closely with those First Nations in the event of a complaint in their community.

Additional messages:

- The SCAN Unit supports landlords seeking to evict tenants for reasons relating to SCAN investigations through a 14-day eviction notice clause in the *Residential Tenancies Act* or through a Community Safety Order from the Supreme Court.
- The Act also makes use of civil law processes that may lead to evictions or court orders that temporarily close a building.

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN)

Justice

Key facts and stats:

- The SCAN Unit is complaint-driven, responding to reports from Yukoners about specific illegal activities on properties that adversely affect the community or neighbourhood:
 - illegal sale of liquor and other contraventions of the *Liquor Act*;
 - contraventions of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada), the *Cannabis Act* (Canada) and the *Cannabis Control and Regulation Act* (Yukon) and the use or consumption of intoxicants;
 - activities related to prostitution;
 - sexualized abuse or sexualized exploitation of a child;
 - possession or storage of prohibited, restricted or stolen firearms, explosives, or other restricted weapons in contravention of the *Firearms Act*, the *Explosives Act*, and other laws; and
 - organized crime.
- If the complaint falls within one of the specified uses listed in the SCAN Act, the SCAN Unit will investigate.
- Complaints are confidential and complainant's identity is not shared.
- The SCAN Unit may take different actions to resolve a complaint: providing a conversational warning; referrals to a partnering support agency; supporting landlords to end a tenancy agreement under the *Residential Tenancies Act*; or applying to the Supreme Court of Yukon for a Community Safety Order.
- Between 2023 and 2025, the SCAN Unit made 548 agency referrals/consultations (144 in 2023, 205 in 2024 and 199 in 2025).
- In 2023, the Unit received 139 complaints. In 2024 and 2025, the Unit received the highest number of complaints received since its implementation (195 in 2024 and 215 in 2025).

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN)

Justice

Status:

- The SCAN Act is being reviewed (see BN# 17 – SCAN Act Review).

If asked if the *Wright v Yukon* decision has affected the program:

- In September 2024, in *Wright v Yukon*, the Yukon Supreme Court found that section 3(2) of the SCAN Act was unconstitutional.
- The Government of Yukon voluntarily stopped using this section of the Act in 2020.
- Landlords who evict tenants for reasons relating to SCAN investigations must use the system set out by the *Residential Tenancies Act*.

If asked about recent Community Safety Orders:

- In November 2025, the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods, or “SCAN”, Unit concluded two investigations that led to the issuance of two Community Safety Orders by the Yukon Supreme Court.
- Both properties were under investigation for over a year and involved occupants that were using a specific property without the homeowners’ permission.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Topic: The RCMP is responsible for enforcing federal and territorial traffic safety laws in the Yukon.

Key message:

- This government has earmarked over \$3 million for 10 new RCMP positions, in addition to funding for equipment and infrastructure upgrades in the 2026-27 budget, that will strengthen enforcement capacity and support traffic safety within the territory.
- The RCMP is also currently running its Neighbourhood Speed Campaign, in partnership with the Government of Yukon and the City of Whitehorse, to promote safe driving practices.
- Public cooperation is also an important aspect of keeping the Yukon's highways and roads safe. Public reporting supports the RCMP's enforcement of traffic safety and other laws.

Additional response:

- Impaired driving continues to be a concern across the Yukon, and the RCMP is committed to making our neighbourhoods and highways safer by keeping impaired drivers off the road.
- The RCMP and Department of Justice participate in the annual MADD Project Red Ribbon campaign to remind drivers of the life-saving importance of planning a sober ride home.
- Although many impaired driving incidents are reported to police by members of the public, proactive policing efforts, such as conducting regular impaired driving check stops around holiday seasons, are also a key contributor to the RCMP's efforts toward achieving this goal.
- Check stops focus on prevention through visibility and reinforce that impaired driving remains a serious and ongoing concern.

Key facts and stats:

- In January 2026, the Yukon RCMP released statistics highlighting its policing efforts in responding to incidents of impaired driving. The data shows 757 occurrences related to impairment in 2025, resulting in 213 formal charges. This represented an increase from 2024, which saw 723 occurrences resulting in 155 charges.
- The most common type of impaired driving charge in 2025 involved alcohol, with 590 occurrences and 169 charges.
- In November 2025, during Project Red Ribbon, RCMP officers made 120 Mandatory Alcohol Screening demands over the course of the evening and issued two roadside suspensions.

Status:

- During the 2024 public and stakeholder engagement about the new *Traffic Safety Act*, many commenters spoke about a perception that traffic safety rules are not being adequately enforced, particularly with respect to speeding offences.

If asked for examples of how the RCMP are addressing traffic safety concerns from local area residents:

- Concerns have been raised by the Mount Lorne Local Advisory Council related to traffic safety on the Alaska Highway, which falls under Whitehorse Detachment jurisdiction.
- The RCMP have been directed to conduct proactive patrols in the area that focus on deterring speeding and promoting traffic safety.
- RCMP members will attend a community outreach event in Mount Lorne on May 2 to offer a forum for residents to discuss their concerns.

If asked for examples of how the new *Traffic Safety Act* may contribute to improved traffic safety:

- In other jurisdictions, automated enforcement has been shown to be an effective tool to reduce incidents of speeding and positively impact traffic safety.
- The new *Traffic Safety Act* enables the use of automated enforcement technology. However, a regulation will be required before automated enforcement may be implemented on Yukon roads.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-27

Date approved

Public Safety and the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter

Justice

Topic: The Whitehorse Emergency Shelter has become the focus of discussions in the Yukon about community safety, crime and public disorder in downtown Whitehorse.

Key messages:

- This government is committed to improving safety for all people impacted by the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter, including shelter clients, downtown Whitehorse residents, visitors and local businesses.
- The Departments of Justice and Health and Social Services continue to work with the RCMP, Connective, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the City of Whitehorse to address public safety concerns in and around the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter.
- The Department of Justice will continue to support the Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing planning process to address community safety concerns through a coordinated, collaborative approach.

Additional response:

- The Department of Health and Social Services has committed to a comprehensive review of the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter's operating model.
- The Yukon government recognizes the complexity of the issues surrounding the Shelter and emphasizes that improving public safety requires a coordinated, multi-pronged approach, with all partners working together collaboratively.

Key facts and stats:

- The RCMP indicates that in 2025–26, there were 757 occurrences at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter (WES), which accounted for eight per cent of all downtown RCMP calls (down from 9.5 per cent the previous year).

Public Safety and the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter

Justice

- In winter 2024–25, consulting firm Meyers, Norris, Penny conducted an independent review of the Whitehorse Housing First program at the WES. The review recommended shifting the low barrier housing first model to a program-based model that requires commitments by clients. This was implemented by the department in late 2025.
- In May 2023, two other independent reports were released:
- Whitehorse Emergency Shelter Evaluation, prepared by Vink Consulting, found that clients need to receive more support to find permanent housing and recommended that more could be done to develop culturally appropriate approaches; and
- A Path Forward, prepared by House of Wolf & Associates at the request of the Council of Yukon First Nations, evaluated the shelter's effectiveness, its impact on the community and the clients it serves. One of their recommendations was to decentralize specific elements of service delivery.

Status:

- The current contract with Connective ends August 2026.
- Since the 2024-25 review, Connective has tripled the number of Case Management supports available.
- An Advisory Committee of representatives from the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations has been established to provide recommendations and advise the Government of Yukon and Connective about current operations and future programming at the WES. This committee is co-chaired by the ADM Social Services and a Yukon First Nation appointee.

Public Safety and the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter

Justice

If asked about initiatives led by the Department of Justice:

- We have allocated permanent funding for Car 867, the Mobile Crisis Response Team that responds to incidents with an RCMP member and a mental health nurse.
- Investments in the RCMP's Crime Reduction Unit and the Emergency Response Team inclusive of operational equipment respond directly to public concerns about increased crime and threats to business safety in the downtown core.
- This year's budget also puts forward a new position for the Whitehorse Detachment, strengthening policing capacity in Whitehorse.
- In addition, this year's budget provides funding for a Community Program Officer. The new position is intended to facilitate a victim-centred, prevention-focused approach to community safety by strengthening the connection between the RCMP and the community. The Community Program Officer's focus is on public education, early intervention and community mobilization rather than enforcement. The implementation of this position will foster greater collaboration between the RCMP, community partners and residents.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-04-15

Date approved

Topic: The Department of Justice provides funding to the Council of Yukon First Nations to support the Gladue Report writing project using federal funding from the Government of Canada's Access to Justice Agreement.

Key messages:

- The Gladue report writing program is funded by the Government of Canada through the Access to Justice Funding Agreement.
- Since 2017, the Government of Yukon has contracted the Council of Yukon First Nations to serve as the primary hub for Gladue report writers.
- In addition to providing Gladue reports to the Courts, the Council of Yukon First Nations mentors and trains new Gladue report writers.
- This investment has been critical to establishing quality standards and increasing the number of reports available to Yukon Courts.
- Our government is committed to addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the Yukon's criminal justice system.

Additional Response:

- A joint management committee provides oversight for the Gladue Report Writing program. The committee includes representatives from the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Yukon First Nations, Yukon Legal Services Society, and the Government of Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- Yukon First Nations are significantly overrepresented in the criminal justice system.
- The high rate of incarceration of Indigenous peoples has been linked to systemic discrimination and attitudes based on racial or cultural

prejudice, as well as economic and social disadvantage, intergenerational loss, violence and trauma.

- In the 1999 decision in *R. v Gladue*, the Supreme Court of Canada referred to Indigenous overrepresentation as “the tip of the iceberg.”
- Gladue reports support Indigenous accused (adults and youth), the judiciary and justice personnel in applying the sentencing principles for Indigenous offenders set out in section 718.2 (e) of the *Criminal Code* and section 38 (2)(d) of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The principles include:
 - all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of Indigenous offenders;
 - the unique systemic or background factors that may have played a part in bringing the particular Indigenous offender before the courts; and
 - the types of sentencing procedures and sanctions that may be appropriate in the circumstances of the offender because of their Indigenous heritage or connection.
- Seven applications and three Gladue reports were filed in Yukon courts in the 2024–25 fiscal year.
- Nineteen applications and 14 Gladue reports were submitted in 2025–26.
- Justice Canada currently provides \$222,775 for Gladue-related work through the Access to Justice Services Funding Agreement.

Status:

- Funding allocated under the federal Access to Justice Agreement will continue to be available to support access to Gladue report writing services in the territory.
- Yukon's established Gladue standards and protocols will continue to serve as the necessary foundation for any future expansion in Gladue support services.
- The Council of Yukon First Nations requires Gladue Report writers be from a Yukon First Nation.

If asked about the availability of Gladue-related funding beyond CYFN's program:

- The Council of Yukon First Nations' funding agreement with the Government of Yukon **has been extended to March 31, 2027.**
- We will be working with our partners to find the best approach to administer this funding in the Yukon going forward.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons
A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-04-07
Date approved

Topic: Exploring treatment options available for sentenced offenders.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is interested in effective ways to provide treatment for offenders with underlying addictions and mental health needs.
- We understand that effective mental health care and access to substance use treatment improves public safety and community health.
- We are committed to exploring additional treatment options and improving available services in the Yukon that better address recidivism.
- The Department of Justice is conducting research and will need to engage with justice system partners to develop substance use treatment options for offenders.

Additional messages:

- The Department of Justice currently offers pathways to treatment, and support for substance use issues, to offenders that are both pre- and post-charge through:
 - the Integrated Restorative Justice Unit;
 - the Justice Wellness Centre;
 - the Whitehorse Correctional Centre; and
 - Yukon Community Corrections.
- The Department also supports eight First Nations' community justice programs, which include an on-the land healing component, restorative justice options, cognitive skill-building programs or reintegration support.

Key facts and stats:

- Many Canadian provinces and territories are actively seeking more effective strategies to cope with mental health and substance use-related struggles affecting people and communities.
- Yukon courts may also mandate offenders to attend out-of-territory treatment programs, sometimes through First Nation governments.

Status:

- Policy research, a systemic engagement to explore preliminary options, and a review of available academic and grey literature sources, will be the first steps towards implementing this platform commitment.
- This initiative will require collaboration between the justice and healthcare sectors, as well as working with First Nations governments and community stakeholders.

If asked about Justice's existing offender treatment-related options:

- The Integrated Restorative Justice Unit provides restorative justice-based services, which can serve as a pathway to treatment.
- The Justice Wellness Centre operates pre-sentence therapeutic court programs and offers clinical counselling to individuals with addictions, mental illness and/or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (see BN #62).
- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre offers programming to address criminogenic needs, mental health care and substance use treatment.
- Yukon Community Corrections employs an in-house, time-limited clinical counsellor.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Topic: Community Wellness Court and Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court.

Key messages:

- The Community Wellness Court and Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court are overseen by the Territorial Court of Yukon and are designed to address the root causes of crime by offering pre-sentence programming in a domestic violence context or when offenders' behaviours are driven by underlying mental health and/or substance use issues.
- The Justice Wellness Centre provides individual case management and clinical counselling services to offenders.
- The Government of Yukon is working in partnership with Indigenous-led justice programs and service providers to promote access to culturally relevant services, including on-the-land programming, for therapeutic court clients.

Key facts and stats:

- The Domestic Violence Treatment Option (DVTO) Court has been operational since 2001.
- The Community Wellness Court (CWC) has been in operation since 2007.
- DVTO and CWC have served as models for intimate partner violence and drug treatment courts in other Canadian jurisdictions.
- The Justice Wellness Centre (JWC) developed a new therapeutic court evaluation framework and initiated a five-year evaluation in 2024.
- JWC's services are supported by the Government of Canada's Drug Treatment Court funding program.
- Services are provided by two case managers, two clinical counsellors, an Indigenous peer support worker and cultural consultants.
- JWC has an active caseload of 22 clients (as of February 2026).

- JWC has an ongoing partnership with Liard First Nation's Dene Keh community justice program.

Status:

- JWC is working to support and build collaboration with three other Yukon First Nation justice programs.
- JWC is working with legal professionals and the Territorial Court to create streamlined versions of its DVTO and CWCs for less serious offences.
- A streamlined program will take four to six months to complete (current programs take 12 to 18 months).

If asked about drug treatment courts:

- CWC is funded by the Government of Canada as a drug treatment court.
- CWC has been a model for drug treatment courts in other jurisdictions and has demonstrated success in reducing substance misuse and recidivism rates.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-18

Date approved

Topic: The Department of Justice has been working with Yukon First Nations and other stakeholders to create a specialized family courtworker program framework to expand on existing Indigenous courtworker services.

Key messages:

- Indigenous courtworkers support greater access to justice by assisting justice-involved Indigenous people to obtain fair, just, equitable and culturally relevant services.
- Although the Indigenous courtworker role has been in existence in the territory for over forty years to assist with mostly criminal matters, we understand there is need for more supports in family court.
- Family courtworkers act in a similar capacity to the Indigenous courtworkers but with a focus on supporting Indigenous persons involved in family court and child protection matters.

Key facts and stats:

- The role of Indigenous courtworkers in the Yukon is regulated under the *Legal Profession Act*.
- The federal and territorial government co-fund Yukon Indigenous courtworkers through a multi-year agreement that also funds Legal Aid, Gladue-related work and public legal education.
- This funding supports an Indigenous courtworker position in 12 Yukon First Nation governments.
- Although the prescribed role(s) of Indigenous courtworkers are not limited to criminal matters, in practice the focus of courtworker supports in the Yukon has mostly been to assist in criminal court proceedings.
- Based on an identified need for specific courtworker supports for family law matters, the Department of Justice has been working with Yukon

First Nations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other justice partners to explore a specialized family courtworker role.

- Various service delivery framework models are being explored to ensure that citizens from each Yukon First Nation have equitable access.
- The family courtworker role will address unique needs of Indigenous families when navigating child protection matters; navigating custody and access matters; and cultural connection.
- Family courtworkers will also support the courts to understand the importance of traditional family structures and community connections in the lives of Indigenous children in family law matters.

Status:

- The Department has been working for several years with Justice Canada, the Council of Yukon First Nations and Yukon First Nation governments to assess the scope and specific needs for family courtworkers in the Yukon.
- In early 2025, the Department's Integrated Restorative Justice Unit brought together Yukon First Nations justice officials, justice-related NGOs and other partners to discuss progress.
- While future work to advance the implementation of family courtworkers in Yukon has yet to be finalized, the Department of Justice anticipates continuing this work with funding support from Justice Canada.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-18

Date approved

Topic: The Family Information Liaison Unit provides services for family members of missing and murdered Indigenous people.

Key messages:

- The Family Information Liaison Unit is a free and confidential resource for families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, boys, men and two-spirit+ people.
- The Family Information Liaison Unit can help with:
 - gathering information and records from different agencies;
 - arranging meetings with agencies and being there to support family members;
 - navigating the legal process if a loved one's case is under investigation; and
 - providing cultural and emotional support through land-based healing events or referring family members to counsellors or elders.
- Supporting families is a key part of the Government of Yukon's work to implement Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy.

Key facts and stats:

- Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) services are delivered by the team at Victim Services.
- FILU works closely with other agencies and cultural support service providers to assist families wanting to access information related to their loved one's case and relevant supports.
- Including families of missing or murdered Indigenous men and boys in the FILU mandate provides an opportunity to assist all families of missing or murdered Indigenous people and has been requested by families and service providers.

Status:

- Since 2017–18, the Government of Canada (Canada) has provided funding to Yukon government (Yukon) for delivery of FILU's services.
- On May 29, 2023, Canada announced that funding will be available annually, on an ongoing basis. Canada and Yukon signed a new five-year agreement in April 2025.

If asked about FILU including men and boys:

- Canada has expanded the scope of its funding to include support for families of missing or murdered Indigenous men and boys.
- Yukon can now support families for all murdered or missing Indigenous people.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-18

Date approved

Topic: Federal funding for Independent Legal Advice (ILA) and Independent Legal Representation (ILR) programs across Canada was set to expire March 31, 2026, and there were concerns about the continuation of Yukon's program.

Key messages:

- The Independent Legal Advice program is a valuable resource to support victims of intimate partner violence and sexualized violence with free and accessible legal advice and representation.
- The Government of Yukon is working with the Government of Canada to finalize a five-year agreement that will support enhancements to services for victims and provide for continuity and key components of the Independent Legal Advice/Independent Legal Representation program.
- Canada has also launched an anticipatory call for proposals for additional funds, and Yukon will apply to this call, seeking to bring Yukon's Independent Legal Advice/Independent Legal Representation program funding back to the level received from Canada in previous years.

Key facts and stats:

- Yukon's ILA/ILR program provides free legal advice and representation for victims of intimate partner violence and sexualized violence.
- ILA/ILR is accessed at a high rate and has positive feedback from both clients and service providers.
- From 2021 to 2025, Yukon's ILA program provided over 440 hours of free legal advice to over 533 people and provided legal representation for over 35 victims of sexualized violence in hearings associated with sections 276 and/or 278.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

Status:

- Since 2021, Yukon's ILA/ILR program has received funding through two federal streams:
 - Canada's Victims Fund, Provincial and Territorial Stream; and
 - the Justice Partnership and Innovation Program.
- Some funding through Canada's Victims Fund, Provincial and Territorial Stream has now been confirmed, and Yukon is working through the final stages of a five-year agreement. This will allow for the continuation of Yukon's ILA/ILR program without interruption.
- On March 9, 2026, Canada announced its intention to renew funding for ILA/ILR programs, through both funding streams, allowing for predictable, ongoing funding to support these programs.
- An anticipatory call for proposals has been launched, and Yukon will apply for additional funds to bring the program back to previous funding levels.

If asked about Yukon's plan for continuation of ILA/ILR while we await further decision on addition funds:

- Yukon is pleased to be working toward a new agreement with Canada that will support continuation of ILA/ILR and other important services for victims of crime.
- With this funding, Yukon can continue key components of the program without interruption.
- Yukon will apply for additional funds to bring the program back to previous funding levels.

If asked about what the program provides:

- The ILA program provides free, accessible legal advice for victims of intimate partner violence and sexualized violence. Victims can access lawyers to discuss their case at any point in the process, including prior to reporting, during investigations and trials.
- Since its inception, ILA program lawyers have delivered victim-centred legal information and advice in a respectful, trauma-informed, and culturally sensitive manner.
- ILA lawyers specialize in various areas of law including civil, criminal, family, employment and immigration law.
- ILR is a second component of the program that provides legal representation for victims of sexualized violence in criminal proceedings where victims have a right to representation, in accordance with the *Criminal Code*.
- The ILA/ILR program has consistently offered relevant training and resources to its roster of lawyers, and the broader Yukon legal community, on trauma-informed practice, gender-based violence, Indigenous cultural safety, and related legal topics.
- This training is tailored to Yukoners and provides a valuable source of training and capacity building in the territory.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-04-07

Date approved

Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Gender-based Violence

Justice

Topic: Ensuring rural victims of sexualized or intimate partner violence have safe and timely access to services.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that those experiencing gender-based violence in rural communities need to be able to travel to access services or to seek safety from a perpetrator.
- We have increased access to inter-community transportation for rural victims of sexualized assault, intimate partner violence and anti-2SLGBTQ+ violence.
- Travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence includes assistance to leave an unsafe situation or to access time-sensitive forensic, clinical, legal or supportive services in another community.

Additional messages:

- The Department of Justice has provided funding to the Council of Yukon First Nations, Queer Yukon, Yukon Women's Transition Home, Dawson Women's Shelter, and Help and Hope for Families to provide low-barrier travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence.
- A targeted awareness campaign was also developed to increase program awareness in rural Yukon communities and promote transportation funding as a barrier-removal support.
- An inventory of transportation services for each community has been shared with service providers, including a roster of on-demand transportation options.

Key facts and stats

- Providing safe, reliable and affordable transportation between communities has been recommended in recent reports [What We Heard Report: Results of engagement on expanding Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART) services to rural Yukon communities;

Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Gender-based Violence

Justice

and Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy].

- Some individuals wish to receive services close to home. For others, transportation to services may be necessary because the service is not available in their community, they wish to seek a service in a more anonymous way, or they may need physical distancing for safety reasons.

Status:

- Funding from the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence supports work to address transportation barriers for rural victims of GBV (see BN #4).

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART)

Justice, HSS

Topic: The Sexualized Assault Response Team provides supports for victims of sexualized violence throughout the Yukon.

Key messages:

- The Sexualized Assault Response Team, or SART, is a network of agencies that provide coordinated, comprehensive supports for victims of sexualized violence.
- SART focuses on social, legal, medical, and wellness support for survivors of sexualized violence.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to enhancing services for victims of sexualized violence in Yukon communities.

Additional messages:

- The Departments of Justice, Health and Social Services, and the Women and Gender Equity Directorate are working closely with SART agencies to continue exploring opportunities to implement the SART Expansion Action Plan.
- I appreciate the importance of enhancing supports and services for victims of sexualized violence in Yukon communities and working towards increased access to these important services.

Key facts and stats:

- Available SART services include:
 - 24/7 support line;
 - accompaniment to the hospital and RCMP;
 - 24/7 on-call physicians at Whitehorse General Hospital;
 - forensic evidence collection at all three territorial hospitals;
 - priority access to counselling through Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services; and
 - access to victim supports and to independent legal advice.

Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART)

Justice, HSS

- Current Whitehorse SART partner agencies include:
 - Department of Health and Social Services;
 - Department of Justice;
 - Women and Gender Equity Directorate;
 - Yukon Women's Transition Home;
 - Yukon Hospital Corporation;
 - Kwanlin Dün First Nation;
 - RCMP "M" Division; and
 - Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Yukon Regional Office.

Status:

- Engagement with First Nations governments, rural service providers, and victims of sexualized violence occurred in the summer and fall 2023.
- A What We Heard report was shared with key partners, stakeholders, and the public in spring 2024.
- SART partners who have signed the protocol offer direct services to victims of sexualized violence as part of the SART network (with the exception of Kwanlin Dün First Nation).
- A SART expansion working group, composed of SART agencies and partners, is working to implement the SART Expansion Action Plan.

If asked about access to SART services in communities:

- Low-barrier travel support is available territory-wide to help anyone access SART services (including funding for gas, lodging, food or flights), can be accessed through the Council of Yukon First Nations, Queer Yukon, or women's transition homes in Dawson City, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.
- SART helps community nurses by providing guidance and education about clinic-based care, as well as supporting a 24/7 hotline to the

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Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART)

Justice, HSS

Whitehorse General Hospital, a SART medical doctor and a SART clinical coordinator.

- SART assists community hospitals through standardized processes offering key resources, policies and referral forms; ensuring there is freezer capacity for Sexualized Assault Evidence Kits; through community victim services workers; and through Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services.
- Subject to staffing levels and operational capacity, community hospitals may also collect forensic evidence.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

2026-03-18

Date approved

Date approved

Administration of Justice Agreement Negotiations

Justice

Topic: Pursuant to Self-Government Agreements, the Government of Yukon is engaged in Administration of Justice Agreement negotiations with self-governing Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada.

Key messages:

- We are committed to supporting Yukon First Nations governments to exercise their authority and jurisdiction over the administration of justice as set out in Yukon First Nation Self-Government Agreements.
- We are working collaboratively with Yukon First Nations governments and the Government of Canada to negotiate and implement Administration of Justice Agreements.
- These negotiations advance reconciliation and support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #42, the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems.

Key facts and stats:

- Section 13.6.1 of each Yukon First Nation Self-Government Agreement commits the Parties to negotiate an Administration of Justice Agreement.
- There have been intermittent AJA negotiations with most First Nations and the federal government since the 1990s.
- Department of Justice leads AJA negotiations for the Yukon government.
- Teslin Tlingit Council has the only AJA in Yukon to date, signed in 2011.

Status:

- **Teslin Tlingit Council:** Teslin Tlingit Council, Government of Yukon and Government of Canada are completing AJA implementation negotiations.
- **Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in:**
 - AJA negotiations are in-progress.
 - Two agreements (the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Administration of Justice Framework Agreement and the Interim Justice Provisions Agreement) were signed in 2025.

Administration of Justice Agreement Negotiations

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- **Kwanlin Dün First Nation:** AJA negotiations were ongoing between 2013 and 2021, until they were paused by the First Nation.
- **Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation:** provided notice in 2024 to restart AJA negotiations it paused in 2020 (negotiations have not yet resumed).
- **Selkirk First Nation:** Selkirk First Nation, Government of Yukon and Government of Canada have engaged intermittently in discussions to explore self-government arrangements related to enforcement matters.

If asked about the Government of Yukon's view of incremental negotiations of Administration of Justice Agreements:

- We remain ready to negotiate administration of justice matters with Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada, including through incremental or phased negotiations.
- Progress and timelines of AJA negotiations vary, determined by a First Nation's priorities, capacity and readiness to engage.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-17

Date approved

Government of Canada's Indigenous Justice Strategy

Justice

Topic: The Government of Canada released an Indigenous Justice Strategy in March 2025 to address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system.

Key messages:

- The Government of Canada's 2025 Indigenous Justice Strategy offers opportunities to advance shared interests and actions to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in the justice system.
- Our government will engage with the Government of Canada to determine timelines for its implementation and available federal funding to support discussions in the Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- For decades, national reports, inquiries and commissions have called for actions to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system caused by systemic discrimination and colonial policies.
- In 2021, the federal Minister of Justice was tasked with developing an Indigenous Justice Strategy.
- The federal government co-developed the national strategy with Indigenous people to improve Canada's justice system and to support the revitalization of Indigenous laws.
- The Council of Yukon First Nations received funding for engagement on interests and priorities to inform the development of the strategy.
- Federal engagement sessions were held in Whitehorse in December 2023.
- The Government of Yukon provided feedback on the draft federal strategy in 2024.
- The federal Indigenous Justice Strategy is an evergreen document that provides a vision and priorities for work going forward.

Government of Canada's Indigenous Justice Strategy

Justice

- In June 2025, the Assembly of First Nations released its own National First Nations Justice Strategy, intended to be read with Canada's strategy or alone.
- Guided by the principles of reconciliation, self-determination and restorative justice, both the federal and Assembly of First Nations justice strategies support reform of the justice system.

Status:

- In its 2024 budget, the Government of Canada announced \$87 million over five years and \$11.3 million annually starting in 2024-25, to renew Indigenous justice programming.
- Of that, \$25.1 million over three years was allocated for Indigenous capacity building and engagement during the finalization and initial implementation of the federal strategy.

If asked about implementing the Indigenous Justice Strategy in the Yukon:

- The Government of Yukon, self-governing Yukon First Nations and Government of Canada have concurrent jurisdiction over the administration of justice in the territory.
- Implementation of the federal strategy will require engagement with all affected governments.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-17

Date approved

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – Justice Actions

Justice

Topic: The Department of Justice undertakes actions that advance many principles found in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Key messages:

- The Department of Justice takes actions that are consistent with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including justice, democracy, First Nations self-government, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good governance.
- Implementation of justice-related matters in Yukon First Nations Self-Government Agreements advances reconciliation and addresses the principles of the Declaration.
- One example is the negotiation of Administration of Justice Agreements with First Nations and the Government of Canada, which set out how First Nations will exercise their authority and jurisdiction over the administration of justice.

Key facts and stats:

- UNDRIP was adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2007 and fully endorsed by Canada in 2016.
- UNDRIP is a non-binding international human rights instrument that speaks to the individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples and considers their specific social, political and cultural circumstances.
- Several UNDRIP articles link to justice-related objectives in Yukon First Nations Self-Government Agreements (e.g., the right to maintain and strengthen Indigenous legal institutions; self-determination; autonomy and self-government).
- Yukon's Legislative Assembly passed a motion in 2014 supporting Canada's endorsement of UNDRIP (when Canada's support was still qualified).

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – Justice Actions

Justice

- The Government of Canada brought into force the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* in 2021.
- An action plan for federal implementation of the Act was released in 2023.
- The federal Act affirms UNDRIP as a source for interpreting Canadian law.
- British Columbia (BC) and the Northwest Territories have also enacted UNDRIP legislation.
- On March 20, 2025, the federal government announced its Action Plan Advisory Committee for implementing the federal Act and providing advice to the federal Minister of Justice (Victoria Fred, a Yukon First Nation member, is a member of this committee).
- Recent BC court cases highlight the complexities surrounding the implementation of UNDRIP in provincial law.

Status:

- Yukon government has made commitments regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy, both of which reference UNDRIP.
- UNDRIP has been raised by Yukon First Nations at both the Yukon Forum as well as at the federal committee hearings on Bill C-15 on the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* asking that the federal legislation be made to apply in the Yukon.
- Yukon government takes the position that Yukon First Nations Final and Self-Government Agreements are a cornerstone of reconciliation in the Yukon and reflect many principles contained in UNDRIP.
- Yukon government has not committed to its implementation.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – Justice Actions

Justice

If asked about what Government of Yukon is doing related to justice to advance the principles of UNDRIP:

- The negotiation of Administration of Justice Agreements with Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada supports First Nations in developing their own justice systems (directly aligns with UNDRIP articles involving Indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination, autonomy, self-government and Indigenous legal institutions).
- The Government of Yukon is undertaking work consistent with the principles of the UNDRIP (e.g., funding a variety of First Nations-led initiatives that support the objectives of self-government).
- The Department of Justice works with Yukon First Nations to provide culturally relevant justice programs and services to First Nation individuals.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

2026-02-18

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action – Justice Actions

Justice

Topic: The Department of Justice undertakes actions that align with the Government of Yukon's expressed support for advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon supports advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action within the Yukon's broader reconciliation framework.
- Justice-related Calls to Action align closely with some of the Department of Justice's ongoing work, including efforts to reduce Indigenous overrepresentation in the justice system; expand culturally-relevant services; and strengthen community-based justice in partnership with Yukon First Nations.
- The Department of Justice continues to work collaboratively with Yukon First Nations through established treaty-based and community partnerships to support safer communities and improve justice outcomes.

Key facts and stats:

- The 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action set out 94 Calls to Action to address the legacy of residential schools and advance reconciliation, including 18 justice-related Calls to Action (Calls 25–42).
- Calls to Action are directed at multiple levels of government (federal, provincial, territorial, municipal and First Nation) to advance concurrent and coordinated actions to address the legacy of residential schools and advance reconciliation.
- Calls to Action are also directed to sports and legal organizations, media and television networks, the corporate sector, churches, and post-secondary institutions.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action – Justice Actions

Justice

- The 18 justice-related Calls to Action address a wide range of matters, several of which are particularly prominent in the Yukon context (expanding culturally-relevant services for Indigenous offenders; improving supports for Indigenous victims; and collaboratively developing community-based justice approaches).
- The Government of Yukon has produced two public progress reports on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action: a 2016 Deputy Ministers' report and a 2023 Government of Yukon report.
- The Executive Council Office coordinates bi-annual, government-wide updates to support internal tracking and coordination across government.

Status:

- The Department of Justice continues to support the negotiation and implementation of Administration of Justice Agreements with self-governing Yukon First Nations, contributing to progress on Call 42 (recognition and implementation of Indigenous justice systems consistent with treaty and Indigenous rights).
- The Department of Justice is advancing alternatives to incarceration through Yukon's Therapeutic Courts, including the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court and the Community Wellness Court, and related programming which supports progress on Calls 30 and 31 (reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in custody and targeting the underlying causes of offending through treatment-based, culturally-relevant responses to offending).
- The Whitehorse Correctional Centre continues to expand culturally informed support for Indigenous clients, including First Nations Liaison Officers, cultural programming and reintegration supports, supporting Call 36 (culturally-relevant services for Indigenous offenders).

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action – Justice Actions

Justice

If asked about the role of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in advancing reconciliation:

- The Government of Yukon views the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action as an important part of the broader reconciliation framework in the territory.
- In the Yukon, reconciliation is also grounded in the Yukon First Nations Final and Self-Government Agreements and ongoing government-to-government relationships with Yukon First Nations, including collaborative processes such as the Yukon Forum and related initiatives.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-18

Date approved

Topic: The Government of Yukon has responsibilities under seven core United Nations human rights treaties.

Key messages

- Our understanding of human rights is something that has grown over time, especially since the horrors of World War II.
- Canada's Constitution, human rights laws, and participation in international human rights treaties all help to uphold the rights and freedoms of all people.
- International human rights treaties ask us to continually take actions to address gaps in our human rights protections.

Key facts and stats

- United Nations (UN) human rights treaties are instruments of international law and binding on all participating countries.
- A federal Human Rights Secretariat coordinates mandatory treaty reporting through standing federal-provincial-territorial committees.
- Canada's reports are submitted and reviewed by UN committees every few years, for each treaty.
- After each review, the treaty body issues a report on positive steps and areas of concern in Canada's treaty implementation.
- Responsible governments, including the Government of Yukon, are expected to widely disseminate the reviews of treaty implementation.
- Every two years, Canadian Ministers responsible for human rights meet to discuss shared human rights priorities.

Status

- Canada's next appearance before the UN is on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (March 2026).
- Yukon has federal funding to send a delegate as part of the Canadian delegation for this treaty review.

- Canada's next review under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is tentatively scheduled for October 2026.
- The next Forum of Ministers on Human Rights is in Regina (May 2026).

If asked about Yukon's treaty implementation priorities

- All departments have a role in strengthening human rights.
- Yukon has not yet formally set implementation priorities.

If asked about participation in new international human rights treaties

- After consulting with provinces and territories, the Government of Canada makes final decisions about international treaty participation.
- Implementing treaty obligations is a shared responsibility.
- Canada is working to ratify a non-UN human rights treaty: the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (commonly known as the Belém do Pará convention).

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-02-18

Date approved

Topic: Topics related to discrimination, human rights and/or Indigenous justice may each be framed as an issue of systemic racism.

Key messages

- We understand racism is a complex and pervasive issue.
- Addressing systemic racism requires us to look at our laws and policies, to assess how different systems interact, and to consider how we may include affected groups in discussion.

Key facts and stats

- Systemic racism refers to institutional structures and policies that perpetuate inequitable access to resources, opportunities and power, regardless of whether the people administering those rules, practices and systems have racist attitudes and beliefs.
- Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy seeks to address systemic racism (see BN #6).
- Canada is a signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, a United Nations convention that commits its participants to eliminating racial discrimination and promoting understanding among all races.

Status

- Yukon does not have a government-wide anti-racism strategy but does lead and support several justice-related programs and initiatives that focus on this issue.
- Federally led efforts related to systemic racism have included the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work (2015); the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women (2019); the establishment of a Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat (2019); and development of national strategies to combat racism and advance Indigenous Justice.

- Internationally, progress on upholding Indigenous rights is a recurring topic of interest during United Nations treaty bodies' regular reviews of Canada's actions.

If asked about Justice addressing Indigenous overincarceration

- Funding support for CYFN's Gladue report-writing program allows systemic racism-related factors to be considered during the sentencing of Indigenous persons accused of crime (see BN# 60, Gladue Reports).
- Restorative justice diversion options and Yukon's therapeutic courts both provide alternatives to incarceration in cases where a community-based intervention may be more effective.

If asked about race-related human rights and discrimination

- The *Human Rights Act* prohibits racial discrimination and provides a complaint process for those who feel their rights have been violated.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

2026-02-18

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

Date approved

Topic: The Yukon Human Rights Commission's budget is appropriated by the Legislative Assembly and managed through the Department of Justice.

Key messages:

- The Department of Justice is working closely with the Yukon Human Rights Commission to address funding pressures.
- Subject to appropriation, the 2026-27 budget for the Commission would be \$1,113,000, as the budget currently before the Legislative Assembly includes a \$200,000 increase over the Commission's baseline operating budget amount of \$913,000.
- The Commission receives most of its operating funds from a contribution agreement from the Government of Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon has provided significant funding increases in recent years to the Yukon Human Rights commission for its core operating budget, as well as one-time funding for implementing recommendations of the Ombudsman's investigation.

Additional messages:

- Between fiscal years 2020-21 and 2023-24, the Commission received \$658,00 annually from the Government of Yukon as the baseline for its core operating budget, in addition to some one-time costs for specific issues in individual years.
- In 2024-25, this was increased to the current baseline of \$913,000 – an increase of 39 per cent. With the \$200,000 in additional funding for this fiscal year in the budget before this Assembly, this represents a significant increase since 2023-24.
- Funding is not the only challenge to the effectiveness of the work of the Human Rights Commission. There are also issues with operational policies and governing legislation, that we are working with the

Commission to address. This work includes amendments to the *Human Rights Act* and related regulations.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon Human Rights Act gives the Commission its mandate, which is to address human rights complaints, conduct research, and provide educational initiatives.
- The total funding in 2026-27, subject to appropriation, would be \$1,112,948.
- The Commission receives most of its operating funds from a contribution agreement from the Government of Yukon. Historically, these allocations have been:

Year	Initial amount of YG core funding agreement	Change in core funding from prior year		Supplemental Funding from YG	Total Funding provided by YG	Federal / non-YG funding	Total HRC Funding
		(\$)	(%)				
2025-26	\$913,000	-	0.00	\$ 363,948	\$1,276,948		\$1,276,948
2024-25	\$913,000	\$255,000	38.75	\$ 160,928	\$1,073,928	\$ 44,000	\$1,117,928
2023-24	\$658,000	-	0.00	\$ 150,000	\$ 808,000	\$466,269	\$1,274,269
2022-23	\$658,000	-	0.00	-	\$658,000	\$481,617	\$1,139,617
2021-22	\$658,000	-	0.00	\$ 50,000	\$708,000	\$509,309	\$1,217,309
2020-21	\$658,000	\$ 12,000	1.86	\$ 75,000	\$733,000	\$583,412	\$1,316,412
2019-20	\$646,000	\$(157,000)	-19.55	-	\$646,000	\$382,328	\$1,028,328
2018-19	\$803,000	\$121,000	17.74	-	\$803,000	\$61,287	\$864,287
2017-18	\$682,000	\$46,000	7.23	\$ 135,000	\$817,000	\$74,931	\$891,931
2016-17	\$636,000	\$ 47,000	7.98	\$ 41,972	\$677,972	\$13,689	\$691,661

- The Yukon Ombudsman released an investigation report in August 2024, which concluded that aspects of the Commission's practices, administration and governing legislation led to unfairness and contributed to delays in processing complaints.
- The Ombudsman also recommended that funding be overseen directly by the Legislative Assembly, or that the Commission make submissions on its budget directly to the Legislative Assembly rather than through the Department of Justice.
- The Commission is advocating publicly for an increase in funding (e.g. an open letter to the Yukon Ombudsman; interviews with media; letters to the Legislative Assembly) and to have its budgetary oversight transferred to the Legislative Assembly.
- The Department of Justice has committed to supporting the Commission in implementing most of the recommendations. The recommendation to move funding oversight to the Legislative Assembly would require support of the Legislative Assembly.

Status:

- In addition to providing significant funding increases in recent years, the Department of Justice is also working to support the Commission to address its operational needs through legislative and regulatory amendments identified by the Commission, the Ombudsman, and the Department of Justice (See BN #13 *Human Rights Act Changes*).

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-23

Date approved

Topic: Funding for the Yukon Legal Services Society (Legal Aid).

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon provides ongoing core funding for the Yukon Legal Services Society, also known as Legal Aid.
- The Society delivers important legal services to eligible Yukoners.
- This government is committed to working with the Society to support equitable access to justice for Yukoners.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon Legal Services Society (the Society) provides legal aid services under the authority of the *Legal Services Society Act*.
- The Society is governed by a board of directors appointed by the Minister of Justice.
- The Act allows the Society to provide eligible Yukoners with legal services in certain types of criminal, civil and family law proceedings.
- The Society provides poverty law services (e.g., advice and representation regarding Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance and Income Assistance).
- The Society has three Whitehorse-based clinics and a new Justice Support Centre office that operates in partnership with KDFN.
- The Society has funding to support a staff of 21 (11 lawyers, nine support staff and an executive director who reports to the Board of Directors).
- In 2025-26, the Government of Yukon provided an additional \$100,000 to support legal aid clients attending therapeutic courts (this funding flows through the Justice Wellness Centre [see BN #62]).
- When staff lawyers are unable to provide client representation due to legal conflicts of interest, private lawyers are retained at a set rate.

Status:

- The Department provides \$3,474,820 to the Society annually.
- Under a five-year Access to Justice Agreement with the Government of Yukon, the Government of Canada will contribute an additional \$1,862,066 in 2026-27 towards the Society's core funding.

If asked about the Independent Legal Advice Program for clients of the Family Mediation Service:

- The Society has several unfilled positions, resulting in the decision to temporarily pause the society's work for the Independent Legal Advice Program for clients of the Yukon Family Mediation Service.
- The Society has adjusted the delivery of family law services to only cover mandated family law matters such as:
 - child protection;
 - applications where no pre-existing orders exist; and
 - cases where the health or safety of a child or parent is at risk.
- The Department of Justice is working with the Society to support their efforts and address capacity issues.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-06

Date approved

Jack Hulland Elementary School Settlement Agreement

Education & Justice

Topic: The Jack Hulland Settlement Agreement was approved by the Supreme Court of Yukon on November 14, 2025.

Key messages:

- On November 14, 2025, the Supreme Court of Yukon approved the settlement agreement for the Jack Hulland Elementary School class action lawsuit.
- The government of Yukon acknowledges the serious harm that occurred at Jack Hulland Elementary School and offers its heartfelt apology to the students, families and staff who were affected.

Key facts and stats:

- Students and former students of Jack Hulland Elementary School who experienced holds, restraints, or seclusion between January 1, 2007, and June 30, 2022, make up the class of plaintiffs in the lawsuit.
- The agreement has three components: a tiered Claims Protocol, a Special Counselling Fund, and an Acknowledgement and Apology.
- The claims process has three tiers that will provide compensation proportional to the harms experienced by individuals:
 - In Tier 1, there is a minimum payment of \$10,000 for anyone subjected to an incident of a hold, restraint, or seclusion.
 - In Tier 2, claimants can be compensated up to \$300,000 based on lasting harm caused by incidents they experienced.
 - Tier 3 deals with claimants alleging the most severe and lasting harm. Successful Tier 3 claimants could receive up to \$1 million.

Jack Hulland Elementary School Settlement Agreement

Education & Justice

Status:

- Retired Chief Justice Veale has been appointed as the Claims Officer to evaluate claims made under the Claims Protocol.
- The Government of Yukon will issue a public statement acknowledging and apologizing for the harm suffered by class members.
- A \$250,000 Special Counselling Fund will be established for the costs of counselling and related treatment that are not otherwise covered by government or private insurance plans.

If asked about the claims process:

- The claims process will be administered by the Department of Justice and an independent Claims Officer mutually agreed to by both the Government of Yukon and the plaintiffs.
- Anyone seeking further details on the claims process should contact the lawyers for the class members at the Tucker Carruthers law firm.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

2026-03-18

Deputy Minister, Education

[Date approved]

Mark Radke

2026-03-18

Deputy Minister, Justice

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2026

Outside Counsel Costs – Government-Wide

Justice

Topic: The Government of Yukon contracts lawyers from the private bar through the Department of Justice's Legal Services Division.

Key messages:

- The in-house legal team at the Department of Justice delivers most of the legal services provided to the Government of Yukon.
- Not all matters can be handled by in-house counsel, and legal services may be contracted to outside counsel when required.
- Outside counsel is typically contracted because they have specialized expertise or when legal representation is required outside the territory.
- The Government of Yukon also contracts outside counsel to avoid conflicts of interest that may occur if specific work were to be assigned to in-house counsel.
- All contracts for outside counsel are set up through the Legal Services Division at the Department of Justice.

Additional messages:

- “Outside counsel” refers to private bar lawyers hired on contract by the Department of Justice to provide legal services for the Government of Yukon, often in consultation with a client department, from which the costs are typically recovered by the Department of Justice.

Key facts and stats:

- The Department of Justice's total expenditure on outside counsel contracts in the 2025–26 fiscal year was projected to be \$2 million.
- As of February 16, 2026, actual expenditures for the 2025–26 fiscal year were: \$755,000.
- The total expenditure for outside counsel contracts in the 2024–25 fiscal year was: \$1.3 million.

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Justice

Status:

- Subject to expropriation, the 2026-27 budget includes a \$2 million increase for outside counsel costs.
- This reflects cost estimates related to some new matters that are proceeding toward litigation as the Department of Justice has contracted private firms to support work on litigation files with significant documentary discovery costs.

If asked how much was allocated for outside counsel in 2025–26:

- By department:
 - Justice: \$511,328
 - Health and Social Services: \$417,667
 - Energy Mines and Resources: \$254,004
 - Public Services Commission: \$170,048
 - Economic Development: \$155,613
 - Yukon Development Corp: \$150,000
 - Tourism: \$120,000
 - Education: \$65,000
 - Finance: \$60,000
 - Community Services: \$48,479
 - Highway and Public Works: \$28,709
 - Yukon Housing Corp: \$25,000
 - Executive Counsel Office: \$11,993
- Total: \$2,017,841.

Approved by:

Mark Radke

Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-18

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

Topic: The Government of Yukon remains the primary regulator to ensure necessary remediation work achieves regulatory compliance at the Eagle Gold Mine.

Key messages:

- We are implementing all the recommendations of the Independent Review Board and working with industry to incorporate the recommendations into current and future operations (See BN #9 for more information on Implementing Independent Review Board Recommendations).
- The court-appointed Receiver is overseeing remediation at the mine site. The Government of Yukon response team meets regularly with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and their technical consultants, as well as with the Government of Canada to provide updates and coordinate responses.
- The Receiver is seeking a suitable buyer for the Eagle Gold Mine and has recently entered into an exclusivity agreement with Boroo Pte. Ltd. as the next step in the sales process. The Government of Yukon provides input to this process to ensure a potential buyer is responsible, experienced, and well-resourced.
- For key messages on spills, see [Hot Topic – Eagle Gold Mine Spills](#)

Key facts and stats:

- The Ontario Superior Court of Justice approved the Government of Yukon to loan up to \$220 million to the court-appointed Receiver for Victoria Gold Corp.
- To date, the Government of Yukon has advanced \$185 million, of which \$104 million was sourced from surety bonds held under mining licenses. Budget 2026 includes the remaining loan balance of \$35 million.
- The Receiver is able to use company resources and proceeds from asset monetization efforts to fund the Receivership. As of April 17, 2026, the Receiver reports that more than \$151 million has been monetized and is being used to offset the costs to government.
- The Government of Yukon is the primary regulator and funder for the project and directs what work is required on site to achieve regulatory requirements and technical objectives.
- The Government of Yukon approves the Receiver's proposed budgets, reviews invoices, and ensures funds are used appropriately and that activities on site do not limit future opportunities at the site.

Status:

- The Receiver has implemented all directed measures and continues to provide reports on the effectiveness of these measures.
- Work remains to be completed to meet regulatory requirements for physical and chemical stability at the mine site. This work includes the

completion of construction activities on the heap leach facility and preparation for the spring melt.

If asked about the sale of the Eagle Gold mine:

- Refer to [EcDev BN, EMR #8 'Eagle Gold Sales Process'](#)

If asked about freshet:

- The Receiver has prepared for spring melt; activities on site include the commissioning of the water treatment plant, clearing of ditches and re-establishment of water pumping and piping infrastructure.
- [All infrastructure is in place to manage freshet flows, including the separation of unimpacted waters.](#)
- [Water discharge is necessary to ensure that](#) there is sufficient storage space on site to contain anticipated spring melt.

If asked about water treatment on site:

- Refer to [EMR Hot Topic – Eagle Gold Mine Spills.](#)
- [Water treatment at the site is currently meeting licence standards.](#)
- [Water discharge resumed on May 3, 2026 following investigations on previous non-compliant water. The water being discharged is compliant with requirements of the site's water licence and federal mining regulations.](#)
- Water treatment commenced on site on April 14 with compliant water being discharged to the environment.

[If asked about environmental conditions around site:](#)

Session Briefing Note

EMR #3 / FIN #8

Spring 2026

Eagle Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and
Resources, Department of
Finance

- The Receiver continues to implement a robust environmental monitoring program.
- Conditions in Haggart Creek have improved since 2025. With the discharge of compliant treated water and the continued interception of groundwater, it is anticipated that the Receiver will meet water quality objectives in Haggart Creek.
- Water quality results are received on a daily basis and posted to Waterline. As well, the Government of Yukon interprets and posts these results on Yukon.ca.

Approved by:

Jeff O'Farrell

May 5, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Jason Bilsky

May 5, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Finance

Date approved

TH and FNNND Litigation

Topic: Statements of Claim were recently filed in the Supreme Court of Yukon, one by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and two by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon remains committed to working respectfully with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun on priorities critical to our government-to-government relationships.
- This includes working with each First Nation and the Government of Canada to advance the implementation of the Final and Self-Government Agreements.

Key facts and stats

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) Statement of Claim

- FNNND is suing the governments of Yukon and Canada for declarations, injunctions, and damages arising out of breaches of constitutional and treaty obligations in relation to mining activity in FNNND's Traditional Territory.
- There is also a distinct claim for a declaration and damages against the Yukon government on the basis that it has failed to meet its responsibilities as the trustee of a public trust under section 8 of the *Environment Act*.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) Statements of Claim

- The first Statement of Claim covers matters related to successor legislation and encumbering rights.
- TH is suing the governments of Yukon and Canada for declarations and damages arising out of the Government of Yukon's failure to meet its obligations to:

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Tab# 13 (ECO)
Tab# 27 (EMR)
Tab# 105 (JUS)
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TH and FNNND Litigation

- enact successor legislation to various Yukon statutes that regulate mining activity; and
- administer and regulate the exercise of “Encumbering Rights” on TH Settlement Lands in accordance with the TH Final Agreement, the TH Self-Government Agreement, and the Devolution Transfer Agreement.
- In January 2026, TH filed a separate lawsuit against the Government of Yukon that seeks damages to address the alleged harm resulting from the regulatory amendments to the *Placer Mining Land Use Regulation*, the *Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation* and the *Waters Regulation* passed in May 2025.

Status:

- ECO has issued interim corporate guidance to Yukon government departments that provides operational guidance when consulting, engaging and negotiating with TH or FNNND on the subject matters in the litigation.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary	February 24, 2026
_____ Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	_____ [Date approved]
Jeff O’Farrell	February 24, 2026
_____ Deputy Minister, Energy Mines and Resources	_____ [Date approved]
Jeff Simons	February 23, 2026
_____ a/Deputy Minister, Justice	_____ [Date approved]