



Department of Tourism and Culture

Session Binder

Spring 2026



Department of Tourism and Culture

Table of Content

Hot Topic	
1	Potential hot topic
2	Potential hot topic
3	Potential hot topic
General	
4	Financial Summary - O&M and Capital
5	Budget Summary 2026-27
Tourism	
6	Yukon Visitation Statistics
7	Convention Centre (Gathering Place)
8	Tourism Sector (Sport, Indigenous, Community)
9	Marketing
Arts	
10	Arts Funding
11	Permanent Art Collection
Heritage and Historic Sites	
12	Heritage Polygons
13	Historic Sites
14	Heritage Collections
Facilities	
15	Visitor Information Centres
16	Beringia Interpretive Centre
17	Yukon Archives
Corporate Notes (from ECO)	
18	2026-27 Budget Highlights

Last updated: April 22, 2026

Note to come

Note to come

Note to come

Financial Summary - O&M and Capital

Tourism and Culture

Topic: 2026-27 budget summary

Key messages:

- Tourism and Culture is proud to work collaboratively with its partners and stakeholders to achieve the goals set forward in the Minister's mandate.
- Our budget allows us to focus on actions that support the tourism and culture sectors in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner for the benefit of all Yukoners.

Key facts and stats:

- The budget for the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture is \$68.7 million. Tourism and Culture's portion of the budget is \$42.1 million, comprised of \$32.3 million in O&M and \$9.8 million in Capital.
- This is \$8.2 million greater than the 2025-26 Main Estimates amount for Tourism and Culture but \$96,000 less than the last supplementary budget.
- The increase is primarily due to the Yukon Convention Centre project (\$7.5 million) and flood remediation work at Ch'edähdëk (Forty Mile) (\$1.2 million) slightly offset by decreases in O&M for government transfers.
- Key initiatives in the Tourism Branch include continuation of the Community Tourism Destination Development funding program; development of a strategic plan to activate new international markets; and working with stakeholders on the development of a Yukon convention centre.

Financial Summary - O&M and Capital

Tourism and Culture

- Key initiatives in the Culture branch include flood remediation at Ch'edähdëk (Forty Mile) which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site; contributing to the development of new mining legislation that integrates the protection of Yukon's heritage resources; and streamlining funding programs that support arts and culture activity throughout the Yukon.
- The Arts Unit is investing over \$4.5 million in 2026-27 to support Yukon artists and organizations, including over \$2.4 million in applicant-driven funding.
- Overall, Tourism and Culture administers 14 funding programs, providing \$7.2 million in sector support.

Funding changes:

- For 2026-27, Tourism and Culture is changing how it presents some of its transfer payments in the Main Estimates budget documents. Organizations that receive funding from the department outside of published funding programs have been combined into envelopes. Funding for these organizations will continue to be tracked individually within our financial systems and actual funded amounts will still be disclosed through the public accounts ensuring continued transparency.
- Changes to Tourism and Culture's funding programs and government transfers are a result of a variety of influences including an objective to streamline programs as identified through previous public engagement, the department's mandate letter which directs the department to improve funding program delivery, as well as from impacts of a reduced contribution from Lotteries Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 4
Spring 2026

Financial Summary - O&M and Capital

Tourism and Culture

Status:

- The Departments of Economic Development and Tourism and Culture combined for the 2026-27 fiscal year on April 1, 2026.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

April 21, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

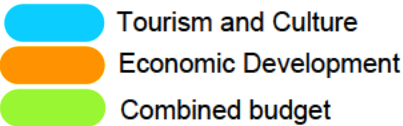
[Date approved]

VOTE 54
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

MINISTER
Hon. J. Gehmair

DEPUTY MINISTER
S. van der Meer

- To assist our partners in building a prosperous Yukon by creating and fostering economic opportunities.
- To pursue economic initiatives with a shared vision of prosperity, partnerships and innovation.
- To forge, maintain and expand partnerships with First Nations governments in the economic development of the Yukon.
- To support, protect, promote and enhance the Yukon's tourism, culture, heritage and arts sectors for the benefit of Yukoners and visitors.



SUMMARY (\$000s)	2026-27 ESTIMATE	Comparable		
		2025-26 FORECAST	2025-26 ESTIMATE	2024-25 ACTUAL
Amounts to be Appropriated				
Operation and Maintenance (Vote 54-1)	58,318	59,602	58,427	55,792
Capital (Vote 54-2)	10,394	10,368	2,868	2,522
Total Appropriations	68,712	69,970	61,295	58,314

Note: Restated 2025-26 Forecast, 2025-26 Estimate and 2024-25 Actual to be consistent with the 2026-27 Estimate presentation.

VOTE 54**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND CULTURE**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$000s)	2026-27 ESTIMATE	Comparable		
		2025-26 FORECAST	2025-26 ESTIMATE	2024-25 ACTUAL
Amounts to be Appropriated				
Operation and Maintenance (Vote 54-1)				
Corporate Services				
- Economic Development	4,195	4,077	3,925	3,632
- Tourism and Culture	2,976	3,219	2,974	2,684
Economic Development	21,833	22,681	22,418	20,297
Cultural Services	16,304	16,384	16,051	15,763
Tourism	13,010	13,241	13,059	13,246
COVID-19 Response	0	0	0	170
Total Operation and Maintenance (Vote 54-1)	58,318	59,602	58,427	55,792
Capital (Vote 54-2)				
Corporate Services				
- Economic Development	40	40	40	39
- Tourism and Culture	14	22	22	15
Economic Development	541	973	973	688
Cultural Services	1,824	1,183	1,183	1,151
Tourism	7,975	8,150	650	629
Total Capital (Vote 54-2)	10,394	10,368	2,868	2,522
Total Appropriations	68,712	69,970	61,295	58,314
Adjustments for Reconciliation of Expenses				
Amortization Expense	729	774	774	758
Accretion Expense	23	23	29	28
Tangible Capital Assets	0	(450)	(450)	(371)
Total Expenses	69,464	70,317	61,648	58,729

VOTE 54**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND CULTURE**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$000s)	2026-27 ESTIMATE	<i>Comparable</i>		
		2025-26 FORECAST	2025-26 ESTIMATE	2024-25 ACTUAL
Summary of Expenses by Category				
Personnel	21,689	21,749	21,143	21,030
Other	12,355	11,248	10,969	8,482
Government Transfers	34,668	36,523	28,733	28,431
Amortization Expense	729	774	774	758
Accretion Expense	23	23	29	28
Total Expenses	69,464	70,317	61,648	58,729

Topic: An overview of visitor volumes, travel indicators, and tourism revenue.

Key messages:

- Yukon government is committed to allowing the private sector lead economic growth, and a strong tourism sector contributes to that growth.
- Yukon received 574,000 visitors in 2024 (our most recent full year of visitation statistics), and indicators in 2025 suggest visitation is up.
- The department has developed the Yukon Tourism Indicators dashboard, which provides a timely consolidated view of visitation, travel, accommodation, labour, and economic conditions.

Key facts and stats:

- In 2025, Yukon experienced record-high airport arrivals, and more bus traffic at Fraser led to an increase in border crossings.
- Tourism revenue remains strong, and visitor spending in Yukon businesses is on the rise.
- In 2024, total direct spending was \$389.9 million, up 21.5% from 2023, and 45% increase from 2019. Tourism related business activity was \$560 million.
- Year-over-Year spending from US markets was up 17.1%, 30.0% from overseas markets, 17.1% from Intra-provincial (Yukon) and 26.6% from other provinces.

Status:

- Department officials use the dashboard to monitor trends, support briefing materials, and inform timely policy and program decisions.

If asked about tourism numbers for 2025:

- Numbers for the 2025 season are still being calculated and would be premature to be shared now.

- In 2024, the Yukon welcomed an estimated 574,000 visitors, a 9% increase from 527,000 visitors in 2023, and a 6% increase from 541,000 visitors in 2019.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Topic: The development of the Convention Centre/ Yukon Gathering Place

Key messages:

- This government is committed to supporting critical infrastructure and providing opportunities for the private sector to grow and lead economic growth.
- The convention centre will support private sector growth, economic development, and community tourism projects. However, it must come with a sustainable operational model.
- We are working with our Industry partners, to explore what a sustainable model could look like, including the possibility of a visitor-based charge in the Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- Total cost of the project is \$75 million, with CanNor contributing \$56.25 million.
- Due to the lack of a suitable convention space, the Yukon is currently turning away meetings, incentive travel, conferences, and business events (MICE).
- The Yukon's annual economic impact from MICE is \$12 million. With the new convention centre, projections estimate it could reach \$27 million in total spending and add \$22 million to the GDP after five years of operation.

Status:

- The Minister has signed an agreement with CanNor towards supporting the development of the new convention centre.
- For 2026-27, Tourism and Culture will work with Chu Níikwän Limited Partnership on completing final designs and costing for the new facility. This work is estimated to cost \$7.5 million or 10% of the total project cost.
- For 2026-27, Tourism and Culture will work to develop a sustainable business model.

- Tourism and Culture is working with the Tourism Association Partners (TAP) to understand Industry's priorities of a visitor-based charge.

If asked about a visitor-based charge/revenue stream for the convention centre:

- Our industry partners are currently leading a collaborative, industry-driven exploration into a visitor-based charge (destination improvement fee) in the Yukon.
- We are interested in hearing more about the initiative as it moves forward.
- Following the results of that work, we will determine a path forward and a visitor-based charge may be an important part of the sustainable model for the convention centre.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

March 24, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Topic: Support of Sport, Indigenous and Community tourism

Key messages:

- This government values working with the tourism sector to create the conditions to allow private industry to lead economic growth.
- Community tourism development initiatives can help create the conditions for private sector growth through regular engagement and targeted investments.
- Sport tourism is a growing sector that can deliver benefits to both visitors and locals by positioning the Yukon as a destination for sports and major games, while ensuring the territory has adequate sport infrastructure.
- Indigenous tourism is a growing area for the Yukon's visitor experiences and represents an opportunity in First Nations economic development.

Key facts and stats:

- The department supports tourism development across sectors through targeted investments within the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund, Spark Tourism Micro-grant (Spark) and Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund.

Sport Tourism:

- The department provides \$180,000 annually to Sport Yukon. The current three-year agreement (2024-2027) includes \$65,000 for Community Sport Development.

Indigenous Tourism:

- The department supports Indigenous tourism development through Community Tourism Destination Development Fund and Spark. As of January 2026, Community Tourism Destination Development Fund has awarded funding to 15 Indigenous owned or led businesses and organizations and Spark has awarded funding to 13 Indigenous owned or led projects.

Community Tourism:

Tourism Sectors (Sport, Indigenous, Community)

Tourism and Culture

- Since 2023 and as of January 2026, the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund has awarded funding to 62 projects, contributing \$5,409,504.96 toward community tourism infrastructure and initiatives that support local economic activity.
- The Spark program supports new and emerging entrepreneurs offering visitor experiences and services. Since 2023, Spark has awarded funding to 70 projects for a total of \$331,527.
- The Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund helps Yukon businesses and organizations promote their tourism experiences, supporting market access, business growth, and participation in the visitor economy. In 2024-25, TCMF awarded funding to 93 projects for a total contribution of \$974,771.

Status:

- The department is working closely with organizations to ensure that they are appropriately supported to plan and continue offering programs, while considering the current need for fiscal restraint.
- Applications for Tiers 1 and 2 of the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund 2026-27 are closed. These projects are scheduled to begin April 1.
- The Spark intake for 2026-27 was February 15, and Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund intake for 2026-27 was February 1. These projects will begin April 1.

If asked about funding to the Yukon Quest:

- The department is considering continued support for the organization as has been provided for the past twenty-five years.
- We are meeting with the organization to determine how best to support them.

Approved by:

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 8

Spring 2026

**Tourism Sectors (Sport, Indigenous,
Community)**

Tourism and Culture

Sierra van der Meer

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Topic: Marketing the Yukon

Key messages:

- Tourism Yukon plays a leading role in advancing the government's commitment to build a strong, diversified, and sustainable economy by promoting the territory as a year-round travel destination.
- Tourism Yukon is delivering on that vision through targeted, high-impact marketing campaigns around the world.
- Partnerships with Yukon First Nations governments, tourism operators, and creative industries ensure that promotional efforts reflect Yukon's values, stories, and identity.

Key facts and stats:

- Tourism Yukon actively promotes the Yukon as a compelling travel destination in 13 countries around the world: Canada, USA, Mexico, German-speaking Europe (Germany, Switzerland, Austria), France, Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg), Japan, Australia and Taiwan.
- Of the department's \$3.9M direct marketing budget (spend in campaigns), around 9% goes to the US market through the collaboration with Destination Canada and other partners, 61% to the Canadian domestic market, and 30% to international markets, including Mexico.

Status:

- We are implementing programming to take advantage of new opportunities to welcome part of the European and international markets, not visiting the US but still wanting to travel to North America.
- Annual operational and marketing funding is provided to the following tourism stakeholders: Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon, Yukon Convention Bureau, Sport Yukon, Wilderness Tourism Association of Yukon, Yukon Rendezvous, and to some specific events that attract visitation to the territory.

- Further marketing co-investments are made with Air North Yukon's Airline, NVD, Association Franco-Yukonnaise, as well as key collaborators in our key targeted markets.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Topic: Arts funding programs

Key messages:

- Yukon government is committed to creating opportunities for economic growth by supporting a strong and vibrant arts sector.
- The department delivers accessible client-focused arts funding programs that support artists, creative workers and non-profit organizations across the territory.

Key facts and stats:

- The department is investing over \$4.5 million in 2026-27 to support Yukon artists and organizations, including over \$2.4 million in applicant-driven funding.
- We provide over \$2 million to four key territorial organizations: the Yukon Arts Centre, Dawson City Arts Society (Klondike Institute of Art & Culture), Northern Cultural Expressions Society and Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism.
- 272 projects were supported through arts funding programs in 2025-26.

Status:

- My officials have finalized an agreement with CanNor to help support our two existing micro-grant funding programs for 2026-27, allowing us to maintain these funds at previous levels.
- The department is extending the MOU with Canada Council for the Arts for two years to continue to co-deliver the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Program.
- With the reduction in Lotteries recovery, the department has worked to mitigate the impact through redistribution and focusing resources.

If asked about changes to arts funding budgets and programming:

- The department hosted an online session with the arts sector on April 1, 2026 to explain the funding changes and answer questions. Approximately

60 people participated, and while concerned about the funding decreases, attendees appreciated the transparency and open dialogue.

- Department staff have had conversations with numerous individuals and organizations about these shifts and have updated the Yukon.ca arts funding webpages with the changes.
- Due to declining lottery ticket sales, the funding that supports our arts programming has been reduced by \$260k. We made a deliberate decision to safeguard arts operating clients including using internal funding sources.
- The Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund is reduced by \$50,000 and will support two recipients instead of three.
- The Creative Industries Training Fund (\$75k), Culture Quest (\$120k) and the New Canadian Events fund (\$45k) are being paused. This change will address the recovery shortfall as well as reduce administrative complexity, shifting from offering 10 arts funding programs to 7.
- Individuals and organizations that previously applied to these paused programs will be eligible under other Arts programs. Budgets have been increased for the Arts Fund (increase of \$50k), Touring Artist Fund (increase of \$25k), Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant (increase \$10k) and Express Micro-grant (increase \$30k) to accommodate additional applications
- The Government of Yukon is looking to consolidate certain arts funding programs to streamline and create administrative efficiencies. This supports actions identified in *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's creative and cultural industries*.
- To improve service delivery and reduce administrative complexity, the Government of Yukon is shifting from offering 10 arts funding programs to 7. A portion of the funding from the three impacted programs is being redirected to the remaining programs. This adjustment provides greater flexibility and supports the types of projects previously funded through those streams.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 10

Spring 2026

Arts Funding

Tourism and Culture

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

April 21, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Topic: Promotion, care and maintenance of the Yukon Permanent Art Collection.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is proud to steward the Permanent Art Collection, which enhances public spaces and preserves the Yukon's visual arts legacy.
- The department shares this artwork with Yukoners, visitors and audiences beyond the territory while preserving it for future generations.

Key facts and stats:

- The department acquires new artwork annually through an agreement with the Friends of Yukon Permanent Art Collection.
- The collection now includes 579 works by 310 artists.
- More than 20% of the collection is on display across 40 locations in the territory, with 5 pieces loaned to other institutions in 2025-26.
- In 2025-26, seven new locations were identified for display of artwork.
- The collection features 238 Indigenous artworks.

Status:

- A Collections Management Policy for the Yukon Permanent Art Collection was just completed in November 2025.
- The call for submissions to the Yukon Permanent Art Collection closed February 2, 2026, and the announcement regarding the new acquisitions was made on April 22, 2026.

If asked about increasing the number of YPAC works on display:

- Yukon government is committed to actively showcasing Yukon artists through rotations, exhibitions, loans, tours, educational and online access.
- Currently there are a limited number of artworks that can tolerate locations with high light exposure, and we have trialed a small set of reproductions to help address this limitation.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 11

Spring 2026

Permanent Art Collection

Tourism and Culture

- Artwork acquisition is guided by representation in artists, but also in art forms. Where gaps are seen, acquisition decisions can adjust accordingly.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Topic: Heritage impact assessments on placer claims

Key messages

- Yukon Government has obligations under the *Historic Resources Act* to manage heritage resources and ensure that they are not inadvertently destroyed. Our government uses heritage polygons as a tool to protect the potential of archaeological sites that they contain.
- The Yukon government is committed to creating conditions to allow the private sector to grow, and establishing effective approaches to managing heritage resources is a part of that growth.
- The department has and will continue to work closely with Yukon First Nations and placer miners to strengthen information-sharing, refine polygons, and advise on Heritage Resource Impact Assessments.

Key facts and stats

- Heritage polygons show areas on placer claims with a high likelihood of heritage resources.
- Between 2020-2025, government reviewed 333 placer-related YESAB projects and 4.14% of claim areas showed heritage potential.
- Heritage reviews are desktop-based assessments, and datasets (e.g., satellite imagery, digital elevation data) are regularly updated which change polygon boundaries.

Status

- Department officials are currently working with our industry partners to improve communication, transparency, and efficiency in the review process.
- Yukon government has created a Development Assessment Archaeologist position for the Klondike region to support placer miners and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to advise on heritage resource management.

If asked about what Yukon government is doing to provide clarity to miners about the use of heritage polygons to protect heritage sites:

- Yukon government has established a process to refine polygons for previously mined areas. This includes miner input and new site information.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Topic: Management of historic sites

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon supports responsible heritage resource management.
- The department works collaboratively with Yukon First Nations, Inuvialuit, communities and stakeholders to manage, preserve and interpret heritage places.
- Investments in key heritage projects strengthen communities and support economic growth by creating skilled employment opportunities, enriching tourism experiences and supporting community development.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon has 12 historic sites and 22 municipal historic sites designated under the *Historic Resources Act*.
- Intent to designate Robinson Roadhouse is currently being advertised, if designed, it will be the 13th Yukon Historic Site.
- The department co-manages five historic places with Yukon First Nations including Fort Selkirk, Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy, Fort Constantine Historic Site, Rampart House, LaPierre House, and Conrad Historic Sites, as per the approved management plans and the requirements set out in Chapter 13 of the individual Final Agreements.
- Historic Sites unit delivers 3 fundings programs, providing technical expertise and funding to support heritage research, understanding and conservation of Yukon heritage.

Status:

- Major conservation planning is underway for Forty Mile following 2023 ice jams and flood damage, along with adaptation planning at Herschel Island – Qiqiktaruk.

- Tourism and Culture supports Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Site by participating on the advisory committee and providing \$50,000.
- Guided by the Heritage Reserves Management Priorities Report, the department has been prioritizing work at key Heritage Reserves that support conservation, interpretation and recreational opportunities. Key projects for 2026 include:
 - Working with Teslin Tlingit Council to complete the Canol Truck Dump interpretive trail near Johnson's Crossing
 - Maintaining the Ridge Road Heritage trail as a historical recreational trail for visitors and Yukoners to connect with their heritage
 - Launching Venusmillstory.ca to share detailed documentation and history of a highly visible yet vulnerable historic landmark

If asked about Forty Mile Ch'edähdëk / Forty Mile

- We continue to work with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to plan for post flood conservation and repair at Ch'edähdëk / Forty Mile.
- A post flood conservation plan was completed in March 2025 and Government of Yukon entered into a Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement with the Government of Canada to support conservation work at the site.
- We will continue to work with partners to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the site's World Heritage Site inscription and the values identified in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's final agreement are respected and protected.

If asked about Highway Rest Areas / Outhouses:

- Tourism and Culture is working with Highways and Public Works to ensure that rest areas will continue to highlight and interpret Yukon's points of interest through signage.
- The average distance between pullouts is 28 km. The maximum distance on class 1–3 highways is 70 km. About half of the 130 pullouts have outhouses.

- Tourism and Culture is responsible for 13 sites with outhouses and garbage receptacles; however, maintenance is overseen by contracts managed by HPW.
- The department continues to ensure that infrastructure meets the needs of highway travelers, while also providing residents and visitors with an awareness of Yukon's natural, cultural, and historical places at point-of-interest rest areas.
- As per a recent YESAB approval, the only rest area developments planned for this fiscal are on the Top of the World Highway, and will include some new outhouses, and interpretive panels.

If asked about Canyon Creek Bridge:

- Health and safety balanced with conservation are key priorities for planning at our historic places.
- The historic Canyon Creek Bridge is a notable landmark along the Alaska Highway, that has fallen into disrepair in recent years, necessitating planning for the site which may include demolition.
- We continue to monitor the site for continued deterioration and will follow recommendations to ensure public safety while we determine options for long term planning at the site.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

April 21, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Topic: Heritage Collections – archaeology and palaeontology

Key messages:

- The department supports the collection, study and preservation of archaeological and paleontological objects in collaboration with Yukon First Nations.
- These collections are accessed by worldwide researchers and interpreted for the public at the Yukon Beringia Centre.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon Palaeontology Collection holds about 60,000 fossils and the Archaeology Collection has around 75,000 artifacts.
- Southern Yukon's ice patches have preserved artifacts for thousands of years.
- Permafrost-preserved specimens over 10,000 years old are unearthed in the Yukon through erosion as well as mining activity.
- In 2019, Yukon government, 11 Self-Governing First Nations and CYFN signed an MOU for heritage management collaboration.

Status:

- Department officials are working closely with the Heritage Working Group (established through the Yukon Forum) to determine care for these objects.

If asked about steps that are being taken to care for collections or Nun Cho Ga:

- The government works with First Nations to care for collections in a culturally appropriate way and continues towards co-management of collections.
- Yukon government works to ensure that collections are safeguarded against damage or risks within the storage facilities available.
- Nun cho ga, the baby mammoth found in Trondek Hwechin Traditional Territory is currently undergoing preservation and stabilization by the experts at the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa.
- Discussions with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are ongoing on co-management of paleontological resources.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 14

Spring 2026

Heritage Collections

Tourism and Culture

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

April 21, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Topic: Role of Yukon Visitor Information Centres (VICs) for travelers and communities

Key messages:

- VICs support local communities and the tourism economy by giving travelers clear guidance, maps, and reliable local knowledge. They are a trusted and welcoming first stop for visitors.
- VICs also play a role in safety and emergency information. Digital kiosks located in the VICs offer quick access to road conditions, emergency updates, weather, and local events when people need information on the go.
- The department is working with partners to adapt VICs to traveler expectation by adjusting programs, enhancing on-site experiences, and making better use of each centre's space.

Key facts and stats:

- The six Visitor Information Centres (VICs) are located in Whitehorse, Carcross, Watson Lake, Dawson City, Haines Junction, and Beaver Creek.
- The Whitehorse VIC is open all year, while the other 5 are open from May 1 to September 30.
- All six VICs are equipped with Tourism kiosks. Kiosk use is concentrated at key gateways (Skagway, Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport, Whitehorse VIC are consistently top performers).
- Total VIC visitation held steady in 2025 at 247,143 visits and remains 35% below 2019 pre-pandemic levels, indicating a plateau in recovery.

Status:

- VICs have the potential to be economic and community hubs, and the department is actively exploring new partnership opportunities to make better use of these spaces. Existing partnerships include shared or co-located operations with Parks Canada, the Northern Lights Centre,

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and a pilot project with the Individual Learning Centre in Carcross.

- Shared partnerships will optimize the usage of the facilities and create opportunities for private sector use (e.g. product presentations, artist performances, promotional video viewing in all VIC spaces).
- To further improve visitor safety the department worked with the Emergency Measures Organization to develop a new print publication called *Travel the Yukon Safely*, which is distributed at all Visitor Information Centres. The booklet offers essential guidance for safe and respectful travel throughout the territory.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

February 13, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre

Key messages:

- The Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre (YBIC) is a government operated facility dedicated to sharing the science, culture, and stories of Beringia.
- The Centre engages a wide range of visitors, including tourists, residents, researchers, school groups, and online learners, offering exhibits, programming, and science talks that bring Beringia's history to life.

Key facts and stats:

- Hours of operation vary seasonally, with expanded summer hours to support peak tourism and reduced winter hours to align with community demand. (October to April, Saturday through Monday from 12 to 5pm. May to September, Tuesday to Saturdays, 10am-5pm)
- In 2024-25, there were nearly 13,000 visitors.
- In the 2025-26 fiscal year to date, there have been over 15 000 visitors.
- Overall attendance at the centre has been steadily recovering following COVID-19 disruptions and temporary renovation closures, with visitation now trending upward year over year.
- The centre provides facility use and rental options, offering a unique venue surrounded by Ice Age history.

Status:

- In 2025, the centre participated in the Canada Strong Pass initiative, offering enhanced access for young people by providing free admission for visitors under 18, and a 50% discount for visitors aged 18–24.
- The centre plans to participate again in the Canada Strong Pass for the summer of 2026.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

May 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Topic: Yukon Archives

Key messages:

- The Yukon Archives is committed to continuous improvement in access, preservation, and service delivery.
- The Yukon Archives strengthens community heritage capacity across the territory, which supports government accountability and good governance.
- The Yukon Archives provides accessible public services that support research, learning, and community engagement.
- Yukon Archives acquires, preserves, and provides access to the Yukon's written, visual and audio records, including government and private records.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon Archives are open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and Thursdays (with the exception of the first Thursday of the month) 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Saturday appointments are available upon request with at least 2-weeks advanced notice.
- To support public equitable and inclusive access, Yukon Archives provides in-person and remote reference services, reproduction services, and online discovery tools such as the descriptive database and library catalogue.
- The department provides \$94,000 annually through a 3-year transfer payment agreement to support the Community Archivist Program year-round. This program provides advisory, training, and support services to Yukon communities, First Nations governments, museums, heritage groups and record-keepers that maintain their own archives.

Status:

- A multiyear database project will be launched in Spring 2026. It will migrate outdated databases into one unified descriptive database that will significantly increase public access to collections previously unsearchable.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 17

Spring 2026

Yukon Archives

Tourism and Culture

- Yukon Archives is currently supporting the transfer of 10,000 items of the Northern Native Broadcasting Yukon/CHON-FM audiovisual collection under the CYFN–Yukon Archives storage agreement.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

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

Key messages:

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

Key facts and stats:

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

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

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

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

Improve timely access to frontline health care services for Yukoners:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Theme 5: Restoring public safety and keeping communities safe

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

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

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

Approved by:

Katherine White

March 16, 2026

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved