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Session Briefing Note

TAB# 1**Spring 2026**

Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Mineral staking prohibitions are in place in response to court declarations regarding the Yukon government's obligation to consult prior to registering mineral claims.

Key messages:

- Our government respects the court directions about meeting our consultation obligations prior to registering mineral claims. Staking prohibitions continue to allow us to meet those obligations.
- The staking prohibitions also give us time to advance discussions with First Nations with title claims about how best to address the court declarations in the future.
- The staking prohibitions are limited. They do not impact industry's ability to explore and develop claims registered before a prohibition came into effect.

Key facts and stats:

- In 2012, the Yukon Court of Appeal made two declarations: (1) the Yukon government (YG) has a duty to consult with Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) in determining whether mineral rights on Crown lands within the Ross River Area are to be made available to third parties under the provisions of the Quartz Mining Act; and, (2) YG has a duty to notify and, where appropriate, consult with and accommodate RRDC before allowing any mineral exploration activities to take place within the Ross River Area.
- In 2014, both the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) and other Kaska representatives started court proceedings seeking the same declarations for their respective asserted traditional territories in the Yukon. The declarations were granted by consent.

Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation

Executive Council
Office

- Amendments to the quartz and placer mining regimes in relation to Class 1 mining activities address the second declaration.
- The three mineral staking prohibitions covering the Kaska and TRTFN asserted traditional territories cover approximately 23 per cent of the Yukon.
- Additional staking prohibitions are in place for reasons such as land use planning, to create parks and protected areas, or to disallow staking within municipal boundaries.
- About 53 per cent of the total area of the Yukon is currently under a prohibition.

Status:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River Area was initiated in 2013 and expires on April 30, 2028.
- The mineral staking prohibition specifically for R-137B, the Liard First Nation Interim Protected Land parcel within the Ross River Area, expires on November 30, 2026.
- The mineral staking prohibition in the southern portion of the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon was initiated in 2017 and expires on April 30, 2028.
- The mineral staking prohibition associated with the former Áashú Village site within the TRTFN asserted traditional territory was initiated in 2019 and expires on April 30, 2028. A land disposition prohibition is also in place for the same area and duration.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

May 1, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 2
Spring 2026

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive Council
Office

Topic: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) is a non-binding international human rights instrument that seeks to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Key messages:

- Our government is committed to advancing reconciliation and working in partnership with Indigenous governments.
- We know that some Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups have raised an interest in having Yukon adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as has been done in some other jurisdictions.
- We are interested in understanding the perspectives of Indigenous governments on the Declaration and how its principles could be applied in the Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- Some Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups have expressed interest in having the Yukon government enact legislation on the Declaration, similar to that enacted by the governments of Canada, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.
- The Government of Canada brought into force the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* in 2021 and released an Action Plan in 2023 for federal implementation of the Act.
- The federal Act provides for joint priority-setting between the Government of Canada and Indigenous Peoples. It does not enact the Declaration into Canadian law or bind the provinces and territories.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive Council
Office

- On March 20, 2025, the Government of Canada established an Action Plan Advisory Committee to provide advice to the federal Minister of Justice on implementing its Action Plan. One of the 10 members is Victoria Fred, a citizen of Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- Both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission'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 reference the Declaration.

Status:

- Although the Declaration has been raised at multiple past Yukon Forum meetings and by individual Nations, there has been no consensus to prioritize working jointly on a Yukon approach to it.
- Legislation is one approach, although jurisdictions who have enacted legislation have faced challenges with its implementation. There are also other non-legislative approaches to implementing the Declaration's principles.
- Thorough legal and policy analysis would be needed to determine how any approach could work with the 13 modern treaties and self-government agreements in the Yukon, which are legally binding.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 3
Spring 2026

Reconciliation with First Nations

Executive Council
Office

Topic: The Government of Yukon's approach to reconciliation with Yukon First Nations and other Indigenous governments and groups.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to strong government-to-government relationships with Yukon First Nations and other Indigenous governments based on mutual respect, transparency and collaboration.
- We recognize the central importance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the foundational document Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow, which sets out a vision for reconciliation and Indigenous self-determination in the Yukon.
- Reconciliation is, and requires, a continuous effort. In partnership with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments, we are committed to:
 - implementing Yukon's modern treaties and other agreements;
 - negotiating agreements with First Nations without treaties;
 - conducting meaningful consultation and engagement;
 - advancing department-specific reconciliation efforts;
 - meeting and working bilaterally and multilaterally; and
 - engaging in collaborative governance with Indigenous governments.

Key facts and stats:

- 11 of 14 Yukon First Nations have signed Final and Self-Government Agreements with the Governments of Yukon and Canada.
- The Inuvialuit and Tetlit Gwich'in also signed comprehensive land claim agreements with the Government of Canada which apply in the Yukon.
- The Yukon government has signed government-to-government accords with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (in July 2024) and with Carcross/Tagish First Nation (in August 2025).

- The Yukon government annually tracks its efforts to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action.
- A progress report on implementing the TRC Calls to Action was issued in fall 2023 along with Pathways magazine.
- The Yukon Forum met on February 6, 2026, and the Intergovernmental Forum met on February 18, 2026, to discuss and advance shared priorities.

Status:

- The Yukon government works with treaty partners to implement the Final and Self-Government Agreements and to ensure boards and committees created under those agreements can meet their intended objectives.
- We continue to work with Yukon First Nations and other Indigenous governments to develop and implement bilateral agreements, including accords, that identify and address shared priorities.
- The Yukon government is implementing the TRC Calls to Action and the Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy to enhance programs and services across departments for Indigenous Peoples and Yukoners.
- The Yukon government meets regularly and works with Yukon First Nations on a bilateral basis, and multilaterally at the Yukon Forum and Intergovernmental Forum, to advance collaborative governance in the Yukon.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 4

Spring 2026

Yukon Forum and Intergovernmental Forum

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Update on the Yukon Forum and the Intergovernmental Forum

Key messages:

- The Yukon government is committed to working collaboratively with Yukon First Nations and the federal government to advance our shared priorities.
- Our government has committed to working with Yukon First Nations to hold four Yukon Forum meetings per year and collaborating on the development of the agendas.
- Participation in the Yukon Forum and the Intergovernmental Forum reflects our commitment to good governance for all Yukoners and to the implementation of the Final and Self-Government Agreements.

Key facts and stats:

Yukon Forum

- The Yukon Forum was created in 2004 through a Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in Governance in the Yukon.
- In 2005, the MOU was written into territorial legislation (the *Cooperation in Governance Act*).
- The Yukon Forum includes leaders from the Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- The goal of the Yukon Forum is to build strong government-to-government relations and collaborate on shared priorities.
- The Yukon government is committed to meeting four times per year and developing a joint strategic plan to guide its collaborative work.

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Spring 2026

Yukon Forum and Intergovernmental Forum

Executive Council
Office

Intergovernmental Forum

- The Intergovernmental Forum was established in 2002.
- The Intergovernmental Forum brings together leaders from the Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the federal Ministers responsible for Crown-Indigenous Relations, Indigenous Services and Northern and Arctic Affairs.
- The goal of the Intergovernmental Forum is to meet and strengthen intergovernmental relationships, to support the effective implementation of the agreements and to work on other shared priorities.
- The Yukon government is committed to attending Intergovernmental Forum meetings two times annually as convened.

Status:

- The Yukon Forum met on February 6 in Whitehorse and discussed health reform, new minerals legislation and federal engagement.
- An Intergovernmental Forum meeting took place on February 18 in Whitehorse and discussed a range of issues, including Arctic security, child and family services, collaborative fiscal policy, energy, health, infrastructure, and land use planning.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 5

Spring 2026

First Nation Accords and Community Priorities

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Government-to-government relationships and accords with Yukon First Nations

Key messages:

- Our government is committed to strong government-to-government relationships with all Yukon First Nations governments.
- We meet regularly with Yukon First Nations governments to discuss community priorities and interests.
- We also develop and implement government-to-government accords with interested Yukon First Nations governments as a formal tool to identify and advance shared bilateral priorities.

Key facts and stats:

- An accord is a bilateral agreement and political commitment between the Yukon government and a First Nation government.
- Accords provide a formal mechanism for establishing a relationship focused on collaboration and reconciliation.
- Accords identify shared priorities, set out an action plan and a process for its implementation. The action plan is evergreen.
- Accords are not legally binding and do not include funding.
- Accords expire after a set term but can be extended.

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First Nation Accords and Community Priorities

Executive Council
Office

Status:

- The Yukon government currently has two accords in place with Yukon First Nations governments: Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (July 2024) and Carcross/Tagish First Nation (August 2025).

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 6**Spring 2026**

Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Ways Initiative

Executive Council
Office

Topic: The Government of Yukon's approach to respecting and reflecting Yukon First Nations and Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being.

Key messages:

- We value our partnerships with Indigenous governments and are committed to ensuring that their knowledge, values, and perspectives meaningfully guide our work.
- Through an Intergovernmental Working Group, we are collaborating to develop a government-wide approach to respecting and reflecting Indigenous ways into the Yukon government's decision-making.
- We will continue working with Indigenous governments to improve how the Yukon government respects and protects Traditional Knowledge shared with us to inform our actions and decision-making.

Key facts and stats:

- The Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Ways Initiative involves the development of a secure storage system and information sharing agreements to protect Traditional Knowledge shared with the Yukon government, and a related component on how to respectfully and appropriately apply Indigenous knowledge, values and perspectives in our decision-making.
- In 2021, an Intergovernmental Working Group was established to guide the work on the initiative. Current membership consists of representatives from YG, seven Yukon First Nations and two transboundary Indigenous governments.
- Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments are invited to appoint members to the Intergovernmental Working Group.

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Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Ways Initiative

Executive Council
Office

- The Yukon government continues to engage and involve Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments with and without representatives on the working group.

Status:

- Work progresses at the comfort and direction of the working group and has primarily focused on building trust and relationships as well as the development of the secure storage system for Traditional Knowledge that is voluntarily shared with the Yukon government.

If asked about current processes:

- The Government of Yukon values and respects the contributions Traditional Knowledge can make in informing our decisions. We recognize the importance of working in alignment with the policies, protocols and expectations of knowledge holders and privacy legislation and other laws.
- The Government of Yukon acknowledges Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups as the rightful owners of their Traditional Knowledge, as well as our responsibility to work with this knowledge in a way that is authorized, appropriate and respectful.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 7**Spring 2026**

Indigenous-led Processes

Executive Council
Office

Topic: An Indigenous-led process is a decision-making tool established and carried out by Indigenous governments or groups for the purpose of determining whether, and under what conditions, they consent to a project.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes and respects Indigenous governments' work to develop community participation and decision-making processes. This includes Ross River Dena Council's Tu Łidlini [Too-Lheed-Lee-Nee] Assessment Process and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun's Mining Policy.
- We are committed to engaging with these First Nations regarding how their processes can work with the Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes.
- While proponents are not legally required to participate in these processes, the Yukon government recommends they engage with Indigenous governments as early as possible in developing their project proposals to identify and address any community concerns.

Key facts and stats:

- Ross River Dena Council and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun have both said that participation in their processes is legally required and requested the Yukon government require proponents to participate.
- Neither Ross River Dena Council or the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun has the authority under Canadian or Yukon law to require proponents to participate in these processes.
- FNNND has the authority under their Self-Government Agreement to enact legislation to require adherence to their Mining Policy for projects on Settlement Lands but has not done so to date.

- Indigenous-led assessment processes are an emerging practice in other jurisdictions like British Columbia and Nunavut that can support Crown and regulatory consultation efforts while also mitigating financial and legal risks to project proponents.

Status:

- The Tu Łidlini Assessment Process was implemented in mid-2024.
- The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun's Mining Policy was released in June 2024.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources' Mineral Resources Branch has received Tu Łidlini Assessment Process reports from Ross River Dena Council for six Class 1 quartz projects and is aware of another in progress for a Class 3 quartz project.
- On January 17, 2026, Snowline Gold Corp. signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun consistent with the Nation's Mining Policy in respect of the Rogue Project and for ongoing exploration programs in FNNND's Traditional Territory.
 - This is the only project of which the Yukon government is aware in relation to which a proponent has agreed to comply with FNNND's Mining Policy.
- On February 10, 2026, Fireweed Metals Corp. and Ross River Dena Council announced the signing of an Exploration and Collaboration Agreement relating to the Mactung and MacPass properties. Fireweed has agreed to develop the projects into producing mines only with the free, prior and informed consent of RRDC, which will be sought via their participation in the Tu Łidlini Assessment Process.

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Indigenous-led Processes

Executive Council
Office

If asked about the duty to consult:

- When the Yukon government's duty to consult Indigenous governments is triggered, it is applicable regardless of whether a proponent participates in an Indigenous-led assessment process.
- The views and information gathered in an Indigenous-led process and the rationale for an Indigenous government's position on a given project proposal will inform the Yukon government's consultations and can support a more meaningful and efficient consultation process.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 16, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 8**Spring 2026**

UFA Boards and Committees Review

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Funding for Umbrella Final Agreement boards, councils and committees are being reviewed as part of the ongoing UFA Implementation Plan negotiations.

Key messages:

- The Yukon government recognizes the important work being carried out across the territory by the various boards, councils, and committees created under the Umbrella Final Agreement.
- We are working with the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada on a new funding package for the implementation of the Umbrella Final Agreement and each Yukon First Nation Final Agreement.
- We are committed to working with our partners to ensure the new funding is available to support our shared implementation priorities.

Key facts and stats:

- The Umbrella Final Agreement Implementation Plan funding amounts are renewed every 10 years. The most recent 10-year funding agreement expired in 2024 and was extended to 2029. This provided additional time to determine funding levels for the next agreement while ensuring stability and continuity for the implementation of the Umbrella Final Agreement and Final Agreements.
- The funding renewal negotiations include addressing funding for boards and committees and Renewable Resources Councils, identifying a mechanism and designated lead to perform conformity checks for approved Land Use Plans, and funding for the implementation of Chapter 11 including sub-regional land use planning.

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Spring 2026

UFA Boards and Committees Review

Executive Council
Office

- The Government of Canada provides the funding for the implementation of the Umbrella Final Agreement Implementation Plan and directly funds some boards. For other boards, federal funding “flows through” the Yukon government via Transfer Payment Agreements.

Status:

- Boards, councils and committees are seeking regular updates on the negotiations and increased funding. As they are not parties to the agreements, they do not have seat at the negotiation table.
- The parties have undertaken multiple engagement sessions to hear directly from boards and committees and provide regular updates.
- The parties are also collaborating on extensive data collection and analysis to determine appropriate amounts for a funding package.

If asked about honorarium rates:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the importance of addressing the issue of honoraria within the current negotiations.
- We, along with our partners, are working diligently to address the process by which the rates are determined to ensure consistency for all Umbrella Final Agreement boards, councils and committees.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2026

Yukon River Salmon

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Government of Yukon continues to work with First Nations and management partners to restore Chinook Salmon populations in the Yukon River.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with First Nations, the federal government, the State of Alaska and other management partners to respond to the Standing Committee of Fisheries and Oceans 2024 report recommendations to restore Chinook salmon populations.
- Work to respond to the report's recommendations is currently under way, including the development of the Yukon River Chinook Rebuilding and Ecosystem Strategy that identifies actions to help improve Chinook salmon stocks in the Yukon River.
- Priorities of the strategy include identifying areas to protect salmon habitat, increasing salmon education and aligning regulatory tools to protect Chinook salmon.
- In addition, the Government of Yukon is encouraged to see Kwanlin Dün First Nation leading a feasibility study to create a Salmon Stewardship Centre, which would serve as a gathering and learning space, a salmon research hub and salmon stewardship hatchery.

Key facts and stats:

- In 2024, an agreement signed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Alaska State government committed parties to increase Chinook salmon numbers to at least 71,000 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon entering the Yukon River from Alaska over the next seven years.

Yukon River Salmon

Department of
Environment

- The agreement suspended commercial, sport, domestic and personal use of fisheries, as well as subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon, in the Yukon River and Canadian tributaries until this goal is met.
- Yukon First Nations have voluntarily restricted salmon harvest for many years and continue to do so in line with this agreement.
- Over the past several years, there has been a promising return of Yukon River Salmon entering Canada:
 - In 2023, just over 15,300 Yukon River Chinook Salmon entered Canada, short of the Yukon River Panel's season forecast of 26,000-43,000.
 - In 2024, over 24,100 Yukon River Chinook Salmon entered Canada, meeting the Yukon River Panel's season forecast of 19,000-28,000.
 - In 2025, over 23,800 Yukon River Chinook Salmon entered Canada, meeting the Yukon River Panel's season forecast of 19,000-28,000.
- The Yukon River Panel's season forecast for 2026 is that between 22,000-33,000 Yukon River Chinook Salmon will enter Canada.

Status:

- On April 7, the Government of Canada announced \$412.9 million in funding to renew the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative, under Canada's Strategy to Protect Nature. The Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative supports provincial and territorial governments, First Nations and other community organizations to conserve, protect and rebuild salmon populations.

Yukon River Salmon

Department of
Environment

If asked to provide more detail on how the Government of Yukon is working with First Nations and management partners to restore Chinook Salmon populations in the Yukon River:

- The Government of Yukon is collaborating with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance, Yukon Salmon Sub Committee, and First Nations technical representatives to develop and implement the Yukon River Chinook Rebuilding and Ecosystem Strategy.
- The strategy is a collaborative, long-term framework (2024–2030) designed to recover, protect, and rebuild declining Canadian-origin Chinook salmon stocks.

If asked about funding for the Yukon under Government of Canada's renewed Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative:

- The Government of Yukon welcomes Canada's renewed commitment to work with provincial and territorial governments to restore pacific salmon stocks under the Pacific Salmon Strategy.
- We will be working closely with the federal government to better understand how this funding will support the conservation, stewardship and rebuilding of salmon stocks in the Yukon.

Approved by:

Shehnaz Ali

April 22, 2026

A/ Deputy Minister, Environment

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2026

New Minerals Legislation

Energy, Mines
and Resources

Topic: The Government of Yukon is working with Yukon First Nations and industry to complete new minerals legislation.

Key messages:

- The work advanced in the past five years serves as a foundation to move forward with the process.
- Moving forward, the approach will likely look different as we recognize the need to advance new legislation efficiently.

Key facts and stats:

- The Government of Yukon has spent \$6 million on the development of new legislation in the past five years.
- Of this, \$5.2 million went to funding First Nations government participation.

Status:

- The Government of Yukon is working on a new approach to First Nations and industry collaboration.

If asked about Statements of Claim from FNNND and TH:

- The modernization of minerals legislation has been a longstanding interest of the Yukon and First Nation governments and is referenced in recent Statements of Claim from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.

Date prepared: February 3, 2026

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Spring 2026

New Minerals Legislation

Energy, Mines
and Resources

- We will not speak more about matters before the court, but this does not change the commitment from our government to complete this legislation.

Approved by:

Jeff O'Farrell

February 3, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 11

Spring 2026

Response to Ross River Dena Council Allegations

Executive Council
Office

- **Topic:** Allegations of inappropriate and harmful conduct toward women in Ross River by a Yukon government employee.

Key messages:

- In April 2024, Ross River Dena Council advised the Government of Yukon of allegations of inappropriate and harmful conduct toward women in the community by a Yukon government employee.
- The Government of Yukon takes allegations of this nature seriously and immediately referred the complaints to the RCMP.
- In 2024, the Yukon government and Ross River Dena Council jointly asked the Yukon Ombudsman to conduct an independent review and provide recommendations regarding any identifiable systemic, institutional or cultural factors that may have influenced the government's response to the complaints that were brought forward about this employee.
- The Ombudsman's investigation is underway and we await the outcomes.
- An external contractor was also engaged to conduct a confidential human resources investigation into the allegations and that investigation has concluded. We will not be making further comments about this investigation as it is a confidential human resources matter.
- As outlined in *Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy*, we recognize that systemic injustices and an institutional lack of will to change is one of the four pathways to violence.
- The Ombudsman's review will support the Yukon government in making any necessary changes to our existing structures, policies, processes or practices.

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Spring 2026

Response to Ross River Dena Council Allegations

Executive Council
Office

Key facts and stats:

- The human resources investigation concluded in December 2025 and a summary of its findings was shared with Ross River Dena Council leadership.
- The Yukon Ombudsman's review is intended to identify any systemic, institutional or cultural factors (including but not limited to structures, policies, procedures and practices) that may have influenced the Yukon government's response to the complaints and if so, make recommendations for improvements.

Status:

- In 2024, Ross River Dena Council made media statements about the allegations, but no further public statements have occurred in the last 18 months.

As guided by the Ombudsman Act, the Ombudsman's review will be provided to the Ross River Dena Council.

If asked about the Ombudsman's review:

- The Yukon government is awaiting the results of the Ombudsman review. Once it is received, we will engage with Ross River Dena Council leadership before taking any action or making statements.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 12**Spring 2026**

First Nation Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council
Office

Topic: First Nations' involvement in major public energy projects and the Yukon government's support for First Nation-led renewable energy development.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon believes that working with First Nations governments on energy generation projects is fundamental to meeting the Yukon's climate change and energy goals.
- We acknowledge that several First Nations are leading important energy generation projects.
- We support the development of cost-effective renewable energy projects in a manner that fulfils treaty obligations, promotes reconciliation and provides energy security for the Yukon.
- Our government also works with First Nations governments during the assessment, licensing and operation of hydro energy projects.

Key facts and stats:

- In 2022, YG, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Yukon Energy Corporation signed agreements that established collaborative processes and a shared path forward for the Aishihik Generating Station.
- In July 2025, YG, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Yukon Energy Corporation signed agreements establishing a collaborative relationship and a shared path forward for the long-term operation of the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station.

Status:

- YG is continuing discussions with Carcross/Tagish First Nation on how they may be involved in the processes set out in the agreements

regarding the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station, or in similar collaborative processes.

- YG remains committed to discussions with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun about their broader community interests while the First Nation and the Yukon Energy Corporation work on the relicensing of the Mayo Generating Station for a five-year term.
- YG anticipates that discussions with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun about the Wareham Dam Spillway will soon begin.
- YG, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Yukon Energy Corporation are working collaboratively to prepare for upcoming environmental and socio-economic assessment and licencing processes to renew the existing water licence for the Aishihik Generating Station, which expires in 2027.
- Tlingit Homeland Energy Partnership Ltd. (THELP) is proposing to expand the existing Atlin hydro facility by leveraging the water storage capability of Surprise Lake and connect to the Yukon grid with a 69 Kilovolt transmission line from the powerplant in Atlin, BC to Jakes Corner in the Yukon.

If asked about Yukon-BC Grid Connect:

- The Yukon government is at the preliminary stages of exploring a grid connection with British Columbia, identified by the Government of Canada as a project of national interest. If the concept is feasible, forging partnerships with First Nations governments will be critical to its success.
- The Yukon government will ensure discussions on existing and future energy projects include consideration of the rights, interests and

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TAB# 12
Spring 2026

First Nation Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council
Office

potential involvement of Yukon First Nations and transboundary
Indigenous governments.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

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Tab# 27 (EMR)

Tab# 105 (JUS)

Spring 2026

ECO/EMR/JUS

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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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]

Topic: Intergovernmental relationship and ongoing work with Liard First Nation.

Key messages:

- We are committed to working with Liard First Nation to advance shared priorities including economic development, land planning and development, and the management of natural resources such as forestry, fish and wildlife.
- We are committed to working together on planning and development in and around the Town of Watson Lake, as well as on forestry industry access to reliable sources of firewood and timber while respecting Liard First Nation's rights.
- The Government of Yukon will consult Liard First Nation on regulated activities that may affect their asserted Indigenous rights in the Yukon, including mineral exploration and land and resource development proposals, while exploring other ways to work collaboratively.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon government-Liard First Nation bilateral negotiation table:
 - was established in 2020
 - has focused on land development and planning in the vicinity of Watson Lake and on fish and wildlife management
- The Yukon government provides capacity support to Liard First Nation to support consultation and engagement.

Status:

- Land development: 43 municipally serviced residential lots were developed in the Town of Watson Lake in 2025 under a collaborative agreement between YG and Liard First Nation. 24 of the lots are currently for sale over the counter by EMR.

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Liard First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
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- Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project: federal and territorial decision bodies are preparing an updated decision document after consulting with Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council regarding the economic feasibility of the project, as directed by the Yukon Court of Appeal in December 2024. (See ECO #35)
- Mineral staking prohibitions within the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon remain in effect until April 30, 2028 while the Yukon government works with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation. (See ECO #1)
- Forestry:
 - YG and Liard First Nation are working to advance short- and medium-term collaborative approaches to opening areas for timber harvesting in the Watson Lake area to help ensure an adequate supply of dry fuelwood in the territory.
 - EMR and Liard First Nation jointly developed and approved a Timber Harvest Plan for a project at Scoby Creek east of Watson Lake. Timber harvesting licenses and permits have been issued and timber harvesting operations occurred this past year with harvest areas still available within the plan.
 - EMR and Liard First Nation are working together on a new timber harvest plan within the Poison Lake burn, near Cabin Creek.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

May 5, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Topic: Intergovernmental relationship and ongoing work with the Ross River Dena Council

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is strongly committed to continuing to build a solid government-to-government relationship with the Ross River Dena Council.
- The Government of Yukon recognizes that there is a long history between our two governments and understands that realizing the significant opportunities in the Ross River area can be best done through collaboration.

Key facts and stats:

- Ross River Dena Council is one of four Kaska rights-bearing groups recognized by the Yukon government, each of which asserts Aboriginal rights to the entire Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon.
- Umbrella Final Agreement treaty negotiations between the Crown governments and the Kaska ended in 2002.
- The management of licensed hunting in the Ross River Area has been a long-standing matter between YG and RRDC.
- The Yukon government provides funding to support Ross River Dena Council's capacity for engagement and consultation with YG.

Status:

- Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project: federal and territorial decision bodies are preparing an updated decision document after consulting with Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council regarding the economic

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Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

feasibility of the project, as directed by the Yukon Court of Appeal in December 2024. (See ECO #35)

- Mineral staking prohibitions within the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon remain in effect while Yukon government works with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation. (See ECO #1)
- RRDC, YG and Canada have been working together since 2025 to assess the feasibility of establishing a new protected area, such as a National Park Reserve, in the Ross River Area. (See ECO #24)

If asked about the staking prohibition:

- The mineral staking prohibition within the Ross River Area is currently in place until April 30, 2028.

If asked about the park feasibility assessment:

- The Yukon government, Ross River Dena Council and Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to guide the feasibility study in December 2024.
- The Parties are at the information collecting phase of the assessment.
- No decisions have been made about whether or where to establish a new protected area.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

May 5, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

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White River First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Intergovernmental relationship and ongoing work with White River First Nation.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon, White River First Nation and the Government of Canada are working together to advance shared interests and priorities.
- We are in discussions with White River First Nation to explore their interests in protecting land, community infrastructure development, and land and water planning.
- We will work with White River First Nation and other affected First Nations to find constructive solutions when issues arise in the overlapping areas of their respective traditional territories.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon government and White River First Nation have an active bilateral negotiation table to further understand WRFN's interests and investigate potential approaches to address them.
- The Yukon government, White River First Nation, and the Government of Canada established a trilateral Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination table in 2021.
- The Yukon government provides annual funding to White River First Nation to support capacity for participation in negotiations and consultation and engagement processes.

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White River First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
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Status:

- Government-to-Government Accord:
 - We are in early discussions with White River First Nation towards a renewed Government-to-Government Accord. The previous Accord, signed in 2020, expired in 2025.
- Coffee Gold Project:
 - We are working with the new owner of the Coffee Gold project, Fuerte Metals, to understand how they intend to engage affected First Nations, including White River First Nation.
 - We continue to work with White River First Nation and other participants of the “Coffee Section 110A Steering Committee” to develop a monitoring program for surface and linear disturbance, as required by the Coffee Mine Decision Document issued under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Act*.
 - We are consulting with White River First Nation as part of the regulatory review of the Coffee Gold project and look forward to our ongoing discussions throughout that process.
- Casino Project:
 - We continue to engage with White River First Nation to prepare for the substantive phases of the assessment and regulatory processes for the proposed Casino mine, including advancing the development of a bilateral Consultation Plan.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

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TAB# 24**Spring 2026**

Ross River Area Feasibility Study

Executive Council
Office

Topic: The Government of Yukon, the Ross River Dena Council and Parks Canada are conducting a study to explore the suitability and feasibility of protecting land within the Tū Ł́ı́dlini (Ross River) area.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is collaborating with the Ross River Dena Council and Parks Canada to explore the suitability and feasibility of protecting land within the Tū Ł́ı́dlini [Too-Lheed-Lee-Nee] (Ross River) area.
- A joint Steering Committee consisting of representatives from all three governments is responsible for completing a study, which will include engagement with stakeholders and the public. After that they will deliver a report to the three governments.
- No decisions have been made about whether or where to establish any form of protected area.
- Existing land access, tenure, rights and permitted uses are not affected by the study.

Key facts and stats:

- This multi-year process began in the spring of 2025, after a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the three governments in December 2024.
- The outcome of the study will be a report from the Steering Committee with recommendations about:
 - what area or areas may be suitable and feasible for protection;
 - what territorial or federal legal tools could be used to establish a protected area; and
 - under what conditions.

- The study area is set out in the MOU:
 - Is approximately 39,000 square kilometers, in which specific areas may be considered for protection;
 - Is within the Ross River area of the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon, which has been withdrawn from mineral staking since 2013 (see TAB #1);
 - Excludes areas that were subject to class 3 and 4 mining authorizations at the time the MOU was signed in December 2024;
 - Does not overlap with the Traditional Territories of First Nations with Final Agreements; and
 - Is not within a proposed park or protected area boundary.
- In July 2025, the Steering Committee sent a letter to stakeholders in the study area sharing information about the upcoming process.
- This initiative is intended to help establish the land use certainty needed for a prosperous and healthy future for Ross River Dena Council citizens and all Yukoners, in an area where there is no treaty or Final Agreement.

Status:

- The feasibility assessment is still in the early stages of a multi-year process, largely due to the suspension of work during the 2025 elections of all three governments (Yukon, Canada, and Ross River Dena Council).
- The Steering Committee is responsible for conducting public and stakeholder engagement as part of their work. The timing of the engagement has not been established.

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Ross River Area Feasibility Study

Executive Council
Office

If asked about public engagement:

- Ensuring that stakeholders and the public have input into the feasibility study is a priority for the Government of Yukon.
- We anticipate that the Steering Committee will offer opportunities for stakeholders and the public to provide input to the study in 2026.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Taku River Tlingit First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Intergovernmental relationship and ongoing work with Taku River Tlingit First Nation

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is engaged in bilateral discussions with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on their interests and asserted Indigenous rights in the Yukon, including land planning and development, wildlife management, and self-determination.
- These discussions are intended to explore new approaches to reconciliation, including how our governments can best work together on shared priorities.
- In July 2025, the Taku River Tlingit First Nation communicated an expanded boundary for their asserted traditional territory in the Yukon, as shown on a map originally provided to the governments of Canada and British Columbia in 1993. As a result, the Yukon government will begin consulting with the Taku River Tlingit within that boundary.

Key facts and stats:

- Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) is based in Atlin, British Columbia and asserts a traditional territory in the Yukon that overlaps with portions of the Traditional Territories of Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.
- In 2014, TRTFN filed a Statement of Claim against the Yukon government. The court granted two declarations concerning mineral staking within TRTFN's asserted traditional territory in the Yukon.
- In 2019, to support ongoing discussions on how to resolve the litigation, the Yukon government prohibited mineral staking and land

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Taku River Tlingit First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council
Office

dispositions on the Áashú [AH-shoo] Lands, an area of cultural significance to both the Taku River Tlingit and Carcross/Tagish First Nation, located on the shore of Atlin Lake in the southern Yukon.

Status:

- The mineral staking and land disposition prohibitions covering the Áashú Lands currently expire April 30, 2028

If asked about the potential transfer of the Áashú Lands:

- One topic of discussion with the Taku River Tlingit has been the potential transfer of an 11.5 square kilometer parcel of land, known as the Áashú [AH-shoo] Lands.
- This area is located off the Atlin Road, within the Taku River Tlingit First Nation's asserted traditional territory and the Carcross/Tagish First Nation's Traditional Territory.
- In light of ongoing discussions about the settlement of Taku River Tlingit First Nation's land claim in the Yukon and settlement of the 2014 litigation, the Yukon government has determined that it would be inappropriate to proceed with the transfer the Áashú Lands at this time.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

May 5, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 33**Spring 2026****YESAA Reset Oversight Group**Executive Council
Office

Topic: The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) Oversight Group is a joint effort between the governments of Canada, the Yukon, and Yukon First Nations to oversee the YESAA process and work towards its ongoing improvement.

Key messages:

- The YESAA Oversight Group seeks efficiency and certainty of assessment processes under YESAA.
- As part of the YESAA Oversight Group the Yukon government, Canada, the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board continue to work together to identify and advance improvements to the assessment process.
- Both Canada and the Yukon government have identified streamlining major project assessment and regulatory processes as a priority.

Key facts and stats:

- The Oversight Group is currently working on two main initiatives:
 - a targeted amendment to YESAA that that would allow, with Yukon First Nations' consent, an exemption from assessment for projects that involve a renewal or amendment to an existing authorization, and
 - a comprehensive review of the development assessment process set in YESAA.

Status:

- CYFN passed a resolution on January 16, 2024, that supports moving forward with the targeted amendment. At that point, the Government

of Canada undertook a 45-day targeted engagement with First Nations on the proposed approach.

- Yukon government is reviewing the concerns brought forward by industry and discussing with Yukon First Nations prior to considering the YESAA targeted amendment.
- The Oversight Group is committed to undertaking a comprehensive review of the YESAA development assessment process at least once every 10 years, beginning from November 2017 unless the parties agree otherwise.
- To meet this commitment, the parties have begun to prepare for a comprehensive review of YESAA and its regulations.

If asked about YESAB's ability to meet rules-based timelines:

We are supportive of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board's efforts to address their ongoing capacity challenges.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

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TAB# 34**Spring 2026**

Casino Mine Project

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Casino Mine Project - Panel Review**Key messages:**

- We recognize the significance of the proposed Casino Mine to the Yukon and to Canada, particularly for the development of critical minerals and supporting Canadian sovereignty.
- Our government is committed to supporting mineral development that is both environmentally and socially responsible, in a manner that meets the needs of industry.
- The Yukon government continues to review the Casino Mining Corporation's Environmental and Socio-Economic Effects Statement submitted to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) in October 2025, and to prepare for the next phases of the YESAB Panel of the Board Review ("panel review").
- Our government is committed to ensuring the outcomes and recommendations of the Eagle Gold Independent Review Board are considered in the panel review of the Casino Mine Project's heap leach facility, and more broadly, in the development and improvement of related licensing and enforcement policies and practices.

Key facts and stats:

- The Casino Mine would be one of the largest mine projects in Canada and is the first YESAB panel review undertaken since the enactment of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- The proposed Casino Mine Project is owned by Casino Mining Corporation, a subsidiary of Western Copper and Gold, and is a large-

scale copper, gold, molybdenum and silver open pit mine approximately 150 kilometres northwest of Carmacks

- In addition to mining operations (mining, processing, tailings management, etc.), the project involves:
 - Upgrading the Freegold Road (~83 km), and development of the ~123 km Casino Trail into an all-season road; and,
 - Construction and operation of a 200 mega-watt liquefied natural gas facility.
- The Casino Mine project and its proposed access are located in the Traditional Territories of Selkirk First Nation, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and within an area in which White River First Nation asserts Aboriginal rights and title. .

Status:

- The Casino Mine Project remains in the YESAB sufficiency check period. Supplementary information is required before a technical analysis can be initiated by a Panel of YESAB.
- Casino Mining Corporation is expected to provide responses to YESAB's supplementary information request, along with an updated ESE Statement, at which time a new 60-day period for YESAB to determine sufficiency will commence.
- Yukon government will continue to review the current Environmental and Socio-Economic Effects Statement, and to prepare for engaging in the Panel Review process and for consulting with affected First Nations.

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Casino Mine Project

Executive Council
Office

If asked about the Panel Review Process:

- Yukon government will be an “intervenor” in this process, whose interventions will be subject to examination and iterative reviews in a public hearing setting.
- The Minister of the Executive Council Office is the Government of Yukon decision body for the YESAB Panel Review.
- There will be several federal decision bodies.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

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TAB# 35**Spring 2026**

Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project (BMC Minerals)

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Court-directed consultation on BMC Minerals Ltd.'s Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada issued a joint Decision Document on April 10, 2026 allowing the Kudz Ze Kayah Project to proceed to regulatory review.
- The Decision Document has new measures in response to concerns raised by Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation during consultation.
- The Proponent, BMC Minerals Ltd., may now apply for the necessary permits and licenses for the mine.

Key facts and stats:

- The proposed Kudz Ze Kayah project is an open pit and underground zinc, silver, copper, gold and lead mine located approximately 115 km southeast of Ross River, Yukon within the traditional territories of the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) and Liard First Nation (LFN).
- The Project entered the assessment process in 2017.
- June 15, 2022, the initial Decision Document was issued by the governments of Canada (Natural Resources Canada and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada) and Yukon, the Decision Bodies for the Project.
- January 2, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon set aside the June 2022 Decision Document and directed the Decision Bodies to consult on additional issues raised by the RRDC and LFN.

Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project (BMC Minerals)

Executive Council
Office

- A new Decision Document was issued on March 8, 2024, following consultation with RRDC and LFN.
- December 6, 2024, the Court of Appeal of Yukon set aside the March 8, 2024, Decision Document and directed the Decision Bodies to consult with RRDC and LFN on the economic feasibility of the Project and the question of “is it worth it.”

Status:

- Court-directed consultation with RRDC and LFN has come to an end.
- A Decision Document was issued under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act on April 10 allowing the Project to proceed with additional terms and conditions.
- Decision Bodies heard that RRDC and LFN are opposed to the Project and consensus on the decision was not achieved during consultation.
- The regulatory process can now resume, and the proponent, BMC, may apply for the permits and licences required to access, construct, operate, and close the mine.

If asked about RRDC and LFN opposition to the Project:

- Consultation with Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation has spanned more than six years and has addressed an unprecedented range of topics and considerations.
- We have pursued a transparent and fair decision-making process, consistent with the honour of the Crown.
- Measures have been developed to mitigate identified potential impacts of the proposed project to Ross River Dena Council, Liard

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Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project (BMC Minerals)

Executive Council
Office

First Nation and Yukon's environment and communities. We have also considered the potential benefit to all Yukoners.

- Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation assert Aboriginal Rights and Title in the area overlapping the Project. The flexible, adaptive and deep level in our approach to consultation over the last year was necessary and appropriate to address First Nation concerns to the Project.

Approved by:

Kate Durand

April 13, 2026

a/ Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 41**Spring 2026**

Streamlining of Regulatory Assessment Process

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Actions the Government of Yukon is taking to improve the territory's assessment and regulatory systems to make them efficient, predictable and grounded in the principles of reconciliation.

Key messages:

- Yukon government is developing proposals for modernized minerals and public lands legislation in close collaboration with Indigenous governments.
- Working with Canada, Yukon First Nations and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board as part of the YESAA Oversight Group, Yukon government is considering proposed improvements to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, which is federal legislation.
- These actions align with our commitments to reduce red tape, restore confidence in regulatory processes, and create predictable timelines for assessments.
- By modernizing legislation and working toward streamlining assessments, we will support responsible resource development, strengthen partnerships with Indigenous governments, and ensure environmental and socio-economic considerations remain central to decision making.

Key facts and stats:

- A Steering Committee for New Minerals Legislation was struck in September 2021. It includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous governments.

Streamlining of Regulatory Assessment Process

Executive Council
Office

- Work on new Public Lands Legislation has been ongoing since 2019, and in 2022 the process adopted the same Steering Committee format as for new minerals legislation.
- The Yukon government is part of the YESAA Oversight Group, along with members from the government of Canada and CYFN. One of the YESAA Oversight Group objectives is to look for improvements in the implementation of YESAA (see TAB #33).
- YESAB conducted public engagement in 2025 on proposed changes to the rules governing YESAB designated office timelines and processes, with a view to improving efficiency.

Status:

A draft framework for new minerals legislation was provided to all participating governments by the Steering Committee in the summer of 2025. The Government of Yukon is working with Yukon First Nations and industry to complete the development of policy for new minerals legislation based on the foundation of the draft framework and the years of collaborative work that informed it.

- The Steering Committee for New Public Lands Legislation developed options for new legislation based on several key policy issues. Indigenous consultation and public engagement on key policy issues and options was conducted from May through August 2024 and a What We Heard report was published in May 2025.
- The YESAA Oversight Group is currently engaged in advancing a targeted amendment to YESAA on project amendments and

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Streamlining of Regulatory Assessment Process

Executive Council
Office

renewals, and in the preparation for a comprehensive review of YESAA in 2027 (see TAB #33).

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 42**Spring 2026**

Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Youth Directorate provides funding to community organizations across the territory.

Key messages:

- Our government supports programs and services that help youth reach their full potential. The Youth Directorate provides important funding to youth-serving organizations in our territory.
- The Youth Directorate provides more than \$1.5 million annually to youth-serving organizations and community groups through several funding programs.

Key facts and stats:

- The Youth Directorate provides over \$1.1 million of annual operational funding to Association franco-yukonnaise, BGC Yukon, BYTE Empowering Youth Society, Heart of Riverdale Community Centre and the Youth of Today Society.
- The Youth Directorate provides \$422,000 of annual project funding to support:
 - The Youth Developmental Asset Program provides \$320,000 for youth activities, training and employment for Kwanlin Dün First Nation and 16 Yukon communities.
 - The Youth Investment Fund provides \$102,000 for community-driven initiatives aimed at marginalized youth 18 and under.

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Spring 2026

Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

Executive Council
Office

Status:

- These five organizations also received annual project funding from 2023-2026 through the Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA).
- The respective operational and CASA funding agreements will expire on March 31, 2026.
- Commencing April 1, 2026, the Youth Directorate expects to enter into new multi-year operational funding agreements with the respective organizations at budgeted funding levels.

Organizations	ECO Operational Budget Allocations (2023-2026)	Additional Operational Support CASA & ECO (2023-2026)	CASA Project Funding (2023-2026)	Total Operational & CASA Funding (2023-2026)	ECO Operational Budget Allocations (2026-2027)
Association Franco-Yukonnaise	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 32,860.00	\$ 25,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Yukon	\$ 277,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 182,140.00	\$ 479,140.00	\$ 277,000.00
BYTE – Empowering Youth Society includes additional 10k from YD 0200 allotment	\$ 284,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 384,000.00	\$ 284,000.00
Heart of Riverdale Community Centre	\$ 278,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 378,000.00	\$ 278,000.00
Youth of Today Society	\$ 271,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 371,000.00	\$ 271,000.00
Totals	\$ 1,135,000.00	\$ 86,000.00	\$ 424,000.00	\$ 1,645,000.00	\$ 1,135,000.00
CASA Portion		\$ 76,000.00	\$ 424,000.00		
ECO Contributed		\$ 10,000.00			

- The Government of Yukon does not have additional fiscal capacity to maintain or increase funding to these organizations.
- A multi-year funding agreement will give these organizations predictable funding, enabling improved planning, staff management and program continuity.

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Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

Executive Council
Office

If asked:

Why is the funding for these organizations being cut?

- The funding provided through the Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberals and NDP was temporary.
- While the Government of Yukon does not have the fiscal capacity to maintain the increased funding to these organizations, the government will work with the organizations to provide a multi-year funding agreement.
- Multi-year agreements will provide these organizations with predictable funding, enabling improved planning, staff management and program continuity.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 6, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 43**Spring 2026**

Territorial Youth Strategy

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Government support for the Territorial Youth Strategy.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with partners to help youth succeed.
- We continue to support programs and services that promote wellness and help young people reach their full potential.
- We support initiatives that increase awareness of youth programs and services, empower youth voices, involve youth in program development, and provide opportunities for youth to contribute to their communities.

Key facts and stats:

- In 2023, Communities Building Youth Futures, in collaboration with many diverse stakeholders, created a draft Territorial Youth Strategy consisting of youth identified issues with year-one priorities.
- In April 2024, various party leaders, including Premier Dixon, and other community stakeholders, signed a declaration in support of the draft Territorial Youth Strategy.
- The intent of the strategy is to serve as a guiding document for decision-makers at all levels and in all sectors and will be revised as needed on an ongoing basis at annual Yukon Youth Summits.
- The primary organizations involved in the Territorial Youth Strategy include the Territorial Youth Collective, BGC Yukon, BYTE –

Empowering Youth Society, the Child & Youth Advocate Office and the Youth of Today Society.

Status:

- The Youth Directorate manager is a member of the Community Partnership Table and is the Government of Yukon's primary contact for monitoring progress on the implementation of the Territorial Youth Strategy. This table meets monthly to discuss matters relating to the implementation of the strategy.
- As part of its work to support the Strategy, the Youth Directorate summarized Yukon government actions that support year-three Strategy priorities. A mid-term tracking document was shared with the Territorial Youth Collective in early October.

If asked about:

How will the Territorial Youth Strategy and / or the Territorial Youth Collective will be supported moving forward?

- Supporting young people in the Yukon is important to us. Discussions are underway on how we can support the Territorial Youth Strategy in 2026-27 within our current budget constraints.

How has the Government of Yukon addressed the Territorial Strategy year-three priorities?

- Currently, the Government of Yukon has contributed to 27 of the 38 year-three strategy priority action items.
- Departments have been requested to update their actions related to the year-three Territorial Youth Strategy priorities by April 17, 2026.

Approved by:

Kate Durand

April 8, 2026

a/Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 44**Spring 2026**

Platform and Project Tracking

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Tracking of platform commitment and priority projects across government

Key messages:

- We know that Yukoners expect transparency, accountability and results from government and we are determined to deliver on those expectations.
- We are upgrading the tools used to monitor and report on priority projects and commitments.
- Timely information ensures government's attention and resources stay focused on achieving results for Yukoners.

Key facts and stats:

- The capture and use of relevant, timely information is foundational to responsible and responsive management practices.
- Government priorities and initiatives are often highly interconnected throughout government. This interconnectivity and coordination can be critical to project success but often pose challenges to tracking and reporting.
- Progress tracking that reflects the complexity of government allows for earlier and greater opportunities to leverage synergies and mitigate potential barriers to success.
- No industry standard government strategy/outcome tracking tool currently exists. The development and use of customized tools is a common practice.

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Platform and Project Tracking

Executive Council
Office

Status:

- A re-design of the government's centralized tracking platform was initiated in January 2026.
- Updated tracking approaches will better reflect government interconnectivity and other considerations critical to success.
- The revised progress tracking tool is expected to be released internally early in the 2026-27 fiscal year.

If asked if/why Yukon government has not previously kept track of priority projects and initiatives:

- The current platform and project tracking builds and expands upon earlier priority and project tracking approaches.
- Each version of priority and project tracking seeks to reduce the burden of reporting on public servants while increasing the quality, relevance, and timeliness of information available to decision makers.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 6, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 45**Spring 2026**

Transparency and Efficiency

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Our government is committed to increasing transparency and efficiency in government decision making.

Key messages:

- We are taking concrete steps to allow for more input from Caucus and the public, while reducing processes that slow down progress.
- Caucus members represent both rural and urban Yukon and will bring valuable expertise and ideas to the table to ensure decisions reflect Yukoners' diverse needs.
- The newly established Private Members' Caucus and Legislative Oversight Committee, including all Caucus members. This will support effective policy development by keeping the lines of communication open between Cabinet, the remainder of Caucus, and the public service, and by providing early direction for the focus of the public service's resources.

Status

- The Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning was dismantled on November 24, 2025. The committee had been established in 2017 with the mandate to set and oversee the achievement of government priorities. These responsibilities have now returned to Cabinet.
- The template for submissions to Cabinet and its committees now includes mandatory impact analyses of community impact and regulatory impact.

Approved by:Kelvin Leary

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

February 06, 2026

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2026

Early Retirement Incentive

Public Service
Commission

Topic: The Government of Yukon is excluded from the federal Early Retirement Incentive Program.

Key messages:

- The Yukon government's priority is to maintain a stable, sustainable public service that continues to deliver quality programs and services to Yukoners.
- Exclusion from the federal Early Retirement Incentive ensures that Yukon's workforce planning, recruitment and retention strategies remain aligned with our territory's needs, not federal workforce reduction goals.
- The decision reflects the distinct operational and demographic realities of Yukon's smaller public service, where maintaining staffing capacity is essential for service continuity.

Key facts and stats:

- The federal *Public Service Superannuation Act* and its regulations govern pension accrual rules and retirement benefits for federal and territorial public service employees.
- Yukon government employees are members of the Federal Public Service Pension Plan.
- The federal Early Retirement Incentive program allows eligible members of the Federal Public Service Pension Plan to apply to retire early with an immediate unreduced pension - waiving the typical 5 per cent annual early retirement penalty applied before normal age and

service requirements are met.

service requirements are met.

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Early Retirement Incentive

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Public Service
Commission

Status:

- The Federal government announced its intention to introduce an Early Retirement Incentive in November 2025, as part of its budget package.
- On February 11, 2026, the Government of Yukon requested that the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat exclude Yukon from the Early Retirement Incentive Program.
- On February 16, 2026, the Public Service Commission issued a Global Note advising employees that the Yukon government had requested an exclusion. Letters were also sent to employees currently on leave.
- On March 26, 2026, federal legislative amendments enabling the Early Retirement Incentive received Royal Assent, as part of the federal *Budget Implementation Act, 2025 (Bill C-15)*.
- On March 27, 2026, the the Treasury Board of Canada confirmed that Yukon's exclusion from the Early Retirement Incentive was approved.

If asked about why the Yukon government sought an exclusion:

- While Yukon government employees are members of the federal pension plan, the Early Retirement Program and its criteria were not designed for the Yukon government or its workforce.

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Early Retirement Incentive

Public Service
Commission

- The Early Retirement Incentive is a federal workforce reduction measure. It is designed to manage workforce reductions in the Federal public service to the greatest extent possible through attrition and voluntary departures.
- Since the Government of Yukon is not reducing its workforce, an
Board of Canada to avoid unintended impacts on workforce planning and service delivery to Yukoners.

If asked whether Yukon government employees can apply for the federal Early Retirement Incentive now that the bill has received Royal Assent:

No. The Government of Yukon has been excluded from the program, so Yukon government employees are not eligible.

If asked about whether this changes retirement options:

Regular retirement options remain available for all Yukon government employees under the Federal Public Service Pension Plan.

Approved by:

Meagan Lang

Public Service Commissioner

____April 7, 2026_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 47**Spring 2026**

Plebiscite

Executive Council
Office

Topic: A plebiscite vote on electoral reform was included in the fall 2025 election.

Key messages:

- We have been clear about our position on the plebiscite and electoral reform. It was important to me that Yukoners knew our intention to keep the current system and to focus on other priorities that better reflect the needs of our territory.
- Changing the way the territory votes is not the best use of our limited resources and is not a priority of this government.
- The plebiscite was not binding and does not require this government to take action. The results provided us with information on public opinion on one option for electoral reform.

Key facts and stats:

- On November 3, 2025, plebiscite results showed that 58% of voters were in favour of ranked voting.
- The result is above the threshold of 50% set in the *Regulation Directing that a Plebiscite on Electoral Reform be Held* to indicate an expression of public interest.
- 53.1% of Yukoners voted in the plebiscite: 19,086 of 35,962 eligible voters.
- Of 21 ridings, six returned a majority “no” vote. Of these, one (Porter Creek) was in Whitehorse. The five others were Kluane, Mayo-Tatchun, Southern Lakes, Vuntut-Gwitchin, and Watson Lake-Ross River-Faro.

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Plebiscite

Executive Council
Office

- Electoral reform has been examined extensively over the past 20 years. Electoral reform is an umbrella term that includes the composition and function of the legislative assembly, voter enfranchisement and turnout, election financing, and electoral voting systems.
- No public votes in Canada have resulted in comprehensive electoral reform.

Status:

- No action is being taken.

If asked about how or why the plebiscite was held:

- The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform final report was tabled on October 28, 2025, with a recommendation for an alternate electoral system for Yukon.
- The question posed by the Citizen's assembly was modified for clarity, impartiality and phrasing after consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer.
- The Chief Electoral Officer administered the plebiscite.
- Holding the plebiscite in tandem with the general election supported voter turnout and ensured public confidence in the security of the voting process.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 6, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 48**Spring 2026**

Managing the Placer Mining Bubble

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Placer mining licences are approved in 10-year cycles. There is currently a “bubble” of many placer mining licences up for renewal.

Key messages:

- We have heard the frustrations from placer miners about delays in approving the renewal of their licences.
- We have provided the Yukon Water Board Secretariat with additional resources so that they can meet the administrative demand and support the Board in its decision-making.
- We know how important mining is to the Yukon. We are working to ensure that processes are streamlined and communication is clear.

Key facts and stats:

- Amendments to the Placer Mining Land Use Regulation and the Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation were passed in May 2025 to address the permitting backlog and assist operators whose permits were expiring but had not been issued new permits.
- The Secretariat maintains a tracking tool, updated monthly, and shared with Energy, Mines and Resources, Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB), and Klondike Placer Miners’ Association (KPMA). The tool provides the following information:
 - 159 placer applications expire in 2024, 2025, and 2026.
 - As of March 27th, 2026:
 - 47 have been fully renewed (30% of total)
 - Of the remaining 112 applications, the following are in process:

Managing the Placer Mining Bubble

Executive Council
Office

- 32 are currently with the Secretariat and Board in varying stages of adequacy or Board review.
- 19 are with EMR.
- 12 are with YESAB.
- Four were withdrawn or cancelled.

Status

- The Yukon Water Board is an independent body established under the Waters Act and the Umbrella Final Agreement. The Water Board is responsible for issuing licences for the use of water and/or the deposit of waste into water.
- The Waters Act requires that the Minister of the Executive Council Office provide the Water Board with sufficient staff and contractors to meet its mandate. The branch providing these services is the Water Board Secretariat. Secretariat staff are YG employees and subject to the *Public Service Act*.
- In 2003, YG transferred to the Board certain functions of the Chief of Placer Land Use respecting Class 4 placer land use operations. Under the Placer Mining Act, approval of Class 4 placer land use operations requires a water licence or application for a water licence. The intent of the transfer is to create administrative efficiency for Class 4 placer mining (i.e., the same body approves both the placer mining licence and the associated water licence).

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Managing the Placer Mining Bubble

Executive Council
Office

If asked about what else is being done about the placer mining bubble:

- We are committed to making regulatory processes more streamlined and transparent and to establishing predictable and clear timelines.

Approved by:

Kate Durand

April 8, 2026

a/Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 49**Spring 2026**

Aboriginal Relations Division Name Change

Executive Council
Office

Topic: The Government of Yukon is changing the name of the Aboriginal Relations Division of the Executive Council Office.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is updating the name of the Aboriginal Relations Division of the Executive Council Office to “First Nations Relations and Treaty Implementation”.
- We are making this change to acknowledge that most Indigenous governments in the Yukon refer to themselves as “First Nations”, and to move away from the outdated term “Aboriginal”.
- This change also reflects our continued commitment to the full implementation of the 13 modern treaties that apply in the Yukon.
- The new name was selected in collaboration with the Council of Yukon First Nations.

Key facts and stats:

- The term “Aboriginal”, although used in Canada’s *Constitution Act*, 1982, is increasingly regarded as outdated.
- The accepted best practice is to refer to Indigenous groups using their preferred terminology.
- All Yukon-based Indigenous groups self-identify as “First Nations” as opposed to “Métis” or “Inuit” (which are the other broad categories of Indigenous groups identified in the *Constitution*).
- Almost half of Canada’s 27 modern treaties are applicable in the Yukon: 11 Yukon First Nations Final Agreements, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the Gwich’in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

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Aboriginal Relations Division **Name Change**

Executive Council
Office

Status:

- This change will be included in the budget bill that will be debated in the Spring 2026 sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

If asked about the inclusion of “First Nations” (as opposed to a broader term):

- The Government of Yukon values our intergovernmental relationships with all Indigenous governments with rights and interests in the Yukon, no matter their ancestry.
- This change reflects the fact that all of the 14 Indigenous groups based in the Yukon refer to themselves as “First Nations”.

If asked about the inclusion of “Treaty Implementation” (which does not apply to all Yukon First Nations or transboundary Indigenous groups):

- The Government of Yukon values our intergovernmental relationship with the three Yukon First Nations who elected not to sign treaties under the Umbrella Final Agreement framework.
- We remain committed to working with Liard First Nation, Ross River Dena Council and White River First Nation to advance our shared interests, including on measures to increase their self-determination.
- We are also committed to continuing to work with the transboundary Indigenous governments and groups that have asserted Indigenous rights in the Yukon.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 17, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 50**Spring 2026****Executive Council Office -
Associate Deputy Minister**Executive Council
Office

Topic: the Executive Council Office plans to repurpose the existing assistant deputy minister of intergovernmental relations position to hire an associate deputy minister.

Key messages:

- The Executive Council Office provides central leadership and coordination across government, supporting Cabinet decision-making and ensuring priorities are aligned and delivered. In addition to this work, the department has several important operational branches.
- Creating an Associate Deputy Minister position will strengthen leadership capacity in these busy operational branches and support timely, coordinated delivery of our priorities. The Associate Deputy Minister will oversee Intergovernmental Relations, Major Projects, First Nations Relations and Treaty Implementation, and the Office of Protocol.
- No new positions are being added to support this. ECO is repurposing the current Assistant Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Relations position to establish the Associate Deputy Minister role.

Key facts and stats:

- The Associate Deputy Minister role is being created by repurposing an existing senior leadership position within ECO. There is no net growth in FTEs, and no reduction in staffing in other areas of the department.

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**Executive Council Office -
Associate Deputy Minister**

Executive Council
Office

Status:

- This change is reflected in the 2026-27 budget, and the department expects to staff the reprofiled position in the coming months.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

March 19, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Topic: the Government of Yukon passed a motion to engage with Yukoners to inform the Government of Canada's policies on the use of social media platforms for people 16 years of age and under.

Key messages:

- Many governments across the world are now recognizing that social media can expose youth to risks including cyberbullying, harmful content and negative impacts on sleep, attention and mental wellbeing.
- The Government of Canada is considering options that will require social media platforms to better protect children. Before any changes are implemented, it is important for northern interests and concerns to be considered.
- We know that social media can cause harm, but we also know that it is an important way rural youth stay informed and connected. Our government will be engaging with Yukoners to understand concerns and priorities.
- I have asked the Executive Council Office to develop options for this engagement, and I will share more information on our next steps when I am able.

Key facts and stats:

- Although details vary, several countries have introduced or plan to introduce legislation to "age-gate" access to social media.
- Key issues across all models are: enforceability, privacy impacts of age verification, and balancing child protection with access to information and connection.

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Limiting Youth Social Media Use

Executive Council
Office

- A major concern with these restrictions is whether they risk pushing youth to less regulated online spaces.

Status:

- The Executive Council Office is developing options for engaging with Yukoners on this topic.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

May 6, 2026

Deputy Minister, ECO

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 52**Spring 2026**

Intergovernmental Relations (General)

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Advancing intergovernmental relations with provincial, territorial, federal and international partners.

Key messages:

- It is important for the Government of Yukon to engage beyond our borders to advance the Yukon's interests within Canada and on the global stage.
- Coordinated, strategic engagement helps other governments understand and consider the goals, objectives and circumstances of the Yukon.
- Our focus is on advancing what matters to Yukoners – including reliable energy, timely access to health care, restoring public safety, tackling the cost of living, increasing housing availability, improving the education system, and creating the conditions for sustainable economic growth.
- We will continue building productive relationships with provinces, territories, the federal government and international partners to advance the political, social, cultural, and economic priorities of the territory.

Key facts and stats:

- The Premier is responsible for intergovernmental relations, though often certain duties are delegated to Ministers.
- Intergovernmental relations include the Yukon's engagement with the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, and international partners.

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Intergovernmental Relations (General)

Executive Council
Office

- A whole of government intergovernmental strategy will be launched in Spring 2026.
- Strong coordination ensures the Yukon's interests, shaped by its northern context and the interests of First Nations, are reflected in policy, funding, and decision-making at all levels.
- Examples of intergovernmental relations include: First Ministers' Meeting, Council of the Federation, Western Premiers' Conference, Northern Premiers' Forum, other federal/provincial/territorial tables, bilateral federal engagement, bilateral provincial/territorial engagement, and diplomatic international visits.

Status:

- Premiers and the Prime Minister meet regularly to advance priorities.
- Premier undertook in-person federal engagement in January 2026.
- Ministers are active in advancing priorities with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts.
- Several diplomatic visits were held on the sidelines of the Arctic Winter Games.

If asked about travel costs:

- Face-to-face engagements help build strong, productive relationships.
- We will weigh travel decisions carefully to ensure they are cost effective and deliver real benefits for Yukoners.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

March 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 53**Spring 2026**

Federal Engagement

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Federal engagement activities by the Yukon government, including bilateral meetings, First Ministers' Meetings and Yukon Days.

Key messages:

- We are committed to advocating for the interests of Yukoners clearly and consistently at every level of government – including directly with the Prime Minister – to secure the federal investments and policy decisions needed to strengthen our territory.
- Meeting regularly with my fellow Premiers and the Prime Minister at the First Ministers' table ensures the Yukon's interests are front and centre on issues of regional and national importance.
- By partnering with Yukon First Nations in joint federal engagements such as Yukon Days, we amplify Yukon's voice, ensure decision-makers understand our unique northern realities, and advance shared priorities that secure practical, community-focused investments across the territory.

Key facts and stats:

- Premier held in-person meetings with key federal ministers on January 27-28, 2026.
- First Ministers met in-person on January 29, 2026 and committed to meeting virtually on a monthly basis during the CUSMA review period.
- Yukon Days is a longstanding annual event where Yukon leaders and First Nations jointly advocate for territorial priorities with federal decision-makers, fulfilling the Yukon Forum Joint Action Plan commitment to present a united voice on multilateral initiatives.

- Yukon government last travelled to Ottawa for Yukon Days on December 2-5, 2024.

Status:

- There is an in-person meeting of First Ministers and national indigenous organizations planned for Spring 2026.
- A May timeframe is being explored for Yukon Days 2026.
- Premier Dixon participated in the in-person First Ministers' Meeting on January 29, 2026. While in Ottawa, he also met bilaterally with the Prime Minister and several federal ministers.
- Premier Dixon also met bilaterally with federal ministers in Whitehorse on the margins of the Intergovernmental Forum in February and the Arctic Winter Games in March.

If asked about messaging to the federal government in recent meetings:

- When meeting with federal ministers, I made it clear our government's immediate focus is on energy security, health care infrastructure, critical minerals development and creating the conditions to enable the private sector to grow.
- I am confident that Canada is ready to work with us to deliver on these priorities.

If asked about national indigenous organizations' participation in First Ministers' Meetings:

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Federal Engagement

Executive Council
Office

- The Yukon government supports the interest in enhancing engagement with national indigenous organizations, and efforts to build inclusive relationships.
- Our government's priority is to engage directly and work with Yukon First Nations governments on a government-to-government basis, and Yukon First Nations have been clear that they speak directly to their own priorities and issues.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

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TAB# 54

Spring 2026

Northern Sovereignty and Security

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Government of Yukon's position on Northern security and sovereignty.

Key messages:

- I welcome the Government of Canada's renewed commitment to increase investment, expand its presence and enhance partnerships to strengthen Arctic security and sovereignty in the North.
- The Government of Yukon is well-situated to contribute to Arctic sovereignty by leveraging our strategic geography and infrastructure, established relationships and on-the-ground operational presence throughout the North.
- Arctic sovereignty cannot be secured without the partnership and leadership of territorial and Indigenous governments. We are committed to working on a government-to-government basis with these partners to secure the federal investments necessary to strengthen and protect the Yukon.
- Sovereignty is not just about military defence – it's about ensuring the people and communities who live here are thriving, and have access to resilient infrastructure, services and systems.
- We are committed to investing in reliable energy systems, improving access to health care services, accelerating housing construction, releasing more land for development, and growing the private sector – because a strong and resilient Yukon is key to Canada's Arctic presence.

Key facts and stats:

- The Arctic Summit, hosted by the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, took place in Whitehorse from February 23 to 25, 2026.
- The Arctic Cooperation Advisory Council (ACAC) held their biannual meeting in Whitehorse from February 26 to 27, 2026.
- Arctic Ambassador Virginia Mearns travelled to the Yukon in February as the Chair of the ACAC. She previously visited to meet with Yukon government officials, First Nations leaders and the business community in December 2025.
- The Yukon government is a long-standing participant in Canada's Arctic Security Working Group (ASWG) and served as 2025 co-chair, supporting intergovernmental coordination on northern security issues.
- The 2025 federal budget includes significant investments in defence and dual-use infrastructure, including funds earmarked for Northern jurisdictions.
- The Government of Yukon maintains an operational presence in the Arctic Circle through park rangers, scientists, conservation officers. We work with the Inuvialuit and Department of National Defence to sustain Arctic sovereignty by supporting research, law enforcement, community development, and co-management relationships.

Status:

- As part of the Government of Yukon's mandate implementation, The Department of Environment, in partnership with the Executive Council Office, has committed to enhance the Yukon's presence in the Arctic.

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Northern Sovereignty and Security

Executive Council
Office

- The Royal Canadian Navy and the Department of National Defence are currently conducting a feasibility study on establishing a Naval Reserve unit in Whitehorse, with the report and recommendations scheduled to be released in spring 2026.
- Yukon government officials are in active discussions with Canada on funding opportunities available to the territory related to dual use infrastructure and defence-related spending.

If asked about the Canadian Institute for Arctic Security:

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

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

March 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 55**Spring 2026**

International Relations

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Yukon's relationships with international partners, including diplomatic visits.

Key messages:

- International engagement promotes the territory as an attractive investment destination, advances labour force recruitment, and positions the Yukon as a strategic actor in the Arctic and abroad.
- The Yukon is part of the broader Arctic region and the Pacific Northwest. To be a credible actor in the Arctic and Pacific Northwest regions, we need to build partnerships with our neighbours, be it on resource development, tourism, security, cultural exchanges and more.
- International relations help position the Yukon as a key partner in Arctic security, critical minerals, supply chains and to unlock opportunities for Yukoners across the globe.
- Hosting diplomats helps identify commercial, cultural and educational opportunities to connect Yukoners with the world.

Key facts and stats:

- Premier Dixon met the U.S. Consul General, Shawn Crowley, while in Vancouver for AME Roundup in January 2026.
- During the Arctic Summit, held February 23-24, Consuls General from the U.K. (Thomas Codrington), France (Raphaël Dang) and Germany (Marc Eichorn) visited the Yukon.
- During the Arctic Winter Games, the Yukon hosted a Nordic Ambassadorial delegation from Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Iceland, as well as the US Ambassador to Canada, Pete Hoekstra

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International Relations

Executive Council
Office

and U.S. Consul General Crowley. Governor Dunleavy from Alaska also joined.

Status:

- Yukon continues to look for opportunities to engage with international partners and advance the interests of the territory.

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

March 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

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TAB# 56**Spring 2026**

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Yukon and relations between Canada and the United States

Key messages:

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

Key facts and stats:

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

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

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

Status:

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

If asked about Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

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

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

If asked about Port of Skagway

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

If asked about Greenland:

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

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Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council
Office

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

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

March 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2026

Budget Highlights – CORPORATE

Finance

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