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Emergency Preparedness Update #2

Community Services

Topic: Update on flood preparedness and response activities across the Yukon in communities at risk from ice jam flooding.

Key messages:

- Yukon's Emergency Measures Organization is assisting local teams around the territory as they manage areas that may be affected by high-water.
- Supports will move around the territory based on risk and the information provided by our water management, and emergency response experts.
- Yukon's Emergency Measures Organization ensures that resources and equipment are assisting highest risk communities as first priority.

Carmacks

- Yukon river in Carmacks is melting and breaking up nicely.
- The ice advisory remains in effect, but the Water Science and Stewardship (WSS) hydrologists say ice jam risk is now low.

Dawson

- A flood watch advisory for the Klondike River has now been elevated to a flood warning.
- The Klondike river is open from Rock Creek to the Yukon River – but ice jamming at the Dempster Bridge and just above Henderson Corner is occurring.
- Yukon government is conducting observation flights of the Yukon and Klondike rivers. The Dawson emergency control group continues to be in communication with the Emergency Measures Organization is ongoing.

Hot Topic Session Note

TAB# HT-01

Spring 2026

Emergency Preparedness Update #2

Community Services

- A coordination call with this Dawson emergency control group and YG Emergency Measures Office occurred at 11:00 today. This call included infrastructure and emergency response partners.
- We are aware that four properties are experiencing flooding at this time, but no requests for additional support have been made by the Dawson emergency control group.
- A sandbagging machine was relocated from Carmacks to Dawson on May 1st and is available for community use.
- The FM radio repeater used by the Klondike volunteer fire department is in place, tested and ready for use to communicate up to date flood information to citizens of Rock Creek and Henderson Corner.

Old Crow

- The Government of Yukon is working collaboratively with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. A Yukon Emergency Measures Organization representative was in Old Crow for a site assessment last week.
- Yukon emergency response officers are on route to Old Crow today to join an Incident Management Team led by the Vuntut Gwitchin.
- Our Emergency Measures Organization is sending equipment and supplies up to Old Crow today at the request of VGFN.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

May 5, 2026
[Date approved]

National Building Code of Canada

Community Services

Topic: Building codes directly impact the new residential and commercial construction in Yukon, and changes to the National Building Code are of interest to the construction industry and homeowners.

Key messages:

- The new edition of the National Building Code of Canada was published on December 22, 2025, but it does not yet apply to construction in Yukon.
- It is important that these codes be thoughtfully implemented. We will implement the new building code in collaboration with municipal partners and industry stakeholders to ensure broad acceptance and successful adoption.
- Modern standards of construction bring many benefits to Yukoners, including confidence that our buildings are safe and insurable.

Key facts and stats:

- As per the *Building Standards Act*, Yukon automatically adopts the National Building Code; however, enforcement is delayed ensuring the construction industry has adequate time to learn and prepare for the changes to the standards.
- The National Building Code is updated every five years, with a variety of approaches taken by other provincial and territorial governments to implement the standardized code across the country.
- Since 2015, work has been underway nationally to harmonize the different types of construction codes (building, plumbing, energy, fire etc.) and align jurisdictional specific requirements. These efforts help reduce costs of construction and reduce trade barriers for the construction industry (materials, suppliers, trades).

Session Briefing Note

TAB# BS-01

Spring 2026

National Building Code of Canada

Community Services

If asked about the status of building code implementation:

- This government looks forward to engaging with industry and municipalities on the approach to adopting the National Building Code.
- Taking more care and time to consider and introduce the new Building Code will ensure builders are aware of code changes and are able to comply with code requirements, as well as making sure the code requirements meet the realities of building in the Yukon.
- Details on this collaboration are still being confirmed.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: This may become a concern because contractors building within the City of Whitehorse experienced long wait times in 2024 and early 2025 for building permits in application approvals, delaying the start of building construction.

Key messages:

- We appreciate the importance of balancing public safety measures without the pressing need to advance construction projects.
- The safety of Yukoners is a priority for this government. Detailing the rules and standards for construction is critical in ensuring the safety of all occupants.
- For any project, the initial step in the process for new construction is a plan review to ensure the construction meets all the applicable building codes and safety standards. This is followed by regular inspections throughout the construction process.
- Within the City of Whitehorse, building permits and inspections are conducted by City building officials. Outside Whitehorse city limits, building permits are issued by the Government of Yukon.
- The Building & Safety Standards branch within Community Services has worked with the City of Whitehorse on this matter and will continue to do so as we address increases in permitting demand across the Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- Community Services has not experienced the same challenges or delays in keeping up with building permitting demand in the areas covered by Building and Safety Standards branch (unincorporated Yukon, and all municipalities except Whitehorse).

- Community Services' Building and Safety Standards branch has a building inspector in Dawson (responsible for Dawson, Mayo, Pelly Crossing and Old Crow), and a building inspector in Watson Lake (responsible for Watson Lake, Teslin, Faro and Ross River).
- In the Yukon government's Building Safety and Standards Whitehorse office, there are 2.5 full-time building inspector positions responsible for the Whitehorse periphery area, Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake, Haines Junction, Destruction Bay, Burwash, Beaver Creek, Lake Lebarge, Braeburn and Carmacks. In addition, there are currently two full-time electrical inspectors covering the territory.
- In 2025, Building Safety and Standards issued 3233 permits for a variety of installations:
 - 595 – Building, Oil & Woodstove
 - 1,672 – Electrical
 - 780 – Gas
 - 130 – Plumbing
 - 45 – Boiler/Pressure Vessel
 - 11 – Elevator
- Building Safety and Standards completed 6,473 inspections in 2025:
 - 1,323 – Building, Oil & Woodstove
 - 3,761 – Electrical
 - 904 – Gas
 - 299 – Plumbing
 - 80 – Boiler/Pressure Vessel
 - 106 – Elevator

Session Briefing Note

TAB# BS-02

Spring 2026

Permitting Demand

Community Services

Status:

- Building and Safety Standards branch continues to work with industry and homeowners to quickly process permits and inspection requests.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: Ensuring the Comprehensive Municipal Grant remains sustainable is a priority for municipal governments and the Association of Yukon Communities.

Key messages:

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant is the primary source of territorial funding for municipalities, providing unconditional block funding that supports sustainable service delivery.
- The grant formula includes a base allocation for each municipality and considers population, number of dwellings, major infrastructure assets, and local revenue capacity.
- I am familiar with the importance of this funding. Our government is committed to ensuring municipalities are adequately resourced, so they can continue delivering the essential services that underpin strong communities.

Key facts and stats:

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant, created in 1991, is an unconditional block grant that supports municipalities in delivering core services. It is calculated annually using a formula established in legislation.
- The grant framework has undergone periodic reviews to assess long-term financial sustainability and refine formula components.
- In June 2023, the Association of Yukon Communities submitted a report to the Government of Yukon, titled *Comprehensive Municipal Grant Review – Analysis*.
- The report highlighted rising costs from peripheral users, regulatory changes, expanded programs and services, climate impacts, and

municipalities' limited ability to raise revenue through fees, charges, or property taxes.

- Between 2023 and 2025, the association and the Government of Yukon officials continued technical work to identify municipal operating cost pressures and explore options for formula refinement. This included the establishment of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant Enhancement Task Force in 2024, which formally began discussions on the requested changes by the association.
- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant regulation was amended in 2025 to include adjustments to the asset maintenance component and the continuation of a funding floor. These changes reflect the outcome of this review work and maintain the core principles guiding the grant: adequacy, equity, certainty, transparency, and accountability.

Status:

- On April 1, 2026, \$30,001,165 was distributed to Yukon municipalities through the Comprehensive Municipal Grant.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Association of Yukon Communities - Resolutions, Status and Commitment

Community Services

Topic: The Association of Yukon Communities is an advocate for municipal affairs and local governance.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the Association of Yukon Communities resolutions as an important expression of municipal priorities and is committed to responding to them in a way that strengthens local governance and supports long-term community wellbeing.
- The Association of Yukon Communities resolutions provide valuable direction that helps the government align policy, legislative work, and program improvements with the needs of municipalities and unincorporated communities across the territory.
- I look forward to continuing to work with the Association of Yukon Communities to advance shared objectives and deliver commitments that improve sustainability, and support Yukon communities.
- Across departments work is underway related to the 2025 the Association of Yukon Communities resolutions, with each being considered within territorial priorities, legislative frameworks, and community needs.
- As new resolutions are brought forward at the May 2026 Annual General Meeting, we remain committed to continuing this collaborative, practical, and responsive approach.

Association of Yukon Communities - Resolutions, Status and Commitment

Community Services

Key facts and stats:

- The Association of Yukon Communities passed nine resolutions at its 2025 Annual General Meeting, covering the following areas:
 - Strengthening Yukon's Municipal Workforce Capacity (Economic Development - lead, Community Services - supporting)
 - Establishment of a Municipal Rate Class (Yukon Utilities Board)
 - RCMP Staffing in Rural Yukon Communities (Justice)
 - Strengthening Emergency Management, Fire Service, and Emergency Medical Services Support (Community Services)
 - Strengthening Municipal Election Support & Standardization (Community Services, Elections Yukon)
 - Increased Support for Yukon Fire Services (Community Services)
 - Vulnerable Persons Management in Yukon Communities (Health and Social Services)
 - Yukon Adoption of the National Building Code (Community Services)
 - Community Recreation Assistance Grant (Community Services)
- The Association of Yukon Communities and the Government of Yukon signed a 3-year Partnership Agreement (2025–2028) to formalize cooperation and consultation.
- Engagements with the Association of Yukon Communities and Local Advisory Councils support continued discussion on the 2025 resolutions. This includes the Minister's participation at the November and March Association of Yukon Communities quarterly board meetings, attendance at the January Local Advisory Council forum in Carcross, the quarterly Minister–Association of Yukon Communities President meeting held on February 12, and planned attendance at

Association of Yukon Communities - Resolutions, Status and Commitment

Community Services

the Association of Yukon Communities annual conference in May 2026.

Status of Resolutions Directed to Community Services:

- Strengthening Emergency Management, Fire Service, and Emergency Medical Services Support (Community Services)
 - The way disasters impact the Yukon is changing, and Community Services' approach to policy, preparedness, response, and recovery is being updated to reflect these changes. Across Wildland Fire Management, Fire and Life Safety branch, and the Emergency Measures Organization, work is underway to modernize the Yukon government's approach across several areas.
 - This work includes: supporting municipal and First Nation governments in updating and strengthening Community Hazard Planning tools and plans, finalizing community wildfire protection plans in every community, supporting Worker's Safety and Compensation Board in their work to advance presumptive cancer coverage for wildland firefighters, and investing in and supporting Fire and Life Safety operations to manage volunteer structural fire services across the territory.
- Strengthening Municipal Election Support & Standardization (Community Services, Elections Yukon)
 - An informal Municipal Act Review Committee has been established to examine challenges and limitations within the current legislation, including matters related to municipal elections. Elections Yukon is participating in the informal

Association of Yukon Communities - Resolutions, Status and Commitment

Community Services

Committee's discussions on matters related to municipal elections and, should they receive an appropriate mandate, will collaborate with the Member Services Board to advance options for enhancing and standardizing municipal election administration.

- Increased Support for Yukon Fire Services (Community Services)
 - Community Services continues to strengthen support for municipal fire departments with the Fire and Life Safety branch, advancing key recommendations from the 2021 Fire Service Review and advancing on the strategic planning work done to guide long-term improvements to fire services across the Yukon.
 - In the 2026-27 budget, the Yukon government has increased Fire and Life Safety's Operations and Maintenance budget by \$1.4 million. This increased funding will support training, dispatch contracts, repairs and maintenance and honoraria for volunteer training.
 - An additional increase of \$400,000 in Capital has been added to ensure compliance with occupational health and safety standards and reliable operation of front-line gear for fire departments. The fire truck replacement funding also increased by \$227,000.
- Yukon Adoption of the National Building Code (Community Services)
 - Community Services is working collaboratively with the building construction industry and municipalities to develop a more consultative and responsive approach to adopting the National Building Code.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# CA-02

Spring 2026

Association of Yukon Communities - Resolutions, Status and Commitment

Community Services

- Community Recreation Assistance Grant (Community Services)
 - Community Services is reviewing the grant to ensure it reflects current economic conditions. Work is underway to update the program, explore options for indexing future allocations to inflation, and strengthen support for recreation programming in unincorporated communities.
 - Refer to SR-04 (Community Recreation Assistance Grant) for additional details.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: The free transit program was introduced in October 2024 as a time-limited initiative and concluded on November 30, 2025.

Key messages:

- In October 2024, the Government of Yukon launched a time-limited pilot providing free public transit, with an end date of November 30, 2025.
- The total estimated cost of the initiative was approximately \$1.2 million.
- We appreciate the non-governmental organizations who partnered with us to provide free transit access to residents of Whitehorse.

Key facts and stats:

- The Free Transit initiative provided eligible non-profit organizations with transit tickets and passes to distribute to clients at no charge.
- Transit tickets and passes were also made available at the Jim Smith Building and the Whitehorse Public Library.
- Non-governmental organizations were invited to participate and 24 enrolled in the initiative.

Status:

- The free public transit initiative concluded on November 30, 2025.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness Community Services

Topic: Flooding and wildfires in the territory have raised public interest in the Government of Yukon's emergency preparedness and management.

Key messages:

- Our government works with many partners on emergency preparedness so that Yukon communities remain resilient to natural disasters and emergencies.
- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization helps to coordinate community partners, municipalities, and First Nations to ensure emergency management capacity in the Yukon. This provides a coordinated response to emergencies.
- We appreciate the efforts and leadership of municipal and First Nation governments to plan and prepare for emergencies.
- Preparing for emergencies starts with personal preparedness. We encourage all Yukoners to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for emergency events. Resources are available through Yukon.ca/emergencies.

Key facts and stats:

- Working under the authority of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*, the Emergency Measures Organization coordinates the Government of Yukon's departments and agencies involved in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- The Emergency Measures Organization has 24/7 monitoring for emergency events, including 24/7 communications staff to enable fast public alerting, public communications, and government response when required.

Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Community Services

- The Emergency Measures Organization ensures a coordinated response to emergencies by facilitating emergency management capacity development, training and exercises for all Yukon communities, including municipalities and First Nations.
- Emergency Measures Organization is working with communities to support the update of emergency management plans and support with Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessments.
- Emergency Measures Organization is providing emergency management training internally to expand the capacity of Yukon government employees to assist during emergencies through a variety of online courses and tabletop exercises.

Status:

- Emergency Measures Organization facilitated Incident Command System (ICS) training, certifying 79 individuals in ICS 200 over seven courses and 30 individuals in ICS 300 over two courses.
- Emergency Measures Organization has held focused planning sessions with the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun and the Village of Mayo to increase community preparedness for the Wareham Dam risk.
- Emergency Measures Organization has facilitated After Action Review sessions following incidents such as the December 2025 Haines Junction Power outage, Dawson area wildfires, and the Dawson Water main break.
- Emergency Measures Organization is involved with the Canadian Armed Forces in planning Operation Nanook-Tatigiit 2026, and emergency management exercise that all Yukon Municipalities, First Nations and Government Departments will be invited to participate.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# EMO-01

Spring 2026

Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Community Services

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: The increasing frequency and impacts of flooding, wildfires and landslides in recent years has raised public interest in Yukon's emergency preparedness and response.

Key messages:

- An incredible amount of work goes into ensuring the Yukon is as prepared as possible for natural disasters. Our government is committed to improving preparedness efforts so Yukon communities are more resilient.
- The Emergency Measures Organization coordinates Yukon government departments and agencies involved in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Preparing for emergencies starts with personal preparedness. The increasing frequency of emergencies confirms the need for all Yukoners to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for emergency events. Resources are available through Yukon.ca/emergencies.

Key facts and stats:

- The Emergency Measures Organization has a duty officer on call 24/7, 365 days a year. During an emergency they are in regular contact with external agencies and emergency management partners, including municipal and First Nation governments, critical infrastructure partners and key departments to monitor the situation and coordinate the response as needed.
- The Emergency Measures Organization activated the Emergency Coordination Centre for 48 days in total over three periods between May and December 2025.

- These included:
 - an above average risk of flooding on the Porcupine River in spring 2025.
 - extensive wildfire activity in Dawson and Mayo with other impactful fires near Keno, Aishihik, Beaver Creek and along the Robert Campbell Highway.
 - wildfire alerts in West Dawson, Henderson Corner, Dempster Corner, portions of the Silver Trail, Ethel Lake, Keno and Beaver Creek which resulted in evacuation alert.
- The flooding risk in Old Crow last spring was an example of a successfully coordinated effort between different agencies and levels of governments including Vuntut Gwitchin, Yukon government and critical infrastructure partners. All governments worked together and established an Incident Management Team with a Unified Command structure to coordinate the response efforts, which included the evacuation of impacted properties and alerts for others.

Status:

- The Emergency Coordination Centre was active for 11 days in January 2026 to support the Dawson water main break in extreme cold weather. During these activations, the Emergency Coordination Centre supported emergency responders and impacted residents by coordinating resources, providing information and communications expertise, and issuing advisories, alerts and orders as required.
- The Emergency Coordination Centre was also briefly activated in December 2025 to support local government response to an extreme cold weather power outage in Haines Junction.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# EMO-02

Spring 2026

2025 Emergency Events

Community Services

If asked about Emergency Information and Planning:

- Yukon.ca/emergencies has the latest information about emergencies.
- Yukon.ca/emergencies-and-safety has resources for Yukoners to make an emergency plan or build an emergency kit.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: Recent flooding events in the Yukon have increased public concern about flood mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Key messages:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization works with our emergency management partners in municipalities and First Nations to develop emergency management capacity and build resilience to emergency events.
- These efforts include work with First Nations governments and community partners to improve the Yukon's flood resiliency.
- The Yukon government is working across a number of departments to gain a better understanding of territorial flood risks through mapping of flood impacted areas.
- Our government is committed to improving emergency preparedness so that Yukon communities remain resilient to natural disasters and emergencies.
- A key part of preparing for flooding is personal preparedness. We encourage all Yukoners living in flood prone areas to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for flooding events. Resources are available through Yukon.ca/emergencies.

Key facts and stats:

- A cross-government Flood Committee led by the Emergency Measures Organization has been engaging several Yukon government resources toward flood mitigations, preparedness, response, and recovery since 2021.

- Several collaborative studies have come from the Flood Committee including the high-level jurisdictional scan all of Yukon flood mitigation study, and flood mapping.
- Flood mitigation and preparedness is the responsibility of First Nations, municipalities, and several Yukon government branches.
- Flooding hazards and climate-related emergencies have increasingly impacted infrastructure and residents, with the South McClintock and Army Beach community experiencing historic flooding that required emergency support in 2007, 2012 and 2021.

Status:

- Multiple studies were commissioned for the McConnell Lake area in search of an effective risk mitigation option. The results of these studies were shared with residents in April 2024.
- The McConnell Lake studies revealed extremely high costs for large-scale projects without any certainty of success in mitigating risk or events. With this information, the Yukon government shifted focus surrounding McConnell Lake to mitigation through property-specific approaches.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: Nationally, Canada is committed to transitioning to Next Generation 911, and the Yukon government is moving forward towards a transition.

Key messages:

- Access to emergency services can mean the difference between life or death.
- Moving from the current basic 911 to Next Generation 911 is complex and requires hard work across a number of areas.
- This work includes working with the RCMP and emergency response agencies who provide critical services to Yukoners, to ensure the systems and needs of responders are properly understood and considered.

Key facts and stats:

- Most of Canada operates on “Enhanced 911” systems, which is an easier transition or have already transitioned fully to Next Generation 911.
- No regions without 911 service or with Basic 911 have transitioned to Next Generation 911.
- Next Generation 911 falls under National Emergency Number Association standards and Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission regulations.
- The Yukon transition requires both technical software and hardware upgrades to the 911 call handling system and to the public telecommunications network; modernized civic addressing; provision of service to the deaf and hard of hearing through the ability to text to 911; changes to equipment and operating procedures at secondary dispatch services (ambulance, fire etc.); plus new operating

procedures for all emergency responders. When implemented, a public education campaign will also be required.

- Transitioning to Next Generation 911 may require legislation in both the areas of civic addressing and 911.
- Cost recovery for 911 service is generally covered through surcharges on monthly phone bills.

Status:

- Community Services is working with key departments, emergency agencies, and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategic action plan for the modernization from Yukon's current basic 911 service to Next Generation 911.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026
[Date approved]

Topic: The flooding in previous seasons has raised public interest in the Yukon government's flood response role.

Key messages:

- Spring flooding can be a concern and is difficult to predict, but we are coordinating with local and federal partners to ensure readiness. We ensure flood forecasts are released in March, April, and May.
- Spring weather and the timing and progression of snowmelt, as well as the amount of rain we receive are important drivers of flooding regardless of snowpack levels.
- The Emergency Measures Organization coordinates with local governments and agencies to ensure an inventory of sandbags and response materials are available in communities where an increased risk is possible. They are also focused on training to bolster capacity and ensure readiness.
- A key part of preparing for flooding is personal preparedness. We encourage all Yukoners living in flood prone areas to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for flooding events. Resources are available through Yukon.ca/emergencies.

Key facts and stats:

- The Emergency Measures Organization works with communities, municipalities, and First Nation governments across the Yukon on emergency preparedness.
- The Emergency Measures Organization has reached out to all Yukon communities to begin preparations for flood risk. The Emergency Measures Organization will pre-position flood response materials in Yukon communities based on risk.

- The Yukon government prepares for seasonal flooding throughout the Yukon, by ensuring communities have training, adequate supplies and are informed of current risk prior to the onset of flood season.
- The Emergency Measures Organization has a stock of flood supplies such as sandbags, superbags, and tiger dams in Whitehorse. It works with Highways and Public Works to keep a stock of flood supplies at highways camps for quicker deployment around the Yukon.

Status:

- The Emergency Measures Organization continues to refine and improve its operations through after-action reviews of previous responses and ongoing engagement with First Nation and municipal governments, critical infrastructure response partners.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Wareham Dam (Mayo) Emergency Planning

Community Services

Topic: The Yukon government is supporting community emergency planning work in Mayo for risks related to the Wareham Dam.

Key messages:

- The Emergency Measures Organization is aware of a number of known risks unique to Mayo's geography and location, including risks associated with the Wareham Dam.
- The Emergency Measures Organization meets regularly with the governments of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Village of Mayo to collaborate on emergency planning.
- Emergency Measures Organization, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Village of Mayo are working on combining the community's emergency plans into a joint plan.
- Within Yukon government, a project team meets weekly to support the community-led preparedness work on this issue. The group includes members from Executive Council Office (including Aboriginal Relations), Environment, Justice, Yukon Development Corporations, Finance, and Community Services - Emergency Measures Organization.

Key facts and stats:

- Local governments are responsible for having an emergency plan and systems in place to respond to emergencies in their community. Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) works with these governments to review and update emergency plans for specific hazards.

Wareham Dam (Mayo) Emergency Planning

Community Services

- Failure of the Wareham Dam was identified as the third highest risk to the community in a Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis completed in partnership with Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Village of Mayo in 2023. (The first identified community risk was public health; the second was wildfire).
- In May 2025, EMO hosted a tabletop exercise on with the community and Yukon Energy regarding a dam failure.
- Issues with the Wareham Dam may impact power availability in the territory. EMO works closely with both Yukon Energy Corporation and ATCO Electric Yukon on inter-agency emergency protocols. Both utilities attend the EMO weekly operational briefing.

Status:

- Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Village of Mayo currently have been active in joint emergency management training with sessions in January and April 2026.
- EMO will be attending training events in support of the community.
- Focused planning and training will also be scheduled to further support evacuation planning with partners and Emergency Support Services.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

March 26, 2026

[Date approved]

Residential Tenancies Act - Rent Caps

Community Services

Topic: Concern about availability of rental housing and increasing costs are issues for renters and landlords.

Key messages:

- We have committed to removing the rent cap. Yukoners shared their concerns, and we recognize that the rent cap is not achieving its intended goals.
- We know that we need to balance the needs of tenants and landlords and make rent more affordable in Yukon.
- The Residential Tenancies Office administers the *Residential Tenancies Act* by providing information, education, and a fair, accessible process for resolving disputes between landlords and tenants.
- If a landlord or tenant has a specific concern, they should contact the Office for formal dispute resolution to ensure all rights and responsibilities under the Act are upheld.

Key facts and stats:

Rent Caps:

- The annual rent increases allowed are controlled through regulation. This means that with a regulation change, the allowable amount can be adjusted or the controls on rent increases can be removed entirely.
- The *Residential Tenancies Act* creates the legal framework required to have this regulation, but the act itself does not require there to be a rent cap.
- As written now, mobile home pad fees are subject to the rent cap. If the rent cap is adjusted or removed, this change applies to all rental situations.

Residential Tenancies Act - Rent Caps

Community Services

- The Residential Tenancies Regulation sets the annual rent cap to align with the average percentage change in the *all-items* Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse of the two preceding calendar years.

Status:

- The 2026 rent cap increase was announced in early February. It is set at 2.6 per cent.
- The rent cap regulation outlines that the rent cap is set at the average percentage change of the last two years of CPI (which is 2.6 per cent for 2026).
- This will be the last year of a rent cap, Community Services is working on the required amendments to remove this regulation.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026
[Date approved]

Minimum Wage and Living Wage

Community Services

Topic: At times, the local business community raises concern that the minimum wage rate is unaffordable, while many workers in the territory state that the minimum wage is too low and should more closely reflect the living wage rate.

Key messages:

- The minimum wage in the Yukon is adjusted on April 1 of each year by the previous year's Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse.
- On April 1, 2026, the minimum wage will increase from \$17.94 to \$18.51 per hour, after a 3.2% increase, based on the 2025 annual Consumer Price Index.
- The Yukon has the second highest minimum wage rate in the country, second only to Nunavut.
- The Yukon's minimum wage is responsive to price changes, as its annual change is tied to inflation in the previous year.
- Most Canadian jurisdictions base their minimum wage increases on the Consumer Price Index. A minimum wage tied to inflation, as with other social supports, aims to reduce poverty and increase affordability for the Yukon's wage earners.

Key facts and stats:

- In 2021 the Employment Standards Board was engaged to review the minimum wage, and it ordered that the minimum wage increase to \$15.20 per hour effective August 1, 2021, and to be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Whitehorse on April 1 of each year.
- Yukon is one of many jurisdictions that use the Consumer Price Index for minimum wage increases. Others include Ontario, British

Minimum Wage and Living Wage

Community Services

Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories, as well as the federal minimum wage rate.

Status:

- In February 2026, the government announced that Yukon's minimum wage will increase to \$18.51 per hour on April 1, 2026, along with a 3.2% increase to Fair Wage Schedule rates for workers on Government of Yukon public works contracts.

If asked about increasing Minimum Wage to a Living Wage:

- The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition released a report called *Living Wage in Whitehorse, Yukon: 2025* which stated that the living wage for Whitehorse with households of two adults working fulltime and two children equaled \$25.91 per hour in 2025, up from \$22.72 per hour in 2024.
- There are currently other ways to decrease the gap between minimum wage and the living wage, including federal and Yukon income supports such as the Canada Child Benefit, Yukon Child Care Benefit, Yukon Child Care Subsidy, GST Credit and Working Income Tax Benefit.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026
[Date approved]

Topic: Recruitment and retention remain a challenge for many rural Yukon fire departments, but other halls have strong volunteer participation, with growing interest in several communities.

Key messages:

- Our government is committed to working with the Association of Yukon Firefighters and Fire Chiefs to provide appropriate gear, equipment and training.
- Fire departments and programs rely on a core of volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to train and be available.
- Volunteer fire departments, whether in unincorporated communities or municipalities, rely on local interest and participation to recruit and retain sufficient numbers of firefighters.
- The Fire and Life Safety branch supports communities in their recruitment efforts including hosting community information sessions, training and working with First Nations- and local governments.
- The branch also provides oversight, honoraria and equipment for community fire departments and programs.
- The branch has developed a levels of service model that is adaptable to support the varying number of volunteers in any given community.
- I want to thank all emergency responders, especially the volunteers in the communities, who keep our citizens safe.

Key facts and stats:

- Throughout the territory, Community Services operates unincorporated community fire halls, maintains firefighting equipment and vehicles, provides training that meets national standards, delivers public

education for life safety and fire prevention, and administers volunteer fire department programs.

- The department provides oversight, training, honoraria and equipment for community fire departments and programs.
- Firefighters must meet Occupational Health and Safety requirements to prevent responder injury or loss of life.
- Yukon government supports municipalities by providing funding and provisioning resources on an 'as needed' basis, and as capacity allows. This can include training for staff and volunteers as well as equipment on a case-by-case basis to cover areas not easily reachable by unincorporated halls, as well as providing fire and life safety inspections and fire investigations.

COMMUNITY	INCIDENT VOLUME (in 2025)	# OF ACTIVE FIRE VOLUNTEERS (2025)	COMMUNITY POP (2025)
BEAVER CREEK	7	0	108
BURWASH LANDING	Not Reported	2	122
CARCROSS	24	8	489
DESTRUCTION BAY	Not Reported	6 (SSRU**)	62
GOLDEN HORN	23	18	633
HOOTALINQUA	41	28	1619
IBEX	33	28	566
KLONDIKE VALLEY	27	8	No data
KENO	3	4 (SSRU)	24 (from 2020)
MARSH LAKE	16	15	749
MT. LORNE	15	15	498
MENDENHALL	4	0	142
OLD CROW	0	0 (SSRU)	250

Session Briefing Note

TAB# FLS-01

Spring 2026

Volunteer Fire Departments

Community Services

COMMUNITY	INCIDENT VOLUME (in 2025)	# OF ACTIVE FIRE VOLUNTEERS (2025)	COMMUNITY POP (2025)
PELLEY CROSSING	1	4 (SSRU)	393
ROSS RIVER	0	3 (SSRU)	397
TAGISH	11	10	415
(SHOT) YUKON	21	(15) In VFD's	N/A
UPPER LIARD	0	0	130 (from 2021)
TOTAL	226	149 ***	N/A

**SSRU = Scene Safety Response Unit

*** Each volunteer is counted once, even if individuals serve in more than one hall (for example, SHOT members)

Status:

- Volunteer fire departments require interested community members and assistance to recruit and retain a minimum number of volunteer firefighters.
- Community Services, through the Fire and Life Safety branch provides fire response equipment and vehicles, training and logistics, as well as the administration of the community volunteer fire halls (training records, honoraria and standard operational procedures).

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Investments in Yukon's Fire Service

Community Services

Topic: There has been significant media attention on the resource challenges of Yukon's fire service.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting the Yukon's fire service, ensuring that volunteer fire fighters are provided with the appropriate gear, equipment, dispatching services and training they need to do their important jobs.
- We look forward to collaborating with stakeholders and fire services around the Yukon to consider the best options to ensure our first responders have the resources they need to protect people and property throughout the territory.
- This year, we have proposed a nearly two-million-dollar increase in the 2026/27 budget to support the Yukon fire service and the dedicated volunteers who stand up to protect the Yukon.
- Additionally, the Yukon Government has committed \$200,000 to implement a new fire management software solution designed to streamline fire reporting, records management and asset tracking and reduce administrative burden for firefighters and Fire Chiefs.
- The Government of Yukon has made significant investments in the Yukon's fire service, including:
 - The honorarium for volunteer firefighters is now \$30.74 per hour. This honorarium applies to both emergency responses and training sessions;
 - Over 1.1 million in 2025-26 to provide updated equipment, training and gear for firefighters.
 - Continued funding for the Annual Yukon Fire Service Conference;

Investments in Yukon's Fire Service

Community Services

- Rescue Truck Replacement – Custom build is underway and delivery expected later this year;
- Mental health support program specifically for volunteer firefighters is in place; and,
- Trucks with tanks and pumps are being provided to support community-based Scene Safety Response Units, including a recent truck provided to the community of Pelly Crossing.

Key facts and stats:

- Following the independent review of fire services in rural Yukon released in 2021, the Fire Marshal's Office has made progress on implementing the report's recommendations to ensure safe and sustainable fire services across the territory.
- Community Services is developing options for a multi-year approach to providing funding for firefighter equipment and training, maintaining compliance with *Workers Safety and Compensation Act* regulations and supporting sustainable fire protection services across the territory.
- Opportunities include establishing agreements with municipalities to formally recognize and fund the fire service support that municipal governments provide to people outside municipal boundaries.
- Other opportunities include supporting businesses by making fire safety inspections consistent in all communities, supporting volunteer fire departments by providing certified training and equipment and helping the public by increasing fire safety education.

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TAB# FLS-02

Spring 2026

Investments in Yukon's Fire Service

Community Services

Status:

- The department is exploring a multi-year funding approach for firefighter equipment and training to support regulatory compliance and sustainable fire protection services territory-wide.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

Community Services

Topic: Community Services, through the Fire and Life Safety branch continues to modernize fire services.

Key messages:

- Yukoners expect that we are prepared to quickly respond to all emergencies. Managing emergency response across all these areas requires a coordinated approach.
- We respect and value the perspective of our volunteers. We will continue to engage with the Association of Yukon Firefighters and Chiefs and work together on the challenges we face.
- I look forward to continuing our efforts to ensure our firefighters have the proper tools, training, and safety measures to fulfill their duties.
- Ember Fire Academy remains a valued program with numerous benefits to the Yukon fire service. The program successfully ran in August 2025, marking its 11th year. To date, over 130 women have participated, with 23% retained as volunteer firefighters.

Key facts and stats:

- The Government of Yukon is making significant investments in Yukon's fire service. This year we have proposed a nearly two-million-dollar increase to the 2026/27 budget for the Yukon's fire service.
- A funding increase of Operations and Maintenance (\$1.4 million) and Capital (\$627,000) is aimed at ensuring firefighters receive the equipment and support they need for providing fire services for Yukon communities.
- We are not creating new Yukon government staff positions. Additional funding creates opportunities for private sector contractors to provide additional services.

Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

Community Services

- A custom-built rescue truck for the Special Heavy Operations Team's (SHOT) is expected to be delivered later this year. The total cost of the new rescue truck is just over \$935,000.

Mental Health Supports

- The Fire and Life Safety branch has implemented a mental health support initiative specifically for Yukon volunteer fire service members.
- First Responder Health is an online program that proactively addresses mental health concerns for fire fighters. The program provides direct access to 24 modules of content and workbook questions to share as a group, or to provide individual support.
- This is a proactive approach to mental health support that will help to alleviate some of the stigma around mental health in the fire service.
- Additionally, we have entered a partnership with Wounded Warriors Canada to provide additional supports to emergency first responders across the Yukon.

Status:

- The Fire Life and Safety branch is modernizing how it supports volunteer fire services through the implementation of a modern software system – specifically designed to help streamline fire reporting, records, asset management and tracking of volunteer training.
- Work is underway to improve how fire service assets and resources are inventoried and tracked, so that replacement of critical equipment and supplies can be scheduled and better managed with Yukon government's budgeting processes. This includes work to detail items specifically needed to address health and safety requirements.

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TAB# FLS-03

Spring 2026

Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

Community Services

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Federal Community Infrastructure Funding

Community Services

Topic: Federal funding programs

Key messages:

- Community Services administers a variety of federal funding sources to ensure stable and predictable resources that strengthen Yukon communities and help municipal and First Nation governments close the territory's infrastructure gap.
- We look forward to working with municipalities and First Nations to better understand their infrastructure needs like water systems and roads, to ensure critical infrastructure is maintained and repaired to support a sustainable territory.
- With new and existing infrastructure funding from the Government of Canada, and our mandate commitment to create a Community Infrastructure Development Plan, we will work towards planning investments that build housing enabling infrastructure, and that extend the life of critical water and wastewater systems in Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- Federal budget 2025 announced the Build Communities Strong Fund that proposes \$51.0 billion over 10 years in new (\$23.2 billion) and existing (\$27.8 billion) funding. Funding will support housing enabling infrastructure, health related infrastructure, and housing infrastructure at colleges and universities.
- Community Services manages the following federal funding agreements:
 - Small Communities Fund - Signed in February 2015, the Government of Yukon advanced 61 projects totaling over \$340 million of combined federal and Government of Yukon

Federal Community Infrastructure Funding

Community Services

contributions. 12 projects are still being implemented. The agreement is set to end in fiscal year 2027/28.

- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Fund - The agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Fund was signed in 2018, and all funding was fully allocated by the March 31, 2025, application deadline. The Government of Yukon has advanced 76 projects with a combined investment of over \$600 million. This summer, 42 projects were in various phases of implementation. The agreement is set to end in fiscal year 2033/34.
- Canada Community-Building Fund, formerly Gas Tax Fund - In 2024, the Government of Yukon entered into a new 10-year administrative agreement for the Canada Community-Building Fund. In fiscal year 2025/26, the Government of Yukon received \$18.75 million.
- Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund - In March 2025, the Government of Yukon signed a bilateral agreement with a combined investment of just under \$100 million to address housing-enabling infrastructure priorities.
- Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund - In March 2025, the Government of Yukon signed the Carmacks Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund contribution agreement, receiving \$38 million in federal funding.
 - Project was meant to address public infrastructure (emergency, critical public infrastructure) and not private roads and residential properties.
 - Conceptual design work was completed to establish the general scope of the project, and this work was incorporated into the signed agreement.

Federal Community Infrastructure Funding

Community Services

- The Yukon government is currently advancing into the pre-design phase to support the regulatory application process.

Status:

- The Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) was announced last fall and approved in the recent federal budget on November 17, 2025.
- The Government of Yukon is in discussions with the Government of Canada to finalize the Build Communities Strong Fund.
- Community Services staff will be in Carmacks at the end of April for a public engagement session related to advancing the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund Berm project.

If asked about unallocated BCSF and CHIF:

- We are committed to ongoing collaboration with municipalities and First Nations to gain a deeper understanding of their infrastructure requirements—such as water systems and roads—and to ensure that essential infrastructure is properly maintained and repaired, supporting Yukon's long-term sustainability.
- Leveraging both new and existing federal infrastructure funding, we will continue to plan and prioritize investments that extend the lifespan of critical assets and maximize the lasting value of federal contributions throughout Yukon communities.
- As we learn more about upcoming federal agreements, we will work with First Nations and municipalities to guide future infrastructure development.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# ID-01
Spring 2026

Federal Community Infrastructure Funding

Community Services

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: This is an important project for the City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and promotes healthy, sustainable communities.

Key messages:

- Long-term planning of recreational and sport infrastructure remains a priority, and we work closely with sport organizations and municipalities to ensure facilities meet community needs and support future growth.
- We are committed to advancing sport infrastructure around the territory, particularly as we move forward with the construction of the new Dawson City Recreation Centre.
- We are working with our partners on this project, the City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government, and are using an innovative progressive design build process for this project.
- Construction began this past summer, and the project is anticipated to reach completion in 2028.

Key facts and stats:

- The new Dawson City Recreation Centre will provide a modern, safe and accessible recreation centre. Located on the corner of Dome Road and the North Klondike Highway, the year-round centre will include a variety of recreational amenities, including an ice rink, curling sheets, fitness center, indoor play area and walking loop. The centre will also include multi-purpose space, offices, and a canteen.
- Dawson's Waterfront Building and the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre will continue to operate until the new centre is commissioned.

- A Progressive Design Build contract was awarded to Wildstone Construction & Engineering Ltd in 2024. The project delivery method was selected to mitigate risks to project schedule and costs and to realize opportunities in project design through early collaboration between the design team and the contractor.
- The Government of Yukon manages this project in collaboration with the City of Dawson and with input from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The City of Dawson Recreation Board advises on the project.
- The Government of Canada is investing \$40,000,000 through the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream and \$7,925,000 through the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The Government of Yukon is investing \$15,975,000.
- The Government of Yukon is investing an additional \$8.3 million in site preparations, which includes site grading and stormwater management.
- Once the new centre is completed, the City of Dawson will own the facility and be responsible for its operations and maintenance.

Status:

- Site preparation and early civil works began in summer 2025.
- Construction will resume in spring 2026, with a focus on completing civil works and beginning the assembly of the building structure over the summer season.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: There are ongoing concerns with the current wastewater facility in Dawson.

Key messages:

- The City of Dawson, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and Community Services are working to identify the site for a new sewage lagoon for Dawson City. A new wastewater treatment lagoon is being planned as an eventual replacement to the wastewater treatment plant.
- Two potential sites have been identified, in collaboration with the City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Feasibility work is underway at these sites, including geotechnical and water studies to help advance site selection.
- The Dawson Lagoon Working Group was established in summer 2022 and includes representatives from the City of Dawson, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and the Government of Yukon. The working group meets to review information related to planning for the wastewater lagoon, share updates, and provide recommendations back to each government. It also serves as a forum to support open and effective communication between all parties.

Key facts and stats:

- The Government of Yukon currently owns and operates the wastewater treatment plant in the City of Dawson.
- The wastewater plant costs the Government of Yukon approximately \$1 million/year to operate, with high costs expected in the coming years due to major components reaching the end of their service life and requiring replacement. The City of Dawson pays a portion of the

facility's cost to the Government of Yukon for operation of the wastewater plant.

- The wastewater plant sees ongoing operational challenges, with effluent not meeting compliance at certain times of the year and capacity issues during peak flows. Highly skilled operators are required to operate the plant and are difficult to attract and retain in Dawson City.

Status:

- On February 6, 2025, information was posted on the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon websites to help inform the public about this project. An information session was held on February 25, 2025, to provide the community with an update on the project's progress.
- A hydro geotechnical drilling program was completed in November 2025, with ten boreholes drilled across the area of interest. Ongoing data collection, and monitoring of water levels and temperature is now underway.
- An engineering consultant is working on feasibility and early conceptual design tasks including review of the potential force main route, lift station requirements, analysis of design criteria and regulatory requirements and risk assessment.

If asked about locations and existing mineral claims:

- There are placer mining operations that overlap with these potential sites.
- We recognize that placer mining is a key part of the Yukon's economy and contributes to the prosperity of people and businesses in many Yukon communities, particularly in Dawson City.
- We have reached out to all potentially affected claimholders and have confirmed the geotechnical work and water studies will not affect any active mining.
- We will also work with our colleagues in Energy, Mines and Resources as we move forward with this project.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Tagish Community Centre and Library Space

Community Services

Topic: The Tagish Library was lost when the Tagish Community Centre burned down in March 2025. There is motivation within the community to have a library in Tagish, however, the path forward remains to be decided among the stakeholders.

Key messages:

- We know how important local library services are in all Yukon communities.
- Following the loss of the community centre, Community Services has been working with the Tagish Community Association on a functional program of assessment to identify required space and amenities of any future facility.
- We are pleased that the Tagish Library Board is operating a mobile library to offset the loss of the service provided at the old community center.
- Tagish library card holders can access the Yukon public library system and can place holds on items and pick them up at other Yukon Public Library locations.

Key facts and stats:

- In March 2025, the Tagish Community Centre burned down. The Government of Yukon is exploring how best to support rebuilding the facility.
- The community centre was owned and operated by the Tagish Community Association (TCA).
- The Government of Yukon owns the land where the community centre was located and leased it to the TCA.

Tagish Community Centre and Library Space

Community Services

- Yukon Public Libraries does not own or operate community libraries; services are delivered locally by library boards and supported by the Government of Yukon through transfer payment agreements and resource sharing.
- In October 2025, the TCA requested that the Government of Yukon manage a functional program assessment to determine the need for a new community space and to identify and prioritize required spaces and amenities.
- In December 2025, an advisory committee of 6–8 Tagish community members began working with the government-retained architectural consultant to develop the functional program assessment.
- Community Services Infrastructure Development Branch has committed \$36,350 to support this work. The assessment should be completed in early summer.
- Once the functional program assessment is complete, the TCA will consider options and decide on next steps.
- The Sport and Recreation Branch provides annual funding of \$68,042 to TCA through the Community Recreation Assistance Grant to help offset costs for recreation delivery, including programming, wages, operating and maintenance expenses.
- In addition, the Sport & Recreation Branch provided the TCA with \$7,250 to purchase a sea can for secure equipment storage, and \$50,371 to purchase an ATCO trailer as a temporary gathering space while a new community centre is planned and constructed.

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TAB# ID-04

Spring 2026

Tagish Community Centre and Library Space

Community Services

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

March 26, 2026
[Date approved]

Topic: Addressing housing affordability and increasing lot availability are high priorities for the public.

Key messages:

- Whitehorse is experiencing a period of significant growth. Population forecasts suggest **more than 400** housing units will be needed annually to meet demand through 2040.
- We will continue developing the Whistle Bend subdivision, working on phases, landscaping and offsite infrastructure projects
- We will work with the City of Whitehorse to advance design options to remedy traffic issues between Whistle Bend and the City.
- We will also look beyond Whistle Bend to consider City-endorsed infill areas.
- Together with the City of Whitehorse, the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and residents of our capital city, we will plan the next major residential development.

Key facts and stats:

- Community Services collaborates with communities and partners to identify and advance land development opportunities.
- This work will include taking a comprehensive approach to land development in Whitehorse, with the aim of diversifying the sector to support housing growth.

Status:

Copper Ridge Parcels 520/1126

- Land Development Branch, the City of Whitehorse, and Energy, Mines and Resources worked together to prepare these lot parcels for private sector development.

Whistle Bend

- Phase 9 was completed this summer, and 98 lots were released in September 2025.
- Phases 12 and 13 – 15 large multi-family, public service and commercial lots - will be completed and 10 will be for sale in summer 2026.
- Detailed design for Phases 10 and 11, the stormwater conveyance and outfall system, landscaping, and Mountainview-Quartz traffic upgrades are underway to be tender-ready in 2026 and 2027.

Chasàn Tatäy (Range Point) Subdivision. Joint Government of Yukon - Kwanlin Dün First Nation project

- The Chasàn Tatäy Subdivision project will result in a medium-high density neighbourhood providing up to 420 units of housing. It will include 70 lots, a central park, a sewage lift station and stormwater pond on two adjacent Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation-owned parcels.
- The Government of Yukon and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation have worked in partnership to complete the master plan and zoning and are currently constructing this subdivision. Each phase of work has been appropriately cost-shared to reflect the actual costs and benefits. The design and construction costs are shared on an approximately 75:25 basis between the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Government of Yukon. This reflects Kwanlin Dün First Nation's larger development footprint.
- The Kwanlin Dün First Nation successfully secured a loan from Canada Infrastructure Bank for their portion of the project.

City Infill, Industrial Areas and Whitehorse Periphery

- The City of Whitehorse determines land development needs and priorities through their Official Community Plan and zoning bylaw.
- The City of Whitehorse is leading an Urban Residential Infill Project initiative and is in the early stages of considering approximately 26 sites for residential infill—12 of which are owned by the Government of Yukon.
- We are doing preliminary feasibility work on the Government of Yukon-owned sites. This is important to assess the sites' suitability for future planning.
- Ice Lake Road South Industrial Park is advancing through YESAA, after which we will start detailed design. We are also assessing developable areas in the Whitehorse periphery.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026
[Date approved]

Topic: Increasing lot availability and addressing housing pressures in Yukon communities is of high interest to the public.

Key messages:

- Yukon's vibrant and growing communities need building lots to support growth.
- By working hand in hand with municipalities, First Nations and the private sector, we will look for ways to reduce costs and streamline processes to ensure families and businesses have the space they need to grow and thrive.
- To accommodate ongoing growth, Yukon communities require an increased supply of building lots, enabling residents and businesses to establish roots and thrive.

Key facts and stats:

- Land development is a complex process involving numerous regulatory requirements, stakeholders and decision-makers.
- The branch is the primary land developer on Yukon government-owned land for residential, commercial, industrial and recreational land. In recent years, the focus has been on residential and industrial land to meet housing and economic pressures.
- The Land Development Branch works with municipal, First Nation and private sector partners to identify priority areas and conduct site assessments, planning, design, construction, and legal surveys for new subdivisions and infill areas. Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch manages the lot releases.

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TAB# LD-02

Spring 2026

Rural Land Development

Community Services

Status:

Dawson

- Dredge Pond II – a 43-lot country residential subdivision; will be ready for tender this year.
- Trondek Hwech'in First Nation-Government of Yukon Planning MOU to commence joint commercial/residential planning incorporating traditional knowledge on adjacent Infill 2 (government) and C-13B (Trondek Hwech'in) parcels.
- Upper Dome Road Country Residential infill (~10 lots) and Callison East Industrial (15-20 lots) planning start.

Haines Junction

- Dhäl Ghāy/Mountain Ridge - a 44-lot Subdivision is complete (ATCO/Northwestel services underway) with lots ready for release this spring.

Watson Lake

- Frances Avenue (summer 2025) - recently released 24 new residential lots.

Faro and Mayo

- Mitchell industrial subdivision and Rose & Ladue serviced residential infill in Faro - starting detailed design.
- 7th Avenue Extension in Mayo - serviced residential infill.

Yukon-wide

- Fifteen to twenty lots from across the Yukon will be ready for release this spring.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026
[Date approved]

Prepared for Minister Bellmore
Community Services

Date prepared: February 18, 2026

Last Updated:

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Topic: Increasing lot availability and addressing housing pressures in Whitehorse is of high interest to the public.

Key messages:

- Once fully complete, Whistle Bend will provide a full-service, sustainable neighborhood providing homes for up to 10,000 people, to accommodate our growing population.
- This summer we will complete Phases 12 and 13, the hub of Whistle Bend, which will provide 15 large multi-family, commercial and institutional lots that will support up to 450 units of housing.
- We are also advancing the Phase 6 park and green street, boulevard landscaping in Phase 3D and 5, and the detailed design for Phases 10 and 11, including stormwater infrastructure, to ensure these projects are tender-ready.
- The Government of Yukon is supporting Whistle Bend's continued growth by providing funding to the City to design and deliver on-site servicing for a new fire hall, helping improve emergency response in the area. Funding is also supporting the planning and design of upgrades to the Mountainview-Quartz corridor to reduce congestion between Whistle Bend and downtown.
- We recognize the growing need for land and will work with the City to look beyond Whistle Bend, including supporting the early stages of the City's Urban Residential Infill project- and releasing more land to support private sector development.

Key facts and stats:

- Since 2019, the Land Development Branch has delivered an average of about 130 Whistle Bend lots per year.

- The City of Whitehorse led the Whistle Bend master plan. The Land Development Branch takes the plan and advances the detailed design and construction of Whistle Bend, then returns it to the City to operate.
- In 2025, 98 lots in Phase 9 were completed and released along with the Midnight Sun lift station and force main.

Status:

- The Land Development Branch is working towards tendering all or a portion of Phases 10 and 11 and stormwater conveyance projects in 2026/27.
- The branch is working in partnership with the City this year to plan and design the Mountainview-Quartz corridor upgrades to address increased traffic flows from Whistle Bend to downtown.
- The branch will be completing the remaining construction of Phases 12 and 13 this summer.
- We will be greening up Whistle Bend with lot front boulevards in Phase 3D and 5, and green streets and the park in Phase 6.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026
[Date approved]

Topic: The Joint Government of Yukon-Kwanlin Dün First Nation Range Point (Chasàn Tatay) project is the first of its kind, scheduled to be completed this fall.

Key messages:

- Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Government of Yukon have partnered to plan, design and construct the Range Point (Chasàn Tatay) subdivision, which is well underway.
- This unique partnership will provide a medium-high density development made up of 67 lots that will support up to 420 units of housing on the two adjacent Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Government of Yukon-owned parcels.
- This future neighbourhood is located adjacent to the Chasàn Chuà / McIntyre Creek protected area and other Range Road neighbourhoods.
- Project costs are shared based on actual development costs of each parcel, including an appropriate share of off-site infrastructure such as the wastewater lift station and stormwater pond.
- This partnership, and its unique cost-sharing arrangement, provides a model for future joint development opportunities with First Nations across the Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- This is a critical project for Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) and the first development of its size on First Nation land in the Yukon.
- The development is a serviced residential neighbourhood involving water, sanitary and storm infrastructure; new roads, sidewalks, and trails; power and telecommunication infrastructure; and landscaping,

greenspace and a central park. A new lift station with off-site forcemain and a stormwater retention pond are also required.

- KDFN secured a loan from the Canadian Infrastructure Bank for their part of the development. Once the project is complete and lots are released and developed, KDFN will receive long-term economic benefits from the project. As per its Final and Self-Government Agreements, portions of income tax revenues from residents living on the KDFN settlement package are directed to KDFN. These revenues will assist in building capital for future KDFN land development projects.

Status:

- Community Services and KDFN have worked in partnership since the early project stages, completing feasibility, developing a joint master plan in 2023 and advancing the development through the City's zoning and subdivision processes.
- The collaboration includes planning, design, and construction of the Chasàn Tatay subdivision, and the project is making significant progress.
- Civil works for both the KDFN and the Government of Yukon side of the subdivision, the lift station and forcemain are targeted for completion fall 2026.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026
[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Land Lottery Reform

LD-05 #56
Spring 2026
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Topic: Demand for building lots remains high. Modernizing the land lottery system will improve access, enable housing development, and support economic development.

Key messages:

- We are committed to reforming the land lottery system to ensure that builders have access to lots.
- Energy Mines and Resources is currently working with Yukon Contractors Association to explore the development of a homebuilders' lottery.
- We plan to increase the number of residential lots available to the private sector with conditions that ensure timely development requirements and are working to release new commercial, industrial and agricultural land to drive economic development and business opportunities.

Key facts and stats:

- The *Lands Act* currently defines how lots are to be released through lottery and over the counter.
- The current residential lottery system does not allow builders to enter for multiple lots.
- Developed residential lots are first offered through a lottery and then can be offered over the counter.

Status:

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL
Land Lottery Reform

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Spring 2026
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- New residential development opportunities are planned for this coming year in Whitehorse and Haines Junction.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is offering lots for sale as they become available through lottery, tender and over-the-counter sales.
- A homebuilders' lottery would define who is a homebuilder and how to apportion lots equitably.

If asked about cost and cost recovery:

- Under the *Lands Act*, the regulations outline how residential land lotteries are implemented and how lots are priced (market value or development costs).
- In recent years, subdivision development costs have risen significantly, making it difficult for the Yukon government to recover its costs when selling developed lots.
- Selling land below the cost of development could make it challenging for others to develop and market land profitably.

Approved by:

Jeff O'Farrell

February 4, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Land Sales

LD-06 # 1
Spring 2026
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Topic: The Government of Yukon is releasing developed lots to create opportunities for commercial and residential development throughout the territory.

Key messages:

- This year, lots in Haines Junction and in Whitehorse's Whistle Bend neighbourhood will be offered for sale.
- Developed lots that do not sell through lottery are available for sale over the counter throughout the territory including Watson Lake, Teslin, Mayo, Faro, Haines Junction and Whitehorse.
- We are exploring ways to provide land to the private sector for development and to support our First Nation partners in developing lots on their lands.

Key facts and stats:

- Lots in Haines Junction's Willow Acres will be offered for sale by lottery this year.
- Whistle Bend Phases 12 and 13 will be released this year providing for large multi-family, public service and commercial lots.
- Lot 520/1126 in Copper Ridge will become available for development by private industry this year.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is working with the Little Blue Daycare Society to allow for development of Parcel K in Dawson City.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is working with the Council of Yukon First Nations to identify land for a healing centre near Whitehorse.

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Land Sales

LD-06 # 1
Spring 2026
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Energy, Mines and Resources is working with the Nelson Project to identify land options for a healing centre near Whitehorse.

Status:

- Haines Junction and Whistle Bend lotteries will be launched this year once development on those lots is completed.
- Lot 520/1026 in the Copper Ridge subdivision of Whitehorse is being redesigned to better align with the surrounding neighbourhood.
- Little Blue Daycare: YESAB submission in progress to build a new daycare building on its land parcel.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is working with clients on options for Council of Yukon First Nations and Nelson project healing centres.

Approved by:

Jeff O'Farrell

February 4, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Topic: Community Services provides waste and recycling services across Yukon, in partnership with municipal governments.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is working towards a consistent and collaborative solid waste management model.
- We manage 12 solid waste facilities in unincorporated communities and work collaboratively with municipalities on the operation of their solid waste facilities.
- We have consistent approach to solid waste service levels around the Yukon, in both unincorporated and municipal facilities.
- The Yukon solid waste system features staffed facilities, waste segregation, gates to deter illegal dumping, consistent hours, consistent tipping fee structures, and acceptance of a wide range of materials including recycling, construction and demolition waste, metal, appliances, municipal solid waste, hazardous and special waste, tires, electronic waste, vehicles, and free stores.
- Composting equipment has also been installed in several communities, and composting is offered at no charge to encourage diversion.

Key facts and stats:

- The Government of Yukon's solid waste facilities in the Whitehorse periphery started charging tipping fees in 2020.
- Tipping fees were then introduced at three additional Government of Yukon facilities in 2025 (Champagne, Destruction Bay and Pelly Crossing).

- Illegal dumping has not increased since tipping fees were introduced in the Whitehorse periphery. Fines for illegal dumping were increased to strengthen enforcement if needed.
- We continue to monitor impacts following the implementation of tipping fees in Champagne, Destruction Bay, and Pelly Crossing.

Status:

- Community Services works to provide consistent access to waste management across Yukon while meeting regulatory requirements.

If asked about reopening any closed solid waste facilities (e.g. Braeburn, Silver City, Johnson's Crossing or Keno):

- This government will continue working with the Association of Yukon Communities, Yukon municipalities, Local Advisory Areas, and unincorporated areas to see how the changes have affected them.
- We look forward to asking if the supports offered at the time are working. At the time of the four-transfer station closures we understand that they were provided:
 - Bear-resistant waste bins for interim storage.
 - Funding to establish local recycling infrastructure.
 - Annual free cleanup days.
 - Adjusted operating hours at nearby regional facilities.
- We can't keep expanding services if the costs of existing services keep rising as well. We are pleased to have found efficiencies in partnership with our new contractors in the Southern Lakes.
- Regionalization means that every Yukoner living in a community of under 200 people has access to a solid-waste facility just like the one

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Spring 2026

Solid Waste Services

Community Services

in a municipality, with the same standards and level of service. Every Yukoner is within roughly 60 km of a full-service solid waste facility that can properly deal with their waste.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Extended Producer Responsibility

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

TAB 1 & OP-02

Spring 2026

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Government of Yukon is committed to pausing and reassessing Extended Producer Responsibility.

Key messages:

- We recognize that a shift in the Yukon's recycling system may have financial implications for the private sector, and we are working to fully understand how Extended Producer Responsibility is impacting Yukoners and Yukon businesses.
- To do this, we will work with Producer Responsibility Organizations to ensure that the programs in place work within the Yukon's context.
- At the same time, we are exploring interim supports for Yukon businesses struggling with the costs under the current model.
- This balanced approach will ensure that the stability of the Yukon's recycling system is maintained, while alleviating impacts to businesses, as we continue to assess how Extended Producer Responsibility is impacting the private sector.

Key facts and stats:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy framework that shifts waste management costs away from taxpayers and municipalities directly to the producers who generate the material, while providing sustainable waste management and recycling services to Yukoners, municipalities and businesses to responsibly and safely dispose of all materials.
- EPR was passed in January 2024 and consists of four programs that include small batteries (in effect June 24, 2025), automotive products (in effect August 1, 2025), packaging and paper products (in effect

November 1, 2025) and hazardous and special waste (paused January 5, 2026).

- All provinces in Canada have EPR programs. In some cases, Yukon businesses are already paying some costs embedded in product prices without receiving the recycling services in the territory.
- To date, all businesses registered with a Producer Responsibility Organization in the Yukon are national level businesses, and there are no small or medium Yukon businesses registered.

Status:

- Implementation of the hazardous and special waste program was paused on January 5, 2026, to allow time to understand how existing EPR programs are functioning, including financial impacts and implementation challenges.

If asked why the Government of Yukon has not paused all EPR programs:

- Contracts and recycling services have been established under EPR programs for batteries, automotive products and paper and packaging products.
- Immediate pause to these programs would disrupt recycling services that Yukoners and businesses rely on.
- Pausing the expansion of EPR, specifically the hazardous and special waste program, is only the first step in this process. We want to ensure that the reassessment of EPR is done responsibly, including taking the time to better understand how existing programs are functioning in practice.

If asked why the Government of Yukon requested Product Care submit a stewardship plan despite pausing hazardous and special waste:

- Over the last year, the Department of Environment has been working with Product Care to obtain an approved, finalized plan within the regulated timelines.
- We received the initial draft in September 2025 and requested that the revised plan be re-submitted by January 9, 2026 to help the department better understand how Product Care proposes to administer the hazardous and special waste program in the Yukon and to inform the broader assessment of the program.
- As the Department of Environment reviews the stewardship plan submitted by Product Care, we will take into consideration the needs of Yukon businesses, producer responsibility organizations and other stakeholders to determine if amendments to the plan are needed.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

March 18, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Topic: Community Services provides water delivery in four Yukon unincorporated communities.

Key messages:

- The Operations and Programs branch operates **nine** drinking water treatment plants and **nine** wastewater treatment facilities across the Yukon. The branch also manages drinking water delivery to homes in Old Crow, Carcross, Ross River, and Keno.
- The branch has focused on recruiting local people to provide critical water delivery services. We invest in training and capacity building and have partnered with community operators and First Nation partners to ensure sustainable, local, water services.
- Last year, the team offered water treatment and delivery training targeted at residents of Old Crow and Carcross through Yukon University's Water and Wastewater Operators Program.

Key facts and stats:

- The Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality establish drinking water quality requirements for public water systems. All Canadian jurisdictions have adopted these guidelines. In the Yukon, all public water supply and distribution systems meet or exceed these guidelines.
- In Old Crow, Operations and Programs work closely with Vuntut Gwitchin Government, which employs water delivery drivers. Elsewhere, these services are contracted to private companies to service their communities. The Operations and Programs branch manages contracts and builds rosters of trained operators.

- Over the past two years, the collaboration with Vuntut Gwitchin Government has successfully built capacity within the community to provide water and sewer services. The Bulk Water course and small water system course were offered at Yukon University campuses throughout Yukon in 2024.
- The demand in Carcross increased significantly in summer as visitation numbers returned following the pandemic. Changes to the delivery contract were made in 2023 to adjust, resulting in some improvements; however, further changes are necessary and being developed to ensure long-term sustainability of the service.

Status:

- The cold weather in December presented many challenges to Yukoners and the services they receive, including the supply and delivery of clean drinking water.
- Water delivery continued uninterrupted during this period in Carcross and Old Crow; however, there was a brief interruption in Ross River because both the primary and back-up delivery trucks had mechanical issues.

If asked about recent complaints regarding water delivery in Carcross:

- Clean, safe, and sustainable drinking water is critical for Yukon communities.
- We work with local communities and businesses on the delivery of water and hauling of wastewater.
- We are striving for the highest quality of service, and we are continuously improving our processes to ensure we meet ever

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TAB# OP-03

Spring 2026

Water Delivery Services

Community Services

increasing demand for water. This is especially true in Carcross, which has seen significant growth in tourism over the last few years.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Recycling Services – CS overview

Community Services

Topic: Recycling across the territory is supported by the Government of Yukon.

Key messages:

- A sustainable recycling system in Yukon reduces the cost to operate and long-term liability for solid waste facilities for the Government of Yukon and municipalities.
- For many years, Yukoners diverted waste from landfills by recycling, with financial support from the local and territorial governments.
- Extended Producer Responsibility has taken on the responsibility for recycling of batteries, automotive waste fluids, paper and packaging. This includes curbside collection in Whitehorse.

Key facts and stats:

- Government of Yukon has historically supported recycling of paper and packaging through diversion credits. Depots and processors were paid a per-tonne fee for collection and processing.
- These credits are no longer in place. These services are now established through contracting processes either through Producer Responsibility Organizations (as part of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)) or directly by the Government of Yukon.
- As part of the transition to EPR, commercial and residential materials are now managed independently. Producer Responsibility Organizations manage the residential stream and the Government of Yukon manages the commercial stream.
- In tandem with this transition, the Government of Yukon has made small changes to how it handles beverage containers, for improved efficiencies. Beverage container processors are now contracted

Recycling Services – CS overview

Community Services

directly by the Government of Yukon, and community depots now have the ability to choose their processor.

Status:

- Community Services is in discussions with stakeholders, including municipalities and the Association of Yukon Communities, about the implementation of EPR.
- Community Services is working with the Department of Environment to ensure the program functions effectively and that any emerging issues are addressed to better support businesses.

If asked about Community Services' contracts with Raven ReCentre for commercial paper and packaging:

- Community Services established a contract with Raven ReCentre in October 2025 for the management of commercial paper and packaging materials.
- This one-year contract was the result of a competitive tender process with a value of approximately \$370,000. This contract will be evaluated at the end of the contract term.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026
[Date approved]

Mt. Lorne Solid Waste Facility Attendant Contract

Community Services

Topic: Mt. Lorne Solid Waste Facility Attendant Contract

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon manages 12 solid waste facilities in unincorporated communities around the Yukon.
- Community Development contracts attendant services for Yukon-operated solid waste facilities. These are typically re-tendered every 3 years.
- Contracts for five sites (Mt Lorne, Carcross, Tagish, Deep Creek and Marsh Lake) were recently tendered. Bidders could provide pricing for just 1 or multiple sites, and each site is evaluated and awarded separately.

Status:

- Community Operations has awarded attendant contracts for the 5 sites in the Southern Lakes Areas.
- The Mt. Lorne Solid Waste Facility attendant contract was awarded to Awenika Enterprises Inc.

If asked about services offered at the facility:

- The service level at the Mount Lorne Transfer Station has not changed. The tender specifications and operational requirements remain consistent with the previous contract, and the Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring standards remain consistent.
 - Bidders and their employees needed a minimum combined experience of two years working at a Yukon Solid Waste Facility, Transfer Station or Landfill to be considered.

Mt. Lorne Solid Waste Facility Attendant Contract

Community Services

- o The contractors are responsible for site management and must ensure the facility is maintained in compliance with the Environment Act, Solid Waste Regulations, and the Waste Management Permit at all times.
- o The contractor must supply two staff during open hours at the site to assess loads, educate users, and process tipping fees.
- o Employees must be fully trained and adhere to all safety and contractual requirements outlined in the contract.
- o Free stores are run by the attendants as part of their contract, and the contractor must ensure it remains clean and orderly.

Other contracts/services that are offered:

- o Additional services are also contracted at solid waste sites, including: electronic waste collection and recycling, hazardous waste collection and disposal, metal removal, appliances treatment for freon, air curtain burning for brush, snow removal and general maintenance work and solar system monitoring and maintenance.
- o Community Services staff along with the attendants manage the composting units. YG transports this material to the city of Whitehorse Solid Waste facility for further processing.
- The recycling depot at Mt Lorne, which is a voluntary service managed by the community, is at the same location as the solid waste facility and is currently run by Long Recycling. They are provided a depot allowance by the Government of Yukon, are reimbursed for refunds and a handling fee for beverage containers and bottles.
- Yukon government pays to transport that material to a processor in Whitehorse and pays for it to be recycled down south.

Mt. Lorne Solid Waste Facility Attendant Contract

Community Services

- Circular Materials under EPR also provides collection services and pick up for paper and packaging.

Mt Lorne is our only true transfer station therefore all material is moved offsite at some point, but we are still able to provide the same services as our larger regional sites.

If asked about Procurement process:

- Community Services follows all Government of Yukon procurement policies in administering these contracts.
- We want to ensure competitive prices for the services provided and opportunities for new contractors exist.
- The service level expectations at the Mount Lorne Transfer Station have not changed. The tender specifications and operational requirements remain consistent with previous contracts.
- Employment decisions made by contractors—including staffing levels and wages—are private business matters. The Government of Yukon does not direct or influence hiring practices for contracted operators.
- We recognize the importance of keeping Local Advisory Councils informed. We would be pleased to ensure the Mount Lorne Local Advisory Council is notified each time the contract is scheduled for retendering. Upcoming tenders are also posted publicly on our procurement website.

If asked about loss of longstanding contractor:

- For many years, Mike Bailie Recycling has held the attendant contract for Mt. Lorne and has managed the recycling service as well.

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Mt. Lorne Solid Waste Facility Attendant Contract

Community Services

- I understand that that Mr. Bailie is retiring after working for so many years to make the Mount Lorne solid waste facility one of the highlights of Yukon's solid waste system.
- I would like to acknowledge the longstanding service that Mr. Bailie and his team have provided over many years. Their commitment, local knowledge, and care for the facility have been deeply valued, and the Government of Yukon is grateful for the important role they have played in supporting the Mount Lorne community.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

March 31, 2026
[Date approved]

Topic: Yukon's health profession legislation needs to be updated to better support today's health-care system, including clearer registration pathways, updated scopes of practice, and a more accessible complaints framework.

Key messages:

- Streamlining processes for health care professions will reduce red tape, enable new licensing pathways, and help provide safe, high-quality care for Yukoners.
- By simplifying registration and licensing processes, expanding scopes of practice, and by creating a fair, culturally safe, and easily accessible complaints system, we will support health professionals and Yukoners who need their care.
- Yukon government is committed to collaborating with health care professionals, First Nation governments, and the public to create a modern, robust regulatory regime that enables excellence in health care and a good quality of life for Yukoners.

Key facts and stats:

- There are currently 15 health professions regulated under eight different Acts which establish three different regulator models.
- There are three pillars of regulating health professions:
 - (1) Registration and licensure;
 - (2) Standards of Practice, policies, ethics and guidelines; and
 - (3) complaints framework for holding registrants accountable.
- In 2021, consultants worked with the three regulators (Community Services, Yukon Medical Council, and Yukon Registered Nurses

Association) to assess existing regulatory models for gaps and best practices.

- There are vast differences between the various health profession Acts regarding the three pillars, including deficiencies. In many cases, the scopes of practice for the profession are out-of-date.
- Given the need to update up to eight separate Acts, the department determined that using the *Health Professions Act* as the umbrella legislation, its original intent, would be the most efficient and effective way to modernize all 15 regulated professions.
- There are still many health professions practicing in the Yukon that are unregulated.

Status:

- An engagement from January 6 to February 7, 2025, included in-person and virtual sessions with health professionals and the public as well as surveys.
- The department is continuing policy research to help the department the project forward.
- The feedback from the engagement sessions and other Canadian regulators has been incorporated into the policy research and outcomes.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026
[Date approved]

Topic: The Psychological Society of Yukon, the Department of Education, and the Child Development Centre have all raised the need for provisional licensing, and the Psychological Society has also highlighted concerns about registrants being unable to remove non-disciplinary conditions from their registration.

Key messages:

- Regulating psychologists ensures that Yukoners receive services from experienced and qualified professionals thus ensuring safe, high-quality mental health care for Yukoners.
- The Psychologist Advisory Committee provides the Registrar with expert advice on reducing regulatory barriers, creating pathways for new graduates to register, enabling qualified psychologists to remove registration conditions, and supporting standards that will protect Yukoners.
- The Committee is advising the Registrar on education and supervision requirements for provisional registrants, recommending criteria for lifting restrictions on existing registrations, and reviewing Standards of Practice, including guidance on tele-psychology and education.
- We appreciate the perspectives of the Psychological Society of Yukon and consider their input as part of our decision-making process.

Key facts and stats:

- The Yukon began regulating psychologists in February 2025. Psychologists are regulated by the Psychologists Regulation under the *Health Professions Act*.

- Community Services engaged with local psychologists and national regulators in 2023 and 2024 to receive input to help inform policy and the current standards of practice.
- In the first year, there were 110 psychologists registered in the Yukon.
- There are currently 80 psychologists registered and one courtesy license in the Yukon.
- Yukon's registration framework for psychologists aligns with national best practices. It will continue to evolve, based on input from the Advisory Committee and research, while also ensuring it remains flexible to meet local needs.
- To help with the transition of a new regulation, the First Nations 101 course and the jurisprudence exam were not required for initial registration but is now required for all new and renewing applicants.

Status:

- The Psychologist Advisory Committee is meeting every 4-6 weeks, as schedules allow, to review information and provide advice to the Registrar's Office.
- Currently, Community Services is working on three next steps to support the psychologist profession in the Yukon:
 - Creating the criteria to allow for provisional licenses, which supports newly graduated psychologists to practice while completing the requirements for full registration. Community Services is working with the Advisory Committee to determine the proper criteria for this option.
 - This work is expected to be completed in Spring 2026 and information will be shared publicly.

- Following this, Community Services will work with the Advisory Committee to determine what is required of psychologists to remove conditions from their licenses. The specifics will follow the criteria determined in the provisional licensing process.
- An engagement opportunity to support this work will be held on March 24 and virtually on March 30.
 - A profession-wide session for input and feedback is planned for March 24, with a virtual option on March 30. An online tool has also been launched and shared with professionals to allow for input from those who cannot attend in person.
- Telepsychology standards will also be addressed following the completion of work outlined above.
- Community Services created a new webpage that is the central, up-to-date source of information for psychologists. It covers registration, renewals, continuing education, standards of practice, the public registry, and updates from the Advisory Committee. Psychologists will see changes reflected there as decisions are made moving forward.

If asked about why there are less psychologists registered in the second year compared to the first:

- Of the roughly 30 psychologists who chose not to renew their registration, the majority were from outside of the territory. Only two were from the Yukon.
- The general feedback about why they did not renew is that they did not have any Yukon clients so opted not to continue with a Yukon license.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PCA-02

Spring 2026

Regulation of Psychologists

Community Services

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026

[Date approved]

Health Human Resources Recruitment and Retention

Health and Social
Services

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Topic: Recruitment and retention initiatives.

Key messages:

- Health human resource challenges are national in scope and Yukon is pursuing pragmatic, evidence-informed action to strengthen our workforce over the long-term, recognizing that attracting and supporting health care professionals is essential to stabilizing primary care for Yukoners.
- Investments in expanded health care infrastructure, including Whitehorse General Hospital and new long-term care facilities, must be matched with the staffing needed to meet future demand.
- We are expanding local and in-territory education and training pathways, knowing that health professionals who train in the Yukon are more likely to stay and practice in the territory.

Key facts and stats:

- Health human resource shortages are a Canada-wide challenge, with rural and remote jurisdictions facing heightened recruitment and retention pressures.
- Workforce instability can affect access and continuity of care across multiple service areas, including primary care, social work and Family and Children's Services, Community Health Centres, Emergency Medical Services, long-term care, home care, and hospital services, including areas such as medical imaging and laboratory technologists, amongst other health providers.
- Staffing pressures in Community Health Centres have resulted in some temporary closures and service reductions.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Status:

- Enhanced physician incentives established under the 2025-28 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Yukon Medical Association are supporting physician recruitment successes, with five new physicians relocated to the territory since the MOA came into effect in September 2025.
- Health education pathways including the Family Medicine Residency Pilot (University of Alberta–YG), the Learn Where You Live LPN-to-RN pathway (University of New Brunswick), and Yukon University's Medical Office Assistant Program, work to expand the Social Worker program, and exploration of establishing an in-territory Bachelor of Science in Nursing program are in progress [See Tab#36 Medical Learners].
- Targeted campaigns to attract physicians and other health care professionals from the United States and across Canada are advancing. This includes collaboration with the Yukon Outfitters Association to promote opportunities at large U.S. trade shows.
- Actions underway focus on reducing barriers to practice, supporting team-based care models, strengthening education and training pathways, and improving onboarding and relocation supports to attract and retain health professionals.

If asked about health workforce recruitment and retention:

- Sustainable access to health care requires a combination of immediate recruitment actions and longer-term system changes, including regulatory modernization, competitive compensation, housing

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TAB 35
Spring 2026

**Health Human Resources
Recruitment and Retention**

Health and Social
Services

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

availability, ongoing recruitment marketing and supportive work environments.

Approved by:

Matt King

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

February 18, 2026

Date approved

Topic: Concerns have been raised about the availability of physicians in the Yukon. The Yukon Medical Council has been asked to reduce red tape, improve physician mobility and establish licensure pathways for U.S. and internationally trained physicians.

Key messages:

- The Yukon Medical Council is responsible for regulating physicians, and Community Services supports this work by providing the Registrar, staffing, and funding for legislative administration
- Community Services has worked with the Yukon Medical Council to streamline the licensing process and ensure that applications are reviewed quickly and are processed efficiently.
- Ongoing improvements to the licensing process will continue to reduce administrative barriers, prevent backlogs, and maintain a high standard of care for Yukoners.
- We look forward to working with the Yukon Medical Council to streamline the process for recognizing internationally trained doctors from jurisdictions with comparable education and training.

Key facts and stats:

- The requirements of licensure in the Yukon are laid out in the Medical Profession Registration and Fees Regulation under the *Medical Professions Act*.
- The current regulations are very prescriptive with regards to acceptable credentials. Specifically, requiring Canadian certifications with the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Canada.

- There are numerous amendments to both the Act and regulations required to meet the current needs of the health care system including: updates to licensing pathways, clearer authority for establishing standards of practice, and amending the complaints framework to meet current legal and societal expectations.
- Yukon Medical Council is not involved in the recruitment of professionals. It is responsible for regulating the practice of medicine by licensing physicians, setting and enforcing standards of practice and ethics, and managing complaints and disciplinary processes to protect the public.
- Yukon Medical Association is an association of Yukon's medical doctors whose role is to advocate for its members, promote the highest level of professionalism in medical practice and promote accessible and quality health care for Yukoners.
- Licensing pathways for internationally trained physicians vary in Canada. Most include a review of the medical undergraduate education, experience practicing under supervision in Canada, and passing the Canadian certification exams.
- Most provinces now recognize US board certified specialists and family physicians for full licensure, waiving the need for Canadian Certification with the Royal College of Canada and Canadian College of Family Physicians.

Status:

- A consultant for the Yukon Medical Council is reviewing options for establishing pathways to licensure for internationally trained physicians in the Yukon.

- Yukon Medical Council is establishing a strong relationship with British Columbia and other Canadian jurisdictions to simultaneously register U.S. board certified physicians in Yukon and the other jurisdiction – taking advantage of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and by-passing the Yukon's need for Canadian certifications.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: The Pharmacists Advisory Committee and the Yukon Pharmacists Association have expressed interest in having the Pharmacists Regulation amended to allow pharmacists to prescribe medications for additional minor ailments.

Key messages:

- Expanding pharmacists' scope of practice is a key step towards strengthening Yukon's health care system. It not only supports high-quality pharmacy services; but also improves access to safe, high-quality health care for Yukoners.
- We look forward to working with Yukon's pharmacists and other stakeholders, to understand how best to expand their scope of practice and make the best use of their expertise within the health system.
- Community Services has started necessary research to determine the best approach for achieving an expanded scope for pharmacists.

Key facts and stats:

- Yukon pharmacists are regulated by the *Pharmacists Regulation* under the *Health Professions Act*.
- Since December 2022, participating pharmacists have been able to assess and prescribe medications for common, minor ailments. They can also provide injections for travel-related diseases and prescribe medication for smoking cessation.
- As of April 2023, pharmacists are authorized to prescribe and administer travel and publicly funded vaccines for Yukoners who are aged five and older.

- Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Rural Permit Holders received minor updates effective November 1, 2025.
- Pharmacists' scope of practice and level of prescribing authority varies across Canada.

Status:

- The request for expanding the scope of practice for pharmacists has been discussed with the Pharmacy Advisory Committee, and it is generally agreed that it should move forward.
- Additional assessment is required to determine the extent of the expansion, including engagement with stakeholders, in particular, physicians.
- The Minister of Community Services met with the Pharmacists Association in February. As a result of this meeting, Community Services will determine what is required to address the requested changes and return to Cabinet to seek direction on any proposed changes.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026
[Date approved]

Topic: Yukon communities have challenges obtaining local dental services. There is a dental hygienist in Dawson City providing services but would like to do so without a relationship with a dentist.

Key messages:

- We are also concerned about Yukoners' access to dental services, and recognize that the scope of practice for dental hygienists has expanded beyond what our current legislation allows.
- We are working to determine the most efficient way to address expanding the scope for dental hygienists, which will include the need to establish standards of practice and a complaints framework.

Key facts and stats:

- The *Dental Profession Act* regulates dentists, dental hygienists and dental therapists.
- There are 56 dental hygienists registered in the Yukon.
- The Act's intent is that dentists are the responsible profession and dental hygienists and therapists work in concert with them.
- The Act does not have standards of practice or a complaint framework for dental hygienists.
- Any changes require an Act amendment and cannot be done through regulations.

Status:

- We are incorporating the feedback regarding expanding the scope of practice for dental hygienists into the *Health Professions Act* project.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PCA-06

Spring 2026

Dental Hygienists

Community Services

- The department appreciates the concerns that stakeholders have brought forward and is ensuring these perspectives are fully considered.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: Reviewing and updating the *Health Professions Act* has highlighted the risks of unregulated professions, including a recent case where an individual disciplined in British Columbia was still able to practice without restrictions in the Yukon.

Key messages:

- We appreciate the important work that social workers do and their role in providing care for Yukoners.
- Yukon government is working on revising the *Health Professions Act* for the first time since its creation in 2003. As part of this update, we will evaluate professions that should be regulated in the Yukon, including social workers.
- We will welcome participation of social workers on that project and work with the association to understand the appropriate social worker requirements for any proposed regulation.
- Updating the *Health Professions Act* will help ensure Yukoners receive safe, high-quality care by closing gaps that currently allow individuals with disciplinary histories elsewhere to practice in the territory without oversight. It will also create a more flexible and consistent framework that makes it easier to bring new health professions, like social workers, under regulation when needed.

Key facts and stats:

- Without regulation, vulnerable Yukoners, who may not have the knowledge or capability to self-advocate in their current state, are at risk of receiving services from people without the proper qualifications, certified expertise, standards of practice, and/or ethical standards.

- Without regulation, there is no mechanism to file complaints, receive adjudication, and affect changes to a practitioner's services, other than through the courts or employers.
- As social workers have not been regulated in the Yukon, it is challenging for the government to ascertain the exact number of practitioners and service challenges with the profession.
- Yukon and Nunavut are the only two jurisdictions who do not regulate social workers in Canada.

Status:

- The Association of Social Workers in Northern Canada brought forward an interest in exploring regulation for the profession. The current plan is to complete the *Health Professions Act* project before regulating more health professions in the Yukon.
- The work that is underway on the *Health Professions Act* intends to make regulating new health professions more efficient.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026
[Date approved]

Property Assessment in Municipalities 2025

Community Services

Topic: Property owners, including First Nations, may be concerned about the impact of the 2025 municipal Yukon assessment.

Key messages:

- Yukon properties are assessed on a two-year cycle, alternating between municipalities and rural Yukon. Properties within municipalities were assessed in 2025 for the 2026 tax year. This resulted in increases in property assessment values.
- Conducting assessments every two years avoids larger assessment changes that could occur if these were done less frequently.
- The Property Assessment and Taxation Branch is committed to a system that keep values current, accurate and equitable for Yukon property owners and municipalities.
- Their work supports fair and transparent avenues for Yukoners to raise concerns about their own property assessment. There is a review process available to any property owner who does not agree with the value determined by the assessor.

Key facts and stats:

- The real estate market and new construction in and around Whitehorse continues to be active, which means property values often increase. Property values vary depending on the type and location of the property.
- Property Assessment and Taxation Branch is responsible for keeping values current, accurate and equitable for property tax purposes. A reassessment updates both land and improvement (building) values. Land value (fair market value) + improvement value (replacement cost less depreciation) = assessed value.

Property Assessment in Municipalities 2025

Community Services

- The cost to rebuild a property (replacement cost) is reviewed during each reassessment. If building costs have changed since the last cycle, the improvement value may be adjusted. This means a property's assessed value can change even when the owner has not made any upgrades or alterations.
- As part of the assessment cycle, the fair value of land is reviewed, and changes in market evidence may lead to a change in land value.

Status:

- Assessment work for the 2025 municipal cycle is complete, and property owners will be reviewing their updated assessment notices for the 2026 tax year.
- The Branch is monitoring responses and will continue to support property owners through the established review process.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026

[Date approved]

Unincorporated Property Tax Rates

Community Services

Topic: Rural property tax rates in unincorporated Yukon areas.

Key messages:

- The Yukon government set the 2024 rural tax rates at the same level as previous years.
- Rural residents have access to essential services like Emergency Medical Services, Wildland Fire protection, highway maintenance, access to regional landfills and recycling services, regionally based fire halls, and drinking water fill points.
- Yukoners have access to a full range of other public services from health care to education and much more.
- The revenue from unincorporated property tax rates offsets only a small portion of the cost of services, with additional government investments directed to ensure Yukoners are well served by a wide array of public services.
- Municipalities typically have higher property tax rates as they rely more heavily on property tax revenues to offer municipal services like piped water and wastewater, solid waste and recycling. This is also supplemented by federal and territorial funding in the form of capital infrastructure dollars, grants in lieu of taxes, and operating grants to help offset the cost of municipal services.

Key facts and stats:

- All properties in Yukon are reassessed by assessors through the Property Assessment and Taxation Branch every two years. The branch is responsible for keeping values current, accurate and equitable for property tax purposes.

Unincorporated Property Tax Rates

Community Services

- Yukon municipalities are responsible for the collection of property taxes within their boundaries and set their own tax rates. The Property Assessment and Taxation Branch acts as the tax collector for individuals who own property outside of a municipality and sets the tax rates for those residents.
- Property tax rates for rural Yukon have remained stable and predictable since 1988.

Status:

- The Yukon government has maintained stable rural property tax rates for 2024.
- Rural tax rates have remained unchanged since 1988, with assessments updated every two years and revenues covering only a small portion of the services provided to rural residents.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: Dawson City Community Library's need for a long-term, dedicated library space.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the importance of a dedicated, functional library space for Dawson and appreciates the community's continued engagement on this matter.
- Work with Education and Property Management Division is ongoing to identify a long-term solution that meets the needs of Dawson residents.
- The Government of Yukon remains committed to ensuring Dawson residents have access to a safe, accessible, and welcoming library space.

Key facts and stats:

- The Dawson City Community Library currently shares space with Robert Service School.
- Recent school closures also required closing the library to the public, highlighting the limitations of the shared arrangement.
- Dawson's library is one of the busiest in the Yukon, and ensuring access to a safe, accessible, and welcoming space remains a priority.
- The historic courthouse building was assessed as a potential location but was determined to be unsuitable for a library due to structural limitations, including its inability to support the full weight of the library collection.
- The courthouse could only accommodate approximately one-third of the library's current collection.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PL-01

Spring 2026

Dawson Library Space

Community Services

- Community Services is working jointly with Education and Highways and Public Works (Property Management Division) to explore suitable alternative locations.

Status:

- A space needs assessment was completed and is informing the next phase of location analysis.
- Community Services, Education, and Property Management Division continue to collaborate on identifying viable long-term options for the library.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 17, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: The public could question the costs associated with hosting a major sport event from March 8 to 15, 2026.

Key messages:

- I extend my sincere congratulations to the City of Whitehorse, the Host Society, and the many volunteers whose dedication and hard work resulted in an exceptional Arctic Winter Games that welcomed athletes and visitors from across the circumpolar north.
- The Government of Yukon was proud to support the 2026 Arctic Winter Games with \$4.35 million in financial and in-kind contributions.
- The legacy of the 2026 Arctic Winter Games will be felt for years to come—strengthening partnerships, supporting athletes, and reinforcing the Yukon’s reputation as a premier sport tourism destination.
- The Games brought lasting benefits to the Yukon by boosting our economy, strengthening sport development, building partnerships, promoting fair play and healthy lifestyles, and celebrating cultural diversity, awareness, and understanding.
- Our goal is to position the Yukon as a destination for sports and major games. We will be conducting long-term planning with sports organizations and municipalities to ensure the Yukon has adequate sports infrastructure.

Key facts and stats:

- The Arctic Winter Games is a high-profile, circumpolar sport competition for northern and Arctic athletes, and a multi-cultural showcase for the circumpolar world. Every two years since 1970, the

Games celebrate sport, social exchange, and culture while providing an opportunity for the developing athlete to compete in friendly competition and share cultural values of northern regions of the world.

- The Arctic Winter Games International Committee is made up of representatives from each of the permanent partners (Alberta, Alaska, Greenland, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik and Yukon) and is responsible for implementing policies and providing leadership to the Games.
- The 2026 Arctic Winter Games Host Society, made up of strong leaders in our community, oversaw the management of the Games and engaged with key partners and stakeholders throughout the process.
- The Deputy Minister of Community Services and Director of Sport and Recreation Branch represent the Government of Yukon on the host society Board of Directors.
- During the Arctic Winter Games, the International Committee hosted a meeting with government leaders from all permanent partners to provide the information and resources needed to support discussions and decision-making for the Games.
- In addition to substantial financial support, the Government of Yukon provided in-kind contributions which include a secondment position to the Host Society for the General Manager, as well as a Coordinator of Athlete Services, Venues and Logistics.

Status:

- The 2026 Arctic Winter Games are now complete.
- Final reporting on the Government of Yukon's funding agreement is due October 31, 2026.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# SR-01

Spring 2026

Arctic Winter Games 2026

Community Services

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: There is interest in public pools because the pools in Ross River and Beaver Creek have not opened for several years due to significant structural issues and environmental impacts.

Key messages:

- The Sport and Recreation Branch coordinates with partners on the recruitment and training of seasonal aquatic staff. Local governments or the local authorities for Recreation (for pools in unincorporated communities) hire specialized pool managers to run their aquatics programs.
- In partnership with the Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon, the Government of Yukon hosts an annual Spring Aquatics Workshop. These workshops develop knowledge and skills around safe pool operations, lifesaving certification, and aquatics programming.
- Seven pools are expected to be operating in Yukon communities in 2026, supporting healthy, active lifestyles and physical activity.

If asked about pool closures:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that seasonal swimming pools provide residents' access to aquatics programming, and we are committed to supporting recreation opportunities in rural communities.
- We are committed to partnering with communities on long-term planning to prioritize investments in infrastructure, while supporting health, wellness, and active lifestyles through sport and recreation programs across the territory.

Key facts and stats:

- Yukon Public Pool Regulations govern the operation, safety, sanitation, and oversight of public pools in Yukon under the *Public Health Act*.
- Municipal pools in Dawson City, Watson Lake, Faro, Carmacks and Mayo are owned and operated by the municipality.
- Pools in Pelly Crossing, Carcross, Ross River, and Beaver Creek are owned by the Government of Yukon.
- The operation and maintenance of each Government of Yukon pool is a joint responsibility between Community Services, Property Management Division and the Local Authority for Recreation.
- The Village of Carmacks and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation have developed a joint agreement to equally share the costs of operating the pool.
- In 2025, Highways and Public Works completed a review of the Beaver Creek pool, to identify potential sources of water accumulating beneath the pool lining. The findings indicate that surface water appears to be accumulating under the liner. The government is reviewing options and planning to address the findings from this assessment. The pool in Beaver Creek will not be open this summer while this work is considered.
- A structural and geotechnical evaluation of the Ross River pool by Highways and Public Works confirmed severe foundation and structural issues due to differential settlement and permafrost degradation.
- The Sport and Recreation Branch and the Property Management Division (HPW) have recently met with the Ross River Recreation Society to inform them that the existing pool facility will not reopen.

Status:

- The Sport and Recreation Branch, together with the Property Management Division (HPW), explored whether upgrades to the existing Ross River facility could allow the pool to reopen. The review showed that this is not possible, and the pool will not reopen.
- The Sport and Recreation Branch is working with the Ross River Recreation Society to expand aquatic and recreational opportunities for Ross River residents. In partnership with the Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon, a Swim to Survive camp is tentatively scheduled for June 27–30, 2026. The camp will include transportation to the Faro pool, where youth will participate in swimming lessons, confidence-building activities, and a supervised free swim. The final day of the program will take place on the Pelly River, where participants will learn and practice essential water safety and survival skills.
- Additional programming opportunities are also being considered, including on-going access to the Faro pool, canoe and kayak safety training, and other recreational activities.

If asked about whether Ross River residents can expect a new pool:

- The Government of Yukon understands the importance of aquatics programming to the Ross River community and is exploring possible options. At this stage, however, we cannot confirm whether a new pool will be built, as further assessment and planning are required.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: There may be interest in knowing what the Government of Yukon is doing to address maltreatment in sport.

Key messages:

- Safety in sport has an impact on everyone. We are committed to creating a positive culture that prioritizes respectful sport experiences that are safe for everyone.
- We recognize the importance of implementing safe sport policies and procedures and are currently working on developing a Safe Sport Framework for the Yukon.
- Safety in sport is a key priority across Canada, and all jurisdictions are working towards ensuring processes are in place for reporting incidents of maltreatment in sport. We are committed to working with our sport and recreation organizations to protect athletes from all forms of maltreatment.
- Team Yukon coaches, managers and mission staff attending the 2026 Arctic Winter Games were required to take the Respect In Sport training module.

Key facts and stats:

- At the 2019 Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Ministers Conference, Ministers endorsed the Red Deer Declaration for the Prevention of Harassment, Abuse, and Discrimination in Sport, committing to implementing a collaborative intergovernmental approach, with better harmonized commitments, mechanisms, principles, and actions to address harassment, abuse and discrimination in sport in the areas of awareness, policy, prevention,

reporting, management, and monitoring. Ministers also agreed to a series of actions being implemented by 2021.

- In 2019, Sport Canada supported the development of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent, and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). It includes general principles, definitions of maltreatment, prohibited behaviours, and an approach to sanctions.
- The Government of Canada requires that federally funded national-level sport organizations adopt or integrate the UCCMS into their organizational policies and procedures as a condition of funding.
- In February 2023, Federal-Provincial-Territorial (F-P/T) Ministers responsible for sport, physical activity, and recreation agreed to work together to have all athletes and participants in Canada protected by an independent third-party mechanism. Yukon and other jurisdictions are working toward this and are currently considering the cost, procurement methods and legislative framework.
- A F-P/T Maltreatment in Sport Working Group was established to identify guiding principles and/or develop recommendations to support jurisdictions in the establishment of independent third-party mechanisms, to remain informed of ongoing work of other sector initiatives and to provide a forum for the sharing of best practices and key learnings from safe sport efforts across the country.

Status:

- The Sport and Recreation branch is currently working with a contractor to create a suite of safe sport policies governing Yukon sport conduct and compliance with safe sport practices.

- Education tools will be developed and shared with sport organizations to support understanding and implementation of the safe sport policy suite.
- Work is underway to identify an independent third-party reporting and case management process for maltreatment in sport in the Yukon.

If asked about the timeline for implementation of the Safe Sport Framework:

- Completion of the safe sport policy suite is anticipated in 2026, followed by work with Yukon sport governing bodies to support adoption and implementation.
- Implementation of the Safe Sport Framework is anticipated for 2027, including education, policies, and an independent third-party case management and reporting mechanism.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026
[Date approved]

Community Recreation Assistance Grant (CRAG funding)

Community Services

Topic: The review of the Community Recreation Assistance Grant is of interest to unincorporated communities.

Key messages:

- The Community Recreation Assistance Grant is a critical source of funding for unincorporated Yukon communities and has not increased in ten years.
- The grant provides financial assistance to communities to cover essential recreation expenses, including staff wages, facility operations and maintenance, pool operations and organizing program delivery.
- Consistent recreation programming and well-maintained recreation facilities directly support the health and quality of life of Yukoners living in rural communities.
- The department is preparing to work with communities to understand their recreation needs and review how this funding can support their recreation goals.

Key facts and stats:

- There are 12 unincorporated rural Yukon communities that receive Community Recreation Assistance Grant (CRAG) funding.
- CRAG funding is provided to the designated Local Authority for Recreation for each community, as set out in the Recreation Regulations:
 - White River First Nation for Beaver Creek
 - Kluane First Nation for Burwash Landing
 - Carcross Recreation Board for Carcross
 - Kluane Lake Athletic Association for Destruction Bay

Community Recreation Assistance Grant (CRAG funding)

Community Services

- Keno Community Club for Keno
- Marsh Lake Community Association for Marsh Lake
- Lorne Mountain Community Association for Mount Lorne
- Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation for Old Crow
- Selkirk First Nation for Pelly Crossing
- Ross River Recreation Society for Ross River
- Tagish Community Association for Tagish
- Liard First Nation for Upper Liard
- The Mendenhall Community Association has formally requested appointment as the Local Authority for Recreation for the Mendenhall community.
- CRAG funding levels were last updated in 2015, when total annual funding increased from \$475,352 to \$817,861.

Status:

- Community Services is currently reviewing CRAG funding amounts with the intent of updating the Recreation Regulations to account for inflation and index to inflation.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026
[Date approved]

2026-27 Grant Funding Reduction – Sport and Recreation Programs

Community Services

Topic: Reduction in 2026-27 grant funding for Sport Foundations, Recreation Foundations, High-Performance Athletes and High-Performance Officials.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon's Sport and Recreation branch, with a financial contribution from Lotteries Yukon, provides annual funding to Yukon sport governing bodies and special recreation groups. This is provided through the Sport and Recreation Foundations grants, the High-Performance Athlete Assistance and Officials Program grants.
- While funding amounts available for these grants for 2026–27 have decreased compared to previous years because of the reduced contribution from Lotteries Yukon, Yukon government continues to support range of sport and recreation programs.

Key facts and stats:

- The Sport Foundations grant provides funding to the territory's sport governing bodies which supports costs such as core administration, athlete and participant development, and facility operations and maintenance.
- The Recreation Foundations grant supports special recreation groups such as ElderActive Recreation Association, the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre and Friends of Mount Sima Society.
- The Yukon High Performance Athlete Assistance Program provides grants to help offset training and competition expenses incurred by selected Yukon athletes.

2026-27 Grant Funding Reduction – Sport and Recreation Programs

Community Services

- The Yukon High Performance Official Assistance Program provides funding assistance to selected officials in the Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon's Sport and Recreation branch and Lotteries Yukon contribute to these grants.
- Lotteries Yukon distributes the revenue from lottery ticket sales across the territory as funding for arts, sports and recreation.

Status:

- The Government of Yukon's Sport and Recreation branch and Lotteries Yukon contribute to these grants.
- Lotteries Yukon contribution has been reduced from approximately \$1 million (in previous years) to approximately \$650,000 this year.
- The Government of Yukon's contribution remains \$402,000.

See Sport & Recreation Narrative for additional details on sport and recreation programs and initiatives.

Approved by:

Mark Roberts
A/Deputy Minister, Community Services

April 20, 2026
[Date approved]

Topic: There is a lot of public interest in fire management, and partnerships with Yukon First Nations in wildland fire management.

Key messages:

- First Nations Initial Attack firefighting crews are a key component of the Wildland Fire Management program.
- The Government of Yukon and First Nations crews work side by side on the fire line and all Initial Attack crew members are provided with the same level of training and equipment, including personal protective equipment.
- Wildland Fire Management is actively engaged with Yukon First Nations to explore how to better enable First Nation citizens to benefit from Yukon government career pathways, while supporting First Nation business opportunities within Wildland Fire management services and procurement.

Key facts and stats:

- In 2025, the program consisted of 14 Yukon government crews and 13 First Nations crews located in six fire centers across the territory.
- In 2025, 8 of 14 First Nations or their Development Corporations assigned the administration of their initial attack crew contracts to Yukon First Nations Wildfire Limited Partnership (YFNW). This supported local employment, capacity building and economic development. The remaining five contracts are bilateral with the Wildland Fire Management branch.
- The 14 Initial Attack agreements with Yukon First Nations have ended after the 2025 fire season and are being re-negotiated.

- The Unit Crew Service Agreement held with YFNW for a 20-person Type 2 Unit Crew expired in 2025 and options are currently being discussed at the branch level to understand operational needs for the 2026 season.
- In addition to costs paid to YFNW for contract services, over the last 4 years Wildland Fire Management has provided \$561,000 through a Transfer Payment Agreement to support the training and development of YFNW unit crew resources.

Status:

- The Government of Yukon has agreements with all 14 First Nations for the Wildland Fire Management Initial Attack Program. This includes six government-to-government agreements and eight agreements administered by Yukon First Nation Wildfire Limited Partnership.
- The agreement between the Government of Yukon and Carcross/ Tagish First Nation is unique. Under this model, Carcross/ Tagish First Nation citizens are hired as Yukon government employees. The funding allocated to this contract is returned to the Carcross/ Tagish First Nation through transfer payment agreements, supporting fuel abatement work. This approach creates employment while reducing administrative workload for both parties.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

Topic: The public remains concerned about the threat of wildfire to their communities.

Key messages:

- Wildland Fire Management is taking proactive steps to reduce wildfire risk through forest thinning, conversion of coniferous stands to deciduous stands, prescribed burning, and large-scale fuel management projects such as the 780-hectare Whitehorse South Fuel Break in partnership with the City of Whitehorse.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans offer a road map to reduce local wildfire risk through forest fuel treatments and community-based FireSmart projects, supported by education campaigns to reduce human-caused fires and help property owners protect their homes.
- To date, 713 hectares are completed or in-progress across the Yukon Territory, with major projects advancing on schedule. These include completion of:
 - the Mary Lake Shaded Fuel Break and Copper Haul Road South portion by fall 2026;
 - the Copper Haul Road North portion by fall 2028; and,
 - the South Klondike Fuel Break by 2032.
- We will continue to collaborate with First Nations and Yukon First Nations Wildfire to enhance community safety across the Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- Through the FireSmart funding program, community groups can receive funding for local wildfire hazard reduction projects. In 2025/26, Yukon government partnered with the Government of Canada to invest a total of \$1.66 million in 54 projects.

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

- This total includes funding for FireSmart projects, including funding provided directly to First Nation communities, following a contribution from Indigenous Services Canada's Emergency Management Assistance Program, and a contribution from the Resilient Communities Through FireSmart funding for Yukon communities.
- The Government of Canada has granted the Government of Yukon funding for wildfire mitigation projects through its Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund which begins in 2025/26 and ends in 2032/33. This funding will support the government in increasing the pace of wildfire risk reduction work in Teslin, Haines Junction, and Whitehorse.
- The Government of Canada has granted the Yukon government funds for governance, capacity building, and community-based wildfire mitigation projects under its Resilient Communities through FireSmart program, which runs from 2024/25 to 2027/28.
- The Whitehorse South Fuel Break is a 780-hectare piece of strategic wildfire-resistant infrastructure. It is partially funded by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan, Disaster, Adaptation and Mitigation Fund and Resilient Communities through FireSmart funding.
- Wildland Fire Management is leading Yukon government's participation in Canada's 2 Billion Trees program. 323,834 aspen seedlings have been planted in fuel treatment areas around Whitehorse and Haines Junction to further improve the resilience of our forests and communities. A further 100,000 seedlings will be planted in spring 2026 to complete Our Clean Future Action. Planning is currently underway to plant up to 1.9 million aspen seedlings in strategic fuel breaks around Whitehorse and Haines Junction by 2031.
- Work on the Copper Haul Road North Fuel Break project began in summer 2024 and is on track to be complete in fall 2028. This 200-

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

hectare project will create defensible space for firefighters to work safely and effectively along the Copper Haul Road from the Mt. Sima Bridge in the south to the McLean Lake Quarries in the north.

- Work has commenced on the South Klondike Fuel Break project in Fall 2025. This 190-hectare project will connect the existing Whitehorse South Fuel Break east to the South Klondike Highway. This project will significantly reduce the risk of negative impacts to Whitehorse from wildfires in the Carcross Valley.
- Wildland Fire Management works with the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Highways and Public Works, Economic Development and Environment to make the best use of wood salvaged from forest fuel treatment areas.

Status:

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans are nearing completion for Carcross, Old Crow, Watson Lake, Beaver Creek, as well as the communities of Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay together. These plans will be presented for engagement with the community and First Nations in 2026. Mayo, Teslin, Haines Junction, Faro, Dawson City, and Whitehorse have completed Community Wildfire Protection Plans or equivalent.

If asked about Grizzly Valley FireSmart work:

- Community Services Land Development Branch is reducing risk to residents by developing and implementing hazard abatement work west of the community.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-02

Spring 2026

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: The public may have interest in Wildland Fire Management activities in 2026 from hearing about fires or being impacted by fires in their communities.

Key messages:

- Canada experienced a notable wildfire season last year. Yukon Wildland Fire Management worked hard in response to fires at home and we supported our partners in other areas of Canada.
- Last summer, Wildland Fire Management responded to 166 wildfires which burned 183,750 hectares, including significant threats to multiple communities. Last year the Yukon government spent approximately \$33 million on wildfire response efforts.
- Dawson City faced fires on all sides of the community, with a major wildfire threatening West Dawson.
- Keno and Ethel Lake residents prepared for possible evacuation, and fires in the Northern Tutchone region caused frequent road closures and travel disruptions.
- Wildland Fire Management drew on resources from across the territory, along with outside specialists and expertise to keep our communities, our people, and our critical infrastructure safe.
- We will continue to collaborate with Yukon First Nations to enhance community safety across the Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- Protective Services offered valuable information through the Wildfire Hub, making it easier to find up to date wildfire information for Yukoners.

- Leaders' briefings were held biweekly throughout the summer, inviting community leaders to meet with Yukon government Wildland Fire Management and Emergency Measures Organization officials to ask questions and for updates on emergency response operations.
- Wildland Fire Management prepares for the fire season by ensuring resources are in place, ready to respond to incidents as required. During the season, Wildland Fire Management's meteorologist and fire behavior specialists actively monitor current and short-term weather forecasts to ensure appropriate response to fires.
- The costs for wildfire response vary considerably each year based on location of fires and the severity of the fire season; however, the overall costs of fire response (called "direct fire") is increasing.
- Wildland Fire Management is exploring multiple options to manage the cost pressures, this includes reviewing the use of key equipment, aircraft, crew locations and alternative approaches for tendering.

Status:

- Wildland Fire Management fosters relationships both within and outside of government to ensure a resilient response to wildfire. These include Emergency Measures Organization, City of Whitehorse as well as Yukon's communities and First Nations, Yukon First Nation Wildfire, and Health and Social Services.
- Through our memberships with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and the Northwest Firefighting Compact, Wildland Fire Management has agreements on sharing resources with national and international partners.
- Recently, Wildland Fire Management has worked toward partnerships with response agencies in the European Nordic countries by attending

the annual Arctic Rescue (ArcResc) meetings in Scandinavia in person and virtually.

- Wildland Fire Management added the permanent position of a Data Scientist in 2026 to help better predict and prepare for the fire seasons ahead.

If asked about:

Long Range (seasonal) Forecasting:

- The most difficult aspect to predict in long-range forecasting is the element of precipitation. This element is also the most impactful in determining the intensity and duration of a wildfire season.
- Therefore, long-range seasonal forecasts are not of high value in determining the intensity of a fire season.

Wildfire response decisions to determine suppression resources:

- Wildland fire managers make rapid response decisions based on the best forecasts and predictive tools available to them.
- The addition of a dedicated data scientist at Wildland Fire Management will provide increased knowledge and understanding to evaluate whether the resources requested and utilized are the most efficient and effective for the incidents.

Approved by:

Damien Burns
Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026
[Date approved]

2026 Season Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness

Community Services

Topic: The public remains concerned about the threat of wildfire to their communities.

Key messages:

- Following several intense wildfire seasons across Canada, Wildland Fire Management is preparing for the 2026 fire season by strengthening internal response capacity, coordinating with partner agencies, and applying lessons learned from previous fire seasons.
- For the 2026 fire season, the Yukon will deploy 28 Initial Attack fire crews, 14 of which are managed in partnership with First Nations and Yukon First Nation Wildfire. These crews will work across six regional fire centres, supported by two air tanker groups consisting of one heavy air tanker, four light air tankers and two bird dog aircraft led by a team of four Air Attack Officers, along with multiple contracted helicopters when the need arises.
- Recognizing that wildfire risk is increasing and extending later into the year due to climate change, additional funding has expanded Initial Attack crew operations to approximately 90 days.
- Interagency agreements through the Canada Interagency Forest Fire Centre and the Northwest Compact ensure access to additional resources when required.
- Yukoners are encouraged to think about their personal preparedness and actions that can be taken to prepare their families and their property for wildfires. For more information on this, please visit Yukon.ca.

Key facts and stats:

Prepared for Minister Bellmore
Community Services

Date prepared: February 18, 2026

Last Updated:

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2026 Season Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness

Community Services

- Yukon has 85 initial attack firefighters in regional bases across the Yukon and another 40 staff managing crews and aircraft, leading prevention programs, and providing logistical support.
- Yukon government has also added a meteorologist and data scientist to Wildland Fire Management for improved forecasting services that will support effective pre-planning and fire suppression efforts.
- In 2025, there were 27 wildfire crews, which is comprised of 14 Yukon government crews and 13 Yukon First Nations crews.
- Communications during 2025 were supported by an improved Wildfire Hub that includes text updates and supports low bandwidth users.
- Weekly leaders' briefings (16 in total) were held throughout the summer providing an opportunity for community leaders to meet with the Minister of Community Services and get updated from Wildland Fire Management and Emergency Measures Organization officials on emergency response operations.

Status:

- Wildland Fire Management prepares for the fire season by having resources in place ready to respond to incidents as required. During the season, Wildland Fire Management meteorologist and fire behavior specialists actively monitor current conditions and short-term forecast weather to ensure appropriate response to fires.
- Wildland Fire Management has made changes to its recruitment process to attract employees and has seen over 150 applicants for seasonal wildfire positions to date for 2026.
- Over the past three years, Wildland Fire Management, through funding support provided by the Government of Canada, has invested

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-04

Spring 2026

2026 Season Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness

Community Services

in firefighting equipment and training that will increase the capacity to respond to wildfires.

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

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

Key messages:

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

Key facts and stats:

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

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

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

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

Improve timely access to frontline health care services for Yukoners:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Theme 5: Restoring public safety and keeping communities safe

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

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

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

Approved by:

Katherine White

March 16, 2026

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved