

Department of Environment

Table of Contents: Briefing Binder for Spring Legislative Sitting 2026

	TITLE	OTHER DEPT	JOINT NOTE
1. HOT TOPICS			
A	Habitat Stewardship Projects for Species at Risk		
B	Eagle Gold Monitoring		
C	Feral Horses		
D	Southern Lakes Caribou in the Schools Program - Updated May 11		

	TITLE	OTHER DEPT NOTE	JOINT NOTE
2. TOP ISSUES			
1	Extended Producer Responsibility		
2	Clean Energy Act		EMR
3	Yukon's Climate Change Action Plan		EMR
4	Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Status – updated March 31		
5	Minister's Travel Outcomes - Updated May 11		
6	Outfitting in the Yukon - Updated May 4		
7	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting		
8-12			
2. FISH AND WILDLIFE			
13	Hunting Opportunities		
14	Elk/Agriculture Conflicts - Updated May 11		EMR
15	Fish and Wildlife Regulation Change Process		
16	Wildlife Surveys and Data Use - updated April 27		
17	Yukon River Salmon - updated April 22		
18	Porcupine Caribou Herd Status - updated March 30		
19	Finlayson Caribou Herd Status - Updated April 14		
20	Kluane Sheep Permit		
21-24			
3. PARKS			
25	Campground Improvements and Planning - Updated April 28		
26	New Campground Development		

Department of Environment

Table of Contents: Briefing Binder for Spring Legislative Sitting 2026

	TITLE	OTHER DEPT NOTE	JOINT NOTE
27	Campground Reservation Service		
28-33			
4. WATER RESOURCES			
34	Flood Mapping		
35	Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness	CS	
36	2026 Flood Forecasting – updated May 7		
37	Rusting Streams		
38-43			
5. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
44	Mayo Wareham Dam Inspector's Direction – updated April 1		
45	Environmental Liabilities and Contaminated Sites - Updated May 11		
46	Casino Mine Project Review	ECO	
47	Lodgepole Lane		
48	Noise Emissions Standards - Updated May 11		
48-52			
6. ANIMAL HEALTH			
53	Animal Protection and Control Act Implementation		EMR
54-59			
7. POLICY AND LAND PLANNING			
60	Peel Land Use Plan Implementation / Peel National Park		
61	Dawson Regional Land Use Planning – updated April 1	EMR	
62	Ross River Area Feasibility MOU	ECO	
63	TH and FNNND Litigation	ECO/JUS/EMR	
64	Enhancing the Yukon government's presence in the Arctic		
65	Advancing Partnerships with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups		

Department of Environment

Table of Contents: Briefing Binder for Spring Legislative Sitting 2026

	TITLE	OTHER DEPT NOTE	JOINT NOTE
66	Conservation Fund – updated May 7		
67	Protected and Conserved Areas in the Yukon		
68-69			
8. CORPORATE NOTES			
70	2026-27 Budget Highlights	FIN	

* Other departments' briefing notes are included as information only and are printed on blue paper.

Hot Topic Session Note

TAB A
Spring 2026

Habitat Stewardship Projects for Species at risk

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Government of Canada recently released a summary of their investment of \$5.2 million for habitat stewardship initiatives across Canada in 2025-26.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon welcomes Canada's investment to advance the protection and stewardship of species at risk in the Yukon.
- We are committed to working with co-management partners to advance a range of species at risk matters.
- The funding that the Government of Canada announced included support to conserve the endangered brown bat and northern bat, protect the collared pika from the impacts of climate change and better understand and protect key habitat for woodland caribou in Yukon South Beringia.
- This additional support helps us reach our shared goal to preserve and protect species at risk in the Yukon.
- We look forward to continuing our work with the federal government, co-management partners and local organizations to advance habitat stewardship initiatives and ensure species at risk remain in the Yukon's landscape for generations to come.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

March 31, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department

Topic: The Department of Environment continues to monitor impacts in the surrounding area of the Eagle Gold mine site.

Key messages:

- The Department of Environment continues to monitor the risks to the Yukon's environment and fish and wildlife posed by the heap leach failure that occurred at the Eagle Gold mine in 2024.
- Since the heap leach failure, the department has been monitoring water quality and fish and mammal health in the surrounding area of the site and working with partners to implement mitigations when necessary.
- In fact, this budget includes \$276,000 for the department to continue to undertake this work.
- Recent results of water quality monitoring in the surrounding area have been stable throughout the winter, with concentrations of cyanide being mostly below detection limits and cobalt being the one contaminant above water quality objectives.
- All results of our monitoring work, including monthly water quality updates, are available on Yukon.ca.

Approved by:

Shehnaz Ali

April 23, 2026

A/Deputy Minister, Department

Hot Topic Session Note

TAB C
Spring 2026

Feral Horses

Department of
Environment

Topic: Concerns from the public regarding the health and safety of feral horses in the Ibex Valley.

Key messages:

- I understand that there are continued concerns for the wellbeing of feral horses in the Yukon.
- The Yukon's *Animal Protection and Control Act* has established measures, including measures against abuse, that apply to domestic animals and livestock across the territory.
- Under the Act, horses are defined as livestock.
- The Animal Protection and Control Officer within the Agriculture Branch is the lead officer for any reports on livestock species, including feral horses.
- Members of the public with concerns about livestock can report them to the Agriculture Branch by phone at 867-667-5838 or by emailing agriculture@yukon.ca.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

April 27, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of Environment

Southern Lakes Caribou in the Schools Program

Department

Topic: The Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee was awarded the Arctic Inspiration Prize for the *Southern Lakes Caribou in the Schools Program*.

Key messages:

- Congratulations to the Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee for being awarded the Arctic Inspiration Prize of \$450,000 to implement their Southern Lakes Caribou in the Schools Program.
- Created in partnership with the Government of Yukon, Southern Lakes First Nations and Renewable Resources Councils, the program aims to develop K-12 student's connection and understanding with the Southern Lakes Caribou.
- The recovery of the Southern Lakes caribou herds over the last thirty years is truly remarkable, as we have seen the herds grow from fewer than 1,000 animals in the early 1990s to nearly 5,000 today thanks to conservation initiatives.
- Last year, the Government of Yukon, alongside six First Nation governments, British Columbia and Canada, signed the Southern Lakes Caribou Relationship Plan; which set a shared path forward to collaboratively focus on relationships to improve our connection with caribou and each other.
- The Plan includes commitments and recommended actions for Southern Lakes caribou and their habitats, such as:
 - Promoting the school program and providing support to schools for learning opportunities;
 - Continuing the licensed caribou harvest closure and the moratorium on subsistence harvest;

Hot Topic Session Note

TAB D
Spring 2026

Southern Lakes Caribou in the Schools Program

Department

- o continued herd population monitoring;
 - o incorporating caribou habitat requirements into future land use planning; and
 - o ongoing public education.
- Again, congratulations to the steering committee and I look forward to seeing how the *Southern Lakes Caribou in the Schools Program* supports the next generation of stewards of these herds.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

May 11, 2026

Deputy Minister 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

Extended Producer Responsibility

Department of Environment

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.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 1
Spring 2026

Extended Producer Responsibility

Department of
Environment

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

Clean Energy Act

Energy, Mines and
Resources,
Department of
Environment

Topic: The Clean Energy Act legislates greenhouse gas emissions, mining intensity and other climate targets as well as public reporting requirements.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is developing a new Climate Change Action Plan that focuses on realistic and tangible actions that will help the Yukon adapt to the changing climate and support climate-resilient communities.
- We are prioritizing climate resiliency while also supporting emergency preparedness, ensuring dependable and reliable electricity, and protecting our critical infrastructure.
- Repealing the *Clean Energy Act* eliminates the legal obligation to report on emissions targets and actions, and removes the onerous reporting requirements on government.

Key facts and stats:

- The *Clean Energy Act* requires the Government of Yukon to report annually on greenhouse gas emissions, mining intensity targets, renewable heating, zero-emission vehicles, and other actions.
- The *Clean Energy Act* legislates a 45 per cent reduction in non-mining greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to 2010 levels, and legislates net-zero emissions by 2050.
- The *Clean Energy Act* legislates a 45 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for the mining sector on an intensity basis, by 2035.

Clean Energy Act

Energy, Mines and
Resources,
Department of
Environment

Status:

- Emissions are reported on a two-year lag due to data availability. 2023 shows a 7 per cent increase in non-mining greenhouse gases and a 10 per cent increase in total emissions, compared to 2010 levels.
- Greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP and per capita both decreased compared to 2010.
- Industry stakeholders suggest that improved low-carbon electricity availability for mining operations, and improved energy efficient and low carbon fuel technology, would achieve comparable outcomes to the mining intensity target.

If asked if government will amend the *Clean Energy Act* targets:

- This government does not support the unrealistic targets imposed by the *Clean Energy Act* and is committed to focus on tangible actions to address the impacts of climate change.
- Repealing this legislation and its associated reporting requirements does not eliminate or end real action to address climate change.
- Repeal of the Act supports this government's commitment to focus on tangible actions, measurable actions to increase Yukon's resilience in the face of climate change.

If asked why government released a shorter *Clean Energy Act* report:

Session Briefing Note

ENV #2 / EMR #65

Spring 2026

Clean Energy Act

Energy, Mines and
Resources,
Department of
Environment

- In December 2025, we released a concise summary of the Yukon's 2023 emissions and climate change actions to meet the legislated requirements under the *Clean Energy Act*.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

March 25, 2026

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Jeff O'Farrell

March 24, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Spring 2026

Yukon's Climate Change Action Plan

Departments of
Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Topic: The Government of Yukon is committed to developing a Climate Change Action Plan that focuses on achievable actions and community resiliency.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working collaboratively to develop a Climate Change Action Plan rooted in practical, achievable actions that will benefit our communities now and for generations to come.
- The plan will include **real** actions that will increase Yukon's climate resiliency, ensure communities are prepared for climate emergencies and reduce emissions.
- **We will continue to report publicly on the Yukon's emissions through public reports such as the State of the Environment report.**
- The Government of Yukon will take steps to ensure that the climate change action plan reflects the needs and priorities of the territory.

Key facts and stats:

- The Department of Environment's 2026-27 Main Estimates includes \$132,000 to support the development of a new Climate Change Action Plan.

Status:

- In December 2025, the Government of Yukon released the 2024 Clean Energy Act report, which provided an update on the Act's

Spring 2026

Yukon's Climate Change Action Plan

Departments of
Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

legislated reporting requirements. This included the territory's most recent greenhouse gas emissions and methodology, renewable energy availability, registered zero-emission vehicles, mining intensity targets and associated methodology, and a short summary of climate-related actions.

If asked how the Government of Yukon's approach to climate change will change:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to developing a Climate Change Action Plan that will focus on addressing the climate risks that Yukon communities face, while also looking at tangible actions that will **reduce our emissions** and improve our energy efficiency and security.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

March 26, 2026

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Jeff O'Farrell

March 26, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Status

Department of
Environment

Topic: Current funding provided to Government of Yukon to implement the 10-year Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement is set to expire at the end of March 2026.

Key messages:

- Funding under the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement provides the Government of Yukon with an opportunity to accelerate conservation-related initiatives and enhance fish and wildlife conservation.
- While current funding to implement the 10-year agreement is set to expire at the end of March 2026, we are pleased to see the federal government's recent announcement of \$3.8 billion to support *Canada's Strategy to Protect Nature*.
- We are working closely with the federal government to understand how this investment will support our collective nature and conservation goals here in the Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- The Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement was signed in December 2022. Under the agreement, the Government of Canada has provided \$20.6 million over three years to support conservation initiatives, support an ecological cumulative framework, conduct wildlife surveys and advance land use planning and implementation.
- The Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement aims to advance the protection of Yukon lands and waters, support Indigenous-led conservation initiatives and increase efforts to protect species at risk.
- The Yukon's total protected area count is 21.1 per cent, which remains the highest percentage of any province or territory in Canada.

Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Status

Department of
Environment

- The Government of Yukon releases annual Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement progress reports that highlight conservation initiatives under the agreement. The last annual report was published in September 2025.

Status:

- On March 31, the Government of Canada launched *A Force of Nature: Canada's Strategy to Protect Nature*, which includes a \$3.8 billion investment aimed to protect and restore critical habitats, ensure industrial strategies complement conservation efforts and mobilize new capital for nature.

If asked about how a lack of future/ongoing funding could impact work on deliverables under the agreement:

- If federal nature-related funding is limited or unavailable beyond March 2026, the Department of Environment will continue to implement First Nation Final Agreements, protect the Yukon's biodiversity and strengthen land use planning and conservation efforts in the Yukon within our existing budgets.

If asked if the Government of Yukon will introduce species at risk legislation:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with co-management partners — including Yukon First Nations, the Inuvialuit, transboundary Indigenous governments and groups, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Renewable Resources Councils, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) and other partners — on a range of species at risk matters.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 4
Spring 2026

Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Status

Department of
Environment

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

March 31, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Topic: The Minister, alongside departmental and local representatives, attended the Wild Sheep Foundation Sheep Show in Reno, Nevada and the Safari Club International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to understanding how jurisdictions across the country, and around the world, are practicing sustainable wildlife management.
- The Safari Club International Convention is one of the most important tradeshows for Yukon outfitters. Seeing how Yukon businesses compete on the world stage should be supported and celebrated.
- By attending these conferences, I had an opportunity to engage directly with organizations and leaders in wildlife management to gain an understanding of different wildlife management approaches and share the Yukon's perspectives on a global stage.

Key facts and stats:

- The 49th Wild Sheep Foundation's annual convention and sporting expo was held in Reno, NV from January 22-24.
- The Safari Club International Convention was held in Nashville, TN from February 18-21.

Status:

- The Minister, alongside Yukon Fish and Game Association President, Charles Shewen, attended the Safari Club International Convention from February 19-21. The Government of Yukon covered travel expenses with the Yukon Fish and Game Association representative.

- The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board declined an invitation from the Department of Environment to attend the Safari Club International Convention.

If asked about the Minister's commitment to Yukon resident hunting and upholding Chapter 16 UFA commitments:

- These conferences provided an opportunity to understand how other jurisdictions manage wildlife, which can be helpful in informing wildlife management approaches here in the Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon remains committed to ensuring wildlife management decisions in the Yukon remain grounded in the objectives of Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

If asked about paying for the Yukon Fish and Game Association attendance:

- The Safari Club International Conference is an important avenue to learn more from other jurisdictions on their approaches to fish and wildlife management.
- The conference represented an excellent opportunity for the Yukon Fish and Game Association to participate in discussions, share perspectives and align actions to support effective fish and wildlife management in the Yukon.

If asked about who the Minister met at the Sheep Show and what value these meetings brought to the Yukon:

- At the Wild Sheep Foundation's sheep show, I had an opportunity to connect with Alberta's Minister of Forestry and Parks, the Executive

Minister's Travel Outcomes

Department of
Environment

Director of the Wild Sheep Foundation, the CEO of the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia and the Government of BC's Director of Resource Management, as well as Yukon outfitters.

- I was pleased to engage in discussions about ungulate enhancement strategies, partnership benefits, the development of harvest allocation policies and challenges faced by Yukon Outfitters.
- The Safar Club International provides research funding to the Department of Environment, for example last fiscal year they contributed \$140,000 to complete grizzly bear surveying work.

If asked about who the Minister met at the Safari Club International conference and what value these meetings brought to the Yukon:

- At the Safari Club International conference, I had an opportunity to meet with Yukon Outfitters, representatives from Safari Club International, and government officials from other jurisdictions.
- I also participated in the State Wildlife Directors Forum and attended a panel discussion on gun control in Canada.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

May 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Topic: The Government of Yukon's support of a strong outfitting sector and ensuring the Yukon's wildlife are managed responsibly.

Key messages:

- After careful consideration of the Board's proposal to review the outfitter quota process, the internal and external pressures affecting the process, and understanding the Department's capacity for this work, I have directed the Department of Environment to lead the development of a revised process.
- I am confident that the Department will lead the revision of the outfitter quota process in a way that upholds Aboriginal and treaty rights, complies with the Yukon Wildlife Act and provides the outfitting sector with greater certainty and predictability.
- The department will **request** the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board's participation in this process, in recognition of its role as an essential fish and wildlife co-management partner in the Yukon, as set out in Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement.
- The initial planning stage of this work is underway within the Department, and we look forward to communicating more with co-management partners and key stakeholders on their involvement in the future.

Key facts and stats:

- The Guidelines to Establish Outfitter Quotas was established in 1996. The *Wildlife Act* does not allow for multi-year quotas as envisioned by the Guidelines, which were developed prior to numerous First Nation Final Agreements and do not reflect the varied realities of the Yukon's land claim status or recent case law.

Outfitting in the Yukon

Department of
Environment

- In 2021, the Department of Environment introduced an interim process to extend existing quotas on an annual basis to align with the *Wildlife Act* and enable consultation with First Nation governments on quota changes.
- As the department leads the review, the interim quota process will continue.

Status:

- In December 2025, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, with support from the Department of Environment, announced that they were preparing to lead a territory-wide public review of the *Guidelines to Establish Outfitter Quotas*.
- In February 2026, the Department of Environment terminated the Transfer Payment Agreement that was to provide \$683,000 over three years to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to undertake a review to modernize the *Guidelines to Establish Outfitter Quotas*.

If asked about the Ombudsman report on the outfitter quota process:

- The Department of Environment is aware of the Ombudsman report on the revision of the outfitter quota process and has responded and accepted all three recommendations. These recommendations are to:
 - Engage with outfitters in a timely and meaningful manner when implementing the plan to revise the outfitter quota process;
 - Work with outfitters on quota allocations and ensure they are heard through the engagement process; and
 - Take into consideration outfitters' needs and circumstances during the outfitter quota process review.

- The department is in the early stages of planning this review and has already notified co-management partners, including Yukon First Nations, as well as stakeholder groups such as the Yukon Outfitters Association, that this work is being initiated.
- I recognize that outfitters are a key stakeholder in wildlife management and we are committed to understanding and considering their needs and circumstances, alongside those of other stakeholder groups and our co-management partners, when making decisions regarding the outfitter quota process.
- The Department of Environment will continue to lead the revision of the outfitter quota process in a way that upholds Aboriginal and treaty rights, complies with the Yukon *Wildlife Act* and provides the outfitting sector with greater certainty and predictability.

If asked what advantages terminating the TPA with Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and initiating this work through the government brings:

- I thank the Board for their involvement in this work to date and for identifying key issues with the 1996 outfitter quota process that need to be addressed.
- Following the initial planning stage, the Department will communicate more with co-management partners, including the board, on their future involvement in this process.

If asked will the Government of Yukon include co-management partners in the development of the modernized outfitter quota process:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring that wildlife management decisions are aligned with Aboriginal and treaty rights,

Outfitting in the Yukon

Department of
Environment

including commitments made under Chapter 16 of the First Nation Final Agreements.

If asked whether the Yukon government's revised quota process will be guided by the same objectives as the Board's review, which aimed to develop a process that aligns with legislation, is socially acceptable, ecologically sustainable, practical to implement, and respects the values and rights of Indigenous governments and groups:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that the outfitter quota process, as described in the 1996 Yukon Outfitter Quota Guidelines, is outdated and needs to be modernized to reflect current wildlife management principles and comply with *the Wildlife Act*.
- Our intention is to develop a quota process that aligns with the Yukon's conservation objectives, is consistent with the Yukon *Wildlife Act* and the First Nation Final Agreements and provides clarity and predictability for the Yukon's outfitting industry.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

April 30, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department

Hunting Opportunities

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Government of Yukon committed to an immediate review of existing hunting restrictions with support from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to reviewing existing closures and restrictions to ensure that Yukoners have access to hunting opportunities while protecting the long-term sustainability of our wildlife populations.
- Any decisions on hunting in the territory will respect Final Agreements and continue to be informed by scientific data, Indigenous Knowledge and public input.
- New hunting opportunities are identified in partnership with Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and Renewable Resources Councils.

Key facts and stats:

- The Government of Yukon continually reviews hunting closures and restrictions to protect the sustainability of wildlife populations while ensuring that hunting opportunities are available.

Status:

- The Government of Yukon is currently evaluating the status of existing restrictions and closures to determine any recommended adjustments to harvest opportunities.
- The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board is currently hosting public engagement from January 26-March 27 on regulation change

Session Briefing Note

TAB 13
Spring 2026

Hunting Opportunities

Department of
Environment

proposals and will make recommendations to the government on proposed changes for the 2027/28 fishing and hunting season once complete.

If asked about hunting restrictions that will be removed for the 2026 hunting season:

- Review of existing hunting closures and restrictions takes time to ensure decisions are informed by scientific data, Indigenous Knowledge and public input.
- Work is ongoing to evaluate existing restrictions and determine if future changes are possible for the upcoming season.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department

Elk – Agriculture Conflict

Energy, Mines and
Resources and
Environment

Topic: Reducing damage from the Takhini elk population on agricultural properties.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that elk are causing negative impacts on crop production and farm infrastructure, and we have taken steps to mitigate these impacts.
- Farmers can apply for funding to install game fencing and compensation for elk-related damage to crops and property through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership funding program.
- Any Yukoner experiencing a conflict with elk or other wildlife on their property can call the TIPP line at 1-800-661-0525 to report the issue to Conservation Officers. Those experiencing elk damage may contact the Government of Yukon to explore other relief options.

Key facts and stats:

- Since 2014, the Government of Yukon has provided funding to compensate farmers for elk damage and to install exclusion fencing. [In 2025-26 this funded three compensation projects and five exclusion fencing projects.](#)
- A Limited Exclusion Zone applies localized and range-scaled herd management to deter elk from agricultural areas in Takhini Valley.
- Elk are monitored by the Department of Environment to collect herd location data.

Elk – Agriculture Conflict

Energy, Mines and
Resources and
Environment

Status:

- In 2023, the Government of Yukon implemented a two-year pilot project to minimize impacts of the Takhini elk herd on agricultural properties while maintaining the Takhini elk herd on the landscape.
- As part of this project, an Elk-Agriculture Coordinator was hired as a direct point of contact for affected landowners.
- A report is being prepared by the Elk-Agriculture Steering Committee, which will include program highlights and challenges, as well as key recommendations for future work. The Government of Yukon will review this report and prepare options for additional mitigations.
- In March 2026, the Department of Environment announced that it is taking steps to procure elk feed that could be deployed in strategic locations as an additional mitigation tool if needed this winter.

If asked about the government's procurement of feed to address elk conflict:

- The Government of Yukon appreciates the work of the Elk-Agriculture Steering Committee and Elk-Agricultural Coordinator to reduce elk conflict.
- Periods of extreme cold have intensified elk conflict with agriculture properties this winter.
- The Government of Yukon has taken steps to procure elk feed that could be deployed in strategic locations as an additional mitigation tool should additional conflicts arise this winter.

Session Briefing Note

EMR #18/ ENV #14

Spring 2026

Elk – Agriculture Conflict

Energy, Mines and
Resources and
Environment

- This type of management tool has been used in other jurisdictions throughout Canada and the United States when challenging climates and low food resources have caused conflict situations.
- Building on the work of the Elk-Agriculture Steering Committee and Coordinator, the Government of Yukon will continue to work with affected landowners to implement a range of management tools, when necessary, to reduce elk–agriculture conflicts.

Approved by:

Jeff O'Farrell

May 8, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

May 8, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Environment

Date approved

Fish and Wildlife Regulation Process

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Department of Environment and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board are reviewing fish and wildlife regulation change proposals through a joint process, which includes a Board-led public engagement running from January 26 to March 27, 2026.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board as the primary instrument for public participation in fish and wildlife management in the Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon is excited to participate in a restored, renewed and reinvigorated public engagement process on fish and wildlife regulation changes.
- The Yukon public will have the opportunity to weigh in on a range of proposals submitted by private individuals, non-government organizations, Renewable Resources Councils, Yukon First Nations and the Government of Yukon.
- Following this public engagement, the Board will make a recommendation to the Minister on each proposal, and the Government of Yukon will consult with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups before making decisions.

Key facts and stats:

- The engagement will include nine community meetings, one online meeting and an online survey.
- The Minister of Environment has ultimate decision-making authority on fish and wildlife management under Chapter 16 of the First Nation Final Agreements.

Fish and Wildlife Regulation Process

Department of
Environment

Status:

- In December 2024, the Government of Yukon and the Board announced a revised and improved process for reviewing fish and wildlife regulation proposals, resuming a process that had been paused since 2019.
- In spring 2025, a review committee comprised of equal Board and Department members initiated a fish and wildlife regulation change proposal intake, which prompted submissions from co-management partners, non-governmental organizations, the public and the Department of Environment.
- In October 2025, notice to proponents on the status of proposals was communicated by the Board.
- The public engagement period to gather feedback on proposals accepted by the Board runs January 26 to March 27.

If asked about the Minister's position on a specific regulation change proposal:

- As Minister of Environment, I will not be taking a position on any of the proposals that are part of the regulation change process until the public engagement is completed, and once the Board has made their recommendation to me and consultation with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups is complete.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Topic: The Government of Yukon is committed to increasing wildlife surveys and data collection to ensure decisions are based on the best available information.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon will continue to make wildlife decisions that are informed by the best available information and work with co-management partners and the private sector to identify opportunities to increase wildlife surveys across the territory.
- This year, the Department of Environment plans to complete fish and wildlife surveys for a variety of species including caribou, moose, elk, deer, thinhorn sheep, bison, muskox, lake trout and burbot.

Key facts and stats:

- The Department of Environment works with our co-management partners to prioritize species and survey areas, analyze and report on population data, assess harvest trends and identify risks to wildlife populations and habitats.
- Wildlife surveys are prioritized based on several factors including existing population data, harvest sustainability concerns, co-management partner priorities, development pressures, needs for species management and associated work plans, land use planning commitments and available resources.

Status:

- The Department of Environment 2025-26 Supplementary Budget included \$300,000 to support wildlife survey cost increases, which

has been maintained in the Department of Environment's 2026-27 Main Estimates.

- In addition, as part of the Department of Environment's 2026-27 budget, the department proposes to invest:
 - \$126,000 to support targeted fish and wildlife monitoring around the Eagle gold mine site, and
 - \$468,000 to fulfill wildlife monitoring requirements prescribed through Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act project review processes and decisions.

If asked how the Department plans to increase wildlife surveys without significant dedicated funding:

- The Government of Yukon is focusing on our highest priorities to maintain and improve services for Yukoners. While we recognize that many areas require additional investment, these initiatives will take time to implement.
- While this work continues, the Department of Environment will continue to engage with co-management partners, the private sector and other non-governmental organizations to seek opportunities to support fish and wildlife surveying work in the Yukon.

If asked about investment of public funds to monitor wildlife as a requirement of a mining project:

- YESAB may recommend water, fish or wildlife monitoring related to development projects in the territory under section 110 of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act.
- The Department of Environment is required to fulfill these requirements if they are agreed to by the decision bodies and relate to

Session Briefing Note

TAB 16
Spring 2026

Wildlife Surveys and Data Use

Department of
Environment

the department's mandate and expertise. This work may include collaboration with the proponent and/or First Nations governments.

- These monitoring efforts aim to ensure projects in the territory proceed in an accountable, responsible and sustainable manner while striving to identify and mitigate impacts on fish, wildlife and water resources.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

April 27, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of Environment

Yukon River Salmon

Department of
Environment

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

Key messages:

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

Key facts and stats:

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

Yukon River Salmon

Department of
Environment

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

Status:

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

Yukon River Salmon

Department of
Environment

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

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

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

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

Approved by:

Shehnaz Ali

April 22, 2026

A/ Deputy Minister, Environment

Porcupine Caribou Herd Status

Department of
Environment

Topic: In July 2025, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game published the results of a photo survey of the Porcupine caribou herd that was conducted with support from the Government of Yukon.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is aware of the recent Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee report that indicates the Porcupine Caribou herd population has declined from its peak in 2017.
- While fluctuations in the population size of migratory caribou herds are part of their ecology, climate change is making the frequency and magnitude of these changes less predictable.
- Under the International Porcupine Caribou Agreement, the Government of Yukon will remain engaged in the work of the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee and continue to monitor the health of the herd and their habitat.

Key facts and stats:

- Results from a new photo survey of the Porcupine caribou herd show the population declined from a peak of about 218,000 in 2017 to 143,000 in 2025.
- The Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement was created in 1985 as a component of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. Parties include the governments of Canada, Yukon, and Northwest Territories, and the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Inuvialuit Game Council.

Porcupine Caribou Herd Status

Department of
Environment

- Parties of the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement approved a Harvest Management Plan for the herd in 2010, which uses a colour-coded system tied directly to estimated herd size (green, yellow, orange and red) and outlines what harvest levels and restrictions apply. The current estimate of herd size indicates that the population is still in the green zone.

Status:

- The Porcupine Caribou Management Board hosted their annual harvest meeting in February in Inuvik to identify recommendations to Parties of the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement, following procedures identified in the approved Harvest Management Plan.
- In December 2025, the Yukon Legislative Assembly carried a motion to support efforts to uphold the inherent rights of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to protect the Porcupine caribou herd by working with the Government of Canada to seek permanent protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and oppose the sale of oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

If asked about proposed oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Porcupine caribou herd:

- Oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, particularly in the “1002 lands”, poses significant risks to the herd, including increased calf mortality and habitat displacement.
- The Government of Yukon continues to provide input and data into regulatory processes led by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 18
Spring 2026

Porcupine Caribou Herd Status

Department of
Environment

Fish and Wildlife Service around oil and gas activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

- We also continue to engage in the work of the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee, under the International Porcupine Caribou Agreement, in monitoring the status of the herd.
- The Department of Environment also offers administrative support under the International Porcupine Caribou Agreement by participating in both the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and the International Porcupine Caribou Board.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

March 30, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Topic: On March 26, the Ross River Dena Council released a Declaration of the Rights of the Finlayson Caribou Herd.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is aware of Ross River Dena Council's Declaration of the Rights of the Finlayson Caribou Herd.
- The Department of Environment continues to monitor the herd and work with co-management partners, including the Ross River Dena Council, to sustainably manage the herd to ensure it remains healthy.
- The most recent 2022 population estimate of the herd shows that the herd had increased to over 3,300 from the 2017 population estimate of just over 2,700 caribou.
- The Department of Environment continues to monitor the Finlayson Caribou Herd, including participating in the October 2026 composition survey of the herd, to determine the herd's age and sex ratios, by BMC Minerals, the proponent of the Kudz Ze Kayah mine project.

Key facts and stats:

- The Finlayson Caribou Herd is part of the Northern Mountain population of woodland caribou, which is listed federally under the *Species at Risk Act* as Special Concern.
- Kudz Ze Kayah, meaning "caribou country" in the Kaska language, is also the name for BMC Minerals' proposed open pit and underground silver, zinc, lead, copper and gold mine project located approximately 115km southeast of Ross River.
- Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation have expressed concerns regarding potential impacts to the Finlayson Caribou Herd,

including the loss of rutting and post-calving habitat, and subsequent impacts to its asserted Kaska rights.

- The Finlayson Caribou Herd has been monitored annually since 1982. The 2022 population survey marked the first time since 1990 that the Finlayson Caribou Herd population showed an increasing population trend.
- Results from the 2017 and the 2022 population surveys of the Finlayson Caribou Herd are available on yukon.ca.

Status:

- In response to concerns expressed by Ross River Dena Council, resident licenced harvest of the Finlayson Caribou Herd was closed in 2018-19 and non-resident licenced harvest was closed in 2019-20. Before the 2018-2019 season, 30 permit hunt authorizations for the Finlayson Caribou Herd were available annually. However, subsistence harvest continues.
- The Kudz Ze Kayah project is currently awaiting a new decision document before it can advance in the regulatory process. The decision document for the project is expected to be released soon.

If asked if the Government of Yukon will recognize Ross River Dena Council's declaration Finlayson Caribou Herd:

- The Government of Yukon will continue to work with co-management partners, including the Ross River Dena Council, to ensure the sustainable management of the Finlayson Caribou Herd.

Session Briefing Note

ENV 19
Spring 2026

Finlayson Caribou Herd Status

Department of
Environment

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

March 30, 2026

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Campground Improvements and Planning

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Government of Yukon is committed to expanding sites at existing campgrounds, with particular focus on campgrounds with proximity to Whitehorse.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that camping in the Yukon is becoming more popular each year, and we are working to increase camping and recreation opportunities across the territory.
- The Department of Environment is working with Yukon First Nations, municipalities and community partners to identify opportunities to expand existing campgrounds and provide additional camping and recreational opportunities to both visiting and local campers.
- This includes adding an additional 14 campsites to the Pine Lake campground this year and continuing to explore options to develop a new campground in the territory.

Key facts and stats:

- The Department of Environment operates 42 road-accessible campgrounds, which account for over 1,200 campsites.
- There are 12 recreational sites in the Yukon that provide day-use recreation opportunities including picnic shelters and boat launches.
- The 2025-26 Supplementary Estimates included over \$1 million in funding to support campground firewood resources, outhouse servicing, and on-site host services.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 25
Spring 2026

Campground Improvements and Planning

Department of
Environment

Status:

- The Department of Environment's 2026-27 Main Estimates proposes to invest \$100,000 in campground development. This funding will help to complete 14 additional campsites at the Pine Lake Campground, which are expected to open in August 2026.

If asked why the Department of Environment's 2026-27 Main Estimates does not include any significant new investments in Yukon campgrounds:

- The Government of Yukon is focusing on our highest priorities to maintain and improve services for Yukoners. While we recognize that many areas require additional investment, these initiatives will take time to implement.
- While this work happens, the Department of Environment will continue to identify areas where we can increase camping and recreational opportunities for both Yukoners and visiting campers.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

March 16, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Topic: The Government of Yukon is committed to exploring options to develop a new campground in the Yukon.

Key messages:

- We know that the demand for camping is growing and that there is a need to increase camping opportunities for both Yukoners and visitors.
- Over the coming months, the Government of Yukon will work with community partners, including Yukon First Nations and municipalities, to explore options to develop a new campground that is accessible and meets the needs of campers.
- We will also continue to work to expand and increase the number of campsites at existing campgrounds.

Key facts and stats:

- The Department of Environment maintains 42 road accessible campgrounds, accounting for over 1,200 campsites and 12 recreation sites.
- Over the past four years, the Department of Environment has developed nearly 70 new campsites in campgrounds across the territory.

Status:

- The Department of Environment has been engaging with First Nations government on the development of new campgrounds.
- Suitability criteria have been developed to guide the identification of potential locations for a new campground that would balance

New Campground Development

Department of
Environment

stewardship of ecological and cultural values with recreational experiences.

If asked about how the Government of Yukon will find a suitable location for a new campground:

- The Department of Environment will review previously completed feasibility studies, assess administrative reserved land and current day use areas in park boundaries and re-engage First Nations and communities to identify opportunities for the development of a new campground.

If asked about the Government of Yukon's timeline to identify a location for a new campground?

- We are at the very first steps of identifying where a new campground could be located. The Department of Environment will continue to work towards finding possible locations and engage with First Nations and communities on the development of a new campground.
- Once an area is identified, the Department of Environment will have a better understanding of a timeline for the creation of a new campground.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Campground Reservation Service

Department of Environment

Topic: The Department of Environment is expanding the campground reservation service to include Fox Lake and Kusawa Lake campgrounds while continuing to assess the service to determine whether further revisions are needed.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is expanding the front country campground reservation service for the 2026 camping season.
- This year, campsites reservations will be available at Wolf Creek, Marsh Lake, Pine Lake, Tombstone Mountain, Kusawa Lake and Fox Lake front country campgrounds.
- The reservation service helped to reduce site-saving violations at the four campgrounds where it was implemented over the past two years and many users of the service have reported positive feedback.
- Expanding this service to the Kusawa Lake and Fox Lake campgrounds will provide us with additional information to assess how the service is working in the Yukon and determine if any revisions are needed.

Key facts and stats:

- The Department of Environment manages 42 campgrounds and 12 recreation sites across the territory.
- Feedback collected during the first two years of the reservation service indicates that over 90% of users had a favourable experience and violations related to unattended sites or site saving dropped by 75% at Wolf Creek, Marsh Lake and Pine Lake campgrounds.

Campground Reservation Service

Department of Environment

- The campground reservation service has been available at Wolf Creek, Marsh Lake, Pine Lake and Tombstone Mountain campgrounds since 2024 and an online reservation service has been available for Tombstone Territorial Park backcountry campgrounds since 2012.
- In 2026, 152 (14%) of about 1,100 front-country campsites across the territory will be available for reservation. The remaining sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- In 2025, over 6,500 campsite reservations were made at Wolf Creek, Marsh Lake, Pine Lake and Tombstone Mountain campgrounds.

Status:

- In 2026, annual campground voucher holders will continue to be able to reserve a campsite for up to a total of three nights per season at participating campgrounds, at no additional cost.
- Backcountry camping reservations for the 2026 camping season opened on March 4 and reservations for front country campgrounds will open on April 8.

If asked about how the Government of Yukon plans to assess the reservation service to determine if amendments are needed:

- The Government of Yukon will continue to assess the online booking system to determine whether revisions are needed, which will include surveying reservation users about their experience.

If asked about why the Government of Yukon chose to expand to Fox Lake and Kusawa Lake campgrounds:

Session Briefing Note

TAB 27
Spring 2026

Campground Reservation Service

Department of
Environment

- The Department of Environment prioritized expanding the campground reservation service based on the campgrounds' popularity and proximity to Whitehorse.

Approved by:

Marc Cattet

February 18, 2026

A/Deputy Minister, Environment

Topic: The Government of Yukon is developing flood hazard maps for flood-prone Yukon communities.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is producing flood hazard maps for flood-prone Yukon communities to help inform flood preparedness, emergency management, and land use planning.
- Flood hazard maps are developed using historical flood data, complex modelling and local knowledge from communities and First Nations and show how different flood scenarios could impact an area.

Key facts and stats:

- The 14 flood-prone communities identified for flood hazard mapping are: Teslin, Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake, Lake Laberge, Upper Liard, Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Ross River, Whitehorse, Carmacks, Dawson, Klondike Valley and Old Crow.
- Federal funding covers most costs, with each flood hazard map estimated to cost \$400,000 to \$500,000. Completing flood hazard maps for all 14 communities is dependent on available resources but is expected to be completed by 2028.
- Final flood hazard maps are publicly available online at the Yukon's Flood Hub, where Yukoners can also find current flood forecasts, flood advisories and other flood-related information.

Flood Mapping

Department of
Environment

Status:

- Flood hazard maps have been developed for Carmacks, Old Crow, Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake, Lake Laberge and Teslin. These maps are available on Yukon.ca.
- Final flood hazard maps for Dawson and the Klondike Valley are anticipated to be available in April 2026 and flood mapping studies are currently underway for Upper Liard, Mayo and Ross River.

If asked about how the Government of Yukon prioritized flood mapping studies?

- Flood mapping studies for Yukon communities were prioritized based on flood risk, available data, existing work, development pressures, community interest and input, complexity of flood mechanisms, available funding and input from the federal prioritization process.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

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 35
Spring 2026

Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Community Services

Approved by:

Damien Burns

Deputy Minister, Community Services

February 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: The Department of Environment monitors and reports on flood risk to Yukon communities.

Key messages:

- Each spring, the Department of Environment monitors and reports on the snowmelt and river ice breakup to forecast flood risk to Yukon communities.
- While the April snow survey typically captures the highest snow water equivalent value of the winter and is the most robust predictor of freshet flood potential, the May 1 snow survey provides an indication of how much snow has melted to date.
- As of now, snowpack ranges from above normal to well above normal across the territory.
- While snowpack is one risk factor for high flows, water levels and flooding during the spring snowmelt period, spring weather is also a critical risk factor.
- The timing and progression of snowmelt and precipitation events are important drivers of flooding regardless of snowpack levels.
- The most up to date information on current flood advisories, conditions, forecasts, snow bulletins and flood maps, is available on the Yukon's Flood Hub at floods.service.yukon.ca.
- The Department of Environment will continue to work closely with the Emergency Measures Organization to plan and coordinate with local governments and agencies to enhance flood preparedness and emergency response planning.

Key facts and stats:

Session Briefing Note

TAB 36
Spring 2026

2026 Flood Forecasting

Department of
Environment

- Every March, April and May, the Government of Yukon conducts Yukon-wide snow surveys to help forecast water levels and flow conditions across the Yukon.
- The Snow Survey Bulletin and Water Supply Forecasts provide a summary of winter meteorological and hydrological conditions for major Yukon watersheds.
- The Department monitors the snowpack at 52 locations in the Yukon and five locations in British Columbia and Alaska.
- The Yukon's Flood Hub can be found at floods.service.yukon.ca.

Status:

- The Government of Yukon released the May Yukon Snow Survey Bulletin and Water Supply Forecast on May 7.

If asked about the potential for flooding in the Southern Lakes:

- While there is above normal snowpack in the Southern Lakes area, the timing of snowmelt and the amount of precipitation also influence flood risk, making early season flood potential forecasts for the Southern Lakes more uncertain compared to other communities.

Approved by:	
Dennis Berry	May 7, 2026
_____	_____
Deputy Minister, Environment	

Rusting Streams

Department of
Environment

Topic: Some streams along the Dempster highway and in the Tombstone and Mayo areas have been changing colour rapidly due to permafrost thaw.

Key messages:

- The Department of Environment is monitoring streams reported to be changing colour because of thawing permafrost, which releases nutrients, metals and organic matter into the water; a phenomenon called “rusting.”
- The Government of Yukon, in partnership with Yukon First Nations and researchers from McMaster and Carleton University, is assessing affected areas and collecting water samples to better understand chemical and biological impacts.
- We advise those who come across streams that are rusty red or milky white in colour to avoid drinking or using this water and to report these observations to the Water Science and Stewardship Branch.

Key facts and stats:

- Rusting streams have also been documented in Alaska and are considered an emerging environmental observation associated with climate change. Researchers identified 75 streams in Alaska’s Brooks Range that turned orange in the last 10 years.
- In the Yukon, researchers have identified 130 “rusting” streams in the Peel River basin, with stream discoloration extending hundreds of meters to tens of kilometers downstream.

Rusting Streams

Department of
Environment

Status:

- In 2025, a helicopter reconnaissance survey of Tombstone Territorial Park identified affected areas and collected water samples to assess the potential chemical and biological impacts of rusting streams.
- The Canada Water Agency recently awarded \$200,000 to support research on rusting streams in the Peel River watershed.
- The Water Science and Stewardship Branch have an existing long-term water quality monitoring network for the Yukon and will evaluate how this needs to be adapted to monitor water quality degradation related to rusting streams.

If asked about if there are any current mitigation strategies or options to reverse rusting streams:

- The Government of Yukon is not actively pursuing options to reverse rusting and is focusing on assessing the scale and magnitude of the risk to determine whether mitigation or other management strategies are needed.
- The underlying process — sulfide mineral oxidation — is natural but is being accelerated by climate change and has potential for widespread implications for water quality in the Yukon.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Mayo Wareham Dam Inspector's Direction

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Department of Environment issued an Inspector's Direction to Yukon Energy Corporation regarding the Wareham Dam on November 14, 2025.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is aware of the deteriorating condition of Mayo Generating Station's Wareham Dam.
- In November 2025, the Department of Environment issued an Inspector's Direction to the Yukon Energy Corporation that requires the development of a risk management plan, adequate emergency preparedness measures and an evaluation of spillway management options.
- Last month, the Department sent Yukon Energy Corporation a letter of adequacy and Supplementary Direction that requires them to adhere to the workplan to reduce the risk of failure of the existing Wareham Dam Spillway.
- We understand Yukon Energy Corporation has submitted a proposal to YESAB for the Wareham Dam spillway replacement project and we will continue to work with Yukon Energy Corporation on their compliance objectives, to ensure public safety and environmental protection.

Key facts and stats:

- The Environmental Compliance & Inspections (EC&I) Unit within the Department of Environment is responsible for verifying compliance with the Yukon *Environment Act*, *Waters Act*, associated regulations

Mayo Wareham Dam Inspector's Direction

Department of
Environment

and environmental authorizations, including power generating water licences.

- Inspectors designated under the Yukon's *Waters Act* may issue an Inspector's Direction, when needed, to ensure compliance with the Act, its regulations or the conditions of a licence.

Status:

- An Inspector's Direction was issued to Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC) on November 14, 2025. YEC provided written responses to the Inspector's Direction by the compliance deadline of December 31, 2025.
- On March 11, the department's Environmental Compliance and Inspections Unit issued YEC a letter of adequacy and Supplementary Direction that requires YEC to adhere to the workplan they submitted.

If asked about inspections identifying concerns with the spillway earlier:

- Risk assessments, inspection planning and annual compliance priorities are informed by information submitted by YEC under their water licence, including Dam Safety Inspections, Dam Safety Reviews, and Annual Reports.
- Inspectors were aware of past reporting by YEC that identified issues at the Wareham Spillway Dam and the need for ongoing maintenance and planning work on the spillway.
- However, YEC's emergency water licence application submitted in April and June 2025 provided new information that characterized the situation as emergent, rapidly deteriorating and requiring immediate

Session Briefing Note

TAB 44
Spring 2026

Mayo Wareham Dam Inspector's Direction

Department of
Environment

attention, prompting Inspectors to act within their authority to ensure compliance with the *Waters Act*.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 11, 2026

Environmental Liabilities and Contaminated Sites

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Government of Yukon works to identify, assess and remediate government-owned contaminated sites.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working to clean up government-owned contaminated sites in the territory to protect the health of our communities and revitalize sites for future development.
- The Government of Yukon will continue to invest in the assessment, monitoring and remediation work of government-owned contaminated sites to reduce their environmental impact and help grow the territory's economy.
- Investing in contaminated site clean-up supports environmental health but also enables future development opportunities to benefit Yukon communities.

Key facts and stats:

- The Government of Yukon owns or operates 124 sites that have been identified as contaminated or where contamination is suspected.
- Assessment and remediation projects are completed by approximately 15 different private sector consulting firms.

Status:

- In the 2026-27 fiscal year, the Government of Yukon will invest \$9.5 million in remediating 12 contaminated sites. Most of the request is related to Kotaneelee Natural Gas Well L-38, which was included in the 2026-27 remediation plan.

Environmental Liabilities and Contaminated Sites

Department of Environment

- Other major remediation projects planned for 2026-27 include Discovery Creek Placer Mine and the former Wellgreen mill and tailings Site.

If asked if the Kotaneelee Natural Gas Well L-38 poses risks to public health and safety and what actions the Government of Yukon is taking to address the orphaned well:

- While the gas well is inactive, further investment is needed to address the growing health and safety risk associated with the site and ensure it is safely remediated and abandoned.
- The Departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources are working together to mitigate risks associated with the well and complete remediation in 2027, with planned work to commence this winter.

If asked about the Discovery Creek abandoned placer mine:

- The Government of Yukon is working to clean up the abandoned Discovery Creek placer mine near Carmacks.
- The 2026-27 main estimates include funding for Department of Environment to work with Energy, Mines and Resources to undertake reclamation and remediation activities, which will include the removal of all buildings, above-ground waste and contaminated soil as well as restoration of disturbed areas.

If asked about the status of the 5th and Rogers development area:

Session Briefing Note

TAB 45
Spring 2026

Environmental Liabilities and Contaminated Sites

Department of
Environment

- The 5th and Rogers site is currently being developed by private industry following remediation of the site by the Government of Yukon.
- In the areas where development is planned to occur, levels of residual contamination are low and not considered a risk to public health.
- We look forward to seeing the site host a number of residential housing units in the future.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

May 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Casino Mine Project

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Casino Mine Project - Panel Review

Key messages:

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

Key facts and stats:

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

Casino Mine Project

Executive Council
Office

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

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

Status:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB# 46
Spring 2026

Casino Mine Project

Executive Council
Office

If asked about the Panel Review Process:

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

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 12, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Topic: The Government of Yukon has received numerous reports regarding environmental concerns, public health, community safety and wildlife conflicts at 2 Lodgepole Lane in Whitehorse.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that the reported issues at 2 Lodgepole Lane have remained unresolved for many years.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to connecting with the City of Whitehorse to discuss options to address issues on the site and identify any opportunities for remediation and revitalization of the property for potential future uses.
- In the meantime, the Government of Yukon remains available to the City of Whitehorse in navigating applicable regulatory requirements and exploring options to address public safety risks and potential future uses of the site.

Key facts and stats:

- Complaints regarding 2 Lodgepole Lane are numerous and cover a wide range of issues, which have mainly been reported by one individual. Many of the complaints are under the mandate of other agencies including Health and Social Services, the City of Whitehorse and the RCMP. Without strong evidence of a clear responsible party or significant adverse effects, the Department of Environment has no ability to order or direct the current property owners to remediate.
- The Department of Environment continues to be available to support the city with technical expertise and individuals with concerns regarding wildlife on the property. Wildlife conflicts can be reported to the Yukon's 24/7 TIPP Line at 1-800-661-0525.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 47
Spring 2026

Lodgepole Lane

Department of
Environment

Status:

- In 2022, 2 Lodgepole Lane was added to the Contaminated Sites Information Map, which lists properties that the Department of Environment has evidence of contamination at one point in time. Inclusion on the map does not directly indicate that there is a need to remediate the site.

If asked about whether the Department of Environment will complete an inspection of the site:

- The Department of Environment has performed several follow-up inspections of the site and continues to find contamination to be minimal and posing a low risk to the surrounding environment.
- Spill reports and occurrences for this site in the past have been rated as low risk by Environment officials. There is no evidence to suggest otherwise.

Approved by:

Marc Cattet

February 18, 2026

A/Deputy Minister, Environment

Noise Emissions Standards

Department of
Environment

Topic: Residents in Whitehorse are leading a petition for the Government of Yukon to create noise standards for thermal power generation following noise concerns at Yukon Energy Corporation's facilities.

Key messages:

- The Department of Environment regulates emissions from thermal power generation under the Air Emissions Regulation and the *Environment Act*.
- While noise is considered a pollutant under the *Environment Act*, there are no specific standards and procedures to manage noise from industrial activities.
- However, the department may include permit conditions around noise when identified through a Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board assessment.
- Currently, both of Yukon Energy Corporation's Faro and Whitehorse facilities have permit conditions around noise control, which includes noise impact assessments (Faro) or the installation of physical noise mitigations (Whitehorse).
- Yukon Energy Corporation is working to meet continual assessment reporting in Faro and physical noise mitigations in Whitehorse by the end of 2026.
- The Department of Environment will continue to consider permit conditions for industrial activities when identified by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board and will work with the Yukon Energy Corporation to ensure compliance with the permitting requirements for their facilities.

Status:

- A higher-than-average volume of noise complaints was received from residents during the 2025-26 winter months regarding thermal generation activities at the Whitehorse Rapids and Faro generating stations.
- Additional noise concerns are emerging regarding Yukon Energy's proposed Whitehorse Power Centers project.

If asked if the Government of Yukon's will develop noise emissions standards:

- If identified through a Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board assessment, the Department of Environment may include permit conditions regarding noise mitigation.
- Yukon Energy Corporation is working to meet continual assessment reporting in Faro and physical noise mitigations in Whitehorse by the end of 2026.
- We will continue to consider permit conditions when identified through assessments by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

May 11, 2026

Deputy Minister of Environment

Animal Protection and Control Act Implementation

Department of
Environment & Energy,
Mines and Resources

Topic: The Government of Yukon enforces requirements under the *Animal Protection and Control Act*.

Key messages:

- The *Animal Protection and Control Act* is a modern framework that guides domestic and livestock animal protection and control in the Yukon.
- The Act regulates animal-related businesses and rescues and ownership of exotic pets. It also provides tools to address feral and high-risk animals to protect animals, Yukoners, their property, and the environment.
- The Government of Yukon is working closely with Yukon First Nations, Yukon communities and animal-related businesses to keep them informed and implement the regulations under the Act.

Key facts and stats:

- Under the *Animal Protection and Control Act*, officers with the Agriculture Branch in the department of Energy, Mines and Resources respond to livestock concerns, and officers with the Department of Environment respond to all other species.
- In 2025-26, 180 occurrence reports were documented, five investigations were launched, and two charges were laid under the *Animal Protection and Control Act*. In addition, one permit was issued for an animal rescue, two permits for animal boarding facilities, and one permit for a pet store.

Status:

Session Briefing Note

ENV 53 / EMR 19

Spring 2026

Animal Protection and Control Act Implementation

Department of Environment & Energy, Mines and Resources

- The *Animal Protection and Control Act* was brought into effect in April 2024.
- In July 2024, the Department of Environment hired a Program Manager who supports officers in both departments to implement the *Animal Protection and Control Act* and associated regulations.

If asked about measures taken to address unregulated animal rescues in the territory:

- Animal rescue organizations, boarding facilities and pet stores that do not currently hold a permit to operate are not in compliance and should contact the Animal Health and Protection Branch or the Agriculture Branch to get instructions on how to obtain a permit.
- Animal Protection and Control Officers work with unpermitted facilities to bring them into compliance with the Act. Officers use tools including education, warnings, and orders, and may also pursue charges in some cases.

Approved by:

Jeff O'Farrell

February 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Dennis Berry

February 9, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of Environment

Date approved

Peel Land Use Plan Implementation / Peel National Park

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Government of Yukon is committed to working with parties to create a national park in the Teetł'it Gwinjik (Peel River) watershed and continuing to implement the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan.

Key messages:

- The Government of Yukon will continue to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use plan in partnership with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council.
- As a part of this implementation, we are working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of Canada toward creating a national park in the Teetł'it Gwinjik (Peel River) Watershed.
- Establishing a new national park would protect 3,000 square kilometres of the Peel Watershed, recognize the region's spiritual, cultural, environmental and socio-economic values, and support co-management of the park with parties.

Key facts and stats:

- In September 2025, partners announced that a proposed national park in the Teetł'it Gwinjik (Peel River) Watershed was deemed feasible and a Collaboration Accord was signed to advance negotiating an establishment agreement.
- Twenty mineral claims remain in overlap with the proposed area for park designation.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 60
Spring 2026

Peel Land Use Plan Implementation / Peel National Park

Department of
Environment

Status:

- The Government of Yukon is participating in negotiations on an establishment agreement to transfer administration and control of the land to the Government of Canada.
- The Peel Plan Implementation Committee, which consists of representatives from all five governments who are signatories to the Peel Plan, is working to determine how to fulfill commitments to protect other areas of the Peel watershed.

If asked what is being done about the remaining mineral claims in the area:

- As mineral claims are not allowed under a national park designation, discussions are ongoing with the claimholder to seek voluntary relinquishment of the claims.
- If these claims still exist when a national park is established, the land where the claims exist would be removed from the national park boundaries.
- No placer or quartz mining claims have been expropriated as a result of implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 11, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Topic: Status of the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan

Key messages:

- The independent Dawson Regional Planning Commission has released the Final Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan to the Parties and the public on March 31, 2026.
- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will conduct joint public consultation on the final recommended plan and then work together through a Senior Liaison Committee to accept, reject or modify the plan.
- Separately, the Government of Yukon will consult with White River First Nation, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun on potential impacts the plan and any proposed modifications based on their Indigenous and treaty rights.

Key facts and stats:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB 61
Spring 2026

Dawson Regional Land Use Plan

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- On August 21, 2024, White River First Nation submitted a written consultation response to the Government of Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon submitted their proposed modifications to the Recommended Plan to the Commission pursuant to 11.6.2 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement on November 25, 2024.

Status:

- The Commission has provided the Final Recommended Plan to the Parties and has released it to the public on March 31, 2026, in Dawson.
- As part of the planning process, interim protections from mineral staking and oil and gas disposition are in place in areas proposed by the Commission. The current prohibition order reflects the Final Recommended Plan. The intention is for these interim prohibitions to remain in place while the Parties determine their response to the Final Recommended Plan.
- The Government of Yukon continues to support a regional land use plan that ensures sustainable development and balances the needs of industry while protecting land, water and resources in ecologically sensitive and culturally important areas.

Approved by:

Jeff O'Farrell

March 31, 2026

Deputy Minister, Department of
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Ross River Area Feasibility Study

Executive Council
Office

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

Key messages:

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

Key facts and stats:

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

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

Status:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB 62
Spring 2026

Ross River Area Feasibility Study

Executive Council
Office

If asked about public engagement:

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

Approved by:

Kelvin Leary

February 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

TH and FNNND Litigation

ECO/EMR/JUS

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

Key messages:

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

Key facts and stats:

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

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

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

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

TH and FNNND Litigation

ECO/EMR/JUS

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

Status:

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

Approved by:

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

Enhancing the Yukon government's presence in the Arctic

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Department of Environment is leading the Government of Yukon's efforts to enhance its operational presence in the Arctic and high north.

Key messages:

- A changing climate and growing geopolitical pressures are bringing Arctic security and sovereignty to the forefront and it is widely recognized that Canada is behind in its Arctic investments.
- Through our existing operational presence in the Arctic and high north, the Government of Yukon has the capacity to meaningfully accelerate Canada's Arctic presence and contribute to mutual sovereignty objectives.
- Our presence in the Arctic and high north is led by the Department of Environment and is grounded in our obligations under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.
- This includes Yukon Park Rangers working with the Inuvialuit on Herschel Island, Conservation Officers conducting long-range patrols on the Yukon's North Slope and departmental scientists carrying environmental research.
- We also partner with federal agencies to advance sovereignty objectives, including Yukon Park Rangers supporting the Canada Border Services Agency with all international clearances at Herschel Island–Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park, assisting the Canadian Coast Guard in a major 2023 search-and-rescue exercise, and Conservation Officers recently participating in a long-range patrol under Operation Nanook with Joint Task Force North.
- In collaboration with the Government of Canada and Indigenous partners, we intend to identify opportunities to scale and build activity

Enhancing the Yukon government's presence in the Arctic

Department of Environment

and infrastructure in the Arctic to support national sovereignty objectives.

Key facts and stats:

- Department staff actively participate in co-management Boards established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, ensuring decisions are made collaboratively and reflect Indigenous knowledge and priorities.
- The Yukon government is a long-standing participant in Canada's Arctic Security Working Group (ASWG) and served as 2025 co-chair, supporting intergovernmental coordination on northern security issues.
- The Arctic Summit, hosted by the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, took place in Whitehorse from February 23 to 25, 2026.

Status:

- In 2024, the Governments of Canada and Yukon and Inuvialuit Parties signed the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Agreement that conserves and protect 8,500 km² of the Eastern Yukon North Slope.
- The agreement also supports the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Stewardship and Guardians program that guides the management and monitoring of the area and its coastal waters, enables on-the-land cultural engagement and provides meaningful jobs in Aklavik.

If asked about how the Department of Environment will increase its presence in the Arctic:

Session Briefing Note

TAB 64
Spring 2026

Enhancing the Yukon government's presence in the Arctic

Department of
Environment

- The Government of Yukon is pleased to see that the federal budget includes significant investments in defense and dual-use infrastructure, including funds dedicated to northern jurisdictions.
- The Government of Yukon is currently engaging with federal counterparts on funding opportunities to increase the Yukon's presence in the Arctic.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

March 13, 2026

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date

Advancing Partnerships with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Department of Environment is committed to strengthening relationships with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups to advance shared objectives and co-manage fish and wildlife in the Yukon.

Key messages:

- The Department of Environment is committed to maintaining strong, respectful relationships with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups, that is grounded in commitments under the First Nations Final Agreements and the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.
- The department works closely with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups to co-manage the Yukon's fish and wildlife resources, advance land use planning and management, monitor water resources and ensure collaborative participation in department's work where possible.
- These relationships range from the Minister and Chief level to wildlife technicians working with Game Guardians out on the land and Directors collaborating to make informed land planning and management decisions.
- I look forward to continuing to connect with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups to build on the excellent work of the department and explore how we can continue to advance shared initiatives and commitments.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 65
Spring 2026

Advancing Partnerships with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups

Department of
Environment

Key facts and stats:

- The Department of Environment's Mandate Implementation Plan includes "working with Yukon First Nations, Indigenous governments and groups, and Final Agreement boards and councils to ensure they can exercise their powers and responsibilities to meet Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 16 objectives."
- The Department of Environment engages formally and informally with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups on a variety of topics.

Status:

- Currently, the Department of Environment and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board are working collaboratively to implement the revised regulation change process for fish and wildlife regulations, which would include formal consultations with Yukon First Nations and Indigenous governments and groups on regulation change proposals.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

March 18, 2026

Topic: The Government of Yukon is taking action to launch the Conservation Fund to support wildlife and habitat conservation initiatives.

Key messages:

- The Conservation Fund is a dedicated fund intended to support projects and activities related to the conservation and management of Yukon's wildlife and their habitat.
- Currently, the Conservation Fund collects revenue from pelt and hide auctions as well as fines directed by the court when there is a conviction under the Wildlife Act, with the purpose of supporting conservation-related initiatives. However, revenue is minimal and intermittent.
- The Government of Yukon is investing \$450,000 in 2026-27 to launch the Yukon Conservation Fund, which will support wildlife and habitat conservation projects on a yearly basis.
- This investment will help fund initiatives over the next four years as we work to identify additional streams of revenue to bolster the fund into the future.
- The first step in launching the Yukon Conservation Fund is to establish an advisory committee, who will evaluate project proposals and recommend funding priorities and conservation initiatives.
- Yukoners will soon be able to apply to serve on the advisory committee. Information on the process to apply will be available on Yukon.ca.

Key facts and stats:

- The Department of Environment's 2026-27 Main Estimates includes \$450,000 to support Conservation Fund initiatives.

Conservation Fund

Departments of
Environment

- Prior to this new funding, there was just over \$185,000 in the Conservation Fund.

Status:

- The Conservation Fund is established under the Yukon's *Wildlife Act* and *Conservation Fund Regulation*.
- There has been no recorded income to the Conservation Fund since 2022.
- The Yukon Conservation Fund was originally established under the Yukon's Wildlife Act in 2002, although limited funds have been disbursed to date. In 2022, the Conservation Fund Regulation was amended, allowing the fund to be directed for use by the Minister of Environment.
- Over each of the next four years, the Yukon Conservation Fund will allocate an estimated \$150,000 among successful applicants.

If asked about who will be able to apply for funds under the Conservation Fund:

- The *Conservation Fund Regulation* states that applications for funding can be made by individuals, corporate bodies, governments and associations.
- Fund guidelines, once developed, will provide further clarity on who will be eligible to apply. As details continue to be finalized, information and opportunities to apply for funding will be communicated publicly later this year.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

May 7, 2026

Session Briefing Note

Conservation Fund

ENV TAB 66

Spring 2026

Departments of
Environment

Deputy Minister of Environment

Protected and Conserved Areas in the Yukon

Department of
Environment

Topic: The Department of Environment plays a role in establishing and managing a range of protected and conserved areas in the Yukon.

Key messages:

- Protecting and conserving areas in the territory is complex and challenging work but it is important as the Yukon sees increased population growth, development interests and changes to our environment.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to continuing to work with federal and municipal governments, Indigenous governments and groups, community stakeholders and the public to protect and conserve areas that are important for their ecological and cultural value, while providing land use certainty and economic development opportunities in the Yukon.
- This work includes effective land use planning to clearly identify areas for conservation and those with potential for development.
- The Government of Yukon has a range of tools to support conservation, including Habitat Protection Areas and territorial parks, and is interested in initiatives that balance environmental conservation, cultural preservation and economic opportunity for local communities.
- This includes working with Indigenous governments to learn more about their conservation interests, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and their consideration alongside existing protected area tools in an effort to support Indigenous-led conservation and advance reconciliation.

Key facts and stats:

Protected and Conserved Areas in the Yukon

Department of
Environment

- Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas are lands and waters where Indigenous governments or organizations have a lead role in managing and conserving ecological and cultural values. They reflect Indigenous laws and traditions and combine conservation with cultural continuity through shared governance and Indigenous knowledge systems.
- Overall, there are currently 22 protected areas in the Yukon, 19 of which are managed by the Government of Yukon collaboratively with Yukon First Nations, including Tombstone Natural Environment Park, Tagish River Habitat Protection Area, and Kusawa Natural Environment Park.
- The Yukon's total protected area count is 21.1 per cent, which remains the highest percentage of any province or territory in Canada.
- Under the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement's Indigenous-led Conservation Capacity Fund, the Government of Yukon committed \$2.74 million over the last two years to 10 Indigenous governments and groups to support Indigenous-led conservation initiatives.

Status:

- In 2024, the Government of Yukon signed the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area Agreement with the Government of Canada and Inuvialuit Parties, which aims to support Indigenous-led conservation of almost 8,500 km² of land.
- The Government of Yukon, Ross River Dena Council and Parks Canada are currently exploring the suitability and feasibility of protecting land within the Ross River area. The Ross River Dena Council has proposed an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area,

Protected and Conserved Areas in the Yukon

Department of
Environment

which is being considered in the feasibility assessment of potential protection mechanisms.

- On March 31, the Government of Canada launched A Force of Nature: Canada's Strategy to Protect Nature, which includes a \$3.8 billion to advance nature and conservation initiatives. The Government of Yukon is working with the federal government to understand how this investment will support work in the Yukon.

If asked about if the Final Recommended Dawson Land Use Plan will include the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to a Final Plan that works for the Yukon and respects the Final Agreements.
- The Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation will conduct a joint public consultation on the Final Recommended Plan and then will work together towards a plan that meets the needs and interests of all parties.
- We look forward to continuing our work with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in reaching a Final Plan that balances the needs of industry while protecting ecological and culturally important areas.

Approved by:

Shehnaz Ali

April 20, 2026

A/Deputy Minister, Environment

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