



Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Session Binder

Spring 2026



[Return to ToC](#)

WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY – GENERAL	
1.	WGED 2026-27 Budget Highlights
POLICY AND PROGRAMS	
2.	Funding to equity-seeking organizations
3.	Minister’s Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity (MACWAGE)
4.	Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis (GIDA)
MMIWG2S+	
5.	Implementation of Yukon’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy
6.	Indigenous Women’s Organizations
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	
7.	Yukon’s implementation plan for NAP GBV
8.	Violence prevention for women and 2SLGBTQIA+
9.	Men and boys programming
10.	Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART) (JUS)
11.	Intercommunity Transportation for Victims of Gender-based Violence (JUS)
2SLGBTQIA+	
12.	LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan
13.	Queer Yukon Society funding
14.	SOGI - inclusion (EDU)
CORPORATE NOTES (ECO)	
15.	2026-27 Budget Highlights

Last updated May 25, 2026

Topic: Budget Highlights

Key messages:

- The Directorate is leading or participating in several major initiatives, including the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence in partnership with the Government of Canada, advancing the work of the Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART), the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan, and Yukon's Missing and Murdered indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- WGED's budget reflects its commitment to prevent gender-based violence and supports its survivors. Key initiatives include:
 - Advancing the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence;
 - Continued support of the implementation of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ Strategy;
 - Coordination and implementation of the actions under the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan;
 - Providing funding for equity-seeking organizations.

Key facts and stats

Operations and Maintenance

- WGED's 2026-27 budget is \$5,298,000 which is an increase of \$214,000 from the 2025-26 Mains Estimates
- Key investments include:
- \$1.58 million to support Yukon's implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (NAP GBV);

- More than \$1 million to support partners in the implementation of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ Strategy, including:
 - \$600,000 for the Indigenous Women's Equality Fund, supporting the operations of Indigenous women's organizations and their role in leading the implementation of the strategy;
 - \$140,000 for accountability and implementation gatherings;
 - Two full-time positions to support implementation of the strategy and to help establish governance structures that will guide accountability and carry the work forward;
 - \$425,000 for the Yukon First Nation Violence Prevention fund via the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence fully recoverable funding.
- \$497,000 in continued support for the coordination and implementation of the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan, including \$375,000 for Queer Yukon.
- \$447,000 in continued operational funding for women's organizations through the Women's Equality Fund.

Capital

- WGED has no Capital

Recoveries

- \$1.58M in recoveries from Canada for the National Action Plan for Gender-Based Violence
- \$150K in recoveries from Canada for the Crisis Hotline Agreement
- \$301K in recoveries from Canada – one time carry forward from unspent NAPGBV

Session Briefing Note

TAB 01
Spring 2026

Budget Highlights

WGED

Status

- Budget for 2026-27 vote will be held in Spring session 2026.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

April 21, 2026

[Date approved]

Funding to equity-seeking organizations

WGED

Topic: In 2026-27, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate will provide \$3.1 million in operational and project funding to 15 equity-seeking organizations.

Key messages

- In 2026-27, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate will provide \$3.1 million in operational and project funding to organizations that advance the equity of Yukoners of all genders and sexual orientations.
- As part of this year's implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate is providing time-limited operational funding to seven equity-seeking organizations and the Yukon Women's Coalition, totaling \$860,000. This is based on recommendations from the Women's Coalition program review.
- Operational funding to equity-seeking organizations comes from the Women's Equity Fund, Indigenous Women's Equity Fund, and through direct funding to Queer Yukon Society.
- Equity-seeking organizations deliver culturally safe, trauma-informed and low barrier support that complement government delivered services.

Status

- WGED works with the Women's Coalition to discuss a variety of issues, including collaborative efforts on data and operational needs.

If asked about funding for the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council:

Funding to equity-seeking organizations

WGED

- The Government of Yukon requires all funded organizations to remain in good standing and meet reporting requirements under their funding agreements and applicable law. Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council did not meet these requirements, and as a result, the Government of Yukon paused funding in fall 2024.
- The lawsuit between Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council and Strategies North is before the courts. The Government of Yukon is not a party to that litigation, and the allegations have not been tested in court.
- We recognize the council is a long-standing Indigenous Yukon organization and has supported many Yukoners, including in work connected to the MMIWG2S+ strategy.
- The Government of Yukon is focused on accountability and continuity of essential services and is working to assess options that uphold transparency and community safety.
- Accountability is the leading principle when it comes to funding all equity-seeking organizations. Funding is tied to approved work plans, eligible expenses, deliverables, and reporting requirements, consistent with how public funds are managed and measured. This ensures investments are transparent, responsible, and focused on results.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

March 18, 2026

Deputy Minister, WGED

[Date approved]

Funding to equity-seeking organizations

APPENDIX 1 Funding programs summary

Operational funding program	2025-26	2026-27
Women Equality Fund	\$207,000	\$207,000
Indigenous Women's Equality Fund	\$600,000	\$600,000
Queer Yukon	\$375,000	\$375,000
National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence	\$860,000	\$860,000
TOTAL – Operational Funding	\$2,042,000	\$2,042,000
Other funding programs	2025-26	2026-27
Women's advocate programs	\$193,000	\$193,000
Housing program supports	\$76,500	\$76,500
Direct service delivery to vulnerable people	\$263,000	\$263,000
MMIWG2S+ Family coordination	\$116,000	\$116,000
Crisis Hotline	\$100,000	TBD
Yukon First Nations Prevention Fund	\$325,000	\$425,000
TOTAL – Other Funding	\$1,073,500	\$1,073,500
GRAND TOTAL:	\$3,115,500	\$3,115,500

Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity

WGED

Topic: Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity is working to implement new structure and set priorities.

Key messages

- Our government is committed to listening directly to Yukoners.
- The Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity is an invaluable way for Yukon government ministers to gain insights from community experts on equity for women and equity for 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
- The recent recruitment and appointment process was completed this spring to add new members to the council who represent diverse identity factors. There are now 10 council members.
- In January 2026, I met with council members for the first time to discuss priorities.
- With a solid foundation now in place and a diverse group of members now appointed, I am looking forward to working with this council and benefiting from their expertise, knowledge and lived experience.

Key facts and stats

- MACWAGE Act came into force in November 2024, which updated the name and mandate of the previous Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Act (first established in 1992).
- The council's mandate is to provide Yukon government ministers advice on programs, policies, legislation and issues related to equity for women and equity for 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
- The council meets a minimum of four times a year.
- \$18,500 is allocated to the council's work in 2026-27.
- In 2025-26, the council held four regular council meetings.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 03
Spring 2026

Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity

WGED

- The council can have 4 to 12 members.

Status

- The council is planning its next regular meeting where it will focus on setting priority items for review for the next year.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

May 25, 2026

Deputy Minister, WGED

[Date approved]

Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis (GIDA)

WGED

Topic: The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is reviewing the government's last Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis action plan as we work toward developing a new one.

Key messages

- We are committed to achieving equity in the programs and services we provide to Yukoners.
- Gender-inclusive diversity analysis is a tool that supports government in developing policy and programs that are inclusive and fair by ensuring that different identity factors are considered such as gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, ability and location.
- Gender-inclusive diversity analysis aligns with our current government's focus on ensuring rural Yukoners are heard and considered in decision-making.
- We look forward to continuing our support for equity by completing our review of the last plan and developing the next one.

Key facts and stats

- Yukon government's most recent gender-inclusive diversity analysis plan ended in March 2025.
- This plan included 16 actions under three pillars: building capacity, strengthening accountability, and fostering leadership.
- All departments must confirm they applied this analysis on items for Cabinet decision making.
- Online training is available to all government staff on YGLearn.

Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis (GIDA)

WGED

Status

- The directorate continues to lead the implementation of gender-inclusive diversity analysis across government with support from the Public Service Commission.
- Once the review is complete, the directorate will use the information to guide development of the next plan in alignment with the government mandates.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

March 18, 2026

[Date approved]

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

WGED

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

Key messages:

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

Key facts:

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

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

WGED

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

- There are more than eighty signatories to the formal declaration of commitment to the strategy, including all Yukon's political parties, government of Canada, First Nations governments and organizations, municipal governments, RCMP, local businesses, youth and other community organizations serving Indigenous Yukoners.
- The 2nd annual report on implementation will be released this year for the Accountability Forum. The previous annual report showed 52% of milestones were in progress, 11% were ongoing, 4% were complete, and 33% had not yet started.
- As requested by the Families at the 2024 Accountability Forum, community visits are currently being facilitated by the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle for families to provide feedback on the oversight and governance model moving forward.
- August 4-5, 2026, partners plan to meet with families to present the findings of the second annual report, hear feedback and discuss next steps for implementation, accountability and governance.

Status:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB05
Spring 2026

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

WGED

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

May 25, 2026

[Date approved]

Indigenous Women's Organizations

WGED

Topic: Indigenous Women's Organizations receive funding support from Women and Gender Equity Directorate.

Key messages:

- Investing in Indigenous-led solutions improves safety and outcomes for women, girls and gender-diverse people and advances Yukon's commitments to implement Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy.
- Indigenous Women's Organizations provide support, advocacy and culturally safe services for Indigenous women and their families.

Key facts and stats:

- Nationally, Indigenous women are about six times more likely to be victims of homicide than non-Indigenous women.
- Violence against women in the Yukon remains significantly higher than the national average, with Indigenous women disproportionately affected.
- In 2026-27, the directorate has allocated \$950,000 in operational funding for Indigenous women organizations' programs and services including for their role in the implementation of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit people and for the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
- There are three Indigenous Women's Organizations within the Yukon: the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle and the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society.
- The three organizations are currently in compliance with Corporate Affairs.

Indigenous Women's Organizations

WGED

- The Government of Yukon reviews submitted reports and conducts due diligence to ensure funds are used in accordance with funding agreements.
- We will continue engaging directly with these organizations to understand pressures, identify gaps and inform future support.

If asked about Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council

- The Government of Yukon requires all funded organizations to remain in good standing and meet reporting requirements under their funding agreements and applicable law. Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council did not meet these requirements, and as a result, the Government of Yukon paused funding in fall 2024.
- The lawsuit between Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council and Strategies North is before the courts. The Government of Yukon is not a party to that litigation, and the allegations have not been tested in court.
- We recognize the council is a long-standing Indigenous Yukon organization and has supported many Yukoners, including in work connected to the MMIWG2S+ strategy.
- The Government of Yukon is focused on accountability and continuity of essential services and is working to assess options that uphold transparency and community safety.
- Accountability is the leading principle when it comes to funding all equity-seeking organizations. Funding is tied to approved work plans, eligible expenses, deliverables, and reporting requirements, consistent with how public funds are managed and measured. This ensures investments are transparent, responsible, and focused on results.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 06
Spring 2026

Indigenous Women's Organizations

WGED

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

March 18, 2026

[Date approved]

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

WGED

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

Key messages:

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

Key facts and stats:

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

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

WGED

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

- Of the federal funding for 2026-27, \$1.56 million is allocated to the Women and Gender Equity Directorate, \$1.81 million is allocated to the Department of Justice, and \$747,000 is allocated to the Department of Health and Social Services.

If asked about the future of the National Action Plan:

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

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

March 25, 2026

[Date approved]

Violence prevention for women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people

WGED

Topic: Violence prevention for women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people as a core public safety priority.

Key messages:

- The Yukon government is committed to preventing violence and making sure that women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people can live safely at home, at work, and in their communities.
- Violence prevention is a central pillar of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and aligns with our government's public safety and community well-being priorities.
- Women and Gender Equity Directorate will be developing a public-health informed Yukon Violence Prevention Framework.
- A public health approach recognizes that gender-based violence is predictable and preventable by examining the social and structural conditions that shape risk, using evidence to guide population-level prevention rather than relying solely on individual interventions.
- A key feature of this work is understanding the various social, economic and environmental factors and conditions that shape gender-based violence exposure and inequities in the population.
- This framework will identify coordinated, equity-focused actions across sectors – including health, education, justice and social services – to address root causes of gender-based violence and create safer, more equitable environments for everyone.

Key facts and stats:

- Women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people experience disproportionate rates of gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence, sexualized violence, hate-motivated violence and harassment.

Violence prevention for women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people

WGED

- The rate of hate crimes targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people has been rising within Canada in recent years, reflecting a growing public safety concern for gender and sexually diverse communities.
- This rise in hate crimes is happening at the same time as a rise in public and political discourse, and legislative measures that negatively impact transgender and gender-diverse people.
- Evidence shows that community-based prevention, public education and early intervention are critical in violence prevention and reduce long-term demand on emergency, justice and health systems.

Status:

- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is working to implement a public health informed Gender-Based Violence Prevention Framework, inspired by the work developed in Thunder Bay, Ontario.
- This work will inform the implementation of the Yukon's Missing and Murdered Women, girls and Two Spirit people Strategy, the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan.
- WGED has met with Queer Yukon in March and will continue to support them on delivering prevention programs.

Approved by:

Session Briefing Note

TAB 08
Spring 2026

Violence prevention for women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people

WGED

Sierra van der Meer

May 25, 2026

Deputy Minister, WGED

[Date approved]

Topic: Coordinating programming for men and boys as part of gender-based violence prevention and early intervention.

Key messages:

- Engaging and supporting men and boys as allies and leaders is critical in transforming the culture that enables gender-based violence
- Advancing safety and well-being for Yukoners requires preventing violence before it occurs.
- Supporting men and boys' mental well-being can foster healing, promote healthy masculinities, and support men and boys in building relationships and communities free of violence.
- The directorate currently supports men and boys focused prevention primarily through the Yukon First Nation Violence Prevention Fund. The fund supports Indigenous-led, culturally grounded projects such as land-based healing camps and workshops for men and boys.
- Through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, the Department of Justice also funds to The Nelson Project, which supports long-term prevention by helping at-risk men build healthy, respectful relationships through education and peer connection. (i.e. Relationship Builder' events).
- Engaging men and boys in gender-based violence prevention is a priority action item under Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People strategy.
- The National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence provides an opportunity to strengthen coordination on primary prevention, including supports for men and boys, across the Yukon.

Key facts and stats:

- Gender-based violence is largely perpetuated by men, and prevention efforts that engage men and boys are recognized as an essential component of comprehensive violence-prevention strategies.
- Men and boys experience high rates of violent victimization most often at the hands of other men.
- Men are less likely to access mental health and social supports, therefore increasing the importance of focused, stigma-reducing and culturally appropriate programming.
- Early intervention with boys and young men is associated with improved relationship skills, reduced aggression and better long-term outcomes for families and communities.
- The Federal Government will provide over \$4 million in 2026-27 as part of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, for which the Yukon Government is cost-matching.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

March 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART)

Justice, HSS

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

Key messages:

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

Additional messages:

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

Key facts and stats:

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

Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART)

Justice, HSS

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

Status:

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

If asked about access to SART services in communities:

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

Session Briefing Note

**JUS 73
HSS XX**

Spring 2026

Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART)

Justice, HSS

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

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

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-18

Date approved

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

Date approved

Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Gender-based Violence

Justice

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

Key messages:

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

Additional messages:

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

Key facts and stats

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

Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Gender-based Violence

Justice

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

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

Status:

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

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2026-03-17

Date approved

Topic: 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion, completion of the current Inclusion Action Plan, and development of the next plan.

Key messages:

- Our government is committed to supporting the rights of all Yukoners and that includes those of 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners.
- The government is implementing the current 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion Action Plan.
- Our government recognizes the need for government services and programs to be inclusive of 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners.
- Queer Yukon is a key community partner in inclusion work and is receiving \$375,000 in operational funding in 2026-27, pending budget vote. WGED met with Queer Yukon in March and is committed to continued support and collaboration.

Key facts and stats:

- The LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan (2021–26) includes multiple actions across nine government departments.
- The current Inclusion Action Plan expires March 31, 2026.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate coordinates the implementation and supports departments in completing actions.
- Work is underway to prepare a final progress report on the current Inclusion Action Plan to inform future planning.

Status:

- Departments are completing final reporting on actions under the current Inclusion Action Plan.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is drafting a final report on the plan's outcomes and lessons learned.

If asked about gender-affirming care:

- Our government is focused on improving access to health services for all Yukoners.
- This includes ensuring that transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse individuals can receive respectful, inclusive medically necessary care and supports.
- Transgender and gender-diverse adults and youth who receive gender-affirming care consistently describe it as improving their lives, mental well-being, and ability to participate fully in society.

If asked about a new LGBTQ2S+ Action Plan:

- We are committed to working with Queer Yukon and the community. It would be premature to commit to a specific next step before engaging with the community and clearly understanding what the community's needs and priorities.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

March 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Topic: Continued funding for Queer Yukon Society.

Key messages

- We continue to invest in the Queer Yukon Society as they play a vital role in supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners across the territory. They provide safe, welcoming spaces, help clients navigate services, and deliver education, outreach, and practical, on-the-ground support in communities.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is providing \$375,000 in operational funding to the society for the 2026-27 fiscal year.
- This funding will support our work to support the safety and well-being of all Yukoners.

Key facts and stats

- Queer Yukon Society is currently the only service-providing 2SLGBTQIA+ organization in the territory. It provides more than 25 programs across Dawson City, Watson Lake and Whitehorse, including but was not limited to peer support groups, health services, direct aid, the Yukon Gender Gear Program, and training and education.
- The Cache, the Yukon's first dedicated drop-in 2SLGBTQIA+ community space, opened in 2021 in Whitehorse.
- From August to December 2025, the Cache recorded 373 visits. Monthly usage averaged approximately 75 visits.
- Community groups, peer support circles, wellness activities, cultural gatherings, and partner organizations regularly use The Cache.
- During the Summer 2025 festival season, Queer Yukon Society successfully delivered Pride celebrations in Whitehorse, Watson Lake, and Dawson City.

- Health & Social Services holds a Transfer Payment Agreement with Queer Yukon Society to support the provision of health navigation services for 2023-26, totaling \$471K. This funding is expected to continue at the same level beyond 2026, subject to budget approval.

Status

- Our government recognizes that in recent years there has been increased homophobic and transphobic public and political discourse and a rise in discriminatory policies across North America.
- Our government is committed to engaging with Queer Yukon and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

If asked about the leadership change following the departure of four board members in November 2024:

- Queer Yukon underwent significant leadership changes after four board members left in November 2024. A new board was formed in early 2025. And governance systems and practices have been strengthened.
- Drop in and other programs resumed last year at all three Queer Yukon locations.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

March 18, 2026

[Date approved]

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Inclusion

Education

Topic: Sexual orientation and gender identity inclusion in schools have been discussed regularly in the Yukon Legislative Assembly and the media.

Key messages:

- The Department of Education is actively working to ensure safe and inclusive learning environments for all students.
- Schools and Student Services support school authorities and communities in upholding the inclusion, respect, and dignity of gender- and sexually diverse students.
- Protections under the Yukon *Human Rights Act* extend to all Yukoners, including all students and staff in all schools. The department treats reports of discrimination, bullying, and slurs extremely seriously.

Key facts and stats:

- Yukon schools are expected to ensure safety, inclusion, and equitable treatment for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Policy applies in all Yukon schools, including Catholic Separate Schools.
- Schools are required to actively promote equity and non-discrimination and ensure students have access to safe spaces and trusted adults for support.

Status:

- The St. Francis of Assisi School Council's locally developed course, *Catholic Ethical Principles 12*, was approved on December 30, 2025. The course textbook is approved for use until the end of the 2026–27

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Inclusion

Education

school year, with mitigations to improve SOGI inclusion. Department staff are supporting the school to secure an alternative textbook.

- The Child and Youth Advocate has conducted a review of SOGI inclusion in Yukon schools. Their report with recommendations was tabled on March 30, 2026.

If asked about SOGI inclusion school procedures:

- In 2021, the Government of Yukon committed through the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan to modernize the SOGI Policy for schools.
- The 2012 policy, and the 2023 update, require all schools to develop procedures to promote and protect SOGI inclusion.
- To support schools, the Department of Education is preparing a SOGI procedures template that schools can adapt to meet their community context, fulfill human rights obligations, and create safe and welcoming environments for students.
- Schools will be expected to work with local First Nations, school boards and councils, community committees, and students before finalizing their procedures.

If asked about SOGI inclusion in Catholic Schools:

- The Department of Education supports Catholic schools to meet legal requirements for SOGI inclusion while respecting “Catholic permeation.”
- The *Education Act* protects the right to operate Catholic separate schools and requires all schools to comply with applicable legislation, including human rights legislation.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Inclusion

Education

If asked about how the Department is supporting educators to promote SOGI inclusion:

- At the start of the 2023–24 school year, the Department of Education provided SOGI inclusion training to all administrators and teachers in the Yukon Education Authority. Since then, optional training and information booths have been offered at Welcome Week events.
- Department staff and consultants are available and provide customized training to all Yukon schools.
- Each school has identified a safe person and a SOGI Lead to support students and educators. SOGI Leads meet periodically to collaborate, receive training, and share resources.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

2026-03-30

Deputy Minister, Education

Date approved

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

Key messages:

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

Key facts and stats:

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

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

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

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

Improve timely access to frontline health care services for Yukoners:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Theme 5: Restoring public safety and keeping communities safe

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

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

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

Approved by:

Katherine White

March 16, 2026

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved