

Community Services Legislative Briefing Notes Spring 2025 Sitting

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CS Accomplishments AC-01

BUILDING SAFETY & STANDARDS

National Building Code of Canada BS-01

Permitting Demand BS-02

Blank BS-03

Blank BS-04

Blank BS-05

Blank BS-06

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

(INTERDEPARTMENTAL) Mining Activities in Yukon Communities..... CA-01

Comprehensive Municipal Grant..... CA-02

AYC Resolutions, Status and Commitment CA-03

Municipal Engagement CA-04

Free Transit in Whitehorse CA-05

Blank CA-06

Blank CA-07

Blank CA-08

Blank CA-09

Blank CA-10

Community Services Legislative Briefing Notes Spring 2025 Sitting

COMMUNITY OPERATIONS

Solid Waste Regionalization	CO-01
(INTERDEPARTMENTAL) Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation	CO-02
Community Water Delivery	CO-03
Recycling in the Yukon and Diversion Credits.....	CO-04
Blank	CO-05
Blank	CO-06
Blank	CO-07
Blank	CO-08
Blank	CO-09
Blank	CO-10

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

<i>Business Corporations Act</i>	CORP-01
Blank	CORP-02
Blank	CORP-03
Blank	CORP-04
Blank	CORP-05
Blank	CORP-06

Community Services

Legislative Briefing Notes

Spring 2025 Sitting

EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION

Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness	EMO-01
<i>Civil Emergency Measures Act and Public Health and Safety Act Review</i>	EMO-02
Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance	EMO-03
2024 Emergency Events	EMO-04
Flood Mitigation	EMO-05
911 Enhanced.....	EMO-06
Spring Flood Preparedness	EMO-07
Blank	EMO-08
Blank	EMO-09
Blank	EMO-10
Blank	EMO-11

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS & RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES

<i>Residential Landlord Tenant Act Review</i>	ESRT-01
Minimum Wage and Living Wage	ESRT-02
Employees of Victoria Gold	ESRT-03
Gig Workers	ESRT-04
Blank	ESRT-05
Blank	ESRT-06
Blank	ESRT-07
Blank	ESRT-08
Blank	ESRT-09

Community Services

Legislative Briefing Notes

Spring 2025 Sitting

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Volunteer Fire Departments.....	FMO-01
Rural Fire Services Progress.....	FMO-02
Municipal Fire Service Report.....	FMO-03
Public Education on Fire Services	FMO-04
Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns - Progress	FMO-05
Blank	FMO-06
Blank	FMO-07
Blank	FMO-08
Blank	FMO-09
Blank	FMO-10

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal	ID-01
Dawson City Recreation Centre.....	ID-02
Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF)	ID-03
Dawson Lagoon	ID-04
Blank	ID-05
Blank	ID-06
Blank	ID-07
Blank	ID-08
Blank	ID-09
Blank	ID-10
Blank	ID-11

**Community Services
Legislative Briefing Notes
Spring 2025 Sitting**

LAND DEVELOPMENT

Whitehorse Land Development	LD-01
Rural Land Development	LD-02
(INTERDEPARTMENTAL) Lot Sales and Support for Housing and Development	LD-03
Whistle Bend - Projects	LD-04
Range Point Subdivision	LD-05
Special Warrant	LD-06
Blank	LD-07
Blank	LD-08
Blank	LD-09
Blank	LD-10

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

<i>Health Professions Act</i> Modernization	PLRA-01
Psychologists Regulations.....	PLRA-02
(INTERDEPARTMENTAL) Health Human Resources	PLRA-03
Social Workers.....	PLRA-04
Licensing Physicians.....	PLRA-05
Blank	PLRA-06
Blank	PLRA-07
Blank	PLRA-08
Blank	PLRA-09

Community Services

Legislative Briefing Notes

Spring 2025 Sitting

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

Property Assessment in Rural Yukon 2024.....	PAT-01
Unincorporated Property Tax Rates.....	PAT-02
Blank	PAT-03
Blank	PAT-04
Blank	PAT-05
Blank	PAT-06
Blank	PAT-07

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Library Outreach Worker	PL-01
Blank	PL-02
Blank	PL-03
Blank	PL-04
Blank	PL-05
Blank	PL-06

SPORT AND RECREATION

Arctic winter Games 2026.....	SR-01
Community Pools.....	SR-02
Safe Sport	SR-03
Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory	SR-04
(INTERDEPARTMENTAL) Polarettes Gymnastics Club.....	SR-05
(INTERDEPARTMENTAL) Whitehorse Elementary Replacement School.....	SR-06
(INTERDEPARTMENTAL) Whitehorse Elementary Replacement Project - EWES.....	SR-07-07
(INTERDEPARTMENTAL) Biathlon YuKon Facility Tender.....	SR-08

Community Services

Legislative Briefing Notes

Spring 2025 Sitting

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Yukon First Nation Partnerships	WFM-01
Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention.....	WFM-02
2024 Wildfire Season Summary	WFM-03
Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness	WFM-04
Blank	WFM-05
Blank	WFM-06
Blank	WFM-07
Blank	WFM-08

CORPORATE NOTES

Housing Landscape.....	01
Our Clean Future Implementation	02
2024-25 Supplementary Overview.....	03
Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Updates on Call to Action	04
Inflation and Affordability	05
Carbon Pricing	06
Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts.....	07
Canada and United States Relations.....	08
Budget Highlights.....	09
Blank	10
Blank	11

Regulatory and Consumer Services

PLRA- Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, **ESRT**- Employment Standards and Residential Tenancies, **PAT**- Property Assessment and Taxation, **CORP**- Corporate Affairs, **PL**- Public Libraries

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
Feb 2024	Public engagement on review of <i>Residential Landlord and Tenant Act</i> from February 1- 29.	ESRT	CASA 2023
Sept 2023	Yukon Public Libraries abolished late fees	PL	Government Priority (red tape reduction)
Spring 2024	Yukon Public Libraries is in partnership with the department of Health and Social Services piloting the Library Outreach Worker program.	PL	Related to work on downtown safety.
Summer 2024	Modernizing Yukon Public Libraries' online services with a new website (launched July 2024), along with meeting room booking and program registration software (launched September 2023).	PL	Streamline access to library resources
Spring 2023	Yukon Public Libraries continues to offer the highly successful Indigenous Book Club series in partnership with Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. This provides a platform for readers to learn about Indigenous cultures, histories, and perspectives. The program is offered in the library as well as online so all Yukoners can participate.	PL	Reconciliation
July 2023	Launched SEDAR+ with other jurisdictions. The new system is used by all market participants to file, disclose and search for securities issuer info in Canada's capital markets	CORP	Government Priority (red tape reduction)

CS Accomplishments

Community Services

April 2023	National Aboriginal Day name changed to National Indigenous Peoples Day	ESRT	TRC to Action
April 1, 2024	Effective April 1, 2024, Yukon's minimum wage increased from \$16.77 to \$17.59 per hour, the second highest in the country, following NU.	ESRT	Putting People First
May 15, 2024	The rent index (cap on rent increases) changed to 4.9% based on CPI (decrease from 5% in 2023).	ESRT	CASA 2023
August, 2024	Better Building Program continues to enrol eligible participants. Low-interest energy efficiency loan program for all Yukon property owners.	PAT	Mandate
January 2024	Director of Employment Standards requested the Employment Standards Board initiate a review of the Fair Wage Schedule. The Board began its review in February 2024.	ESRT	Employment Standards Act
November 2022-September 2023	PLRA has launched an online licence and registration system for 22 professions. The final phase of the project will see physicians, and when regulated - psychologists, added to the system. This project was key to reducing red tape and streamlining processes for applicants and registrants.	PLRA	Putting People First
Spring 2023	Amended three professional licensing statutes (for insurance, consumers protection and security guards) to reduce red tape and align with PLRA's new online licensing system. The amendments will come into effect when regulation amendments are complete.	PLRA	Red Tape Reduction
Fall 2023	Changes to the <i>Registered Nurses Profession Act</i> were tabled and approved in the 2023 Fall legislative session.	PLRA	

CS Accomplishments

Community Services

February 2025	As of February 1, 2025, Psychologists are regulated in the Yukon. All psychologists providing services to Yukoners whether in person, in writing, over the phone, virtual or online must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register; • Hold a Yukon certificate; and, • Renew their certificate every year. 	PLRA	Mandate
November 2024	Updated regulations to allow internationally trained nurses to work in the Yukon and make registration for nurses and nurse practitioners simpler and more effective.	PLRA	Mandate
January, 2025	Launch of <i>Health Professions Act</i> review engagement phase, including targeted stakeholder engagement with health professionals and public input on complaints process.	PLRA	Mandate
November, 2024	Amendments to the <i>Business Corporations Act</i> were passed to improve ownership transparency and support national and global efforts to combat money laundering and tax evasion.	CORP	FPT Commitment

Community Development

CO - Community Operation, **LD** - Land Development, **ID** - Infrastructure Development, **CA** - Community Affairs, **SR** - Sport and Recreation

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
2020-2021	The Yukon government and the Government of Canada jointly provided \$4.35 million in funding to	CA	Federal Priority -

CS Accomplishments

Community Services

	Yukon municipalities to support COVID-19 related operating and maintenance costs incurred in the 2020-21 fiscal year. Of the \$4.35 million in funding, \$500,000 was specifically allocated to support public transit.		Commitment by First Ministers (Government of Canada Safe Restart Agreement).
2023/24	Advanced regionalization of municipal waste management facilities with Carmacks, Dawson, Haines Junction, Mayo, Teslin and Watson Lake signing regional agreements.	CO	Ministerial Mandate - Streicker
Since 2018	Since 2018, LD has been intensifying their program and launched more project feasibility, planning and design to create a larger bank of plans and tender-ready projects Yukon-wide.	LD	1000 lot Mandate
2023 & 2024	LD completed 130 Whistle Bend and 69 Rural lots in 2023, of which 194 lots were released in 2024. Feasibility and/or planning continued to advance in all municipalities.		
2024 & 2025	LD completed or advanced construction of 111 Whistle Bend and 100 Rural lots in 2024. Detailed design was advanced for Range Point and Dawson's Dredge Pond II subdivision and more.		
2023/24	Completed consultations on waste disposal options with Braeburn, Johnson's Crossing, Keno and Silver City.	CO/CA	CASA commitment
2023/24	Worked with the City of Whitehorse to design and support a curbside recycling collection program and keep non-refundable recycling happening in Whitehorse area through annual support of up to \$2.4 million annually for two years.	CO	Our Clean Future

CS Accomplishments

Community Services

Sept 2022	Completed the Faro public works and firehall building. The facility is designed to meet the Towns of Faro's unique needs and will house emergency and community services. The new building is also designed to exceed minimum energy efficiency standards by 25 per cent.	ID	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
Fall 2022	Amendment to <i>Municipal Act</i> – Changed terms of office for municipal councils and local advisory councils from three to four years.	CA	AYC Resolution
August 2023	Completed new Carmacks fire hall	ID	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
Summer 2023	Launched the online flood atlas in 2023 that improves the efficiency and speed of sharing flood information with the public.	Joint CS ENV project	
Feb 2023	All 8 municipalities signed agreements that allowed residents to access the Better Buildings program.	CA	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
January 2023	The new municipal services building in Watson Lake opened this past winter, housing the town's fire hall, public works department and training facility.	ID	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
2023	Implemented organics composting programs at Carcross, Deep Creek, Marsh Lake, Tagish and Mount Lorne (Mount Lorne pilot project begun in 2021) waste management facilities.	CO	Our Clean Future
2024	Phase 1 of the project, a comprehensive list of community sport and recreation infrastructure for the Territory is complete. Phase 2 is underway which will involve analyzing the data collected to	SR	Mandate

CS Accomplishments

Community Services

	identify key insights that will guide the development of new infrastructure and establish principles for evaluating future sport and recreation initiatives.		
March 2023	Construction on the new arena in Carmacks is now complete. The new building includes a full indoor arena and community space to accommodate year-round multifunctional use, including hockey and skating, curling, concerts, trade shows and community events.	ID	Mandate Government Priority and Our Clean Future
2023	Completed the Selkirk Storm Water replacement project. The project has already increased stormwater system capacity, lowering flood risk and protecting the groundwater aquifer from surface contamination	ID	Mandate Government priority
2023	Extensive upgrades completed to the Mayo and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation community water treatment plants- updates ensure communities have access to safe water supply.	ID	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
2023	Construction began in late 2023 on the new gymnastics and climbing facility and we look forward to completion in 2025. The 3,000 square metre facility is large enough to host competitive and recreational sporting events.	ID	Mandate Government priority
2023	Completed construction of the new Pool in Pelly Crossing, along with supporting physical and mental health, the pool helps bring people together and encourages socialization for community members of all ages.	ID	Mandate Government priority
2024	Increased support for senior's active living initiatives by providing \$25,000 in additional funding to the ElderActive Association of Yukon to support Team Yukon's participation at the 2024 Canada 55+ Games. More than 160 participants	SR	Mandate

CS Accomplishments

Community Services

	made the trip to Quebec City and brought home 58 medals.		
2024	We completed the beautiful White River Community Centre and Potlach house to meet priorities established in the White River First Nation's comprehensive community development plan.	ID	Mandate Government priority
Spring 2024	Began construction of new potable water storage reservoirs in Dawson & Mayo	ID	Mandate Government priority
Summer 2024	Began construction of phase 4 water & sewer main replacement in the Village of Haines Junction	ID	Mandate Government priority
Summer 2024	The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) administrative agreement was renewed for another 10 years. Over the next five years, the CCBF will invest over \$94.5 million in Yukon, starting with \$18 million in 2024-2025. The renewal of this agreement means that the critical infrastructure that supports housing will continue to be built, maintained, and expanded in Yukon.	ID	Mandate Government priority
Fall 2024	Substantially completed phase 1 replacement of buried water and sewer mains in Watson Lake.	ID	Mandate Government priority
Fall 2024	Substantially completed boat launch replacements at Aishihik, Otter Falls, Tagish, Ethel Lake, and both launches on Frenchman Lake	ID	Mandate Government Priority
2024/25	In response to the CASA Commitment to: 'provide funding to the City of Whitehorse to replace fare-generated revenue and make public transit free in Whitehorse', Community Affairs implemented a program to provide free transit to the public and	CA	CASA commitment

Session Briefing Note

TAB# AC-01

Spring 2025

CS Accomplishments

Community Services

	NGOs that have a mandate to support Yukoners who are low-income, vulnerable, youth, or seniors. This is a time-limited program ending on November 30, 2025.		
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Protective Services

BSS – Building Safety and Standards, **EMO** - Emergency Measures Organization, **FMO** - Fire Marshal's Office (Fire & Life Safety), **WFM** - Wildland Fire Management

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
2021	Completed an independent review of the fire services in November 2021 and started implementing key recommendations.	FMO	Mandate
Fall 2024	Volunteer Firefighter Honoria increased from \$22 to \$30.74 per hour.	FMO	Mandate
2022	Community Wildfire Protection Plans signed at Haines Junction, Teslin	WFM	Our Clean Futures (item C9)
2022-23	Significant progress on Whitehorse South Fuel Break, with 170,000 aspen seedlings have been planted in fuel treatment areas around Whitehorse and Haines Junction to further improve the resilience of our forests and communities. Planning is currently underway to plant an additional 230,000 aspen seedlings in strategic fuel breaks around Whitehorse and Haines Junction by 2026.	WFM	-Our Clean Future (Phase 2 – To be confirmed) -2 billion Trees Contribution Agreement – Yukon Wildfire Resiliency Aspen Plant

CS Accomplishments

Community Services

2023	WFM is providing \$400 to \$600K annually to Yukon First Nations governments specifically for community driven FireSmart projects, and supports the implementation of those projects. Funded by Indigenous Services Canada.	WFM	Mandate
2023	WFM signed 14 agreements with Yukon First Nations for wildfire Initial Attack Services for 2023 to 2025.	WFM	Mandate
2023	WFM Initial Attack service agreements with Yukon First Nation governments now provide an additional \$1.4 million per year for increased crew wages, benefits, overtime pay, vehicles, fuel rates, and an extra ten days of work per season.	WFM	Mandate
2023	WFM initial attack service agreements with Yukon First Nation governments now offers the opportunity to hire a fourth crew member, to support mentorship and training opportunities.	WFM	Mandate
2023	WFM issued 7 contracts to Yukon First Nations Wildfire (YFNW) including Unit Crew guaranteed work, vegetation management and 4 Unit Crew service call ups for wildfire, in addition to 9 initial attack contracts to YFNW (delegate to YFNW on behalf of Yukon First Nation governments).	WFM	Mandate
2023	WFM provided two annual transfer payment agreements to Yukon First Nation Wildfire for training: one for the Unit Crew capacity and development activities and one for their Beat the Heat training program totaling \$175,000 per year.	WFM	Mandate
2023	Launched the online Wildfire Hub to improve public access to information about wildfires and local wildfire impacts.	WFM	Mandate

CS Accomplishments

Community Services

2023	Successfully responded to floods and wildfires in partnership with other departments and all levels of government.	WFM	Mandate
Winter 2024	In 2024, volunteer firefighters responded to approximately 230 calls across the territory and logged more than 10,000 hours of training and incident response time. Collectively, the Yukon Fire Service (which includes incorporated and unincorporated communities) responded to over 1200 calls.	FMO	
April 2023	In April 2023, BSS implemented the new National Building Code.	BSS	Routine adoption of updates to <i>Building Standards Act</i> .
2024	EMO facilitated emergency management capacity development, training and exercises for Yukon communities, including municipalities and First Nations.	EMO	Mandate

Date approved

National Building Code of Canada

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Modern construction standards benefit Yukoners by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving safety, and enhancing energy efficiency in new buildings.
- National building standards support a unified market for materials and equipment, expand access to skilled tradespeople, and enables Yukon workers to take on projects in neighbouring jurisdictions.
- The National Building Code of Canada is developed by Government of Canada through the Standards Council of Canada, industry experts, and volunteers, with public consultation prior to any changes being made.
- The Yukon government relies on technical expertise from larger jurisdictions to access code changes and their impacts on the industry.

Additional response:

- The next National Building Code of Canada update will be issued in December 2025 and will come into force on April 1, 2027. Yukon government will be working with the City of Whitehorse to help educate and prepare the construction industry.
-

Context:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB# BS-01

Spring 2025

National Building Code of Canada

Community Services

Background:

- Yukon automatically adopts the National Building Code in the timeframe set out in the *Building Standards Act*. The changes to the National Building Code are of interest to the construction industry and homeowners.
- The National Building Code is not retroactive—existing buildings are not currently required to upgrade to new codes unless major renovations occur. Pursuing options for existing buildings will require both incentives and enforcement.
- The City of Whitehorse sets some higher energy-efficiency requirements for new buildings than the Yukon. Nevertheless, any changes the Yukon proposes to make for existing commercial and residential buildings will affect the City of Whitehorse Lands and Building Services Department's resources and code enforcement.

Financial Implications:

- No financial implications, such as costs to support industry engagement on changes to the building code, are known at this time.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The safety of Yukoners is a priority for this government - detailing the rules and standards for construction is critical in ensuring the safety of all eventual occupants.
- The initial step in the process for new construction is a plan review to ensure the construction meets all the applicable building codes and safety standards. This is followed by regular inspections throughout the construction process.
- Within the City of Whitehorse, building permits and inspections are done by city building officials. Outside Whitehorse city limits, building permits are issued by the Government of Yukon.

Additional response:

- The Yukon government aims to approve building permits within ten business days, if all pertinent information and documentation has been provided at the time of application.
- In 2024, the Building and Safety Standards Branch issued 3,420 permits for a variety of installations and completed 6,644 inspections. This includes permits for building oil/woodstove heaters, gas appliances, plumbing installations, boilers & pressure vessels, and elevators.

Context:

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

Background:

- Community Services has not experienced the same challenges or delays in keeping up with building permitting demand in the areas covered by Building and Safety Standards Branch (unincorporated Yukon, and all municipalities except Whitehorse).
- Community Services' Building and Safety Standards Branch has a building inspector in Dawson (responsible for Dawson, Mayo, Pelly Crossing and Old Crow), and a building inspector in Watson Lake (responsible for Watson Lake, Teslin, Faro and Ross River).
- In the Yukon government's Building Safety and Standards Whitehorse office, there are 2.5 full-time building inspector positions responsible for the Whitehorse periphery area, Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake, Haines Junction, Destruction Bay, Burwash, Beaver Creek, Lake Lebarge, Braeburn and Carmacks. In addition, there are currently two full-time electrical inspectors covering the territory.
- In 2024, Building Safety and Standards issued 3,420 permits for a variety of installations:
 - 670 – Building, Oil & Woodstove
 - 1,867 – Electrical
 - 727 – Gas
 - 97 – Plumbing
 - 54 – Boiler/Pressure Vessel
 - 5 – Elevator
- Building Safety and Standards completed 6,644 inspections in 2024:
 - 1,395 – Building, Oil & Woodstove
 - 3,849 – Electrical
 - 875 – Gas
 - 326 – Plumbing
 - 91 – Boiler/Pressure Vessel
 - 108 – Elevator

Session Briefing Note

TAB# BS-02

Spring 2025

Permitting Demand

Community Services

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref #120 and #6
#121 CA-01
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Exploration and mining activities within community boundaries are subject to mineral development and environmental laws, official community plans, local area plans, zoning bylaws and regulations.
- While there are existing mineral claims within Whitehorse and Dawson City, staking new mineral claims in either municipality is prohibited.
- In many cases, claims were staked decades ago and predate nearby homes or staking prohibitions. Claims staked in the Yukon, such as those in Cowley Creek, may be renewed yearly provided the claim holder complies with renewal requirements. (See BN #120)
- The *Placer Mining Act* does not allow staking within any municipal boundary.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon works with municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and affected communities to help resolve land use conflicts when they occur.
- We have developed informational materials to help municipalities better understand what administrative tools are available for managing exploration and mining in planned and zoned communities. These materials are available on yukon.ca.

Session Briefing Note

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref #120 and #6
#121 CA-01
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Part of the work underway on the successor resource legislation is to address issues of mining in planned and zoned communities through legislative change. (See BN #6)

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Communities have expressed concern over the conflicts in land use within community boundaries.
- There may be questions about the Gladiator Metals Ltd. activity near Cowley Creek and their new claims near Franklin Lake, within (Łu Zil Män) Fish Lake local plan area (See BN #120).

Background:

- In 2020 and 2022, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources led targeted stakeholder engagement processes to better understand issues with mineral staking and development within the boundaries of Yukon municipalities and communities.
- Limited responses were received so no What We Heard was published. However, the feedback helped shape the information materials that were provided to municipalities around existing tools to manage mining within their boundaries.
- Although there are pre-existing placer claims within some municipalities, the *Placer Mining Act* does not allow new placer claim staking within any of Yukon's eight incorporated municipalities, including Dawson and Whitehorse.
- In summer 2022, the Government of Yukon extended a prohibition of entry order for the City of Whitehorse to July 2027, restricting quartz mineral staking within most areas. We made this decision at the request of the City of Whitehorse and in alignment with the City's Official Community Plan (Whitehorse 2040).
- In December 2023, the Government of Yukon renewed the prohibition of entry order within the City of Dawson's municipal limits to December 2028. We made this decision in partnership with the City of Dawson and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government.

Session Briefing Note

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref #120 and #6
#121 CA-01
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The City of Dawson has several active claims and mining operations that may conflict with community development interests. The municipality is doing its best to navigate these claims and operations, and the Government of Yukon is providing support as required.
- There is currently an active lawsuit brought against the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon by a placer claim holder, alleging a regulatory taking of their placer claims within the City of Dawson.
- Gladiator Metals Ltd. has applied to do exploration work near the historical Arctic Chief mine within City of Whitehorse limits. The Government of Yukon is currently reviewing a Class 1 notification for this work. There is not currently an authorization from the Mineral Resources Branch in place for this project. (See BN #120)
- Gladiator Metals' earlier exploration work in the Cowley Creek area attracted complaints and media attention. As a result of an investigation, the company was fined over \$43,000 in August 2023 for violating conditions of a Class 1 operation.
- Gladiator Metals recently staked claims near Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) and Franklin Lake, but has not submitted applications for mineral exploration work. The *Whitehorse Periphery Development Area Regulation* (2013) does not enable mining development in this area.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

January 27, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Municipalities play a critical role in delivering essential local services to Yukoners. We understand the significant financial pressures faced by municipal governments and appreciate the efforts of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant Enhancement Task Force.
- The Task Force worked between May and September 2024 to explore approaches and strategies for ensuring municipalities are financially sustainable. The focus of their meetings was the renewal of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant, the cornerstone of municipal funding.
- The Task Force's recommendations have been considered. We have accepted several of these recommendations to enhance the Comprehensive Municipal Grant, including:
 - (1) increasing the asset maintenance amount from 0.30% to 0.50%;
 - (2) updating the funding floor, known as the transitional amount, so that municipalities' grant amounts never fall below 2024 funding levels; and,
 - (3) We have added a new feature known as the supplementary grant that can be set out as a schedule to the Comprehensive Municipal Grant regulation, creating flexibility for future funding opportunities.
- As a result of these updates, an additional \$3.41 million will be added to the grant in 2025, bringing the total for the eight municipalities to a level 20% higher than in 2024. This marks the largest single increase to the grant since its creation in 1991.

- This increase reflects the government's commitment to supporting municipal governments and helps to ensure municipalities have the necessary funding to maintain vital infrastructure and provide sustainable local services.

Additional response:

- I am also very pleased to be making an investment in municipal professional development. Up to \$88,000 will be made available annually to the Association of Yukon Communities to support professional development opportunities and training for municipal and First Nation employees, elected officials, and Local Advisory Councils.
- This funding replaces the Community Training Trust Society funding that was previously administered through the Department of Economic Development.

Context:

- Renegotiation of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant is a priority for municipal governments and the Association of Yukon Communities.
- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant was originally set to increase by \$1.5 million (6%) in 2025. However, changes to the regulation will add an additional \$3.41 million, bringing the total increase in 2025 to \$4.96 million.

Background:

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant (CMG) provides unconditional block funding each year that supports municipal delivery of core services, together with municipal property taxes and other revenues.
- This annual funding was created in 1991 and remade in 2012 with a set of guiding principles and a prescribed formula to calculate the grants each year.

- The formula considers a base amount per municipality; and factors in the population, number of homes, the infrastructure assets that provide services and the municipalities' own revenue generation capacity.
- The CMG was last reviewed in 2017-18 and resulted in changes to factors within the grant formula including the establishment of a funding floor at the 2017 funding levels from 2017-2022. These changes led to increased grant payments to municipalities for the 2018 to 2024 grant years and it is expected that the grant will continue to increase in 2025 and beyond.
- In 2019, the Government of Yukon agreed to further review the CMG with the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC). A working group was formed and met many times, though the review was extended given priorities through pandemic response over the period of approximately 2020 to 2022. During that period, municipalities were also provided with \$3.85 million in “Municipal Safe Re-start” funding.
- The working group concluded its work in July 2023 with AYC submitting a report to the Government of Yukon for consideration. This report was commissioned by AYC with a financial contribution by Yukon.
- In fall 2023, AYC assigned three representatives to work with Yukon officials to implement changes to the CMG funding. The work included additional due diligence, clarifying how much investment is required to ensure long-term financial sustainability, and to determine potential changes to the CMG in time for the 2025 fiscal year.
- In May 2024, the Minister of Community Services and the AYC's former President launched the Comprehensive Municipal Grant Enhancement Task Force.
- The task force was comprised of three Government of Yukon representatives and three representatives named by the AYC. The AYC's representatives are from the Village of Teslin, the Town of Watson Lake and the City of Whitehorse. These communities represent the three sizes of municipalities in the Yukon, collectively ensuring fair representation for all eight municipalities in the territory.

- The task force was guided by the principles developed during the previous CMG reviews: adequacy, certainty, equity, minimal bias, transparency and accountability. Their efforts led to the renewal of the CMG regulation in 2025.
- The recommendations from the task force that were not implemented were:
 - An incremental increase to the population factor from \$145 to \$200 per person; and,
 - An increase to the dwelling amount (consensus regarding the increase was not achieved amongst the task force members).
- These two factors are already indexed by inflation using the consumer price index (CPI).
- Although the CMG task force's recommendations were not all accepted, a significant increase to the asset maintenance factor was implemented. This change acknowledges that while population, and dwelling amounts are multiplied by the CPI, the asset maintenance factor is not indexed according to CPI.
- Increasing the asset maintenance factor will allow municipalities to better maintain existing and aging infrastructure.
- As municipal infrastructure projects are completed, the increase to the asset maintenance factor will play an important role in assisting municipalities in maintaining new infrastructure.
- In 2018, when the last changes to the CMG were made, the CMG represented 1.99% of the Territorial Financing Formula (TFF). Over time this percentage declined. Following the 2025 changes, the CMG will represent 2.03% of the TFF.
- Finally, requiring supplementary grants to be set out in schedules rather than in regulation allows future governments greater flexibility in providing additional funding to municipalities.
- The task force also submitted recommendations for future consideration. These recommendations will prove to be a starting point for any future review of the CMG.

Financial Implications:

- The formula includes lagging indicators that will result in increases to catch up to inflation. The grant grew from \$22.241 million in 2023 to \$24.556 million in 2024 and will grow to \$29.516 million in 2025.

February 6, 2025

Date approved

AYC Resolutions, Status and Commitment

Community Services

Recommended response:

AYC Resolutions

- The resolutions made by the Association of Yukon Communities at annual general meetings help the Government of Yukon focus efforts and prioritize matters of mutual interest.
- We are proud of the progress made on recent resolutions, including efforts to renew the Comprehensive Municipal Grant, advancing a disaster assistance arrangement for Yukon, conducting research into best practices to inform future decisions related to the *Municipal Act*, and more.
- I thank the Association of Yukon Communities, municipalities, and various government departments for their work.

Accessing Federal Funding

- The Government of Yukon is pleased to work with the Association of Yukon Communities on accessing funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other sources.
- This partnership has realized funding for infrastructure and asset management initiatives.
- In 2024, we hosted information sessions with Federation of Canadian Municipalities representatives and municipal Chief Administrative Officers to explore strategies for maximizing the benefits of the Green Municipal Fund.

AYC Resolutions, Status and Commitment

Community Services

Rural Land Development Strategy

- Following discussions convened by Deputy Ministers in August 2024, multiple departments have collaborated to advance work on improving the land development process.
- This ongoing work includes several improvements including zoning processes and timelines, streamlining regulatory approvals, defining roles and responsibilities and exploring ways to align and coordinate land-related legislation.
- The Committee intends to develop a feedback mechanism, in collaboration with AYC, to enable municipalities to provide input and seek clarification on land development issues.

Context:

- Through several resolutions put forward at its last Annual General Meeting, the Association of Yukon Communities has identified support to access federal funding and rural land development opportunities as priorities.

Background:

Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) Resolutions

- Eight (8) resolutions were voted on at the Annual General meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities in May 2024. Seven resolutions were passed, and one was defeated.
- Resolutions passed include:
 - Resolution 24-AT-01: Administration of Municipal Elections
 - The Executive Council Office is leading the response. Community Services is supporting.

AYC Resolutions, Status and Commitment

Community Services

- Yukon government (YG) has responded it will have further discussions on this matter in the coming years and in the lead up to 2028 municipal elections.
- Community Affairs and Elections Yukon plan to discuss this resolution in spring 2025 and will bring in AYC and municipal partners when appropriate.
- Resolution 24-AT-02: Automated Traffic Enforcement.
 - Highways and Public Works has responded that, currently, they do not intend to direct the fine revenue from automated enforcement to any specific purpose.
 - The response indicated that regulations will be developed, and further stakeholder input is anticipated in the development of regulations.
 - Highways and Public Works attended AYC's December board meeting to provide information regarding the *Traffic Safety Act* and timing regarding the development of regulations.
- Resolution 24-AT-03: Negotiation of Comprehensive Municipal Grant (CMG).
 - Community Services has responded indicating that the CMG Enhancement Task Force collaborated to provide context, rationale and recommendations to support future budgetary decisions of YG.
 - The Task Force concluded their work in October 2024. The Government has considered their recommendations and made amendments to the CMG Regulation in March 2025. (reference CA-02)
- Resolution 24-AT-04: Lowering the Voting Age.
 - This resolution was defeated.

AYC Resolutions, Status and Commitment

Community Services

- Resolution 24-AT-05: Yukon Housing Corporation – Rent-Geared-to-Income Assistance Program Review.
 - Yukon Housing Corporation is leading the response.
 - YG has responded that they are interested in meeting with AYC to begin open dialogue on the resolution and the existing Rent Geared to Income program.
- Resolution 24-AT-06: End of Life Vehicle Responsibility.
 - Community Services is leading the response in collaboration with HPW.
 - YG acknowledges the challenges of managing End-of-Life Vehicles and will work with the AYC to develop an environmentally and financially sustainable plan, with further discussions to take place at the next quarterly meeting.
- Resolution 24-AT-07: Municipal Boundaries and First Nation Sovereignty.
 - This resolution was not sent to YG for response.
 - AYC has directed that it instead be referred to the Chiefs and Mayors Forum.
- Resolution 24-AT-08: Development of Comprehensive Evacuation Plans in Case of Wildfire.
 - This work is ongoing. The Emergency Measures Organization is assisting municipalities in developing, practicing and updating emergency plans and will continue to support community-based evacuation planning and response. This includes work with the City of Whitehorse on evacuation planning and practice, currently in progress.

Commitments for Rural Land Strategy and Accessing Federal Funding

- The Government of Canada has announced a new intake for the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Fund. Community Services staff are collaborating

AYC Resolutions, Status and Commitment

Community Services

closely with federal counterparts to secure access for Yukon communities. A targeted Yukon-specific session with federal representatives was delivered to municipalities and First Nation governments in August 2024.

- The Federal government has recently announced the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund. Community Services is leading these conversations for the Government of Yukon.
- Deputy Ministers met in August 2024 to discuss AYC's rural land development priority. Officials from Community Services and Energy, Mines and Resources have met to discuss and refine their mandate.
- This work includes updating Official Community Plan guidelines, clarifying zoning and subdivision processes and timelines, exploring ways to streamline regulatory approvals, developing training modules for municipal staff, defining clear roles and responsibilities in the land development process, creating accessible resources such as fact sheets, placemats, and guidelines, and exploring ways to align and coordinate land-related legislation.
- In 2023/24, Community Services officials initiated the first Community Development Tours. Community Development Tours focus on bringing department leaders, experts, and project managers that municipalities work with to municipalities to provide updates on ongoing initiatives and receive feedback on how to better accomplish shared goals. The next tour is planned for fall 2025.

February 6, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Community Services supports municipalities in many respects, including the advancement of key infrastructure projects, land development, and emergency management and planning.
- Our Community Advisors are available to discuss all matters of local governance, supporting sustainable local services.
- This support and close collaboration ensure that our government policies and programs are tailored to support staff and leadership in Yukon's municipalities. It also encourages community-led initiatives and local solutions.
- It's a priority for me to meet with my municipal colleagues as often as possible. These meetings are invaluable and occur both formally and informally. They help me better understand local needs and help to find solutions within each unique municipal context.

Additional response:

- In November, I met many newly elected municipal mayors and councilors at the Association of Yukon Communities' training session.
- I have monthly meetings with the Mayor of Whitehorse and look forward to further discussions with new councils to support their priorities.
- I meet with the Association of Yukon Communities President regularly to discuss municipal priorities.
- Our government provides financial support to the Chiefs and Mayors Forum, a biannual event led by Association of Yukon Communities' and Council of Yukon First Nations.

- Community Services held an orientation for Local Advisory Councils in November and look forward to the next forum in the Spring.
- Community Services also hosted the second Sustainable Communities Forum in late November, bringing together municipal and First Nation administrations to learn about climate adaptation for infrastructure asset management.

Context:

- This may become an issue because there is interest in how the Government of Yukon engages with municipalities on their priorities.

Background:

- A resolution by the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) was passed during their May 2023 Annual General Meeting.
- The resolution entitled “Yukon government to Undertake Meaningful Consultation with Municipalities” was sent to Premier Pillai and resolved for the “Yukon government to ensure meaningful and respectful consultation and advance notification on territorial decisions that may impact municipalities.”
- Minister Mostyn’s response indicated his commitment to “fostering a respectful, inclusive, collaborative working relationship with Yukon municipalities and the Association of Yukon Communities.” It further stated that the government “will continue to ensure that communications with municipalities are timely and respectful of the role local governments provide Yukoners.”
- A few examples of how the Government of Yukon engages with municipalities and AYC:
 - The department has Community Development Tours – which bring department leaders, experts, and project managers that municipalities work with, out to municipalities to engage directly on initiatives and to receive feedback on how to better accomplish shared goals. The next tour is planned for spring 2025.

- Community Advisors regularly meet with CAOs and attend council meetings, which allows for continuous engagement with community leadership.
- Community Affairs hosts one to two Local Advisory Council Forums annually, bringing together representatives from the five local advisory councils to discuss their shared priorities.
- The department hosts regular lunch and learn sessions with community officials on topics of importance to the group.
- The department organized and hosted the second Sustainable Communities Forum that brings administrative officials from Yukon municipalities and First Nations together for a two-day period focused on infrastructure development, emergency management, asset management and climate change and other matters of importance to local government.
- The Director of Community Affairs maintains a consistent and close working relationship with the AYC, engaging in weekly meetings with the Executive Director, and attending AYC Executive Meetings and Chief Administrative Officer forums to provide updates on behalf of the Government of Yukon, ensuring effective coordination and alignment of objectives between the AYC and the department.
- The department also provides funding for and attends the Chief and Mayor's forum, an initiative spearheaded by AYC and the Council of Yukon First Nations, where strategies to discuss collective community needs and concerns are discussed.

<p><u>February 6, 2025</u></p>

<p>Date approved</p>

Recommended response:

- The Free Transit Initiative was launched last fall and aims to reduce barriers to transportation and increase access to essential services for those who need it most.
- Non-governmental organizations have been invited to participate by distributing tickets and monthly passes to Yukoners who need it most.
- Access to free transit has been made available to the public through two Government of Yukon distribution locations, ensuring broad accessibility.
- The program has been successful in ensuring those who need transit have access to it. Tickets and passes are distributed through 24 non-governmental organizations and government distribution sites.

Context:

- The 2023 CASA includes a commitment to provide funding to the City of Whitehorse to replace fare-generated revenue and make public transit free in Whitehorse. A working group comprised of one Yukon NDP MLA and one Yukon Liberal MLA was established to work jointly with the City of Whitehorse to meet this commitment.

Background:

- On November 27, 2023, the City of Whitehorse passed a motion directing the mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Community Services and the NDP Caucus. In this letter, the mayor formally requested that the \$1.5 million for free transit be made immediately available as part of a three-year commitment. The letter requested that the Yukon Government make free transit available by distributing transit tickets and/or monthly passes to non-governmental

organizations (NGOs), vulnerable groups, and others. The letter communicated that this initiative would also, in part, meet the commitment of the MMIWG2S+ strategy.

- The Department of Community Services has worked with the City of Whitehorse to develop a program to make transit passes and tickets available to NGOs who meet the following criteria:
 - Hold a compliant registration under the Societies Act through the Yukon Corporate Online Registry; and,
 - Have a mandate to support Yukoners who are low-income, vulnerable, youth, or seniors.
- This is a time-limited initiative, concluding on November 30, 2025. By removing the financial burden, the Government of Yukon has made transit more accessible to Yukoners.
- In October, individual transit tickets and a limited number of monthly passes were made available at the Whitehorse Public Library and Jim Smith Building inquiry desk while NGOs were enrolling in the program and receiving their passes for distribution.
- In January 2025, once NGOs successfully enrolled in the program and began distributing passes, we prioritized monthly passes to NGO's and continued to distribute transit tickets at the Whitehorse library and the Jim Smith Warming Shelter.
- In late February and early March 2025, the Community Services met with both Government of Yukon distribution locations as well as NGOs. We received valuable feedback and have made the following minor changes to the program:
 - Increased the availability of tickets per person at the Government of Yukon distribution locations;
 - Increased the number of monthly passes available for Government of Yukon distribution locations and NGOs; and,

Session Briefing Note

TAB# CA-05

Spring 2025

Free Transit in Whitehorse

Community Services

- Increased public awareness about the program by providing Government of Yukon distribution locations and NGOs with contact information for all distribution locations.
- Community Services is committed to working with the participating NGOs and receiving ongoing feedback to ensure the program meets the needs of the community.

February 6, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is working toward a sustainable model for solid waste management in the Yukon. We continue to invest in waste management services that reflect modern and sustainable practices that benefit the environment and the economy.
- Community Operations manages 12 solid waste facilities across the Yukon and provides base operating funds to 13 recycling depots for BCR material. We also transport recyclables from these facilities into Whitehorse.
- Carmacks, Dawson, Haines Junction, Mayo, Teslin, and Watson Lake operate as regional waste facilities. These agreements support these municipalities to maintain high standards of service that are consistent at all Yukon solid waste management sites.
- The agreements ensure that all public waste management facilities in the Yukon have gates, operating hours, similar tipping fees, and on-site staff to monitor and manage waste streams. This will reduce environmental risk and help to extend the life of landfills, and costs associated with closure liabilities.

Additional response about tipping fees:

- The Yukon government's solid waste facilities in the Whitehorse periphery started charging tipping fees August 1, 2020. This was Phase 1 of a broad strategy to move toward regional landfills operating under similar processes and standards.
- Phase 2 of this strategy will see the introduction of tipping fees at three new sites, namely Champagne, Destruction Bay and Pelly Crossing, and adjustments to existing tipping fees at our Whitehorse

periphery sites to ensure all sites have the same fee structure by May 1, 2025. This change ensures consistency in fee structures between municipal and territorial waste facilities throughout the Yukon.

- Community meetings to discuss these changes have been held in Mendenhall, Champagne, Pelly Crossing and Burwash Landing.
- Having tipping fees and staff on site ensures waste is disposed of properly, increasing the life of our landfills. The goal is to have a fair, user-pay, environmentally sustainable model for solid waste sites across the Yukon.

Additional response:

- We thank the Association of Yukon Communities for their assistance and leadership in developing the regional agreements and for their support as we continue to implement the recommendations from the 2018 report: Recommendations for Action towards a Sustainable Solid Waste Management System for Yukon.
- We remain committed to working with affected communities on solutions for managing solid waste.

Context:

- Solid waste system improvements have been ongoing for several years.

Background:

- Whitehorse currently acts in a similar way as a regional facility through a Memorandum of Agreement with Community Operations branch where Yukon government (YG) ships household waste from rural Yukon to Whitehorse and pays the agreed tipping fees.
- A Ministerial Committee made recommendations for actions related to solid waste management in Yukon in April 2018. The Committee was co-chaired by the

Association of Yukon Communities and YG. Membership included AYC, municipal representatives and YG staff. They produced a report on their recommendations that was provided to the Minister of Community Services at that time.

- The recommendations involved regionalization of landfills, shifting toward a user-pay model that involves a standardized approach to tipping fees, and small transfer station facility closures.
- Asset retirement obligation (landfill liability) agreements between YG and municipalities where YG operated their landfill are being finalized. Municipalities are responsible for the landfill closure and post closure activities. In recognition of YG's historic use of the landfills, YG is contributing 50% of the liability cost.
- Illegal dumping did not increase as result of tipping fees introduced in the Southern Lakes / Deep Creek area. Fines for illegal dumping were increased to improve enforcement mechanisms if needed.

<p><u>February 4, 2025</u></p>

<p>Date approved</p>

Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation

Spring 2025

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Environment

Recommended response:

- Waste management and waste diversion through recycling are essential, but costly, services that Yukoners have come to expect.
- For many years, Yukoners diverted waste from landfills by recycling with financial support from the local and territorial governments and with the help of a local non-profit.
- Extended Producer Responsibility creates a user-pay system by shifting the cost of recycling from Yukon taxpayers and municipalities to producers of products and packaging.
- Extended Producer Responsibility also provides a long-lasting solution to the underlying structural issues facing the Yukon's recycling system.
- Yukoners already pay into an Extended Producer Responsibility program when purchasing products from national chains. The Yukon government is now moving towards implementation of an Extended Producer Responsibility program within the territory.

Additional response (Cost):

- By implementing Extended Producer Responsibility, the Yukon government will reduce its spending on waste management, which currently takes the form of diversion credits paid to recycling operators and collection contractors.
- We are carefully considering how costs will be distributed among businesses. For example, we have exempted small businesses from the paper and packaging program.
- With Extended Producer Responsibility in place, businesses who handle and dispose of automotive and hazardous products will be

able to dispose of that waste for free, thereby avoiding the fees that they are currently paying to dispose of that waste.

- Now that three stewardship plans have been approved by the Government of Yukon, the producer responsibility organizations can proceed with operationalizing their plans and determining the exact costs to be borne by producer members.

Third response (Stakeholder input):

- There have been numerous opportunities for stakeholders to be directly involved in the development of Extended Producer Responsibility.
- We established the Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Committee in late 2021 to provide a forum for key Yukon stakeholders to learn about Extended Producer Responsibility and to help us shape the regulatory proposal.
- During public engagement we heard from 121 organizations and 278 individuals over 15 group engagement sessions, multiple one-on-one meetings, and through a survey.
- After the public engagement we continued to talk to the stakeholders through 22 more meetings and presentations before the Regulation passed in January 2024.
- Since then, we have held more than 25 additional meetings with stakeholders to discuss implementation. And this responsive and passionate team remains available to answer any questions.
- Dating back to 2021, Yukon businesses and the Chambers of Commerce have been involved in committees and engagement

processes. Yukon government officials have met with any stakeholder who has requested a meeting.

- We also connected stakeholders to the producer responsibility organizations as they are in a better position to answer certain questions regarding practical aspects of implementation.
- Producer responsibility organizations have also held their own stakeholder engagement to inform the proposed program plans prior to submission of those plans to the Yukon government.
- The Government of Yukon will conduct a review of the program after one year of operation to identify potential opportunities for improvement. Should amendments to the regulation be necessary, we will engage stakeholders once again.

Fourth response (Implementation):

- As of February 2025, producer responsibility organizations (PRO's) have submitted three stewardship plans on behalf of producers.
- The Call2Recycle plan, starting on June 24, 2025, is focused on the recycling of batteries in the Yukon.
- The Interchange Recycling stewardship plan will focus on the recycling and safe disposal of products like lubricating oil, diesel exhaust fluid, antifreeze and automotive containers up to 55L. The program operation will start on August 1, 2025. Service levels and other plan details can be found in the permit or plans.
- The program for packaging and paper products will be operated by Circular Materials and will launch on November 1, 2025.
- A producer responsibility organization called Product Care has committed to developing a plan for hazardous and special waste.

Product Care plans to engage with stakeholders this spring and start the program operation this fall.

- Because every province in Canada has already established an Extended Producer Responsibility program, the Yukon is able to gain cost and operational efficiencies by working with established organizations and processes.
- Moving forward with the Extended Producer Responsibility program in 2025 is essential for long-term sustainability, waste reduction and creating a cleaner environment.

Fifth Response (Regulation Review):

- The Government of Yukon will monitor the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility in the territory to ensure that producers can successfully navigate the introduction of user-pay principles in the Yukon.
- We have committed to reviewing the paper and packaging program after one year of operations to ensure that the thresholds for inclusion are set at an appropriate level.
- Should amendments to the regulation be necessary, we will engage stakeholders once again.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On February 13, 2025, Yukon Party issued a news release stating they would support a delay in implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility due to the threat of tariffs from the United States, and that there have not been adequate opportunities for stakeholder input.

Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation

Spring 2025

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Environment

-
- The Yukon public and Yukon businesses may have questions about how the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility framework will impact the Yukon's waste management system and Yukon businesses.
 - Producer responsibility organizations have indicated to the Yukon government and stakeholders that the costs to operate these programs will be higher in the territory than seen in other jurisdictions.

Background:

- From January to May 2022, the Department of Environment worked with the Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Committee to collect preliminary input on Extended Producer Responsibility. Public engagement on Extended Producer Responsibility was held from November 1, 2022, to February 17, 2023.
- In the fall of 2023, the amendments to the *Environment Act* were passed allowing Yukon to place Extended Producer Responsibility obligations on national brands rather than Yukon municipalities and taxpayers. On January 25, 2024, the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation was passed.
- Producer responsibility organizations submit stewardship plans on behalf of producers. As of February 2025, three out of four producer responsibility organizations have submitted stewardship plans for Yukon government review. All three plans have been approved.
- In January 2025, Yukon government officials set up a meeting with the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, but the relevant staff of the Chamber did not attend, nor did they respond to follow-up communication.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

Deputy Minister of Environment

March 4, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Community Operations branch operates 10 water treatment plants and eight wastewater treatment lagoons across the Yukon. The branch also manages drinking water delivery to homes in Old Crow, Carcross and Ross River.
- The team has focused on recruiting local people to provide these critical services. We invest in training and capacity building and have partnered with community operators and First Nation partners to ensure sustainable, local, water services.
- This year, the team offered water treatment and delivery training targeted at residents of Old Crow and Carcross through Yukon University's Water and Wastewater Operators Program.
- In 2024, nine people completed the training and five have received their Bulk Water Delivery Operator certification. We congratulate those who have taken this opportunity, and your community appreciates your service.

Context:

- There is a high demand for water delivery services, with high turnover in rural areas. At times, it has been challenging to recruit individuals for this important work.

Background:

- The Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality establish drinking water quality requirements for public water systems. All Canadian jurisdictions have adopted these guidelines. In the Yukon, all public water supply and distribution systems meet or exceed these guidelines.

- Water delivery services are provided in Old Crow, Carcross and Ross River through Orders in Council passed in 1983-1985, which established water delivery rates between \$8.88 to \$16.65 per month depending on tank volume. Extra deliveries were set at \$5.00 each. These Orders in Council are still in effect.
- For the most part, these services are contracted to private companies to service their communities. The Community Operations branch manages contracts and builds rosters of trained operators. In Old Crow, Community Operations works closely with Vuntut Gwitchin Government, which employs water delivery drivers.
- This past year, the collaboration with Vuntut Gwitchin Government has successfully built capacity within the community to provide water and sewer services. The Bulk Water course and small water system course were offered at Yukon University campuses throughout Yukon in 2024.
- The demand in Carcross has increased significantly in summer as visitation numbers returned following the pandemic. Changes to the delivery contract were made in 2023 to adjust, resulting in some improvements, however further changes are necessary and being developed to ensure long-term sustainability of the service.

February 4, 2025

Date approved

Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits

Community Services

Recommended response:

- We are pleased to partner with municipalities to help reduce the cost to recycle, from capital projects to funding for recycling depots, to the hauling and processing of non-refundables.
- A sustainable recycling system is important for the Yukon, for our environment, and to reduce the cost to operate and eventually decommission landfills.
- As the territory transitions toward an Extended Producer Responsibility regime, we want to set the conditions to see even higher volumes of recyclables being processed in the territory and kept out of our landfills.

Additional response:

- The Yukon government is supporting the City of Whitehorse with up to \$2.4 million over two years, through 2024 and 2025, for a curbside collection program. The City's program is now in place and the Yukon government's support reduces the cost for Whitehorse households by roughly 50%.
- Support for recycling outside Whitehorse is provided by Yukon government through recycling depot operating allowances, as well as a recycling collection program that ships non-refundable recyclable materials to Whitehorse from all around the Yukon. Depot operating allowances provided in 2024/25 are projected at approximately \$300,000, with another \$100,000 invested by the Government of Yukon to support rural municipalities with collection of non-refundables.

Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits

Community Services

- This support is in addition to nearly \$3.5 million in direct investment over three years to municipalities for Regional Landfills to support improvements like weigh scales and other upgrades.
- \$1.6 million is budgeted in 2025/26 to support diversion of non-refundable recycling for the benefit of all municipalities.

Context:

- Raven Recycling announced the closure of the free public drop off at their facilities by summer 2024, in anticipation of a City of Whitehorse collection system.

Background:

- Processing of non-refundable recycling is done in Yukon by P&M Recycling now that Raven has ceased non-refundable recycling operations. P&M ensures that materials such as cardboard, paper, plastic and tin are sorted, balled and shipped to markets out of the Yukon for recycling. Diversion credits support the responsible management and shipment to recycling centers rather than the landfill.
- The cost of diversion credits has increased in recent years, from approximately \$500,000 in 2018/19, to approximately \$1 million in 2022/23, and a projected \$1.6 million in 2025/26.
- The City of Whitehorse provides \$150,000 in diversion credits to Raven Recycling and P&M each year. Dawson and Watson Lake contribute about \$200,000 and \$180,000 respectively each year and other municipalities contribute to local recycling through staff time, direct contributions, or both.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a waste management policy that shifts the responsibility for end-of-life management of product and packaging waste from municipalities, government, and taxpayers to the producers and consumers. EPR regulations have now been adopted by most provinces in Canada. Alberta, the last province to adopt the EPR system, anticipates having the program up and running by April 2025.

Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits

Community Services

- EPR will require industry to take over the recycling of non-refundable paper and packaging products in Yukon starting **November 1, 2025**.
- In late 2025, the EPR system will replace Diversion Credits for residential non-refundable recycling.
- Some of Yukon's recycling is refundable through legislated fees and is not covered under EPR:
 - The Beverage Container Regulation (BCR) sets the surcharges collected on ready-to-drink beverages at the time of purchase, and the amount that is returned (refunded) when an item is taken to a licensed recycling depot in the Yukon. The difference between surcharge and refund is deposited into the Recycling Fund.
 - The Designated Materials Regulation (DMR) sets the amount of surcharge collected on tires and electronic waste at time of purchase, where the full amount is deposited into the Recycling Fund to help pay for the item to be sent for recycling.

February 4, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Criminals sometimes exploit corporations to conceal their identity while engaging in money laundering, tax evasion, and other illegal activities. To combat this, amendments to the *Business Corporations Act* to adopt corporate ownership transparency were enacted in November 2024.
- The recent amendments to the *Business Corporations Act* mandate that corporations maintain an up-to-date record of individuals with significant ownership or control. This information must be accessible to enforcement agencies upon request, and will strengthen enforcement, protect market integrity, and promote sustainable economic growth.
- Identified stakeholders were notified of proposed new regulations to support the beneficial ownership transparency rules and invited to a virtual information session on February 12, 2025.
- The Information Session was an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input on the proposed timeline and exemptions proposed in the regulations, as well as for Community Services officials to provide further clarification and to answer questions about the new regulations.

Engagement on Regulation Amendments:

- No concerns were expressed in respect of the proposed new regulations during the information session on February 12.
- Stakeholders confirmed satisfaction with the proposed 12-month implementation period before the new rules will be enforced.

- A request was made for further clarification regarding the application of the new rules to discretionary trusts.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- Bill No. 43, Act to amend the *Business Corporations Act* (2024) was enacted on November 21, 2024.
- Ten jurisdictions in Canada enacted the transparency rules as all Finance Ministers agreed in 2017. Three adopted additional rules for expanded transparency and the federal government are encouraging others to do likewise.
- A letter was sent to private corporations after tabling of the amendments on October 10, 2024, notifying them of their obligations under the new provisions.
- Another letter was sent to identified Yukon First Nations stakeholders and the legal community on January 2, 2025, to seek input on the proposed new regulations to implements the amendments.

Background:

- Information leaks starting with the Panama Papers in 2016 raised international concern with corporations being used to conceal the true owner of businesses and property for illegal purposes.
- The Financial Action Task Force set standards for owner transparency and anti-money laundering. In 2016, the Task Force supported a mutual assessment of Canada's regime. They identified risks and recommended ways to improve the collection and verification of beneficial ownership information and to prevent the misuse of bearer shares.
- In 2017, all 14 Canadian Finance Ministers agreed to pursue amendments to business corporation statutes for ownership transparency. Officials collaborate on an intergovernmental working group to promote a harmonized approach. So far, the agreed rules are in effect in the federal and nine provincial statutes.
- In the last couple of years, the federal, British Columbia and Quebec statutes were amended to expand transparency beyond international standards. Corporations

under those statutes will submit their transparency record to the registrar who will make some information publicly available online.

- In a letter on June 5, 2023, two federal Ministers thanked colleagues for continuing to engage on this, offered support and asked all to pursue the second phase of changes for a pan-Canadian, publicly searchable ownership transparency registry.
- The Minister of Community Services' reply confirmed the Yukon government is pursuing the agreed changes and indicated our officials will continue to engage with the working group as we assess potential further changes.

<p><u>January 2, 2025</u></p>

<p>Date approved</p>

Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization works with emergency management partners in municipalities and First Nations to develop emergency management capacity in resilient Yukon communities.
- We appreciate the efforts of municipal and First Nation governments to plan for emergencies and the leadership of these governments in managing the challenges that have been presented to us.
- 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.

Additional response:

- The Yukon government is committed to supporting and collaborating in community emergency planning.
- Government of Yukon emergency management planners visit communities year-round to coordinate planning, provide training, and help implement after-action review findings.

Context:

- Territorial flooding in recent years, along with wildfire evacuations have raised public interest in Yukon's emergency preparedness.

Background:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) coordinates Yukon government (YG) departments and agencies involved in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Community Services

- EMO facilitates emergency management capacity development, training and exercises for all Yukon communities, including municipalities and First Nations. This ensures a coordinated response to emergencies.
- EMO is providing emergency management training internally to expand the capacity of YG employees through a variety of online courses and tabletop exercises. These courses are available through YG Learn and in person tabletop exercises in the Emergency Coordination Centre will also be held to allow employees to practice their skills. These tabletop exercises will be coordinated with tabletop exercises being provided in communities, and with external response partners.
- EMO continues to co-ordinate the City of Whitehorse Emergency Management Working Group. This includes first responders, critical infrastructure providers, and local governments such as Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- Like in previous years, YG prepositioned sandbags, superbags and flood mitigation products throughout the territory to be ready for potential flooding. This planning in fall 2023 and spring 2024 allowed YG, in coordination with our First Nation and municipal government partners, to respond more efficiently to flooding within communities.
- In alignment with Our Clean Futures strategy, EMO is working with communities to support the update of emergency coordination plans and support with carrying out Hazard Risk Assessments.
- The Critical Infrastructure Team serves as YG's response to possible shortages of critical infrastructure goods and services. This team works with our private industry partners to identify and mitigate risks to critical infrastructure in the Yukon.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Civil Emergency Measures Act and Public Health and Safety Act Review

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Emergency Measures Organization and Health and Social Services department are currently reviewing the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Public Health and Safety Act* to identify challenges in existing legislation and options for further action regarding pandemic/epidemic management.
- This work will inform the Yukon government about how to ensure the legislative framework supports an efficient and effective approach to health emergency management.

Further Response – specifically about project scope:

- This review is focused on identifying challenges in the *Civil Emergency Measure Act* and the *Public Health and Safety Act* as they relate to pandemic and epidemic management.
- The scope of this work is specifically focused on pandemic and epidemic management, though the review may touch on broader aspects.
- Broader aspects identified through the review would be considered for possible future legislative work.

Context:

- A review of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Public Health & Safety Act* was a commitment in the 2021 Mandate letters.

Civil Emergency Measures Act and Public Health and Safety Act Review

Community Services

Background:

- Concurrent to the state of emergency in response to COVID-19, a state of emergency for flooding in 2021 was also declared. These events brought public attention to the challenges to the existing *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Public Health and Safety Act*.
- The review will consider:
 - the experience gained through the management of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Yukon and other Canadian jurisdictions.
 - the alignment of the Acts (where warranted) with similar legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions.
 - emerging issues and best practices in pandemic/epidemic legislation in Canada and internationally.
 - the legislated and non-legislated roles and authorities of territorial, First Nations, and municipal governments in a pandemic or epidemic to determine recommendations for clarification.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The cost of climate change, both financial and personal, is apparent in the Yukon. Much of Canada experienced unprecedented natural disasters in 2024 and our thoughts go out to everyone impacted by wildfire and flood events.
- I want to thank the residents, volunteers, contractors, and dedicated emergency responders for their efforts to protect people and properties throughout these events.
- A territorial disaster financial assistance program was put in place in spring 2024 to support recovery from natural disasters. The program outlines how the Yukon government provides financial support for emergency disaster recovery. This will ensure that resources get to Yukoners when they need it most.

Additional Response:

- Work is now underway to update the Yukon's program, which is planned for 2025.

Context:

- This may become an issue because a territorial disaster financial assistance policy is a commitment under Our Clean Future.

Background:

- Status of Disaster Financial Assistance policy (C13):
 - The initial goal of 2022 for the completion of a territorial disaster financial assistance program was not met due to staff resources diverted to focus on Covid and flood emergency recovery.

Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance

Community Services

- Work is now underway to update the existing Yukon program, an updated program is planned for 2025.
- Emergency Measures Organization is coordinating with departments and the Climate Change Secretariate to develop an updated program for the Yukon and align it with relevant action items where possible
- Like the Yukon's current program, the updated program will likely align with the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) program and will also provide transparency and awareness for Yukoners and communities to help them prepare for emergencies.
- A Yukon program, aligned with the federal DFAA program, would streamline the process for individuals, business, and communities to receive funding for disaster-related costs from the Yukon government. The Yukon government would, in turn, apply for financial assistance from the federal DFAA program.
- In spring 2023, the Association of Yukon Communities passed a resolution that government create a Disaster Financial Assistance program to help municipalities respond to natural disasters and work with Yukon municipalities on undertaking long-term mitigation projects to protect community infrastructure from natural disasters.

Financial Implications:

- Federal recoveries are available under the DFAA.
- Eligible expenses for the DFAA may be reimbursed to the territory under a cost-sharing formula that is based upon rates determined by the Government of Canada and prorated to the territorial population.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- In the spring and summer of 2024, the Government of Yukon responded to flooding events in the Klondike and Old Crow, extensive wildfire activity in Stewart Crossing and Mayo, and landslides impacting our highways. In addition to these natural events, we also faced a large-scale telecommunications outage.
- The Emergency Measures Organization activated the Emergency Coordination Centre for 46 days in total over two periods between May and August. During these activations, the Emergency Coordination Centre supported emergency responders and evacuees, coordinated resources, provided information and communications expertise, and issued advisories, alerts and orders as required.
- 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.

Additional response:

- We appreciate the efforts of municipal and First Nation governments to plan for emergencies and the leadership of these governments in managing the challenges that recent emergency situations have presented.

Context:

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

Background:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) coordinates Yukon government departments and agencies involved in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- EMO has a duty officer on call 24/7, 365 days a year. During an emergency they are in regular contact with external agencies and emergency management partners, including municipal and First Nation governments, monitoring the situation and coordinating the response as needed.
- In spring 2024, above average snow load and freeze up conditions lead to a high risk of flooding on the Klondike and Porcupine Rivers. EMO worked collaboratively with our response partners to ensure plans were in place for at risk communities.
- The response to flooding in the Klondike Valley was a coordinated effort between all levels of governments including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon government and critical infrastructure partners. All governments worked together in the Dawson City Control Group to coordinate the response efforts.
- The response to flooding in Old Crow was a coordinated effort between all levels of governments including Vuntut Gwitchin, Yukon government and critical infrastructure partners. All governments worked together and established an Incident Management Team with a Unified Command structure to coordinate the response efforts.
- In the summer of 2024, Mayo and Stewart Crossing were placed on evacuation alert due to wildfire threats, and guests at a wilderness lodge were tactically evacuated.
- The Emergency Coordination Centre was also activated to support government response to telecommunications outages and highway closures.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

Marsh Lake

- Flooding hazards and climate-related emergencies have increasingly impacted infrastructure and residents, with the South McClintock and Army Beach community experiencing historic flooding that required emergency measures.
- The Yukon government values the South McClintock Water Committee's local knowledge and is collaborating with them to develop engineered drainage solutions and long-term design and policy measures to address lake flooding.
- Ongoing collaboration and updates with the Water Committee remain a priority to support community efforts in mitigating flood damage.

McConnell Lake

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- A cross-government Flood Committee, led by the Emergency Measures Organization, has been engaging several Yukon government resources toward flood mitigations, preparedness, response, and recovery since 2021.
- Several collaborative studies have come from the Flood Committee including the high-level Jurisdictional Scan, all of Yukon flood mitigation study, and flood mapping.
- Flood mitigation and preparedness is the responsibility of First Nations, municipalities, and several Yukon government branches.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# EMO-05

Spring 2025

Flood Mitigation

Community Services

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Access to emergency services can mean the difference between life or death and should be inclusive and accessible to everyone.
- Yukon government is continuing our efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents with tools like 911, including those deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, and speech-impaired communities living in the Yukon.
- Staff from Community Services are in regular contact with members of the deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, and speech-impaired community as work continues to making 911 more accessible.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon has successfully participated in a proof-of-concept project to integrate Text to 911 into the Basic 911 system, enhancing accessibility for the deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, and speech-impaired community.
- With successful testing completed, the necessary hardware and software have been installed in the Yukon 911 centre.
- The Yukon government is now considering implementation timelines.
- We anticipate that Text to 911 will be included in the service upgrades when the territory transitions to Next Generation 911.

Context – this may be an issue because:

- Canada is committed to transitioning to a Next Generation 911.
 - Northwestel and Yukon government are moving forward towards Next Generation 911. Text to 911 is a part of moving to Next Generation 911.
-

Background:

- Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Newfoundland and Labrador are still operating Basic 911 and will transition to Basic 911 plus, then to Next Generation 911
- Most of Canada operates Enhanced 911 systems, while some regions, like Strathcona County, Alberta, have already completely transitioned to Next Generation 911.
- The transition to Next Generation 911 is complex. It requires both technical software and hardware upgrades to the 911 call handling system and to the public telecommunications network; modernized civic addressing (so 911 calls can be pinned to a location); changes to equipment and operating procedures at secondary dispatch services (ambulance, fire etc.); plus new operating procedures for all emergency responders. When implemented, a public education campaign will also be required.
- Costs for 911 service are generally covered by small surcharges on monthly phone bills.
- The projected national deadline to transition to Next Generation 911 is currently May 2027. This timeline is prescribed by the regulator, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.
- One requirement of Next Generation 911 is the provision of service to the deaf and hard of hearing through the ability to text to 911.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- While the potential for flooding is always top of mind as we head into spring, it is very difficult to predict what the season will bring.
- That is why we are coordinating with local and federal partners to prepare and be ready. Flood forecasts for the coming summer will be released by the Water Resources Branch in March, April, and May.
- Spring weather and the timing and progression of snowmelt, as well the amount of rain we receive are important drivers of flooding regardless of snowpack levels.
- The Emergency Measures Organization is coordinating with local governments and agencies, to ensure an inventory of sandbags and materials. They are also focused on training to bolster capacity and ensure readiness.
- The Emergency Measures Organization continues to refine and improve its operations through after-action reviews of past year's responses and ongoing engagement with First Nation and municipal governments. As well as our response partners and critical infrastructure suppliers.

Context:

- This may become an issue because the flooding in previous seasons has raised public interest in Yukon government's flood response role.

Background:

- The Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) works with communities, municipalities, and First Nation governments across the Yukon on emergency

preparedness. EMO has reached out to all Yukon communities to begin preparations for this response season. EMO will pre-position flood response materials in Yukon communities as needed.

- The Yukon government is prepared for the flood season throughout the Yukon, ensuring communities have adequate supplies and are prepared for the onset of flood response season.
- EMO is working with Geomatics Yukon to upgrade our Common Operating Platform. This system includes a territorial wide critical infrastructure database. This system will now include 511, the HPW system that provides up to date highway conditions. EMO continues to streamline the system and add new information relevant to emergencies in the Yukon.
- EMO has a stock of flood supplies such as sandbags, superbags, and tiger dams in Whitehorse. EMO works with Highways and Public Works to keep a stock of flood supplies at highways camps for quicker deployment around the Yukon.
- EMO worked with Crown Indigenous Resources Northern Canada to assist the purchase of tiger dam response trailers for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. This included training on the use of tiger dams to protect their communities.
- EMO has updated the Yukon Government Emergency Coordination Plan. This was recommended in past event after-action reviews.

February 7, 2025

Date approved

Residential Landlord Tenant Act **Review**

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Community Services has developed policy options for new legislation, drawing from best practices and extensive public input. These proposed policies aim to strike a fair balance between tenant and landlord needs, enhance rental market stability, and adopt successful strategies from other regions
- Aligning with our previously outlined timeline goals, we are presenting the new legislation this spring session.
- This new piece of legislation balances tenants' needs for housing security and landlords' needs to manage their financial asset.
- We thank those who took time to participate in the engagement on this project. Their input is reflected in this legislation and was integral to the development of a well-balanced Act.

Implementation of the proposed Legislation:

- The proposed *Residential Tenancies Act* will require updated regulations to support the changes. These Regulations will be developed to align with the language in the final Act, should it pass and be assented to.

Engagement work response:

- We began a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* in 2023.

Residential Landlord Tenant Act **Review**

Community Services

- As part of that work, we engaged with stakeholders on key issues including rent increases, eviction criteria, compliance, housing supply, and landlord-tenant needs.
- We engaged with Yukon First Nations governments and non-governmental organizations to gather their feedback.
- We also brought together a group of 11 individuals from various interest groups to take part in an intensive Solutions Lab process, producing a report with collective ideas.
- From there we broadened the engagement to include public engagement sessions and a survey which garnered more than 1,600 responses.
- A summary of this work was published in August 2024.

Context:

- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement committed to initiating a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* in June 2023.

Background:

Implementing the Act, should it pass

- The Residential Tenancies Offices is preparing the materials and processes that will be required to implement the new Act.
- At this time, it is not certain that additional resources will be required to implement the new Act. Should additional resources be required, Community Services will assess the need and identify appropriate next steps.

Residential Landlord Tenant Act **Review**

Community Services

- Community Services launched a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* in June 2023. The review began with stakeholder engagement, followed by broader public engagement. At the same time, and continuing after the engagement period, officials at Community Services were researching policy options. Information from each of these sources helped to shape the new Act.
- The engagement was led by independent contractors who began by inviting a broad range of stakeholder and interest groups to participate. A group of 11 individuals were able to participate in a process called a “Solutions Lab”. Participants met 17 times over two months. These individuals brought their perspectives and experience from landlord and tenant affiliated groups, including:
 - the Safe at Home Society;
 - the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition;
 - the Yukon Tenants Association;
 - the Yukon Council on Aging;
 - the Residential Landlords Association;
 - the Chamber of Commerce Housing Committee;
 - Da Daghay Development Corporation;
 - Gray Management Services;
 - the Yukon Real Estate Association; and
 - the Association of Yukon Communities.
- Public engagement began on February 1, 2024, to solicit feedback from tenants and landlords across the territory. As part of the public engagement, Community Services partnered with the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to launch a survey that was available online and in paper form in locations across the territory. 1,420 Yukoners completed the survey.
- Community Services held nine public engagement events throughout February. These were conducted online and in person in Whitehorse, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Dawson City. These meetings offered the public different formats including providing information and background, a town hall format to provide input, sit-down workshops, and direct sit-down meetings with the policy

Residential Landlord Tenant Act **Review**

Community Services

makers involved with the project. Approximately 120 Yukoners participated in these events.

- Community Services also held meetings with municipal governments, First Nations governments, the Yukon Residential Landlord Association, the business community, fire departments and protective services, along with several NGOs. For example, Community Services met with NGO representatives for:
 - Yukon Anti Poverty Coalition;
 - Safe At Home;
 - Blood Ties Four Directions;
 - Yukon Aboriginal Women's circle;
 - Women's Coalition;
 - Council of Yukon First Nations;
 - Betty's Haven; and
 - The Canadian Centre for Housing Rights.

Over 12 meetings, we heard from another approximately 100 individuals.

- These events were broadly advertised, starting in late January and continuing throughout the month of February with posters, paid radio ads, public service announcements, print ads in newspapers, news media interviews, social media and paid Facebook ads.

Engagement with Yukon First Nations Governments

- Although no Constitutional duty to consult was identified, Community Services sought to engage with all First Nations governments as part of this review.
- Letters from Minister to Chief were sent on June 19, 2023, and February 19, 2024, containing information about the review and invitations to engage. Follow-up letters, and in most cases, phone calls and emails were also sent to housing managers. Meetings were held with those First Nations governments that responded and wished to engage. We are grateful to those who took time to meet with our officials to provide meaningful feedback and insight. A final letter acknowledging input received was sent out to First Nations chiefs at the end of February 2025.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# ESRT-01

Spring 2025

Residential Landlord Tenant Act **Review**

Community Services

<p><u>February 6, 2025</u></p>
<p>Date approved</p>

Minimum Wage and Living Wage

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The minimum wage in the Yukon is adjusted on April 1 of each year by the previous year's Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse. This rate of increase is set by regulation following the 2021 order of the Employment Standards Board.
- The current minimum wage since April 1, 2024, is \$17.59 per hour. On April 1, 2025, the minimum wage will increase to \$17.94 per hour, after a 2.0% increase, based on the 2024 annual Consumer Price Index.
- The Yukon has the second highest minimum wage rate in the country, second only to Nunavut.
- The Yukon's minimum wage is responsive to price changes, as its annual change is tied to inflation in the previous year.
- Most Canadian jurisdictions base their minimum wage increases on the Consumer Price Index. A minimum wage tied to inflation, as with other social supports, aims to reduce poverty and increase affordability for the Yukon's wage earners.

Additional response:

- I want to acknowledge the important work done by the Anti-Poverty Coalition to calculate the Yukon's living wage. Poverty reduction is a highly complex and multi-faceted issue.
- All input is welcome, including from members of the business, non-profit, and advocacy community, to help inform our strategies to improve the lives and livelihoods of Yukoners.

Minimum Wage and Living Wage

Community Services

Context:

- The Yukon has the second highest minimum wage rate in Canada. The local business community has raised concern that the minimum wage rate is unaffordable, while many workers in the territory state that the minimum wage is too low and should more closely reflect the living wage rate.

Background:

- The 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement included provisions to increase the minimum wage. The Employment Standards Board was engaged to review the matter, and it ordered that the minimum wage increase to \$15.20 per hour effective August 1, 2021, and to be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Whitehorse on April 1 of each year.
- The minimum wage is not a living wage. The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition released a report called “Living Wage in Whitehorse, Yukon: 2024” which stated that the living wage for Whitehorse equalled \$22.72 per hour in 2024. This is an increase of \$1.68 per hour from 2023 when the living wage equalled \$21.04 per hour.
- Yukon is one of many jurisdictions that use the Consumer Price Index for minimum wage increases. Others include Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories, as well as the federal minimum wage rate.

Jurisdiction	Wage, April 1, 2025	Notes
NU	\$19.00	Effective January 1, 2024. Minimum wage in NU is reviewed annually on April 1 but no increase announced for 2025.
Yukon	\$17.94	Effective as of April 1. The minimum wage is adjusted on April 1 of each year by CPI.
Federal	\$17.70 *	* Scheduled increase. Effective as of April 1, 2025. The minimum wage increases every April 1 based on CPI.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# ESRT-02

Spring 2025

Minimum Wage and Living Wage

Community Services

Jurisdiction	Wage, April 1, 2025	Notes
BC	\$17.40	Effective as of June 1, 2024. Will increase to \$17.85 on June 1, 2025, based on CPI.
ON	\$17.20	Effective as of October 1, 2024, and adjusted annually on October 1 of each year based on CPI.
NWT	\$16.70	Effective as of Sept 1, 2024, adjusted annually on CPI and the average hourly wage for the preceding calendar year
PEI	\$16.00	Effective as of Oct 1, 2024, adjusted annually on October 1 based on CPI.
NFLD & L	\$16.00	Effective as of April 1, 2025.
MB	\$15.80	Effective as of October 1, 2024. The minimum wage is adjusted annually on October 1st based on CPI.
QC	\$15.75	Effective as of May 1, 2024. Will increase to \$16.10 on May 1, 2025, based on CPI.
NS	\$15.70	Effective as of April 1. The minimum wage will increase again to \$16.50 on October 1, 2025. The minimum wage is adjusted by previous years' CPI + 1% and rounded to the nearest \$0.05.
NB	\$15.65	Effective as of April 1, 2025. The minimum wage will increase every April 1, based on CPI.
AB	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2018.
SK	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2024. The minimum wage generally increased by CPI and Average Hourly Wage, but alternative adjustments can be made.

Yukon's Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Year	Yukon	Year	Yukon
2024	2.0%	2016	1.0%
2023	4.9%	2015	-2.0%
2022	6.8%	2014	1.3%
2021	3.3%	2013	1.7%
2020	1.0%	2012	2.3%
2019	2.0%	2011	3.0%
2018	2.4%	2010	0.8%
2017	1.7%		

Session Briefing Note

TAB# ESRT-02

Spring 2025

Minimum Wage and Living Wage

Community Services

<p><u>February 6, 2025</u></p>

<p>Date approved</p>

Recommended response:

- The closure of the Eagle Gold mine owned by Victoria Gold has affected many Yukoners and others across the country. Several employees were laid off following the heap leach failure in June of 2024. Some employees were recalled to work, while many others have had their employment terminated.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. was appointed as the receiver for Victoria Gold. PricewaterhouseCoopers is required to identify the former employees who are owed wages, determine the amount they are owed, and inform them of the amounts and conditions of payment.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers has also facilitated former employees' applications through the federal Wage Earner Protection Program. This program is designed to provide some compensation to employees in this exact situation, where they are owed wages, but their former employer has entered receivership.

Additional response:

- The Employment Standards Office upholds and enforces the *Employment Standards Act* and issues orders for wages owed to current or past employees.
- Before the receivership, the Employment Standards Office was in regular contact with Victoria Gold representatives to monitor the status of employee layoffs. The office continues to request records from the receiver and to provide them with information about the requirements under the *Employment Standards Act*.

- The Receivership Order issued by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice prevents offices like the Employment Standards Office from initiating proceedings and issuing judgments against Victoria Gold or the receiver. The federal Wage Earner Protection Program being facilitated by the receiver is currently the best mechanism for former employees to recover some or all of the wages they are owed.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The closure of the Eagle Gold Mine and receivership of Victoria Gold has affected the livelihoods of many Yukoners. The Employment Standards Office wants to ensure that former employees are aware of the resources available.

Background:

- After a serious incident involving the heap leach facility at the Eagle Gold Mine in June 2024, approximately 270 Victoria Gold employees were placed on temporary layoff.
- Over the following weeks and continuing after the receivership, more employees were laid off, while others were recalled to work or chose to resign.
- On August 14, 2024, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. as the receiver administering the assets and liabilities of Victoria Gold.
- The Federal Wage Earner Protection Program provides payment up to \$8,507.66 of outstanding wages to former employees of an employer subject to receivership. PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. is responsible for facilitating former employees through this process.
- The Employment Standards Office also conducts investigations to determine whether wages are owed and issues certificates ordering the payment of outstanding wages. However, the federal program is designed for circumstances in which a former employer enters receivership.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# ESRT-03

Spring 2025

Employees of Victoria Gold

Community Services

<p><u>February 6, 2025</u></p>
<p>Date approved</p>

Recommended response:

- While the gig economy in the Yukon has not yet grown as rapidly as in other regions, we see significant potential for this industry to expand.
- We are actively participating in Federal-Provincial-Territorial working groups to explore how best to ensure that gig workers receive protections comparable to other employees in the Yukon.
- Determining whether a gig worker in the Yukon is classified as an independent contractor or an employee under the *Employment Standards Act* depends on the specific nature of their work and employment contract. Each case is reviewed individually, and protections may vary.
- As this is a rapidly evolving area with diverse approaches across jurisdictions, we will continue to monitor developments and assess necessary changes to safeguard gig workers' rights in the Yukon.

Context:

- This may become an issue because gig work is becoming increasingly common across Canada and people may be concerned about protections for Yukoners who work for these companies.

Background:

- Gig work refers to digital platform work. For example, app-based ride-hail and food delivery services.
- Some platform companies consider their workers to be independent contractors, disentitling them to the protections under *Employment Standards* legislation (for example, a minimum wage rate).

- It is not clear whether a gig worker in the Yukon would be considered an independent contractor (exempt from the *Employment Standards Act*) or an employee or contract worker (covered by the *Employment Standards Act*). When the Employment Standards Office receives a complaint, they investigate the nature of the employment relationship. This involves a contextual analysis of all the conditions of employment for the individual. For that reason, it is not possible to say with certainty that across the board, all people working for online platform companies will or will not have protections under the legislation.
- Although they follow a different structure, in the context of taxi drivers, the Yukon Supreme Court confirmed in 2016 the conclusion of the Employment Standards Office that taxi drivers are contract workers and are covered by the *Employment Standards Act*.
- BC introduced new regulations to clarify that gig workers are to be considered employees for the purpose of Employment Standards legislation and Workers Compensation legislation. The regulations set a minimum wage rate and mileage rates for gig workers, as well as occupational health and safety requirements.
- Ontario's *Digital Platform Workers' Rights Act* will come into force July 1, 2025, creating certain rights and protections for gig workers in Ontario.
- Other jurisdictions have not yet introduced bills to directly address gig workers.
 - MB: The Workers Compensation Board in Manitoba released information online indicating that they consider gig workers to be contract workers (covered by their legislation).
 - SK: In August 2023, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that it would be reviewing the *Employment Act* and regulations, largely in response to the growing gig economy.

February 6, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Fire departments and programs rely on a core of volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to train and be available.
- The Fire Marshal's Office works hard to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters in the Yukon. Their efforts include hosting community meetings as well as working with the Yukon First Nations and local governments.
- The Fire Marshal's Office also provides oversight, training, honoraria and equipment for community fire departments and programs.
- The Fire Marshal's Office has developed a levels of service model. In this model, one person in a community can build fire resilience through prevention and education as a Fire Safety Champion. 4 people can support a Scene Safety Response Unit program, and 8 people can support a fire department.
- I want to thank all emergency responders, especially the volunteers in the communities, who keep our citizens safe.

Context:

- This may become an issue because many rural Yukon communities struggle to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters.

Background:

- Throughout the territory, the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) operates unincorporated community fire halls, maintains firefighting equipment and vehicles, provides training that meets national standards, presents public education campaigns for life-safety and fire prevention, and supports municipalities with training and resources.

- The FMO provides oversight, training, honoraria and equipment for community fire departments and programs, but are only able to do so with a core of volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to train and be available.
- Declining volunteer levels is an issue across Canada. Small communities often struggle with volunteer membership and recruitment. They may achieve positive retention for a few years, but due to limitations within the community, volunteer levels sometimes decrease to the point that a fire hall becomes functionally inactive. The FMO has implemented a levels of service model to address this and is actively evaluating further options including enhanced community outreach and increased honoraria for volunteer firefighters.
- Occupational Health and Safety requirements for firefighters must be met to prevent responder injury or loss of life.
- In the 18 unincorporated communities, volunteer departments require interested community members and assistance to recruit and retain a minimum number of volunteer firefighters. The fire services that are provided by the FMO include the provision of all fire response equipment and vehicles, training and logistics, as well as the administration of the community volunteer fire halls (training records, honoraria and standard operational procedures).
- The nine municipal departments require interested community members and assistance from the municipality to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters to provide fire services. The Yukon government supports municipalities by providing funding and provisioning resources on an 'as needed' basis, and as capacity allows. This includes training for staff and volunteers as well as equipment on a case-by-case basis to cover areas not easily reachable by unincorporated halls.
- 7 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) air packs and eighteen new air bottles have been delivered to Carcross Fire Department. The units are part of a large publicly tendered order placed by FMO and meet the new standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).
- Each unit consists of 4500 psi air tank, regulator, harness and personal alert safety alarm. The expanded capacity tanks provide volunteer firefighters with 45 minutes

Session Briefing Note

TAB# FMO-01

Spring 2025

Volunteer Fire Departments

Community Services

of clean air, an improvement from the previous 30 minute provided by the pervious bottles.

- While the SCBA are replacing similar units, Carcross has been trained and is ready to use the new packs thanks to their close relationship with their neighbor, Mount Lorne Volunteer Fire Department
- In addition to the regular SCBA unit, four Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Air Packs have been put in service at Ibex, Hootalinqua, Mount Lorne and Golden Horn Fire Departments. A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) air pack is a portable, emergency air supply system designed to provide breathable air to a firefighter who is lost, trapped, or injured in a hazardous atmosphere, allowing the rescue teams to focus on locating and rescuing them.

COMMUNITY	INCIDENT VOLUME (in 2024)	# OF ACTIVE FIRE VOLUNTEERS (2024)	COMMUNITY POP (2024)
BEAVER CREEK	0	0	111
BURWASH LANDING	2	7	120
CARCROSS	25	9	495
DESTRUCTION BAY	1	6 (SSRU**)	66
GOLDEN HORN	30	25	615
HOOTALINQUA	41	29	1620
IBEX	46	25	571
KLONDIKE VALLEY	23	7	No data
KENO	0	6 (SSRU)	24 (from 2020)
MARSH LAKE	20	15	758
MT. LORNE	21	18	502
MENDENHALL	0	0	139
OLD CROW	0	2 (SSRU)	249
PELLEY CROSSING	3	9 (SSRU)	381

Session Briefing Note

TAB# FMO-01

Spring 2025

Volunteer Fire Departments

Community Services

COMMUNITY	INCIDENT VOLUME (in 2024)	# OF ACTIVE FIRE VOLUNTEERS (2024)	COMMUNITY POP (2024)
ROSS RIVER	0	3 (SSRU)	403
TAGISH	9	10	396
(SHOT) YUKON	9	(16) In VFD's	46,640
UPPER LIARD	0	0	130 (from 2021)
TOTAL	230	171 ***	N/A

**SSRU = Scene Safety Response Unit

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

Financial Implications:

- Approximately \$1.5 million is budgeted for the Fire Marshal's Office activities for 2025-26. This includes the operation of community fire halls, honoraria and travel for volunteers, as well as program administration costs.

February 24, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- An independent review of fire services in rural Yukon was released in 2021. The Fire Marshal's Office is making good progress on implementing the recommendations in this report to ensure safe and sustainable fire services across the territory.
- The Fire Marshal's Office has acted on this feedback by developing a Levels of Service response model, formalizing mutual aid agreements and implementing a Fire Safety Champion program that focuses on fire prevention and education.
- The Fire Marshal's Office has visited every unincorporated community to discuss the different levels of service that can be established. Many of these visits have resulted in a Scene Safety Response Unit in previously unserved areas. This includes working with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to support a Scene Safety Response Unit, which became active in late-summer 2024.

Context:

- The fire services review continues to guide changes in approach at the Fire Marshal's Office to improve fire services generally in the territory.

Background:

- With 104 recommendations included in the review, work is ongoing. The recommendations have helped to guide the Fire Marshal's Office work plans.
- Yukon government took immediate action on several of the short-term recommendations identified in the review, particularly as they pertain to firefighter safety and Occupational Health and Safety compliance.
- Since the release of the review in December 2021, the Fire Marshal's Office presented the report and met with communities and fire service stakeholders.

- A Scene Safety Response Unit has been implemented in Champagne, Keno, Ross River, Pelly, Old Crow and Destruction Bay. Work is being done to establish programs in other unincorporated communities that do not have the capacity to maintain a traditional volunteer fire department such as Mendenhall and Beaver Creek.
- Implementation of the Levels of Service Model will help unincorporated communities deliver safe fire related programs that can be adjusted according to volunteer capacity and community participation. It consists of three types: Fire Safety Champion, Scene Safety Response Unit and a Fire Department.
- The development of the model was informed by a national cross jurisdictional scan along with engagement with key stakeholders, community organizations, and First Nation leaders.
- The Fire Marshal supports training of volunteers so that fire departments can meet Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and national standards to ensure the health and safety of firefighters.

February 6, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Municipalities play a vital role in public safety.
- The Fire Marshal's Office helps municipalities build capacity and develop fire and life safety programs and initiatives.
- The Fire Marshal's Office offers training to municipal fire service members and employees so that they can perform life safety inspections and fire investigations. In municipalities where this training has not been taken, the Fire Marshal's Office works with municipalities to offer these services.
- I want to thank all the municipal and volunteer firefighters, and those at the Fire Marshal's Office for their extraordinary efforts and collaboration to protect our communities.

Context:

- This may become an issue as recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters can be challenging in some communities.

Background:

- Municipalities are responsible for administering Fire and Life Safety programs under the *Municipal Act*.
- The Fire Marshal's Office provides municipalities with equipment, apparatus and recruitment support. The Fire Marshal's Office supports large scale incidents in municipalities by providing mutual aid to supplement local fire resources. During the Mayo fires, Deputy Fire Marshals and volunteer fire service members assisted with structure protection and evacuation efforts.
- The Fire Marshal's Office works with Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and municipal Fire Chiefs to offer training and bolster internal capacity.

- In 2024, the Fire Marshal's Office assisted with multiple fire investigations and Fire and Life Safety inspections in the municipalities at the request of the local area Fire Chiefs or CAOs.
- The Fire Marshal's Office supports municipalities with recruitment drives and continues to work with municipalities to provide fire prevention and education messaging.
- The Fire Marshal's Office supports Fire Prevention and Education in municipalities by providing information resources and giving presentations at the schools when requested.
- Currently, the Fire Marshal's Office has the following equipment in municipalities:
 - 5 Fire Apparatus (large trucks/pumpers)
 - 2 rescue trucks

February 6, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Public education and effective community outreach are one of the most effective methods of preventing fire and life safety incidents.
- To help reach communities, the Fire Marshal's Office has implemented a Fire Safety Champion program. Fire Safety Champions help organize community events that promote fire and life safety initiatives. The program is supported by a designated Deputy Fire Marshal, who serves as a public outreach and prevention coordinator.
- I want to acknowledge and thank these community-minded champions who work with the Fire Marshal's Office to raise awareness about fire safety and prevention.

Additional response:

- Fire Safety Champions play a valuable role in their communities. They provide fire extinguisher training, public education, and work to ensure individuals have escape plans in the event of a house fire.
- The Fire Marshal's Office will continue to work with municipalities and unincorporated communities to support the implementation of the Fire Safety Champion programs throughout the territory.

Context:

- The program is a result of the 2021 Fire Services Review, which recommended more emphasis on public education.

Background:

- Several unincorporated communities do not have the capacity to support a response-based fire service. It is especially important in these communities that the focus be on prevention and education.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# FMO-04

Spring 2025

Public Education on Fire Service

Community Services

- Prevention and education are proven to decrease property damage and loss of life secondary to fire.
- This fulfills Recommendation A from the 2021 independent “Review of the Yukon Fire Marshal’s Office fire suppression and rescue resources distribution”.

February 6, 2025

Date approved

Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

Community Services

Recommended response

- Yukoners expect that we are prepared to quickly respond to all emergencies. Managing emergency response across all these areas requires a coordinated approach.
- We respect and value the perspective of our volunteers. We will continue to engage with the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs and work together on the challenges we face.
- I look forward to continuing our efforts to ensure our firefighters have the proper tools, training, and safety measures to fulfill their duties.

Additional Investments

- The Government of Yukon has made additional investments in the Yukon's fire service, including:
 - The honorarium for volunteer firefighters in unincorporated communities increased significantly in October 2024. It is now \$30.74 per hour, up from \$22 per hour. This adjustment was the first since 2009 and applies to both emergency responses and training sessions;
 - Funding the Annual Yukon Fire Service Conference in March;
 - 7 new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and 18 new air bottles that have been delivered to the Carcross Fire Department;
 - Turnout Gear - the tender is expected to be awarded in February;
 - Rescue Truck Replacement - the procurement process is underway;

Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

Community Services

- Scene Safety Response Unit Truck purchases occurred this February. The community of Champagne received a new Scene Safety Response Unit truck equipped with a 300-gallon tank and 300gpm pump. In March, a second truck with the same specifications will be delivered to Pelly Crossing;
- New coveralls for volunteer firefighters;
- Mental health support program specifically for volunteer firefighters; and,
- Modernizing the First Service software to streamline fire reporting, records management and asset tracking.

Ember Fire Academy

- Ember Fire Academy remains a valued program with numerous benefits to the Yukon fire service. The program successfully ran in September 2024, marking its 10-year anniversary. To date, 120 women have participated, with 23% retained as volunteer firefighters.

Context

- In the spring and fall of 2024, the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs raised concerns through letters to the minister and in the media.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon is continuing to make significant investments in Yukon's fire service.
- The Annual Yukon Fire Service Conference is scheduled for March 8 and 9, 2025, at the Sternwheeler Conference Center and Hotel. The first day will focus on incident commander competency, responsibility and accountability. Day two will be the first day of Yukon Fire Service strategic planning working with a consultant.

Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

Community Services

The conference, combined with strategic planning and volunteer honorarium, is a commitment of approximately \$50,000.

- The public tender for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) was concluded in December, and a \$106,956 contract was awarded to Brogan Fire and Safety. On March 27, 7 new SCBA air packs and eighteen new air bottles were delivered to the Carcross Fire Department and will be used to transition from the older style 2216psi air packs to the upgraded 4500psi air packs. The expanded capacity tanks provide volunteer firefighters with 45 minutes of clean air, an improvement from the previous 30 minute provided by the pervious bottles.
- The tender for PPE (turn-out gear) will be awarded in mid-February and the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) will work to get gear ordered as soon as possible.
- The Special Heavy Operations Team's (SHOT) rescue truck replacement is in the procurement process and will be going out to tender by the end of February.
- In collaboration with Wildland Fire Management, FMO is purchasing 120 sets of coveralls for volunteer firefighters. The coveralls provide volunteer fire fighters durable protective work clothes, that are lighter and more comfortable than heavy "turn-out" gear. The coveralls will be used by volunteer firefighters in their work to support wildland fire response – work such as setting up sprinkler systems and assisting residents in taking measures to protect their homes.
- FMO is moving forward on a mental health support initiative specifically for Yukon volunteer fire service members.
- First Responder Health is an online program that proactively addresses mental health concerns for fire fighters. The program will provide direct access to 24 modules of content and workbook questions to share as a group, or to provide individual support. This program is being used by thousands of firefighters in British Columbia but until now, there is no similar program available in the Yukon. This is a proactive approach to mental health support that will help to alleviate some of the stigma around mental health in the fire service. Information and login access to the program will be sent out to all members of the Yukon Fire Service in early March.

Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

Community Services

- Work is also underway to obtain modern software which will help the Fire Marshal's Office to streamline many of the current functions of the Yukon Fire Service such as fire reporting, records and asset management as well as many other functions.
- Improved inventory and asset management, work is underway to improve how fire service assets and resources are inventoried and tracked, so that replacement of critical equipment and supplies can be scheduled and better managed with Yukon government's budgeting processes. This includes work to detail items specifically needed to address health and safety requirements.
- In spring 2024, the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs (AYFC) raised the following concerns to the Minister and in the media:
 - Volunteer honoraria – no increase in many years (included in the minister's mandate letter but no budget was allocated).
 - Frequent changes in the staffing of the Fire Marshal role and long-standing vacancies in administrative and deputy positions; causing operational difficulties.
 - Lack of transparency and competition in the previous recruitment process for the Fire Marshals. Given the importance and specialized nature of the role the association requested to be involved in the appointment of the Fire Marshal.
 - Uncertainty surrounding the Ember Fire Academy program.
- To address the concerns identified by the AYFC in spring 2024, the following has been done:
 - The honoraria increase for volunteer firefighters was prioritized and implemented as of October 1, 2024.
 - The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) now has a full complement of staff, including the Fire Marshal, four deputies, and an administrative position. The roles of the Deputy Fire Marshals have been restructured to provide more regional and operational support for fire departments.

Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Concerns – Progress

Community Services

- The Fire Marshal position was publicly posted, and a municipal fire chief was included in the hiring process to ensure transparency and collaboration.
- Ember Fire Academy ran in September 2024, celebrating its 10th anniversary.
- Significant investments are being made in 2024 to support Yukon's fire services, including new pumper and tender trucks, SCBA equipment upgrades, and turnout gear replacement.
- The Chiefs Advisory Group was established to enhance decision-making and collaboration across fire services.
- In fall 2024, AYFC raised concerns to the minister and in the media, and provided a "report-card" on a range of specific issues, including:
 - Funding for FMO, as there has been no budget increase in the last 10 years, to address inflation, and funds being diverted to other areas. Requesting a minimum of \$2 million to be added to the annual budget.
 - Records and inventory management.
 - Administrative staff pressures at FMO.
 - Need for volunteer fire fighter Personal Protective Equipment to replace expired or worn-out gear, and other testing/services for health and safety item.
 - Lack of dedicated funds for programs such as Ember Academy, SHOT, recruitment and retention, Scene Safety Response Units.
 - Firehall replacement needs, especially Klondike Valley.

February 6, 2025

Date approved

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

Recommended response:

- We continue to advocate for more federal investments in infrastructure for Yukon. Stable, predictable, base-plus funding benefits Yukon communities and helps municipal and First Nation governments to address the historical infrastructure gap that the Yukon faces.
- To date, under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Yukon has advanced 70 projects totaling more than \$600 million of combined federal and Government of Yukon contributions. The final projects for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program were submitted by March 31, 2025.
- We are very pleased to have recently signed the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund agreement. This important agreement will help accelerate the construction and upgrading of critical infrastructure, supporting the construction of more homes. The Yukon will see \$98.9 million worth of projects in the coming years.

Additional response:

- The Government of Canada also has direct streams that municipalities and First Nation governments can apply to. These streams can be accessed through merit-based applications such as the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund, as well as direct programs like the Canada Public Transit Fund.

Context:

- This may become an issue because the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding is fully subscribed, and more federal investment is required to support infrastructure in the Yukon.

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

Background:

- Since the signing of the Small Communities Fund and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, the Government of Yukon (YG), with the support of the Government of Canada, has committed over \$950 million on 130 infrastructure projects.
- Community Services, Infrastructure Development Branch, manages the following federal funding agreements - Small Communities Fund, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Canada Community-Building Fund and Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund
- Infrastructure Development Branch also supports municipalities and First Nations on Infrastructure Canada application-based funding.

INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (ICIP):

- YG signed the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for ICIP May 2018. Through this program the Yukon will see \$454.7 million in federal funding that will support projects before the funding ends in 2032/33.
- YG has successfully finalized its list of infrastructure priorities under the ICIP, meeting the Government of Canada's March 31, 2025 deadline. The final list of projects reflects the Government of Yukon's strategic infrastructure priorities.
- To date, Yukon has advanced 70 projects with a combined investment of \$600 million from both the Governments of Canada and the Yukon. With this submission, Yukon's full ICIP allocation has been committed – ensuring critical infrastructure investments will continue to support vibrant, resilient communities across the territory.

SMALL COMMUNITIES FUND (SCF):

- The Yukon signed the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the SCF in February 2015, with all spending to be allocated or spent by 2027.

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

- Under SCF, the Yukon has 61 projects totaling \$341.7million of combined federal and Government of Yukon contributions.

CANADA COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND (CCBF):

- The CCBF, formerly Gas Tax Fund, is a permanent, stable and indexed source of infrastructure funding that flows through YG to municipalities and First Nations to plan for their current and future needs and build or improve their infrastructure. Unincorporated communities access funding through YG.
- YG and Government of Canada have entered into a new administrative agreement for CCBF enabling the territorial government to continue to receive funding for a 10-year term: 2024-25 through 2033-34.
- YG administers the fund on behalf of Canada, to 14 First Nations and 8 municipal governments. New, simplified agreements **have improved** how the program is delivered, allowing recipients greater certainty in accessing their funding and allowing them to undertake long-term capital planning.
- The previous agreement saw \$196 million dollars to YG during the last 10 years. The 2024-25 total funding from Canada is \$18 million.
- Allocation of this funding is provided on a formula basis but held in trust by the YG until projects are approved and reporting submitted.
- In 2023-24 there were more than 30 projects completed for a total of \$9 million.

CANADA HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (CHIF):

- Federal Budget 2024 announced the \$6 billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) to support housing growth and densification through construction and upgrading of core public infrastructure.
- This fund uses a two-pronged approach to delivery:
 - \$1 billion, over 8 years, available directly to municipalities to support urgent infrastructure needs that will directly create more housing.

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

- \$5 billion for agreements with provinces and territories to support long-term priorities.
- The Yukon signed the CHIF Agreement in March 2025, with spending to be wrapped up in fiscal year 2033-34. Through this agreement, Yukon will receive \$74.2 million from Canada and will contribute \$24.7 million to address housing-enabled infrastructure.
- The purpose of the program is to support governments that own and operate water, wastewater, stormwater and landfill infrastructure. Program is not aimed for-profit, private sector recipients.
- The Government of Yukon will develop a process to support the project selection.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)** – supports investment in structural and natural infrastructure projects to increase the resilience of communities that are impacted by natural disasters triggered by climate change.
 - In May 2024, Canada announced that the City of Whitehorse was successful in their application. The federal government is investing more than \$45 million for this project. The Infrastructure Development Branch has offered a \$150,000 Transfer Payment Agreement for the Robert Service Way Owner's Engineer Contract.
 - This agreement would support the City in advancing the escarpment stabilization project from concept to detailed design, including an understanding of budget and schedule. This information could be used to better consider any potential investments in this project.
- This past summer, the Government of Canada launched the **Canada Public Transit Funding (CPTF)**, committing an average disbursement of \$3 billion annually, commencing in 2026-27. This funding aims to enhance access to public transit and active transportation. This fund is using a three-pronged approach to delivery:

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

- (Not applicable to Yukon) Metro Region Agreements (ex. Toronto Transit Commission) - \$2 Billion annually;
- Baseline Funding - \$500 Million annually – only applicable to the City of Whitehorse. Baseline will provide predictable, long-term funding to communities with existing transit systems to support routine capital investments, expansion and state of good repair projects. It will be delivered with a Contribution Agreement between the City of Whitehorse and Canada; and,
- Direct Delivery - \$500 million annually. This funding is intended to target specific federal priorities. Current priorities are:
 - Active Transportation Fund (ATF)
 - Rural Transit Solutions Fund (RTSF)
 - Zero Emission Transit Fund (ZETF)
- Government of Canada Budget 2024/25 added \$500 million to **Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program (GIBC)** - supports green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings and the construction of new publicly accessible community buildings.
 - The 3rd intake closed on October 16, 2024.
 - YG has been working hard to support Municipalities and First Nations in advancing projects in Yukon.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The construction of a new recreation center is a long-standing priority for the City of Dawson, and for the Government of Yukon.
- The recreation center project team has designed a new project management and procurement approach to build the recreation center within the total \$65 million budget envelope. The Progressive Design Build methodology is one innovative way that this government is building community infrastructure that will meet the needs of current and future generations.
- The project team has presented a conceptual design to the community that describes the floor plan and identifies the areas available for recreational and community programming.
- A more developed design will be presented to the community in the Spring.
- We look forward to seeing site preparations getting underway in 2025, and facility construction beginning soon after.

Additional Response:

- This progressive design build approach has allowed this project to progress rapidly in close collaboration between the City of Dawson, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government, the design team, and the contractor because all parties are at the table for collaboration and decision making.
- This collaboration allows real-time changes and has allowed the team to advance the schedule with considerably less risk to the project. It also gives the design team and contractor the ability to budget correctly because they are designing to a target budget.

Context:

- This is an important project for the City of Dawson.
-

Background:

- The Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre had been in use for a short period of time before structural and foundational issues became apparent in 2009. In response to these issues, the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon entered into a funding agreement for \$4 million.
- Funding over the years helped repair specific aspects of the facility. However, the ongoing permafrost has resulted in a situation where repairs are no longer possible or recommended, as public safety has become an issue. Past news releases have announced repairs to the existing facility.
- Dawson City council voted in 2018 to build a new facility, rather than spend \$19.5 million to repair the old one because of structural issues.
- Public Engagement took place in the spring of 2021 to seek community feedback as part of the Feasibility Study for a new recreation facility.
- Commitment to manage the project was announced in the 2022/23 Spring Budget speech. The Yukon government has identified a budget up to \$65.6 million for the project and will seek to fund this under federal infrastructure programs. It is in the current Five-Year Yukon government capital plan.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF)

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Last summer, the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada signed a new 10-year agreement for the Canada Community-Building Fund. This funding supports the creation of vibrant, healthy communities by supporting critical infrastructure in Yukon communities until 2034.
- In 2025/26, Yukon is expecting to receive a total amount of \$18.75 million from Canada.
- Over the first five years of the agreement, the Government of Yukon is expected to receive \$94.5 million.
- During the renewal, the Government of the Yukon connected with our recipients and stakeholders and made significant improvements to the administration process. The program now allows recipients greater certainty in accessing their funding and allowing them to undertake long-term capital planning.

Context:

- Yukon was able to make many changes that were advocated by the Association of Yukon Communities. Unfortunately, the Yukon was unable to triple the funds or increase and improve index formula as those were not in the agreement but a part of federal legislation.

Background:

- The Canada Community Building Fund, formerly Gas Tax Fund, is a permanent, stable and indexed source of infrastructure funding that flows through the Government of Yukon (YG) to Municipalities and First Nations to plan for their

Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF)

Community Services

current and future needs and build or improve their infrastructure. Unincorporated communities access funding through the Community Operations branch.

- All of Yukon's Municipalities have signed their Funding Agreements
 - Most of the 14 Yukon's First Nations will have signed their Funding Agreement by summer of 2025.
- Allocation of this funding is provided on a formula basis but held in trust by YG until projects are submitted by the ultimate recipients and approved by YG.
- The previous agreement saw \$196 million dollars to Yukon from 2014 to 2024.
- In Fiscal 2023/24, there were over 30 projects completed for a total of \$9 million.
- The trust's 2023/24 fiscal year-end closing balance was \$148 million.
- Changes made to the agreement include more reporting, communications and the addition of a housing initiative.
- The original agreement had reference to Housing Needs Assessments for recipients with a population over 30,000. YG has taken on the responsibility to develop a Territorial Housing Needs Assessment on behalf of municipalities and First Nations. As a result of our advocacy, all language related to the 30,000-population threshold have been removed. Community Services (CS) is working with Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) to develop a high-level report.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The City of Dawson, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and the Government of Yukon's Department of Community Services are working to identify the site for a new sewage lagoon for Dawson City. The current sewage treatment facility operates at full capacity to treat Dawson's wastewater.
- Two potential sites have been identified, in collaboration with the municipality and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. These sites have planned geotechnical work and water studies to help advance an eventual site selection.
- Placer mining operations overlap with these potential sites. We recognize that placer mining is a key part of the Yukon's economy and contributes to the prosperity of people and businesses in many Yukon communities, particularly Dawson City. We will have conversations with any affected placer miners and can confirm the geotechnical work and water studies will not affect any active mining.

Additional response:

- Lagoons are the most economical, reliable and proven way to treat wastewater in the north of Canada. We recognize the importance in Dawson City of having a wastewater treatment plant that meets the community's needs, and we respect the municipality's jurisdiction to make land-use decisions within its boundaries.
- Information was published on City of Dawson's website and our own Government of Yukon site on February 6, 2025 to help inform the public of this project. An information session was held on February 25, 2025, to provide the community with an update on the project's progress.

Context:

- This may become a concern due to ongoing concerns with the current wastewater facility in Dawson.
-

Background:

- The Government of Yukon (YG) currently owns and operates Dawson's wastewater treatment plant.
- The City of Dawson is currently not responsible for the plant due to high operating costs and effluent compliance issues.
- In late 2018, YG informed the City of Dawson that it would not be fiscally responsible for YG to continue to operate the wastewater plant past 2026 and therefore would commit to supporting the City of Dawson to build a lagoon to be operational by the year 2026.
- The wastewater plant costs approximately \$1 million/year to operate, with high costs expected in the coming years due to major components reaching the end of their service life and requiring replacement.
- The wastewater plant sees ongoing operational challenges, with effluent not meeting compliance at certain times of the year and seeing capacity issues during peak flows. Highly skilled operators are required, and difficult to attract and retain in Dawson City.
- From 2019-2021, the Infrastructure Development Branch worked with the City of Dawson to complete site assessment, feasibility and planning work for a new lagoon, but encountered many roadblocks, including Covid related delays. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in requested that a tripartite steering committee be created to guide the project and involve all three governments.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Recommended Response:

- Whitehorse is a growing community, and we expect long-term demand for housing to continue. The Land Development Branch is the main developer for Whistle Bend.
 - This summer, the Land Development Branch is advancing land development projects in Whitehorse:
 - Completion of Whistle Bend Phases 12 and 13, and the associated Evelyn lift station; and,
 - in partnership with Kwanlin Dün First Nation, construction of the Range Point subdivision.
 - We continue to work with the City of Whitehorse, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, on numerous projects including coordination of the feasibility work for the City's North and South Future Growth Areas.
-

Context:

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

Background:

Whistle Bend Subdivision

- The final wrap up of Phase 9 and the Midnight Sun lift station is expected spring 2025. Completion of Phases 12 and 13 and the Evelyn lift station will continue towards completion in summer 2025.
- Detailed design and tendering of Phases 10 and 11 and stormwater outfalls are planned for 2026.

Copper Ridge Parcels 519/520

- Whitehorse City Council approved the master plan for this site in spring 2024. City has approved the transfer of Lot 520 to the Government of Yukon (YG) and the zoning of the whole site in early 2025. Energy, Mines and Resources is leading the transfer, amalgamation and release of the final parcel.

Joint YG- Kwanlin Dün First Nation Range Point Road

- The YG and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) have worked in partnership to complete the master plan, zoning, and subdivision and are currently advancing detailed design to tender construction of this medium to high density development starting this spring. Civil works tender will be released the week of April 14 and Lift station will be tendered in early May.
- This unique partnership will provide 67 lots and up to 400 units of housing on the two adjacent YG and KDFN-owned parcels.

Whistle Bend South Bench

- This site, located between Whistle Bend Way and Range Road, is identified as a future development site in the City's Official Community Plan (OCP).
- The Department of Community Services completed feasibility work (geotechnical, noise and dust studies, heritage).
- The project could be brought forward for a high-level master plan process including public engagement if the City of Whitehorse chooses to proceed.

North/South Future Growth Areas

- These two areas – Long Lake and Maclean Lake – are identified in the City's OCP as future development areas in Whitehorse.
- The department is coordinating feasibility studies, building on initial feasibility reports completed in 2017. The work is being carried out under a Joint-KDFN-Ta'an Kwäch'än Council-City-YG Memorandum of Understanding, through a joint work plan and working group.
- Completion of feasibility work is targeted for summer 2025 to enable high-level master plan process and public engagement to potentially start later in 2025.

Valleyview South Master Plan (including Tank Farm)

- The City-led multi-owner master plan was approved by the City in 2024.
- The site is identified in the OCP to provide a significant source of housing units up until 2040. The City is advancing infrastructure cost-sharing and development guidelines to facilitate the project's next steps.
- To date, YG has participated in the planning as a minor landowner within the plan area. YG's contribution has been land (in the plan area) for common infrastructure such as storm water bioswale and lift stations sites.

New Commercial/Industrial Subdivision

- The department has completed feasibility work at four potential serviced and unserved commercial and industrial sites – Ice Lake South and North, Copper Haul Road, Macrae East – and supported master planning for Ice Lake South and North.

Heiland Parcel

- The City of Whitehorse Council approved YG's re-zoning application for the YG-owned parcels that surround the Heiland parcel to zone them both "future planning." This will support the future master planning of this larger area to facilitate the site as a residential development. If Mr. Heiland sells his parcel, then YG could coordinate the sale of the surrounding land.
- The Government of Yukon is completing engineering capacity assessments of the NE corner of Whistle Bend comprising the Heiland area, TKC's C-9 parcel and the Government of Yukon's Phases 14 and 15 to ensure there are no constraints for future development. This information, along with rough appraisal work, has been shared with Mr. Heiland for his information.

February 6, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Yukon's vibrant and growing communities need a supply of land to support growth. By working hand in hand with municipalities, First Nations, and the private sector, we are ensuring families and businesses have the space they need to grow and thrive.
 - From feasibility studies to final lot preparation, Community Services is driving land development forward across Yukon's municipalities, helping to turn vision into reality.
 - This year we are unlocking historic new possibilities as we prepare for the release of 44 serviced lots in the new Dahl Gahy-Mountain Ridge subdivision in Haines Junction and 43 lots in the new Francis extension in Watson Lake. Through our rural land development program, we are creating a well-planned, sustainable Yukon, ensuring that housing needs are met today and for generations to come.
-

Context:

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

Background:

- Community Service's Land Development Branch (LDB) works with municipal, First Nation and private sector partners to determine site suitability, plan, design, and construct subdivisions. Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch (LMB) takes the lots to market for sale.

Community Summaries

Carmacks

- Feasibility is complete and planning efforts have been initiated for three country residential sites. LDB aims to proceed with a YESAA submission and complete the detailed design for one of these sites by spring 2026.

Dawson

- Dredge Pond II (~40 lots) YESAA submission, regulatory approvals and detailed design are advancing to tender late in 2025 or early 2026.
- Feasibility and/or planning are underway or targeted for Callison East Industrial, Infill 2 area and various infill lots in 2025/26.

Faro

- Mitchell Industrial planning was completed in fall 2024. Rose & Ladue (~17 lots) serviced residential, YESAA submission and detailed design will advance in early 2026. Country Residential planning may begin in late 2025.

Haines Junction

- The serviced Dahl Gahy-Mountain Ridge subdivision will be completed in spring 2025 (44 lots).
 - Site work includes the nearly completed ATCO installation, as well as ditch and lot cleanup, seeding, and road BST.
 - Work is underway, including appraisals, surveys, to prepare the lots for a lottery in parallel with outstanding site work.
- The master plan for the Area 3 country residential (~63 lot) subdivision is targeted for completion in 2025.

Mayo

- 7th Ave North urban expansion master plan is complete. YESAA submission and detailed design will advance in 2025 or 2026.

Teslin

Session Briefing Note

TAB# LD-02

Spring 2025

Rural Land Development

Community Services

- Joint TTC-YG Green Subdivision master plan is near completion. Airport West feasibility is complete, and planning work could begin in 2025 or 2026.

Watson Lake

- Francis Avenue 43 lot extension and lift station construction will be completed in spring 2025.
 - Civil works are substantially complete, with only minor tasks remaining for completion this spring. The remaining work includes lift station commissioning, finalizing the ATCO installation, and road BST.
 - Work is underway, including appraisals, surveys, to prepare the lots for a lottery in parallel with outstanding site work.
- Under YG-LFN agreement, 18 lots will be transferred to Liard First Nation plus one lot is owned by the town of Watson Lake. The remaining 24 lots will be ready for sale in summer 2025.

<p><u>February 7, 2025</u></p>
<p>Date approved</p>

Session Briefing Note
Lot Sales and Support for
Housing and Development
INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref # 3
TAB# LD-03 & #2
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

Lots released for sale in 2025

- We continue to offer lots for sale as they become available through lottery, tender, and over-the-counter sales.

Lots released for sale in 2024

In the Whitehorse Area:

- We released 130 new lots through lottery and tender in Phase 7 of Whistle Bend.
- We released 19 newly developed country residential lots in Grizzly Valley, Golden Horn and Mendenhall through lottery.
- We released the former Macaulay Lodge, at 2 Klondike Road in Riverdale, by tender in April 2024. The site is now in an Agreement for Sale with PCR Construction. The lot is rezoned for mixed-use residential and commercial development with supportive housing as a secondary use.

In Yukon Communities

- In Teslin, we released 21 country residential lots in Lone Tree subdivision by lottery.
- In Carmacks we released 6 residential lots.

Session Briefing Note
Lot Sales and Support for
Housing and Development
INTERDEPARTMENTAL

TAB# LD-03 & #2
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In Faro we released 6 residential lots.
- On September 17, we released one residential lot in Haines Junction and five in Mayo and one country residential lot in Watson Lake by lottery. We also released one industrial lot in Haines Junction and two in Teslin by tender.
- As of January 2025, there are lots available for over-the-counter sale in Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Mayo, Faro, Mendenhall, Grizzly Valley and Teslin.

Lots released for sale in 2023:

- In spring 2023, we released 117 Whistle Bend lots. Of those, 82 lots were for single-family homes, 33 lots for townhouse development and two newly developed lots for multi-residential development.
- In spring 2023, we released 17 new lots in our communities, three in Carmacks, three in Dawson, seven in Haines Junction, two in Mayo and two in Ross River.

Support for housing and development:

- 5th and Rogers, now known as Kèjān and Rogers, has been sold to West End Developments.
 - Title was transferred in February 2025. There are a number of conditions in the development agreements and risk-based

Session Briefing Note
Lot Sales and Support for
Housing and Development
INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref # 3
TAB# LD-03 & #2
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

restoration permit, including mitigating slope stability, managing any contamination, bonding and removing existing buildings.

- Yukon government has also retained the right to repurchase the lot if development does not proceed.
- Lot 1096 in Whistle Bend has been sold to the Northern Community Land Trust Society to start the construction of over 30 units as affordable home ownership.
- Several significant projects in the City of Whitehorse are in the planning, design or construction stage. With our colleagues at Community Services, we are supporting the rezoning of Lots 519 and 520 in Copper Ridge for future residential development and working through subdivision for Range Point.
- We continue to work towards our 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement commitments on the lottery reform. Public engagement wrapped up in August 2024 and we are working towards having the changes in place before the 2025 spring land lotteries. (See BN # 3)

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There continues to be high demand for building lots within Whitehorse and across the territory for residential, commercial, and industrial developments.
- The development process can be slow and costly causing a lag time in meeting supply demands.

Session Briefing Note
Lot Sales and Support for
Housing and Development
INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref # 3
TAB# LD-03 & #2
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

Development and sale process

- Energy, Mines and Resources continues to work in partnership with Community Services, municipalities, and First Nations on land development projects to meet lot supply needs.
- Energy, Mines and Resources releases new lots for sale across the territory that have been developed by Community Services' Land Development Branch.
- The sale of developed lots occurs once development work is complete. Before lots can be sold, legal requirements such as registering the legal survey and raising lot titles must be met.

Additional work to support housing

- In July 2022, Lot 335 in Whistle Bend was sold to Council of Yukon First Nations for a nominal amount to build a shelter for Indigenous women and children fleeing violence. Construction is ongoing on this project.
- The Government of Yukon and Da Daghay Development Corporation completed the Agreement for Sale for Lot 120 in Whistle Bend in February 2024. This sale includes the requirement to develop affordable rental housing units on the lot in exchange for a reduced lot sale price.

How lots are priced

- Lot pricing is determined by the *Yukon Lands Act* and *Lands Regulation*. In following our legislation, Minister of EMR approves the classification of the lot, which determines whether it is sold at market value or development cost. Lots that are sold at market value are appraised by a private 3rd party appraisal company; lots that are sold at development cost are priced based on the cost of development from Community Services.

Session Briefing Note
Lot Sales and Support for
Housing and Development
INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Ref # 3
TAB# LD-03 & #2
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Paul Moore

March 19, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Once fully complete, Whistle Bend will provide a full-service, sustainable neighborhood of about 2,000 lots providing homes for approximately 10,000 people, to accommodate our growing population.
- Over 108 diverse lots - townhouse, single-family, large multi-family, and commercial - are expected to be ready for release in 2025, providing more than 500 future housing units.
- In 2025, we will complete work on Phases 12 and 13. We will also complete the associated Evelyn Lift Station and may advance priority landscaping projects.
- We anticipate the detailed design for Phases 10 and 11 will advance to tender in 2026.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Landscaping and phase construction will be reduced in 2025. Concerns could be raised about Phases 5 & 6 boulevard landscaping, Phase 6 green street and park delays.

Background:

- Since 2019, the Land Development Branch (LDB) has delivered an average of about 130 Whistle Bend lots per year.
- In 2024, 98 lots in Phase 9 were completed and the final wrap up is expected spring 2025, along with the associated lift station and forcemain.
- In 2025, we will focus on completing Phases 12 and 13 and Evelyn Lift station.
- Green streets are an innovative concept in Whistle Bend, where neighbours can gather, play, and connect to a multi-use trail system free from vehicle traffic.

Guidelines or regulations controlling activities or development such as path access from residences to the green street, laneway parking controls, and winter snow clearing are the City of Whitehorse's responsibility.

- In 2024, there was an active landscaping program completing the installation of Casca boulevard and Phase 4 boulevards and Phases 4 and 5 green streets.
- The landscaping maintenance for Phase 4 and 5 green streets will continue in 2025.
- Community Services plans to re-tender the drainage of one or two of the natural storm ponds in 2025 and aims to progress the detailed design of the permanent outfalls and pump stations, targeting a tender in 2026 or 2027.

Heiland Parcel

- The City of Whitehorse Council approved YG's re-zoning application for the YG-owned parcels that surround the Heiland parcel to zone them both "future planning." This will support the future master planning of this larger area to facilitate the site as a residential development. If Mr. Heiland sells his parcel, then YG could coordinate the sale of the surrounding land.
- The Government of Yukon is completing engineering capacity assessments of the North East corner of Whistle Bend comprising the Heiland area, Ta'an Kwach'an Council C-9 parcel and the Government of Yukon's Phases 14 and 15 to ensure there are no constraints for future development. This information, along with rough appraisal work, has been shared with the property owner for his information.

February 6, 2025

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Government of Yukon have partnered to plan and design the Range Point subdivision. Tenders to begin construction will be released in spring 2025.
- This unique partnership will provide a medium-high density development made up of 67 lots that will support up to 400 units of housing on the two adjacent Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Government of Yukon-owned parcels.
- This future neighbourhood is located adjacent to the Chasàn Chuà / McIntyre Creek protected area and other Range Road neighbourhoods.

Additional response:

- The project cost share between the Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation is based on actual development costs of each parcel and appropriate share of offsite infrastructure such as the wastewater lift station and stormwater pond.
- This positive and productive partnership provides a model for future joint development opportunities between the Government of Yukon and First Nations across the Yukon.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be some neighbourhood complaints about tree clearing and construction noise.
-

Background:

- The proposed development is located north of Northlands Mobile Home Park between Range Road and Mountainview Drive.

- The project is comprised of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) Settlement Parcel C-15B (14.85 ha) and Government of Yukon (YG) owned Lot 262-6 (3.60 ha).
- The development is a serviced residential neighbourhood involving water, sanitary and storm infrastructure; new roads, sidewalks, and trails; power and telecommunication infrastructure; and landscaping and parks. A new lift station with off-site forcemain and a stormwater retention pond are also required.
- The Department of Community Services and the KDFN have worked in partnership, through MOUs, since the early project stages, completing feasibility, a joint master plan in 2023 for this development and advanced it through the City's zoning and subdivision processes (2024/25). This partnership continues through detailed design, clearing and construction.
- Approval of the cost-sharing agreement for the construction (YG and KDFN cost share of 25 and 75 percent, respectively) will be followed by the construction tenders.
- This is a critical project for KDFN and the first development of its size on First Nation land in the Yukon.
- The project aims to complete civil works for the Range Point subdivision by fall 2025, with the lift station being finished and lots available in 2026.
- Once the project is complete and lots are released and developed, KDFN will receive long-term economic benefits from the project. As per its Final and Self-Government Agreements, portions of income tax revenues from residents living on C-15B are directed to KDFN. These revenues will assist in building capital for future KDFN land development projects.

February 6, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon issued a special warrant to maintain essential government programs and operations until the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 can be introduced and debated in the Legislative Assembly.
- \$10 million in capital funding in the Department of Community Services will ensure that the department can continue to advance land development work, which has seen higher than expected productivity across the construction sector this fiscal year
- Land development projects are complex and usually multi-year, so construction schedules can shift. The contractors have been working hard and have been incredibly successful in building the subdivisions and lot developments that will become the future of housing in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Lot availability in the Yukon is essential for meeting the needs of our growing population and expanding housing options.
- \$7 million of the money requested is for rural land development projects. This money is needed to support the strong 2024/25 rural lot development program that has seen high levels of productivity, including the serviced subdivisions in Haines Junction and Watson Lake, a lift station and utility work.

- \$3 million of the request is for Whitehorse, specifically for Whistle Bend projects. These projects included the midnight sun lift station and force main, boulevard and green street landscaping, and utility work in Whistle Bend.
-

Context:

- This may raise questions about why this work was not budgeted for the beginning of the year.
-

Background:

- The Special Warrant (No. 1) 2024/25 has been issued as an Order in Council under the *Financial Administration Act*. This funding ensures the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Highways and Public Works, and Community Services have the financial resources to continue delivering on their mandates.
- Community Services' budget is based on historical work schedules and the department's capacity to complete a specific number of projects. Land Development Branch's program intensified to meet the demand for housing and industrial lots. Community Services has been managing this increase internally until this year.
- In 2024/25, the Land Development Branch had their busiest season, managing over 15 capital projects, completing over 200 lots, advancing three lift stations and advancing neighbourhood projects like landscaping and firesmarting. The previous year, advancing plans and tender-ready projects allowed for a wide range of multi-year projects to be tendered in the spring and fall of 2023, resulting in a very productive 2024/25 year. The season included carry forwards on multi-year projects from 2023/24 and significant utility (ATCO, Northwestel, YEC) investments.

February

Date approved

Health Professions Act **Modernization**

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Yukon's *Health Professions Act* regulates healthcare service professionals. This helps protect Yukoners by ensuring health professionals are competent and safe to practice, as well as providing clear processes for dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues.
- We are engaging with key stakeholders to revise the *Health Professions Act* and enhance the regulation of healthcare professions. This multi-year initiative will develop a framework tailored to Yukon's unique needs and ensure the highest standards of practice.
- The current work to revise the *Health Professions Act* will integrate international expert advice with the firsthand experience and expectations of our local healthcare professionals to boost patient safety and accountability, making Yukon an even more attractive place for health professionals.

Additional response:

- We are aware of the concerns that the Yukon Registered Nurses Association have with the *Health Professions Act*. The project team encouraged everyone to participate in the engagement to provide their perspectives, including different models of regulation.
- We will be analyzing the information from the engagement materials and the best regulatory practices to help inform options over the coming months.

Health Professions Act Modernization

Community Services

Context:

- This may become an issue because revising the *Health Professions Act* is a mandate commitment.
- Yukon Registered Nurses Association is not in support of a government regulator model. This view has been shared with their membership and in meetings with Community Services.
- Initial information meetings with health professions were held in June 2024 to ensure they are aware that this work is underway.
- Targeted engagement started in late December 2024 with the regulated health professionals, with public engagement starting January 6, 2025.

Background:

- The Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch manages and supports registrants for 12 health professions and an additional 11 non-health professions totaling approximately 5,700 registrants a year.
- Only 5 of the 15 health professions are regulated under the *Health Professions Act*, while the others have stand-alone acts.
- The number of registrants varies. For example, denturists, optometrists, chiropractors and midwives each have under 10 registrants, requiring the same support and resource as a larger profession like licensed practical nurses which has 225 registrants.
- Community Services worked with consultants to establish the gaps in the current legislation for regulated health professionals. The report was finalized in the summer of 2022.

<p><u>February 25, 2025</u></p>

<p>Date approved</p>

Recommended response:

- The Yukon approved a regulation for psychologists under the *Health Professions Act*. All individuals providing psychology services and wanting to use the title Psychologist can reach out to the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch for information about this regulation.
- We want to thank all the psychologists who provided feedback on the policy work and standards. We appreciate their willingness to work with us and their ongoing support as we developed this new regulation.
- The regulation of health professionals touches on many concerns for Yukoners, including the importance of access to quality mental health services. This regulation is a step to ensuring that psychological services are provided by experienced, qualified, credentialed practitioners.

Additional response:

- We are in the process of modernizing the *Health Professions Act*. The intent is to establish an efficient, consistent and flexible regulatory framework for health professionals.

Context:

- Yukon is the last jurisdiction to regulate psychologists, and the government committed to regulating the profession in the Speech from the Throne, May 2021.
- Psychologists are the fifth profession to come under the *Health Professions Act*.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon committed to regulating psychologists before modernization of the Health Professions Act is complete.
- The regulations were approved January 23, 2025.
- Community Services engaged with local psychologists and regulators across Canada between July and October of 2023 regarding policy direction for the Regulations.
- Local psychologists were again engaged in July 2024 for feedback on the proposed standards of practice.
- Amendments and more complex considerations regarding the Regulation will be included in the larger *Health Professions Act* overhaul.
- Improving the way in which health professions are regulated under the *Health Professions Act* is a multi-year project. Regulation of health professions helps Yukoners receive services from competent professionals who practice according to the high standards and ethics of their profession. It also provides Yukoners with clear means and processes for dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues.
- Both Nunavut and Northwest Territories have territorial legislation in place requiring that psychologists be licensed by the territorial government to practice.
- Classes of psychologists vary across Canada, with some having different classes for school psychologists and for masters vs PhD education.

February 24, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources
INTERDEPARTMENTAL**Health and Social
Services

Government priority:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to addressing existing health workforce challenges and preparing for the future through the Health Human Resources strategy.

Key messages:

- Primary care physicians and nurses are the first point of contact for patients and play a critical role in delivering timely, accessible, and preventive care. Ensuring they have the necessary resources, and support is essential to maintaining a strong and effective healthcare system.
- By supporting primary care providers with adequate funding, training, and team-based care models, we can improve patient outcomes, reduce strain on emergency services, and enhance overall system efficiency.
- Sufficient and sustainable health human resources presents one of the greatest challenges facing Canadian health care systems today.
- Domestically and globally, we are responding to unprecedented challenges in retaining, recruiting and training enough health care workers to meet demand.
- These challenges have been further exacerbated by COVID-19 and by our growing and aging population.
- These impacts are being felt here in the Yukon, and we recognize the seriousness of these shortages. The Yukon government and partners released and implemented a comprehensive Health Human Resource Strategy on December 13, 2023, that outlines a road map to address this challenge.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources
INTERDEPARTMENTAL**Health and Social
Services

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- This strategy was developed by a Health Human Resources Steering Committee jointly led by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Hospital Corporation and consisting of members from a wide representation of the sector.
 - We are also working closely with federal, provincial and territorial government partners to respond to these pressures being felt across Canada.

Key accomplishments at a glance:

- Bringing more professionals to the Yukon: The Yukon has attracted more people into health care positions within both the Government of Yukon and Yukon Hospital Corporation. Increased success in recruitment efforts has also reduced reliance on agency staff.
- Improved physician coverage: Enhanced recruitment by the Yukon Medical Association has resulted in attracting more locum physicians into the territory to support multiple services such as general practice and in-patient care.
- New educational opportunities: Yukon University is actively developing a Yukon-focused Social Work degree program and a Medical Office Assistant program to address local workforce needs.
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to Registered Nurse (RN) Pathway: The Government of Yukon is supporting two cohorts of students enrolled in the University of New Brunswick's "Learn Where You Live" LPN to RN Pathway program. The first graduates are expected to join the Yukon workforce in 2027.
- Regulatory improvements: New nursing regulations allow the Yukon Registered Nurses Association to register nurses locally, eliminating

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources**
INTERDEPARTMENTALHealth and Social
Services

the previous requirement to register in another jurisdiction first. This makes it easier for nurses to come and work in the Yukon.

- Permanent nurse hiring: The Yukon Hospital Corporation has successfully hired several permanent nurses who were previously employed by nursing agencies.
- More Yukoners have a care provider: The Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic, the bilingual Centre de santé Constellation Health Centre and the overall increased workforce has given more Yukoners access to primary care providers in the past year.
- Primary Health Care Nurse vacancy rates dropped from 47 per cent in October 2022 to 19 per cent in 2024.
- The number of people attached to a primary care provider at the Constellation clinic was 2049 as of December 2024.
- In 2023 and 2024, 24 internationally educated professionals in the Yukon have been recruited as nursing home attendants.
- In 2024, the Yukon Hospital Corporation added 11 internationally educated nurses to their staff. They came from the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and India.

Bursaries:

- A key action in addressing our health human resources challenge is to increase access to education for those seeking careers in health and social services.
- Our government provides funding for the Medical Education Bursary, the Nursing Education Bursary, and the Health Professionals Education Bursary programs.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources
INTERDEPARTMENTAL**Health and Social
Services

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- The Yukon Health Care and Social Services Bursaries aim to build capacity within the territory to help meet Yukon's health care and social services human resource needs. The program prioritizes funding for positions that are currently hard to recruit for and that are expected to have shortages in future years.
 - From April 1, 2024, to January 2025, a total of 32 Yukoners received bursaries for studies in health care fields:
 - \$75,000 went into 12 medical bursaries;
 - \$57,500 went to 14 students pursuing nursing education, and
 - \$22,500 went to 6 students pursuing other health care and social service professions.
 - Options to transfer bursary administration from intake to disbursement to the Department of Education are being pursued to enhance the applicant experience and allow for a one-stop-shop through the Student Financial Services portal.
 - A review is underway to modernize the bursary program. The review is expected to include:
 - consolidation of the three bursary policies into one,
 - clarification and general updating of committee and administrative procedures,
 - review of multi-year funding and individual funding categories,
 - options to enhance recipient commitment to work in Yukon, and
 - full consideration of administrative and funding implications to ensure a successful transfer of services to Education in 2026.
 - Yukon residents studying medicine or intending to study medicine can apply to other funding programs administered by the Canadian

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources
INTERDEPARTMENTAL**Health and Social
Services

Medical Foundation, the Dr. Frank Timmermans Scholarship and the Yukon Native Health Scholarship.

- The Department of Health and Social Services provides continuing education funding through a TPA with the Yukon Registered Nurses Association to support RNs and NPs to further develop their careers and expertise. The funding is \$450K over three years.
- The Government of Canada offers a student loan forgiveness program for doctors and nurses who reside in a community with a population of 30,000 or less to entice more medical professionals to rural communities. This is expected to expand to other health professionals in the future.

Department of National Defence health services:

- This program welcomes health professionals from the Department of National Defence's Canadian Forces Health Services group to work in Yukon health care settings to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills between their deployments.
- Through this partnership, Canadian Forces Health Services nurses, and other regulated health professionals have been working in the Yukon to maintain, advance and share their expertise while enhancing our health care service across the territory.
- Department of National Defence nurses have been working in the Watson Lake and Dawson community hospitals since May 2024.
- A Medical Radiation Technologist has joined the diagnostic imaging team at the Whitehorse General Hospital under the memorandum of understanding.
- The program has been successful for both the communities and the visiting Nurses and has supported workplaces.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources**
INTERDEPARTMENTALHealth and Social
Services

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- Length of visits depend upon placements and can be for a few weeks to months at a time. The number of health professionals participating will depend on availability and interest.
 - In addition, Yukon also welcomed its first Department of National Defence physician this winter who worked for several weeks providing inpatient care as part of the hospitalist program at Whitehorse General Hospital.

Foreign Credential Recognition Program:

- The Government of Yukon has launched the Foreign Credential Recognition Navigation Service. The service is a pilot project that helps Yukon-based internationally educated health professionals (IEHPs) by offering them tailored support into the Yukon's health workforce.
- This service includes providing guidance and information for obtaining health credentials, connecting people with service providers, and in some cases, providing financial support so people can get the licensing they need.
- To access the Navigation Service, internationally educated health professionals must submit their information to the Department of Economic Development. This will help the navigator learn about the individual's unique situation so that they may provide effective support.
- This program is a key part of the \$3.6M funding agreement Economic Development has with the Government of Canada on Foreign Credential Recognition for health workers.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources
INTERDEPARTMENTAL**Health and Social
Services**Health Human Resources Strategy and Oversight:**

- The Yukon Health Human Resources Strategy was launched in December 2023.
- The strategy provides a systemic, coordinated and informed roadmap towards a health and social services system that will meet Yukoners' current and future needs.
- The strategy is built on five key pillars; Retain, Recruit, Plan, Innovate and Learn. These pillars aim to boost the delivery of quality care and services and attract more health professionals to live and work in the Yukon.
- Within these pillars are 25 actions to be implemented jointly by the Government of Yukon, the Yukon Hospital Corporation and our partners on the Health Human Resources Steering Committee.
- The Health Human Resources Steering Committee comprises representatives from Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Registered Nurses Association, Yukon University, First Nations, L'Association Franco-yukonnaise (AFY), Yukon Hospital Corporation and several government departments.
- The Committee is looking at all aspects of Health Human Resources including retention, recruitment, planning, learning and innovation. They provide overall direction and oversight to the implementation work stemming from the strategy.
- The work of this committee aligns with the ongoing collaborative efforts of federal, provincial and territorial governments, which are supported by recent federal investments that identify health human resources as a shared priority.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources**
INTERDEPARTMENTALHealth and Social
Services

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- Yukon Employee's Union and the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada issued a press release on October 7, 2024, announcing their withdrawal from the Health Human Resources steering committee.
 - We will continue to be in contact with the unions and find ways to contribute to improving the health and social services workforce.
 - The steering committee remains dedicated to finding long-term, sustainable solutions for Yukon's healthcare system. This work is essential for ensuring the future of health care services in our territory.
 - We are working with our partners to strengthen our collective recruitment efforts by building a centralized recruitment website, increasing and focusing our marketing and attending more recruitment events.

Background:

- The 2025-26 Health Human Resources budget includes funding to support the following initial initiatives:
 - \$617K for staffing.
 - \$140K (\$140,000) for consulting including a physician recruiter for the Yukon Medical Association.
 - \$841K (\$841,291) for university programming, including the Social Worker Degree Program and the Medical Office Assistant Diploma Program and Yukon University and funding for a Licensed Practical Nurses-Registered Nurses bridging program through the University of New Brunswick.
 - \$250K (\$250,000) for the hosting of a tri-territorial health and social professionals conference
 - \$195K (\$195,000) for recruitment efforts, with a focus on Canadian recruitment and partnerships in India.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources
INTERDEPARTMENTAL**Health and Social
Services

- o **\$150K (\$150,000) for administrative costs associated with strategy implementation.**

- Additional funding for long-term initiatives will be made available through future budgetary processes as the strategy is implemented.
- Employees wishing to pursue a higher level of education (outside of the bridging program) can access funding through the learning development fund, financially supported by Health and Social Services and Organizational Development Branch.

India internationally educated health professional recruitment:

- Officials from the Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Hospital Corporation have been meeting regularly and directly with Apollo Hospitals to explore opportunities for recruitment of already educated health professionals and for possible technology support. A framework for these potential partnerships has been developed.
- The recruitment of Apollo healthcare professionals requires both credential and immigration pathways to be finalized and mentorship and other supports to be in place to ensure successful integration of these recruits.
- Our primary focus is piloting a recruitment pathway for nurses, initially for positions within the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Internationally educated health professionals:

- Internationally educated health professionals have historically played an important role in the delivery of health care in Canada. We recognize that leveraging their expertise is a priority for all governments across Canada.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources**
INTERDEPARTMENTALHealth and Social
Services

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- We are working with regulators and our federal, provincial and territorial partners to discuss pathways to licensing physicians, including internationally educated physicians.
 - We have established a navigator program for Internationally Educated Health Professionals already living in the Yukon. We have a list of self-identified individuals, and the navigators will reach out to them imminently.
 - Continuing Care has provided educational reimbursement funds to Internationally Educated Nurses to help them meet the educational requirements for obtaining their Canadian license and have been offering extra mentoring once they are hired.
 - Internationally educated health professionals who are underemployed and living in the Yukon can contact HHR@yukon.ca to connect with a team collecting information on how best to support them.
 - Between January 1, 2023 and January 1, 2025, we have hired 24 internationally educated professionals into Nursing Home Attendant positions.

Letter of Intent with Nova Scotia:

- On July 26, 2023, our government signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of Nova Scotia to work collaboratively on Health Human Resources.
- Nova Scotia has adopted innovative strategies to create new opportunities to address recruitment and retention.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources**
INTERDEPARTMENTALHealth and Social
Services

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- Officials from both jurisdictions have developed a comprehensive set of issues and have partnered and shared information on several of these topics. Collaboration continues at the working level.
 - Three officials from Health and Social Services attended the Healthcare Recruitment and Retention Community Conference in Truro, Nova Scotia on April 23– 24, 2024, which was primarily related to recruitment of health sector workers and integration of internationally educated professionals. These learnings are being applied to developing a framework for “Transitions To Practice” for Internationally Educated Nurses and new Canadian nursing graduates. It will be adapted to other professions in the future.
 - We are also in contact with officials in the province to explore options for a more efficient physician licensing arrangement for Yukon-bound doctors.

Licensing:

- As of November 3, 2024, newly graduated Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners, as well as student nurses can register directly to practice in the Yukon. Pathways for nurses to work in the Yukon have opened with the proclamation of the *Amendment to the Registered Nurses Profession Act*, which was assented to last fall.
- Internationally educated nurses can also apply directly to register to practice in the Yukon. This includes those who may already be or live here but are working in other fields.
 - Under the old legislation, nurses and nurse practitioners were required to be registered in another Canadian jurisdiction before

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources**
INTERDEPARTMENTALHealth and Social
Services

they could apply to work in the Yukon. With the amendments to the *Registered Nurses Profession Regulation* this extra step is no longer required.

- The Registrar of Medical Practitioners actively participates in national and cross-jurisdictional organizations and initiatives aimed at harmonizing and streamlining licensing pathways.
- We recognize that nurses are fundamental to a high-functioning healthcare system.
- Our goal is to minimize any administrative burden that draws resources away from care while ensuring that health professionals are appropriately regulated, and Yukoners have access to safe, high-quality health care.

LPN-RN bridging:

- The Government of Yukon has an agreement with the University of New Brunswick for two cohorts of a Yukon “Learn Where You Live” Licensed Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse Pathway who started in September 2024.
- Seventeen Yukon LPNs have started this pathway in the first cohort and up to 20 Licensed Practical Nurses could be supported in the second cohort starting fall 2025.
- Through this pathway the first set of Licensed Practical Nurses are expected to graduate with their degree in Nursing and be eligible to write their Registered Nurse licensing exam in summer of 2027. The second group will graduate in summer 2028.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources**
INTERDEPARTMENTALHealth and Social
Services

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- This program supports existing Yukon Licensed Practical Nurses who are already committed to the territory and working in the system to obtain their next level of education without leaving the Yukon.
 - The program will incorporate classroom, Virtual Reality clinical simulation and in-person clinical learnings throughout.
 - The University of New Brunswick program is cutting edge in Canada using technology to support virtual learning.
 - Yukon University is exploring options for a Yukon based nursing degree program while these classes commence.

Yukon University partnerships:

- We are supporting Yukon University to enhance this program to better meet the needs of Yukoners and deliver a more locally based program as a Yukon University degree program.
- We are working with Yukon University to expand programming to support Yukoners to pursue health-related careers.
- The Department of Health and Social Services has a transfer payment agreement of \$450,000 in place with Yukon University to support their development of a Social Work degree and Medical Office Assistant program.
- Yukon University is exploring options and developing a proposed budget for a partnered Yukon-based nursing degree program.
- The Government of Yukon funds Yukon University to offer a Practical Nurse Diploma.
- Yukon University currently offers, in partnership with the University of Regina, a Bachelor of Social Work degree.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Health Human Resources**

Health and Social

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Services

- Yukon University offers a Health Care Assistant program which provides Yukoners with the skills needed to be front-line caregivers.
- Since the beginning of 2023, Continuing Care has supported more than 10 staff in moving from Nursing Home Attendants into Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse positions. Additionally, 10 staff members are currently preparing for the National Council Licensure Examination this year.
- We are supporting Yukon University to offer a Medical Office Assistant program in 2025 with the intent to lower the administrative burden on all health professionals in the long term.
- Yukon University's Board of Governors approved the University to pursue a nursing degree program.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- Yukon government is working on revising the *Health Professions Act* for the first time since its creation in 2003. As part of this update, we will evaluate professions that should be regulated in the Yukon, including Social Workers.
- Yukon government has met with the Association of Social Workers in Northern Canada to initiate discussions about regulating social workers and what is involved in that work. These discussions have focused on the need to update the *Health Professions Act* prior to adding new professions under it.
- We will welcome participation of social workers on that project and work with the association to understand the appropriate social worker requirements for any proposed regulation.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There was a high impact case where an individual was disciplined in British Columbia for unprofessional conduct and was able to continue to practice without limitations in the Yukon.
- Reviewing and updating the *Health Professions Act* is highlighting unregulated professions in the Yukon.

Background:

- Without regulation, vulnerable Yukoners, who may not have the knowledge or capability to self-advocate in their current state, are at risk of receiving services from people without the proper qualifications, certified expertise, standards of practice, and/or ethical standards.
- Without regulation, there is no mechanism to file complaints, receive adjudication, and affect changes to a practitioner's services, other than through the courts.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PLRA-04

Spring 2025

Social Workers

Community Services

- As social workers have not been regulated in the Yukon, it is challenging for the government to ascertain the exact number of practitioners and service challenges with the profession.
- Yukon and Nunavut are the only two jurisdictions who do not regulate social workers in Canada.
- Community Services is beginning the in-depth policy work and implementing engagement plans to determine options for addressing the gaps and improving the regulation of health professionals in the Yukon.

<p><u>February 24, 2025</u></p>

<p>Date approved</p>

Licensing physicians in the Yukon

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Community Services administers licenses for physicians in the Yukon on behalf of the Yukon Medical Council. They process applications as quickly as possible and do not have a backlog of applicants waiting to be processed.
- Community Services has worked with the Yukon Medical Council to streamline the process to ensure applicants are processed efficiently.
- Yukon Medical Council, as the regulator, is not involved in the recruitment of professionals.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Concerns have been raised about the availability of physicians in the Yukon.
- A motion related to physician recruitment passed in the Legislature on March 19, 2025.

Background:

- The requirements of licensure in the Yukon are laid out in the Medical Profession Registration and Fees Regulation under the *Medical Professions Act*.
- There are three ways to obtain full licensure in the Yukon:
 - Hold a full licence in another Canadian jurisdiction and apply through the Canadian Free Trade Agreement;
 - Apply directly to the Yukon and hold a Medical Council of Canada Licence and certification with either the Royal College of Canada or the College of Family Physicians of Canada; or
 - Qualify for the Limited Family or Specialist Register and pass the Canadian certifications within 10 years.

Licensing physicians in the Yukon

Community Services

- It is important to note that all physicians in Canada begin their application processes through a national credentialing system.

Nova Scotia Pathway for U.S. Trained Physicians

- The NS-Yukon pathway offers U.S. physicians a faster route to obtain medical licensure.
 - Nova Scotia is the only province that grants full, unrestricted licensure to American Board-Certified Physicians without requiring recognition from the College of Family Physicians Canada or Royal College.
 - There is no requirement for the physician to reside in Nova Scotia or to state an intention to practice there.
 - Physicians must demonstrate eligibility to work in Canada but are otherwise issued a full license without restrictions.
- Once licensed in Nova Scotia, physicians are eligible for licensure in Yukon through the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA).
- An operational relationship with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia is established for collaboration, paving the way for US-trained physicians to register in NS and subsequently be licensed in the Yukon.
- Community Services works alongside regulators and government officials to manage the process, ensuring that physicians intending to practice in Yukon can navigate registration efficiently.

Licensing physicians in the Yukon

- All applicants, regardless of the class of licence, must prove the following:
 - They are Canadian Citizens or otherwise legally;
 - They are in good standing in all the jurisdictions in which they have worked (including international);
 - Proof of completing the Yukon First Nations 101 course (YFN101); and,
 - Proof of liability insurance in the Yukon.

Licensing physicians in the Yukon

Community Services

- The Yukon Medical Council (YMC) is committed to reconciliation and as a minimal first step, introduced the requirement for YFN101 in 2021. They recognize that the history of the Yukon First Nation people is not equivalent to other regions.
- There is often confusion between licensing and the privileging/billing application processes. Community Services is actively working with the hospital and HSS to clarify and inform all applicants about all aspects of the paperwork required.

Limited Family or Specialist Practice (LP) register

- These two registration classes enable international graduates, who have completed their Medical Council of Canada Licentiate, an avenue to full licensure in the Yukon.
- Registrants under the LP registers must be invited to a specific position by a statement in writing by the Minister of Health and Social Services indicating that a demonstrated need exists for the issuance of a licence.
- Specialist applicants are required to have completed four years of post-graduate training by a national authority recognized by the YMC.

March 21, 2025

Date approved

Property Assessment in Rural Yukon 2024

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Yukon properties are assessed on a two-year cycle, alternating between municipalities and rural Yukon. Rural Yukon properties were assessed in 2024 for the 2025 tax year and most rural Yukon properties received assessment increases for 2024.
- Conducting assessments every two years helps avoid larger assessment changes that could occur if these were done less frequently.
- The Property Assessment and Taxation Branch is committed to a system that keeps values current, accurate and equitable for Yukon property owners and municipalities.
- Their work supports fair and transparent avenues for Yukoners to raise concerns about their own property assessment. There is a review process available to any property owner who does not agree with the value determined by the assessor.

Context:

- Property owners, including First Nations, may be concerned about the impact of the 2024 rural Yukon assessment.

Background:

- As part of the assessment cycle, the fair value of land is reviewed and any changes in value noted from market evidence may lead to a change in land value.
- The replacement cost (cost to build) of improvements is also reviewed and any changes noted in building costs from the time of the last reassessment may necessitate a change in improvement (building assessment) value. This is why in some instances, while a property owner may not have done anything to improve or change their property, they may still realize a change in assessed value.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PAT-01

Spring 2025

Property Assessment in Rural Yukon 2024

Community Services

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

January 17, 2025

Date approved

Unincorporated Property Tax Rates

Community Services

Recommended response:

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

Context:

- The Association of Yukon Communities passed a resolution in 2023 to request Yukon government to review current property taxes in areas peripheral to Yukon municipalities and increase those taxes appropriately.

Unincorporated Property Tax Rates

Community Services

- In a letter dated March 19, 2024, Ted Laking, President of AYC wrote:

To offer greater clarity the AYC is not in favour of the Territorial Government increasing taxes on Yukoners, and we respectfully request that the Government of Yukon (YG) abandon their plans to do so.

Background:

- All properties in Yukon are reassessed by assessors through the Property Assessment & Taxation Branch every two years. The branch is responsible for keeping values current, accurate and equitable for property tax purposes.
- Yukon municipalities are responsible for the collection of property taxes within their boundaries and set their own tax rates. The Property Assessment & Taxation Branch acts as the tax collector for individuals who own property outside of a municipality and sets the tax rates for those residents.
- Property tax rates for rural Yukon have remained stable and predictable since 1988.

January 17, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- An outreach worker began at the Whitehorse Library in June 2024, followed by a second one in November 2024. These positions work collaboratively with library staff while focusing on supporting individuals through crisis intervention and referrals to community resources, addressing the mental health and well-being needs of both library patrons and staff.
- The Whitehorse Public Library is an ideal location for the library outreach workers to connect with a wide range of individuals. The presence of these individuals has enhanced the library's welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, fostering a safe space where individuals feel comfortable seeking help and connecting with others, in turn, strengthening community bonds.
- The library outreach workers are trained in Indigenous history, culture, and trauma-informed care, ensuring that services are respectful and responsive to the needs of Indigenous people.

Additional response:

- The library's outreach workers offer programs designed to empower the public by fostering stronger community connections and teaching practical skills, such as financial literacy. These initiatives support healthy living and preventative care within the community.
- Additionally, the team collaborates with organizations like Service Canada and the Council of Yukon First Nations to help Yukoners overcome barriers to employment and social participation, thereby contributing to a more stable and productive economy.

Context:

- This may become an issue because there has been growing media attention on the role of public spaces in supporting vulnerable community members.
 - The lack of support services available in public libraries has been criticized in the past.
-

Background:

- While the Whitehorse Public Library serves diverse community needs, some situations exceed librarians' expertise. With the library increasingly becoming a safe space for individuals facing social challenges, a rise in substance-related incidents has necessitated more frequent staff intervention, either for medical assistance or de-escalation.
- This situation highlighted an opportunity to address public safety concerns in downtown Whitehorse. The need for dedicated social support services within the library became evident, prompting the government to launch a pilot program in April 2024, in partnership with Health and Social Services and the Library. This program placed the first outreach support worker at the main public library in Whitehorse.
- Key goals for this program are:
 - Providing navigation and social support to patrons with complex needs, including referrals to other services;
 - De-escalating situations safely and recognizing when further intervention, such as police assistance is required;
 - Establishing partnerships with local organizations, agencies, and the federal government; and,
 - Implementing training and support programs for library staff.
- This position is funded through the support of Community Services (Yukon Public Libraries) and Health and Social Services (Community Outreach Services).

<u>January 2, 2025</u>

Date approved

Recommended response:

- It is very exciting that the Arctic Winter Games are returning to the City of Whitehorse. The Yukon government is pleased to be supporting the 2026 Arctic Winter Games Host Society with financial and in-kind contributions of up to \$4.4 million.
 - The Sport and Recreation branch continues to work closely with our partners, the City of Whitehorse, the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, the 2026 Arctic Winter Games Host Society, and territorial sport organizations to ensure a successful and memorable event that showcases the beauty and culture of our territory.
 - The Games will bring immediate benefits for the Yukon and create positive economic and social impacts for the host territory. In addition to the boost to our economy, the Arctic Winter Games strengthen sport development, promote fair play and healthy lifestyles, build partnerships, and promote cultural diversity, awareness and understanding.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because the public could question the decision to host another major event from a cost priority perspective.
-

Background:

- The Arctic Winter Games (AWG) is a high-profile circumpolar sport competition for northern and arctic athletes, and a multi-cultural exposition for the circumpolar world.
 - Since their inception in 1970 and occurring every two years on a rotational basis, the AWG celebrate sport, social exchange, and culture while providing an
-

opportunity for the developing athlete to compete in friendly competition and share cultural values of northern regions of the world.

- The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) is made up of representatives from each of the permanent partners (Alberta, Alaska, Greenland, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik and Yukon) and is responsible for implementing policies and providing leadership to the Games.
- Yukon is pleased to be the host jurisdiction and our capital city, Whitehorse, is the host city. The AWG sought a host jurisdiction for the 2026 Games because of Russia's (Yamal) suspension. The AWGIC sent a formal request to Premier Pillai on May 28, 2023, for the Government of Yukon, in collaboration with municipal partners, to consider hosting the AWG in 2026.
- While the Yukon was not scheduled to host again until 2032, with the cancellation of the 2020 Arctic Winter Games due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the withdrawal of the 2027 Canada Winter Games Bid, both the City of Whitehorse and sport community have indicated unanimous support to hosting the AWG in 2026.
- A letter of support to host the 2026 Arctic Winter Games was received from Sport Yukon. The letter also indicated unanimous support from the 20 relevant sport governing bodies. Letters of support have also been received from Yukon University, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, the Yukon Convention Bureau, and the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon.
- A host society, comprised of strong leaders in our community is overseeing the management of the Games, engaging with key partners and stakeholders throughout the process.
- In addition to a substantial financial contribution, the Government of Yukon is providing in-kind contributions which includes a Secondment position to the Host Society for the General Manager and a Grad Corp position.
- The pandemic prevented us from hosting the 2020 Arctic Winter Games, but they were projected to contribute approximately \$6.1 million to Canada's GDP, a figure

that includes a \$5.7 million boost to the Yukon's GDP and a \$4.4 million increase in local Whitehorse GDP.

February 3, 2025

Date approved

Community Pools

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Six Yukon community pools were open for the 2024 season.
- This included the new pool in Pelly Crossing, which celebrated its grand opening in the summer of 2023.
- We look forward to six pools opening again for the 2025 summer season.
- The Sport and Recreation Branch coordinates with communities and local First Nations on the recruitment and training of seasonal staff. Local governments hire specialized pool managers to run their aquatics programs.
- In partnership with the Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon, the Yukon government will host an annual Spring Aquatics Workshop in May 2025. These workshops develop knowledge and skills around safe pool operations, lifesaving certification and aquatics programming.

Additional response – Ross River and Beaver Creek Pool:

- A 2024 structural and geotechnical evaluation of the Ross River pool by the Department of Highways and Public Works confirmed severe foundation and structural issues due to differential settlement and permafrost degradation.
- As a result of these findings, the pool will remain closed this summer. The Ross River Recreation Society has been contacted and is aware of the ongoing efforts.
- The Ross River Recreation Society serves as the Local Authority for Recreation in Ross River, receiving an annual contribution of

Community Pools

Community Services

\$110,955 from the Sport and Recreation Branch to deliver a range of community recreation programs.

- To support the Recreation Society, the Sport and Recreation Branch is partnering with community organizations to offer Ross River residents access to aquatic activities this summer. This could include hosting a swimming clinic at Jackfish Lake focused on water safety, as well as collaboration with the Town of Faro to provide access to their community swimming pool.
- A 2024 review of the Beaver Creek pool identified potential sources of water accumulating beneath the pool lining. The findings suggest that the most likely cause is groundwater around the pool liner. The report recommends further investigation to better understand the factors contributing to the groundwater issues.
- This work is planned for May 2025, once the snow has melted and the ground has thawed.

Context:

- This may become an issue because the pools in Ross River and Beaver Creek have not opened for several years due to required repairs and staffing shortages.

Background:

- Municipal pools in Dawson City, Watson Lake, Faro and Mayo are owned and operated by the municipality. Pools in Haines Junction and Carmacks are permanently closed, and the municipalities are considering their options.
- Pools in Pelly Crossing, Carcross, Ross River, and Beaver Creek are owned by the Government of Yukon.
- Pelly's new pool which opened in 2023, was funded through the Government of Canada's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (\$5.25 million) and the Government of Yukon (\$3.45 million).

Community Pools

Community Services

- The operation and maintenance of each Yukon government pool is a joint responsibility between Community Services, Property Management Division and the Local Authority for Recreation.
- Pool closures due to COVID-19 impacted long-term availability of lifeguards and pool managers across Canada.

Pool condition challenges

- It is a challenge to recruit qualified operators and lifeguards given our operating season and a national lifeguard shortage.
- Structural issues with the Government of Yukon seasonal pools were first identified in 2017.
- In July 2019, a study undertaken by Environmental Health Services identified design deficiencies in the facilities when compared to current standards of construction and design. Based on this report, the designated health officer issued an order to keep pools closed pending required repairs.
- The Beaver Creek pool was last opened in 2018. Water has been accumulating under the pool liner, necessitating a hydrogeological assessment of the soil to identify the source of the water and its potential impact on the septic system. This assessment was conducted over the summer of 2024, and we are currently awaiting the results to determine the next steps. Once this is completed, an evaluation of the circulation systems will be required, followed by addressing the repairs identified in the 2018 Stantec report.
- The Ross River pool was last operational in the 2017 season. Constructed in 1999, the facility has significant foundation issues that could affect its continued operation.
- Ross River pool was anticipated to open in 2023 following completion of critical repairs to the pool systems; however, additional areas of concern were identified in the repair process preventing its opening.
- Highways & Public Works conducted additional assessments of the building's superstructure and subgrade conditions. A final report was received, and the department confirmed severe foundation and structural issues due to differential settlement and permafrost degradation.
- Critical repairs were completed at the pool in Carcross in 2021, and the community experienced another successful aquatic season in 2024.

Session Briefing Note

TAB # SR-02

Spring 2025

Community Pools

Community Services

February 4, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Safety in sport has an impact on everyone. We are committed to creating a positive culture that prioritizes respectful sport experiences that are safe for everyone.
- We recognize the importance of implementing safe sport policies and procedures and are currently working on developing a Safe Sport Framework for the Yukon.
- Safety in sport is a key priority across Canada and all jurisdictions are working towards ensuring processes are in place for reporting incidents of maltreatment in sport. We are committed to working with our sport and recreation organizations to protect athletes from all forms of maltreatment.

Additional response:

- The Yukon engaged with the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada to use the complaint management services of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commission for the 2022 Canada Summer Games, 2023 Canada Winter Games and the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.
- Team Yukon participants attending the 2024 Arctic Winter Games were required to take the Safe Sport training module offered through the Coaching Association of Canada.

Context:

- There may be interest in knowing what the Yukon government is doing to address maltreatment in sport.

Background:

- At the 2019 Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Ministers Conference, Ministers endorsed the Red Deer Declaration for the Prevention of Harassment, Abuse, and Discrimination in Sport, committing to implementing a collaborative intergovernmental approach, with better harmonized commitments, mechanisms, principles, and actions to address harassment, abuse and discrimination in sport in the areas of awareness, policy, prevention, reporting, management, and monitoring. Ministers also agreed to a series of actions being implemented by 2021.
- In 2019, Sport Canada supported the development of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent, and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). It includes general principles, definitions of maltreatment, prohibited behaviours, and an approach to sanctions.
- The Government of Canada requires that federally funded national-level sport organizations adopt or integrate the UCCMS into their organizational policies and procedures as a condition of funding.
- In February 2023, F-P/T Ministers responsible for sport, physical activity, and recreation agreed to work together to have all athletes and participants in Canada protected by an independent third-party mechanism. Yukon and other jurisdictions are working toward this and are currently considering the cost, procurement methods and legislative framework.
- A F-P/T Maltreatment in Sport Working Group was established to identify guiding principles and/or develop recommendations to support jurisdictions in the establishment of independent third-party mechanisms, to remain informed of ongoing work of other sector initiatives and to provide a forum for the sharing of best practices and key learnings from safe sport efforts across the country.

Financial Implications:

- The Government of Yukon is planning to issue a Request for Proposal for the development and implementation of a Safe Sport Framework for the Yukon in 2025.

February 4, 2025

Date approved

Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Sport and Recreation branch ensures Yukoners have access to the facilities and opportunities they need to live healthy, active lifestyles.
- The branch has compiled a comprehensive list of community sport and recreation infrastructure for the Territory and is engaging with communities to validate their findings. This engagement involves identifying previously unrecorded infrastructure and gathering new data on features such as trails and parks.
- Next steps involve analyzing the data collected to identify key insights that will guide the development of new infrastructure and establish principles for evaluating future sport and recreation initiatives.
- This analysis will provide a framework for identifying infrastructure gaps, setting informed priorities, and guiding strategic investments to support the development of sport and recreation facilities.

Context:

- This may become an issue because this was identified as a priority in the March 2, 2023, mandate letter.

Background:

- Mandate (March 2023) - Work with all levels of government, including First Nations and municipalities, to understand future sport infrastructure needs and look at opportunities to partner as our population continues to grow.
- The Sport & Recreation Branch has an inventory of sport and recreation infrastructure in the Yukon and is currently validating the findings.

Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory

Community Services

- The data will be analyzed to uncover key insights, which will inform the development of new infrastructure and establish guiding principles for evaluating future sports and recreation initiatives. This information will empower all levels of government and organizations to inform their asset management plans and guide future investments in sport infrastructure.
- As a next step, Community Services will consider recreation service level standards for communities. The outcome of the sport and recreation infrastructure inventory will provide important consideration for creating and updating these standards.

February 4, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Polarettes Gymnastics Club

Tab# 56
SPRING 2025
Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: New Facility

- The new Polarettes and Climb Yukon facility in Whistle Bend is planned to be completed this summer. It is an exciting milestone in recreation facilities for the territory and Whitehorse.
- The Polarettes Gymnastics Club will be moving into a purpose-built facility that is designed to meet the needs of the club.
- This new facility will help meet the territory's growing demand for recreational facilities
- We are continuing to work with Community Services on the O&M expenses.
- The space was funded by the Government of Canada's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program with an investment of \$31.6 million and an additional \$2.5 million contributed by the Government of Yukon.

Additional response: Use of Previous Facility in St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Secondary School

- Highways and Public Works led a feasibility study for the former Polarettes space which confirmed upgrades are required to address building deficiencies and to prepare the space for a new user.
- Highways and Public Works met with school officials, Community Service's Sport and Recreation employees, and Sport Yukon to discuss potential options and the needs of each user group.

Session Briefing Note
Polarettes Gymnastics Club

Tab# 56
SPRING 2025
Highways and
Public Works

- Following the discussions it was determined that the space will be used as a community sport facility once the club moves to their new building in Whistle Bend later this year.
- The Riverdale facility, which is an annex of St. Francis of Assisi Secondary School, will be renovated so that it is better equipped to host a variety of sport competitions and events.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The public may have questions about the current space occupied by Polarettes and their future space.

Background:

- Highways and Public Works worked with Education and Community Services to assess the options for the future use of the Riverdale facility.
- Sport Yukon would like an agreement with the Yukon government allowing them exclusive use of the Riverdale facility for community recreational activities.

Approved by:	
T. Allen	April 1, 2025
Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works	Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Whitehorse Elementary
Replacement School**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is investing in the Yukon's education system by building new schools and renovating existing ones to meet the needs of Yukon students for years to come.
- Whitehorse Elementary School is a top priority for replacement due to the age and condition of the building, its energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and the need for significant seismic upgrades.
- The new school is currently in the pre-design phase.
- The replacement school will be much more energy efficient and could see a reduction of up to 260 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year compared to the current school.

Additional response: Results of the Traffic impact assessment

- A traffic impact assessment has been conducted. As part of the assessment the consultant took into consideration the project's location, current traffic, and the project's anticipated demands on the area including parking.
- This assessment also included vehicle, public transit, pedestrian and bike traffic considerations.
- The traffic impact assessment did not identify impacts that could not be mitigated.
- The traffic impact assessment found that less than 6 per cent of Whitehorse Elementary School students currently reside in the Takhini neighbourhood, which aligns with the plan for 90 per cent school bus ridership.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Whitehorse Elementary
Replacement School**Highways and
Public Works

-
- With most students relying on bus transportation rather than private vehicles, this will help minimize the overall traffic impact in the neighbourhood.
 - Currently, three bus routes serve Takhini Elementary School, and optimization efforts will ensure that these routes are adjusted efficiently to meet the needs of both schools.
 - The traffic impact assessment also found that traffic impacts will be minimal if 90 per cent of students take the bus, as anticipated. The school itself will not significantly add to congestion at key intersections, but some improvements will still be needed to support safe and efficient traffic flow.
 - If significantly fewer than 90 per cent of students take the bus, potential mitigations may include measures such as enhanced signage and traffic monitoring. We are prepared to address these to maintain safe and efficient transportation in the area.
 - To improve safety, the traffic study recommends:
 - extended school zones on Range Road and University Drive;
 - new bike lanes and pedestrian crosswalks along Range Road;
 - a detailed parking plan to ensure safe drop-off and pick-up areas; and
 - mini roundabouts at Range Road/Normandy Road and Range Road/University Drive to slow traffic and improve safety.
 - Mini roundabouts help slow down vehicle speeds while keeping traffic moving efficiently. They improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists and reduce the risk of violent collisions compared to traditional stop signs or traffic lights.
-

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Whitehorse Elementary
Replacement School**Highways and
Public Works

- Stakeholder meetings and public workshops are being organized to share the results and gather community input. Residents will have opportunities to voice their concerns and ask questions about next steps.
- There is a drop in open house planned for April 10 at Takhini Elementary School to discuss the relocation plans as well as the results of the traffic impact assessment.

Additional response:

- The replacement school is proposed to be located on the Northwest corner of the Takhini Education Land Reserve, where Softball Yukon's T4 and T5 fields are currently located. This is option 1 of the options presented at the March 2024 meeting with stakeholders.
- Option 1 scored highest in the site analysis and test-fit carried out by the consultant due to:
 - Being the ideal location for accommodating both the replacement school and Takhini Elementary on the site, as it allows for the greatest separation and some treed area between the schools.
 - Having the least impact on local traffic, as the school would be accessed from University Drive and not Range Road.
 - Being located away from the area on site with the poorest drainage.
 - Not affecting the healthy trees area.
- As part of Option 1, one of the two impacted adult softball fields would be relocated across the street to where the youth softball

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Whitehorse Elementary
Replacement School**Highways and
Public Works

fields are, and a new multi-sport field would be built where the Takhini school playfield is.

- This option provides community benefits as it would offer the Takhini school a brand-new playfield for their students, as well as renovated fields for Softball Yukon members.

Additional response: Site Selection on the Takhini Land Reserve

- The selected location on the site scored the highest in our consultant's assessment report. Compared to other options it scored higher due to the following factors:
 - Low impact on the Takhini Elementary School, as it does not encroach onto the school's space, protects existing programming, and provides a new soccer field.
 - Lower impact on traffic on Range Road due to access to the new school located on University Drive which provides appropriate queuing space.
 - Fewer drainage management measures and ground upgrades, which saves cost, due to the location being outside of the poor drainage and flood prone treed areas of the lot.
 - Proximity to existing municipal services.
 - The location outside of the treed area which also allows for more of the healthy trees on site to be kept.
 - Construction will take place on the existing softball fields along College Drive which will mitigate impacts to the Takhini Elementary School.

Additional response: Planning and design

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Whitehorse Elementary
Replacement School**Highways and
Public Works

- The Project Advisory Committee and stakeholders will provide input on key aspects of the school's planning and design, including ways the school can meet community needs through functionality, cultural components, and community space.
- The Government of Yukon will continue engaging with the First Nation School Board, the Project Advisory Committee, and Softball Yukon to determine the best plan for moving forward on the site.
- Kobayashi + Zedda Architects, the company hired to plan the design of the replacement school, completed the first phase of the project – a site analysis and test fit, for a total cost of \$272 thousand.
- To date the following work has also been completed, as part of the second phase of the project – Pre-design, for a cost of \$310 thousand:
 - a geotechnical study;
 - a topographic survey;
 - phase 1 environmental site assessment;
 - a school specific functional and spatial program and business case;
 - site analysis and test fit by the professional engineering consultant; and
 - a traffic impact assessment.

Additional response: Green Space

- The second most important development issue was the risk of a road through green space.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Whitehorse Elementary
Replacement School**Highways and
Public Works

-
- McIntyre Creek is an important green space that holds significant ecological, recreational, and cultural value for the community.
 - The proposed location results in the least impact on our natural ecosystem, with minimal tree removal.

Additional response: Existing Whitehorse Elementary School

- Whitehorse Elementary School was built in 1950 in accordance with the building codes and construction practices of the day.
- Highways and Public Works conducts regular assessments of Yukon schools and, if potential structural issues are identified, we immediately address them.
- We have taken important mitigation measures at Whitehorse Elementary School to properly secure the building and its contents in the event of seismic activity.
- Until Whitehorse Elementary School is replaced, we will continue to make sure the current school remains safe.

Additional response: Site Selection on the Takhini Land Reserve

- The selected location on the site is the highest scored in our consultant's assessment report. Compared to other options it scored higher due to the following factors.
 - Low impact on the Takhini Elementary School, as it does not encroach onto the school's space, protects existing programming, and provides a new soccer field.
 - Lower impact on traffic on Range Road as the new school can be accessed from University Drive, which provides appropriate queuing space.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Whitehorse Elementary
Replacement School**Highways and
Public Works

-
- Fewer drainage management measures and ground upgrades, which saves cost, as the selected location is situated away from the poor drainage and flood prone treed areas of the lot.
 - Proximity to existing municipal services.
 - The location outside of the treed area also allows for more of the healthy trees on site to be kept.
 - There is ample room for staging and construction across the lot from the Takhini School, which will mitigate impacts to that school while the new École Whitehorse Elementary School is being built.
- With the traffic impact assessment now completed, the Government of Yukon has started engaging with the community to share the findings and recommendations from the report.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The announcement to replace École Whitehorse Elementary School has received significant media attention.
-

Background:

- The building itself is over 70 years old and nearing the end of its useful life.
 - The size of the current Whitehorse Elementary School lot would make it extremely difficult to build a new school on the current lot. Working around the existing building would heavily impact design decisions and would mean loss of school parking and playgrounds for a minimum of 2-3 years during construction.
 - The Takhini Educational Land Reserve will be ideal to accommodate French Immersion students from around the city and has a number of advantages, including better access to green space.
 - We will have plans in place to manage noise, traffic and dust during construction.
-

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Whitehorse Elementary
Replacement School**Highways and
Public Works

- A Test Fit and Site Analysis meeting was held in March 2024, presented by Kobayashi and Zedda, and shared the three location options on the Takhini educational land reserve and provided an opportunity to receive feedback from stakeholders.
- A traffic study was included in the scope of the Kobayashi + Zedda contract and was completed as part of Phase 2, the pre-design portion of the contract.
- Costs to renovate the existing school would be roughly 1.4 times more than building a new identically sized school, in large part due to the estimate of \$15-20 million needed to complete seismic upgrades.
- Following construction of the replacement school, an assessment will be performed on the existing building downtown to determine whether to move forward with a demolition.
- Highways and Public Works will consider factors such as public health and safety, ongoing maintenance costs and the value of the land for potential development in making such a decision.

Approved by:

T. Allen

April 7, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Whitehorse Elementary Replacement Project - EWES

Education

Whitehorse School Replacements Long-Term Capital Planning: refer to SO22

Value:

- Our government is proud to be investing in school infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing community and École Whitehorse Elementary School has been identified as a priority for replacement with a new, modern facility.

Recommended response:

- In August 2023, Kobayashi + Zedda Architects Ltd. was awarded the prime consultant contract for the École Whitehorse Elementary School replacement project through a public tender.
- This includes conducting a Site Analysis (Phase 1) and producing a report on potential sites for the new school within the Takhini Educational Land Reserve.
- On October 1, 2024, the Government of Yukon announced that the new École Whitehorse Elementary School will be built at the northwest corner of the Takhini Educational Land Reserve.
- The Department of Education is finalizing the Pre-Design phase (Phase 2), during which key studies and reports are being completed to inform the design of the new school.
 - Highways and Public Works received the traffic study, and an executive summary is being shared with stakeholders during engagement sessions this week and an open house on April 10, 2025.
 - The traffic study evaluates the impact on major intersections around the Takhini neighbourhood. It provides recommendations

Whitehorse Elementary Replacement Project - EWES

Education

for two mini roundabouts on Range Road at the Normandy and University Drive intersection to slow traffic and improve safety. It includes extending the school zones on Range Road and University Drive, adding bike lanes and pedestrian crosswalks, as well as safe drop-off and pick-up areas.

- The project will require a YESAA assessment to evaluate potential impacts and provide recommendations. Engagement with YESAB will occur at the appropriate stage.
- Moving Whitehorse Elementary School to the Takhini Educational Land Reserve does not preclude establishing another downtown school in the future.

Additional response – engagement:

- Representatives from the Government of Yukon met with the Takhini Neighbourhood Association on October 18, 2024, to better understand the community's key concerns, including the need for a traffic study and ongoing engagement.
- The *Choosing the future site for École Whitehorse Elementary School* location report was updated on Yukon.ca as of October 28, 2024.
- The Department of Education will continue engaging with the Takhini Neighborhood Association as planning proceeds.
- Future opportunities for all partners and stakeholders to discuss the project will be provided.
- This is a valuable opportunity to enhance French immersion programming in a new, modern learning environment.

Whitehorse Elementary Replacement Project - EWES

Education

Additional response - Site options:

- The Takhini Educational Land Reserve is a large, serviced parcel of land that offers a central location with improved access to green space, meeting modern learning needs.
- Some trees on the chosen site are unhealthy or unsafe due to damage from annual spring flooding and will be removed to make room for the new multi-sport field. The design team has worked closely with a landscape architect to identify which trees are healthy and which pose risks.
- Only a small portion of the existing trees, which are mostly unhealthy, will be removed. Most of the forested area will remain to minimize the environmental impact.
- The First Nation School Board are engaged in these discussions and will provide input on the final design decisions.
- Rezoning will be required for the new school location. Discussions with the City of Whitehorse to address rezoning will begin during the conceptual design phase.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- MLAs have been vocal about keeping a school in the downtown core. On October 21, 2022, the Minister met with concerned downtown residents.
- Takhini residents have been vocal on social media about their concerns over removing trees in the location of the future multi-sport field.

Background:

- Department officials continue to meet with Softball and Sport Yukon, and a commitment has been made to ensure they remain informed as the project progresses. The agreement focuses on relocating softball infrastructure while ensuring the sport remains vibrant in the community.

Whitehorse Elementary Replacement Project - EWES

Education

- The Departments of Education, Community Services, Highways & Public Works, and Sport Yukon are working on an agreement to collaborate on expanding school gymnasiums in Whitehorse. The agreement aims to address the significant deficit in large gymnasium space and support community health and recreation.
- The École Whitehorse Elementary School Council wrote to the Minister of Education on October 29, 2024, emphasizing the importance of building a modern and safe educational facility.
- The School Council expressed support for the Government of Yukon's commitment to building a new École Whitehorse Elementary School and willingness to continue working with stakeholders and the Project Advisory Committee.
- École Whitehorse Elementary School was built in the 1950s and is the top priority for replacement among Whitehorse schools.
- The school cannot meet current and future programming and community needs, including access to spaces for innovative, inclusive, and experiential learning.
- The Takhini Educational Land Reserve is a central location that can accommodate French Immersion students from around Whitehorse.
- The Department of Education has established a Project Advisory Committee to facilitate collaboration and exchange of ideas between key partners, stakeholders, and the Government of Yukon. Meetings were held on:
 1. October 3, 2022
 2. November 10, 2022
 3. May 15, 2023
 4. August 28, 2023
 5. November 23, 2023
 6. January 11, 2024
 7. April 18, 2024
 8. October 17, 2024
 9. November 14, 2024
- On November 23, 2023, a representative of the Takhini Neighborhood Association joined the Project Advisory Committee.
- The Project Advisory Committee has designated seats for the following:
 - Whitehorse Elementary School Council

Whitehorse Elementary Replacement Project - EWES

Education

- Whitehorse Elementary School Administration
 - City of Whitehorse
 - Government of Yukon
 - Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
 - Kwanlin Dün First Nation
 - Takhini Neighbourhood Association
- The Project Advisory Committee will provide the department with input on key aspects of the school's planning and design, including ways the school can help to meet community needs in terms of functionality, cultural components, and community space.
- Project timelines will be determined as further planning work is undertaken.
- Other schools are currently located downtown: the Wood Street Centre, the Individual Learning Centre, and the Aurora Virtual School. All operate out of downtown and are an important part of our portfolio of schools.
- Issues have been raised with the current École Whitehorse Elementary School regarding the capacity of the gymnasium and its egress, the number of washrooms available on the main floor, IT infrastructure, energy efficiency, lack of modern learning spaces, seismic rating, needed building code upgrades, and overall accessibility.
- Among other concerns such as lot size and suitability, building on the same downtown site would require costly and prohibitive decanting strategies (moving students) for 2-3 years minimum to accommodate the build.
- The School Community, Takhini area residents, Association franco-yukonnaise, Canadian Parents for French, other relevant organizations, and the general public will be encouraged to provide feedback on the project at key design milestones.
- In March 2024, various partners and stakeholders were invited to a meeting to review the draft Site Analysis and Test Fit report, and subsequent meetings were held with the EWES school council (April 15, 2024).
- As the Takhini Neighborhood Association requested, Department of Education Operations staff met with Takhini residents on April 24, 2024, to share the draft Site Analysis and Test Fit Report.
- The meeting with the Takhini Neighbourhood Association was attended by a number of residents, including MLA Kate White.

Whitehorse Elementary Replacement Project - EWES

Education

- On October 2, 2024, Kobayashi + Zedda Architects Ltd., the consulting firm responsible for designing the new EWES, organized site visits to five modern schools in Vancouver. These visits provided the project team with valuable insights. Participants included representatives from Highway and Public Works, Education, and two members of the Project Advisory Committee. The tours highlighted contemporary educational environments that emphasize innovative design, revealing effective strategies for enhancing student learning and support, which will inform the development of the new EWES school.
- On October 17, 2024, the Project Advisory Committee convened for a meeting at which the Kobayashi + Zedda Architects team presented insights on 21st-century schools. They also provided an update on the recent Vancouver school tour, sharing key takeaways that could inform the planning of the new school.
- On November 14, 2024, the Project Advisory Committee held a meeting at which the EWES school principal and staff shared their insights and suggestions for the new school. They provided several recommendations regarding its design.
- Site selection on Takhini Education Reserve:
 - The Takhini Educational Land Reserve is one of the largest in Whitehorse and has enough room for two schools.
 - There are not a lot of other vacant sites that are centrally located and would meet the needs of a new school.
 - To look at a different site would entail going through lengthy territorial and municipal zoning processes, followed by those sites needing to be serviced (sewer, electricity, etc.); this is not a viable option given the urgent need to replace school infrastructure.
 - Work to identify suitable land for educational purposes for future school builds is in the preliminary stages.
- The consultant is currently in phase two of seven. These phases include:
 1. Site analysis and test fit
 2. Pre-design
 3. Conceptual design options
 4. Schematic design
 5. Detailed Design and Specifications
 6. Contractor procurement

Whitehorse Elementary Replacement Project - EWES

Education

7. Construction administration and warranty

- Potential site analysis and pre-design have been completed, and community engagement is underway. The engagement process includes information from the Traffic Impact Assessment, Site Analysis, the project's next steps and participant survey collection.
- Information about participating in an Open House on April 10, 2025, will be shared in a press release the week of March 31, 2025.

Takhini Neighborhood Association, survey between Oct. 13 – 17, 2024

- The Takhini Neighborhood Association ran an online survey between October 13 and 17, 2024 and received 144 unique responses.
- The survey asked three questions focused on 1. key messages for the Minister for the relocation project, 2. support of WES's relocation to the Takhini Educational Reserve, and 3. reasons for support or lack thereof.
- Question 1 - What's the most important message that the Minister of Education needs to hear regarding the WES relocation project?
 - Traffic concerns
 - The need for consultation
 - The lack of transparency in the decision-making process
- Questions 2 and 3 - Do you support the relocation of WES to Takhini?
 - Maybe: 21% - Traffic concerns, green space, softball fields, downtown needs school.
 - Yes: 19% of respondents were excited about a French immersion school in the neighbourhood, believed that it would be good to have a walkable new school in the neighbourhood, and looked at the school situation in Whitehorse as a whole.
 - No: 60% - Traffic concerns, loss of green space, lack of consultation, question why two schools would be next to each other.
- As part of the current engagement strategy, survey information will be collected for a What We Heard Report.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding

- Under ICIP, schools were not eligible unless they fell under one of the two exceptions:

Session Briefing Note

Tab# HOT14/SO21

Spring 2025

Whitehorse Elementary Replacement Project - EWES

Education

- The Covid-19 stream
- Truth and Reconciliation - Calls to Action
- Under current ICIP guidelines, schools in Whitehorse are not eligible
- Kêts'ádań Kù (Burwash Landing) received ICIP funding under the Calls to Action.
- ICIP funding has been fully subscribed since 2021

Budget

- For 2024-25 fiscal year, \$2.08M is being deferred due to ongoing adjustments in the work and extending planning and engagement opportunities.
 - The department is being responsive to concerns by stakeholders such as traffic concerns and is taking the time to do additional work and ensure we are getting it right.
- For 2025-26 fiscal year, we are estimating \$1M for this year. As such timing of the 5-Year capital plan has been adjusted.

Summary of expenditures and budget as of March 3, 2025

2024-25 Actuals	2024-25 Supplementary budget #2	2025-26 Main Estimates	Total project actuals to date	Total project estimated budget
\$373,404	\$420,000	\$1,000,000	\$692,027	To be determined

Approved by:

Mary Cameron

2025-04-02

Deputy Minister, Department of Education

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Biathlon Yukon Facility Tender

Tab# 45
SPRING 2025
Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- A new \$2.9 million facility is being constructed at Biathlon Yukon's training site on Grey Mountain, funded jointly by the federal and Yukon governments.
- The facility aims to support the growing interest in biathlon and is anticipated to be ready for the 2026 Arctic Winter Games.
- The Biathlon Building Tender, a request for proposal, was cancelled on March 25, 2025, due to a clerical error resulting in proponents not being able to answer the Northern Knowledge and Experience question in Yukon Bids &Tenders.
 - As per the Government of Yukon Procurement Policy, when the Bid Depository is used no addenda can be issued once the Bid Depository has closed.
- To ensure there are no delays for the project timeline – the Yukon government worked closely with the Yukon Contractors Association, which manages the Bid Depository to retender the project. The tender closed on April 7, 2025, with five bids received.
- The compliance stage for this tender will soon be complete and undergo its internal evaluation.
- A contract will be awarded in April.
- This was an Open Tender that enabled all interested parties to resubmit their bids.
- Our government looks forward to supporting this project being completed on schedule, and in time for the 2026 Arctic Winter Games.

Session Briefing Note

Biathlon Yukon Facility Tender

Tab# 45
SPRING 2025
Highways and
Public Works

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the tender and schedule.
- During the compliance review, one of five bidders has had a non-compliant bid.

Background:

- Since April 1, 2019, bid prices must go through a compliance review and be verified before they can be posted. Bid prices do not get posted in situations where all bid responses are non-compliant or the project has been cancelled
- Once a tender is cancelled, so is the applicable bid depository. Given the value and type of work on this contract to stay in line with GAM 2.6, a new bid depository had to be established.
- The 2026 Arctic Winter Games will be held in Whitehorse on March 8 to 15, 2026.
- The retendering of this project was expedited and as a result, is not anticipated to affect overall project timelines.

Approved by:	
T. Allen	April 14, 2025
Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works	Date Approved

Recommended response:

- First Nations Initial Attack firefighting crews are a key component of the Wildland Fire Management program. The Government of Yukon and First Nations crews work side by side on the fire line and all Initial Attack crew members are provided with the same level of training and equipment, including personal protective equipment.
- The Government of Yukon has agreements with all 14 First Nations for the Wildland Fire Management Initial Attack Program. This includes six government-to-government agreements and eight agreements administered by Yukon First Nation Wildfire Limited Partnership.
- The agreement between the Government of Yukon and Carcross/ Tagish First Nation is unique. Under this model, Carcross/ Tagish First Nation citizens are hired as Yukon government employees. The funding allocated to this contract is returned to the Carcross/ Tagish First Nation through transfer payment agreements, supporting fuel abatement work. This approach creates employment while reducing administrative workload for both parties.

Additional response:

- Over the last several years, the Government of Yukon has provided funding and logistical support to the Yukon First Nation Wildfire Limited Partnership to develop the Beat the Heat training program, and it now meets national exchange standards for Type 2 crew resources.
- Protective Services personnel also worked through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Committee to recognize Type 2 national

standards resulting in the export of Yukon First Nation Wildfire Limited Partnership resources to other jurisdictions.

- I want to thank all our First Nation government partners in contributing to the development of fire resilient communities.
-

Context:

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

Background:

- In 2024, the program consists of 14 Yukon government crews and 14 First Nations crews located in six fire centers across the territory.
- In 2024, 8 of 14 First Nations or their Development Corporations assigned the administration of their initial attack crew contracts to Yukon First Nations Wildfire Limited Partnership (YFNW). This supports local employment, capacity building and economic development. The remaining five contracts are bilateral with the Wildland Fire Management Branch (WFM).
- The 14 Initial Attack agreements with Yukon First Nations will end after the 2025 fire season and will be re-negotiated.
- The Unit Crew Service Agreement held with YFNW for a 20-person Type 2 Unit Crew expired in March 2025 and options are currently being discussed at the branch level to meet operational needs with existing budget.
- Over the last 4 years WFM has provided \$561,000 in Transfer Payment Agreement funding to YFNW that directly supports the training and development of unit crew resources.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-01

Spring 2025

Yukon First Nation Partnerships

Community Services

Financial Implications:

- In 2024, the Yukon government provided \$50,000 to Yukon First Nations Wildfire Limited Partnership for the Beat the Heat boot camp, and in-kind contributions to the program in staff time and training resources.
- As of September 2024, Yukon government provided \$1.6 million in contracts and \$125,000 in transfer payments agreements under the Unit Crew Services Agreement.
- In 2024, up to \$525,000 was available to Yukon First Nations Wildfire for the guaranteed work portion of the Unit Crew Services Agreement.

February 4, 2025

Date approved

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Wildland Fire Management is taking proactive measures to limit the impact of wildfires by managing fuel through forest thinning, conversion of coniferous stands to deciduous stands, and prescribed burning.
- The branch also promotes wildland fire prevention through education campaigns to reduce human-caused fire ignition and help property owners protect their homes from wildfire risk.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans offer a road map for reducing community fire risk through forest fuel treatments and community-based FireSmart projects.

Additional response:

- Wildland Fire Management works to develop strategic landscape-scale projects such as the Whitehorse South Fuel Break.
- The Whitehorse South Fuel Break is a partnership with the City of Whitehorse for fuel management in 780 hectares of forest.
- To date, 375 hectares have been worked. Wildland Fire Management expects to finish the Mary Lake Shaded Fuel Break portion in fall 2026, the Copper Haul Road North Fuel Break portion in fall 2028, and the South Klondike Fuel Break portion in 2032.

Context:

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

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

Background:

- Draft Community Wildfire Protection Plans are nearing completion for the Village of Mayo, Old Crow, Watson Lake, Beaver Creek, as well as the communities of Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay together. These plans will be presented for engagement with the community and First Nations in 2024. Teslin, Haines Junction, Faro, Dawson City, and Whitehorse have completed Community Wildfire Protection Plans or equivalent.
- Through the FireSmart funding program, community groups can receive funding for local wildfire hazard reduction projects. In 2024/25, the Yukon government in partnership with the Government of Canada is investing a total of \$1.14 million in 48 projects.
- This total includes providing \$850,000 for FireSmart projects, with an additional \$293,000 to First Nation communities, following a contribution from Indigenous Services Canada's Emergency Management Assistance Program.
- The Government of Canada has granted the Government of Yukon (YG) \$13.8 million for wildfire mitigation projects through its Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund which begins in 2025/26 and ends in 2032/33. This funding will support the YG in increasing the pace of wildfire risk reduction work in Teslin, Haines Junction, and Whitehorse.
- The Government of Canada has granted YG \$5.5 million for governance, capacity building, and community-based wildfire mitigation projects through its Resilient Communities through FireSmart program which begins in 2024/2025 and ends in 2027/28.
- The Whitehorse South Fuel Break is a 780-hectare piece of strategic wildfire-resistant infrastructure. It is partially funded by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The Copper Haul Road and Mary Lake components of the fuel break are expected to be completed in 2026 and includes manual treatments, mechanical treatments, prescribed burns and planting of aspen trees.

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

- Wildland Fire Management is leading Yukon government's participation in Canada's 2 Billion Trees program, which will provide \$8.9 million in federal funding between 2023/24 and 2030/31. 170,000 aspen seedlings have been planted in fuel treatment areas around Whitehorse and Haines Junction to further improve the resilience of our forests and communities. A further 230,000 seedlings will be planted in spring 2025 to complete OCF Action C21. Planning is currently underway to plant up to 1,900,000 aspen seedlings in strategic fuel breaks around Whitehorse and Haines Junction by 2031.
- Work on the Copper Haul Road North Fuel Break project began in summer 2024 and is on track to be complete in fall 2028. This 200-hectare project will create defensible space for firefighters to work safely and effectively along the Copper Haul Road from the Mt. Sima Bridge in the south to the McLean Lake Quarries in the north.
- The South Klondike Fuel Break project was submitted to Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board in June 2024 and recently received a recommendation to proceed. This 190-hectare project will connect the existing Whitehorse South Fuel Break east to the South Klondike Highway. This project will significantly reduce the risk of negative impacts to Whitehorse from wildfires in the Carcross Valley. Work on this project will begin in April 2024.
- Wildland Fire Management works with the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Highways and Public Works, Economic Development and Environment to make the best use of wood salvaged from forest fuel treatment areas.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-02

Spring 2025

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

Financial Implications:

- In 2024/25, the Yukon government in partnership with the Government of Canada is investing \$1.14 million for FireSmart projects (\$850,000 for territorial FireSmart projects, with an additional \$293,000 specifically for First Nation communities)
- This year Wildland Fire Management budgeted a further \$1.7 million for landscape-level fuel treatments and supporting activities such as road maintenance, consultants etc.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Canada experienced a notable wildfire season last year. Yukon Wildland Fire Management worked hard in response to fires at home and in western North America.
- Wildland Fire Management responded to 150 wildfires which burned over 206,000 hectares. Wildland Fire Management also supported community responses to other emergencies, including spring flooding in the Klondike, and in Old Crow.
- Wildfires prompted evacuation alerts for the Village of Mayo, Stewart Crossing, several mines, the Tatchun Lake Campground, and a fishing lodge on Wellesley Lake.
- Fire on the landscape also impacted travel on the North Klondike Highway and the Yukon River Quest board made the tough decision to end the race early.

Additional response:

- Protective Services worked hard to keep community leaders informed by holding weekly leaders' briefings.
- Protective Services offered valuable information through the Wildfire Hub, making it easier to find up to date wildfire information for Yukoners.
- Wildland Fire Management is grateful to all our partners including First Nation and municipal governments, the Emergency Measures Organization, the Fire Marshal's Office, volunteer and municipal fire departments, RCMP and many others.
- I would like to take this opportunity to remind all Yukoners the role we each play in minimizing the risks of wildfire and preparing for

emergencies. Fire Smart your property and prepare a 72-hour survival kit. For more information on this visit [Yukon.ca](https://www.yukon.ca)

Context:

- The public may have interest in Wildland Fire Management (WFM) activities in 2024.
-

Background:

- Yukon has 84 initial attack firefighters in regional bases across the Yukon and another 40 staff managing crews and aircraft, leading prevention programs, and providing logistical support.
- Weekly Leaders' briefings were held throughout the summer, inviting community leaders to meet with the Minister, Wildland Fire Management and Emergency Measures Organization officials to ask questions and for updates on emergency response operations.
- Wildland Fire Management prepares for the fire season by ensuring resources are in place, ready to respond to incidents as required. During the season, Wildland Fire Management's meteorologist and fire behavior specialists actively monitor current and short-term weather forecasts to ensure appropriate response to fires.
- In addition to hiring personnel, Wildland Fire Management prepares for the coming season by restocking and refurbishing equipment over the winter months. This includes procurement of consumable goods, wildfire fighting equipment and replacement or maintenance of specialized vehicles.
- In 2024, 175,600 of the 206,000 hectares burned were in the Wilderness Response Zone.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-03

Spring 2025

2024 Wildfire Season Summary

Community Services

Financial Implications:

- Since the 2019/20 year, total Wildland Fire Management expenditure has averaged around \$33 million, with \$42 million to date for 2024/25, and is typically updated through Supplementary Budgets where required.
- In 2024, \$20.58 million was requested through the supplementary budget.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness

Community Services

Recommended response:

- After several intense wildfire seasons across Canada, Wildland Fire Management continues work to prepare for the upcoming fire season by preparing internal response capacity, working with other fire agencies and incorporating lessons learned from previous fire seasons.
- For the 2025 fire season, there will be a total of 28 Initial Attack fire crews distributed among six regional fire districts.
- Wildland Fire Management will also have two air tanker groups consisting of one heavy air tanker, four light air tankers and two bird dog aircraft led by a team of four Air Attack Officers. In addition to this, multiple helicopters will be on contract ready to respond when the need arises.

Additional response:

- The Yukon government recognizes that a changing climate means wildfire risk can extend into autumn. Additional funding has extended the operational season for Yukon First Nation Initial Attack crews from 85 to 95 days to ensure late season crew capacity.
- Wildland Fire Management also has relationships with other agencies through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, as well as the Northwest Compact, that will ensure adequate resources are available when needed.
- Yukoners are encouraged to think about their personal preparedness and actions that can be taken to prepare your families and your property for wildfires. For more information on this please visit Yukon.ca

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-04

Spring 2025

Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness

Community Services

Context:

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

Background:

- Yukon has 85 initial attack firefighters in regional bases across the Yukon and another 40 staff managing crews and aircraft, leading prevention programs, and providing logistical support.
- Through the Our Clean Futures initiative, Yukon government will be adding a meteorologist and data scientist to Wildland Fire Management for improved forecasting services that will support effective pre-planning and fire suppression efforts.
- In 2024, there were 28 wildfire crews, which is comprised of 14 Yukon government and 14 Yukon First Nations crews.
- Communications during the 2024 were supported by an improved Wildfire Hub that includes text updates and support low bandwidth users.
- Weekly leaders' briefings (16 in total) were held throughout the summer providing an opportunity for community leaders to meet with the Minister of Community Services and get updated from Wildland Fire Management and Emergency Measures Organization officials on emergency response operations.
- Wildland Fire Management prepares for the fire season by having resources in place ready to respond to incidents as required. During the season, Wildland Fire Management meteorologist and fire behavior specialists actively monitor current conditions and short-term forecast weather to ensure appropriate response to fires.

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

- Access to housing remains a priority, and work continues to address key challenges, including:
 - Expanding housing with support services for those in need.
 - Increasing the supply of affordable rental units.
 - Helping Yukoners navigate housing costs.
- Yukon Housing Corporation and its partners are adapting to high construction and borrowing costs by finding innovative ways to develop and maintain housing.
- The corporation's five-year strategic plan, *Creating Home*, is driving a more client-focused and collaborative approach to affordable housing and integrating support services to improve outcomes for Yukoners.

Additional response:

- Governments and stakeholders are working together to develop new land, expand housing options, and respond to the findings of the 2022 Office of the Auditor General Report on housing.
- Housing projects continue to move forward to meet the needs of Yukoners.

Context:

- The combination of high rental costs, limited affordable housing options and difficulties in securing mortgages continues to be a challenge for many Yukoners.

Background:

Section 1: Yukon population

- In June 2024, the estimated Yukon population was 46,640; an increase of 1,354, or 3.0%, compared to the revised figure for June 30, 2023 (45,286).
- The Yukon's population is forecast to increase to 51,520 by 2030.
- While the population of most age groups is expected to increase over this period, the number of seniors and people between the ages of 55 and 64 is expected to grow the fastest.

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Section 2: Housing statistics

Average Whitehorse house prices (YBS)

	2023 Q4	2024 Q4	% Change
Single-detached house	\$627,400	\$657,900	3.0%
Condominium	\$416,000	\$611,900	7.2%

Yukon rents and vacancies (YBS)

	October 2022	April 2023	October 2023	April 2024
Median rent (all types)	\$1,300	\$1,325	\$1,350	\$1,420
Vacancy rate (all types)	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	1.8%

New residential permits issued, Yukon (YBS)

Year	# of new residential permits
2020	657
2021	635
2022	416
2023	429

Residential building construction, Yukon (YBS)

	January-December 2023	January-December 2024
# residential permits issued*	988	839
\$ value of new permits*	\$81.1 million	\$156.2 million (92% increase)

*In addition to new dwelling units, residential permits include renovations, garages, and additions.
The totals do not include permits issued for plumbing or stoves.

City of Whitehorse, new housing completions (CMHC)

Year	Homeowner	Rental	Condo	All
2018	66	100	61	227
2019	55	78	110	243
2020	80	116	152	348
2021	86	57	53	196
2022	111	194	181	486
2023	129	189	126	444
2024	73	19	151	243

Section 3: Capital projects recently completed by YHC or partners

Since 2022:

- 10 YHC-led projects have been completed, creating a total of 77 new residential units; and
- 8 major Housing Initiatives Fund partnership projects have been completed, creating over 276 new units.

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

YHC projects completed 2022-2024

YHC Project	Construction Start Date	Construction Completion Date	Number of Units
401 Jeckell Street, Whitehorse	May 2020	December 2022	47
RHI affordable triplex, Whitehorse	June 2021	June 2022	3
RHI affordable triplex, Watson Lake	June 2021	March 2022	3
RHI affordable triplex, Mayo	June 2021	March 2022	3
Accessible duplex, Mayo	July 2022	June 2023	2
Accessible duplex, Carmacks	August 2022	July 2023	2
RRDC staff trailer, Ross River	June 2023	December 2023	3
10-plex*, Old Crow (*Asset owned by HPWW/managed by YHC)	Summer 2021	Jan 2024	10
Accessible duplex, Faro	Summer 2023	Spring 2024	2
Affordable duplex, Dawson City	August 2022	June 2024	2
Total units completed (YHC projects):			77

Major partnership projects completed 2022-2024

Project (Lead)	Construction Completion Date	Number of Units
Bringing Citizens Home, Whitehorse (Champagne and Aishihik FN)	Summer 2022	20
Cornerstone multi-use building, Whitehorse (Opportunities Yukon)	July 2022	53
Normandy Living seniors' supportive residence, Whitehorse (KBC)	December 2022	84
Boreal Commons apartments, Whitehorse (536754 Yukon Inc)	January 2023	87
Affordable modular housing, Mayo (Na-Cho Nyäk Dun FN)	March 2023	8
Jëje Zho 12-bed men's shelter, Dawson City (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in FN)	July 2023	8
VGFN elders complex, Old Crow (Vuntut Gwitchin FN)	January 2024	9
VGFN mobile homes, Old Crow (Vuntut Gwitchin FN)	March 2024	7
Total units completed (major partnerships):		276

Section 4: Underway or upcoming housing capital projects for YHC and partners

YHC projects underway

Project	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Number of Units
Watson Lake - 10-unit supportive living residence (TAB #20)	Summer 2023	Winter 2025	10
Dawson – 34-unit housing project – Korbo lot (TAB #19)	Fall 2024	2026-27	34
Whitehorse – 45-unit Ryder replacement	Fall 2024	Spring 2026	45
Burwash Landing – 1 staff duplex (TAB #25)	Fall 2024	Summer 2026	2
Whitehorse – Purchase of 190 Olive May Way (TAB #5)	July 2024	February 2025	18
Total units underway:			109

Major partnership projects underway or completed

Project	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Number of Units
Safe at Home Society's supportive housing "The Hearth"	March 2024	Spring 2026	67

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Safe at Home Society's supportive housing at 408 Alexander	May 2024	Completed	17
DDDC's affordable rental project "Winter Crossing"	Spring 2024	Spring 2026	105
Northern Community Land Trust Society's affordable homeownership "Project 1096"	June 2024	December 2025	32
HIF-7 funding recipients	Spring 2024	Fall 2026	78
Total units:			299

YHC projects planned

Project	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Number of Units
Teslin – 6-plex with Village and Teslin Tlingit Council	Design – 2025/26	2027/28	6
Carcross – 6-plex	Lot selected, YESAB approval in progress	2027/28	6
Mayo – 10-Unit Community Housing Project	Lot selected, Design – 2027/28	2029/30	10
Ross River – duplex	2026/27	2028/29	2
Haines Junction – 6-plex	2027/28	2029/30	6
Whitehorse – Accessible Triplex at 44-13 th Ave.	Deferred due to lack of city sewer/water infrastructure, plan to upgrade in 3-5 years.		3
Total units planned:			33

Section 5: Support for new residential land development

September 2024	<p>As part of the Government of Yukon's ongoing commitment to increase land and housing availability and support business growth, new residential and industrial lots are being released in communities across the Yukon in partnership with municipalities and Yukon First Nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">seven residential lots in Haines Junction, Mayo and Watson Lake; andthree industrial lots in Teslin and Haines Junction <p>This is the sixth lot release this year and is a direct result of the Government of Yukon's historic investment in land development. Since 2021, 685 lots have been released through lotteries and tenders, with over 1,000 expected by 2026. (TABS # 37 & 38).</p>
August 2024	<p>As part of its efforts to work in collaboration with municipalities and Yukon First Nations governments to address housing and business space needs across the territory, the Government of Yukon has released 33 new residential lots across the Yukon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Twelve lots are available in Carmacks and Faro21 country residential lots are available in the Lone Tree subdivision north of Teslin.
June 2023	<p>Government of Yukon partnered with the Government of Canada and the City of Dawson to develop four new residential lots in Dawson.</p>
February 2023	<p>120 lots, including single family, multi-family and townhouse lots in Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.</p>

Section 6: Tenants in Yukon Housing RGI units

YHC Unit Status as of April 24, 2025

Breakdown	Employee	RGI	Total
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Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Occupied	166	664	830
Under Allocation	2	13	15
Under Capital	2	9	11
Under Repair	3	25	28
Total	173	711	884

Length of RGI tenancy as of April 24, 2025

Length of RGI tenancy in years	Non-Senior	Senior	Total
<1 Year	79	41	120
01-02 Years	96	39	135
02-03 Years	38	33	71
03-04 Years	29	15	44
04-05 Years	18	17	35
05-10 Years	78	97	175
10-15 Years	21	25	46
15-20 Years	8	13	21
20+ Years	7	9	16
Total	374	289	663
Average Years	3.7	5.6	4.5

*The longest running tenancy is 29 years.

Section 7: Waitlist

YHC waitlists for seniors and non-seniors as of April 24, 2025 (TAB #13)

Community	Non-Senior	Senior	Total
Carcross	1	0	1
Carmacks	4	0	4
Dawson City	13	9	22
Haines Junction	2	2	4
Ross River	1	0	1
Watson Lake	16	3	19
Whitehorse	180	93	273
Total	217	107	324

As of April 24, 2025, 13 employees are on the waitlist (TAB #10)

Community	Employee
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Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Dawson City	6
Faro	1
Haines Junction	3
Pelly Crossing	1
Ross River	1
Teslin	1
Total	13

*Note Beaver Creek, Destruction Bay, Old Crow and Pelly Crossing do not have Rent-Geared-to-Income units and Whitehorse does not have employee housing units.

RGI Waitlist based on Priority Status as of April 24, 2025

Priorities	Non-Senior	Senior	Total
Affordability	136	59	195
By-Name List/Homeless (Community)*	5	2	7
Priority – Medical	11	17	28
Priority – Mobility	10	31	41
Priority – Gender-based violence	56	1	57
TOTAL	218	110	328

*Note this category is used to identify homeless priority in the rural communities outside of Whitehorse. This does not represent the total number of individuals and/or households on the Community By-Name List. Individuals who are homeless may be included in the affordable category until information is shared from the Coordinated Housing Access Team.

Time on Waitlist based on Secondary Status

Breakdown	Affordable	By-Name List	Medical	Mobility	Gender-based violence	Total
<1 Year	129	6	16	21	25	197
1-3 Years	51	0	9	13	28	101
3-5 Years	8	0	3	2	1	14
5-7 Years	7	1	1	2	0	11
7+ Years	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	196	7	29	38	54	324
Average Years	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.2

* The By-Name List category identifies homeless priority in the rural communities outside of Whitehorse.

Section 8: Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit (TAB #9)

- The program helps low-to-moderate-income Yukoners in private market rental housing who cannot afford rent. Applicants can receive \$200, \$400, \$600 or \$800 per month, which will be paid directly to the individual.

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

- Applicants must provide proof of income to be eligible.
- Since the program's launch in November 2020, over 300 households have been supported.
- As of April 24, 2025:
 - 206 households were approved for the original benefit.
 - 18 households were approved for the gender-based violence stream.

Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit - Rental stream breakdown by benefit level as of April 24, 2025.

Benefit Level	# of Clients	Monthly Budget
200	77	\$15,400.00
400	38	\$15,200.00
600	47	\$28,200.00
800	44	\$35,200.00
Total	206	\$94,000.00

Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit - Rental stream recipients as of April 24, 2025.

Community	Non-Senior	Senior	Total
Dawson City	5	4	9
Haines Junction	3	0	3
Watson Lake	1	1	2
Whitehorse	149	43	192
Total	158	48	206

Section 9: Loans and Grants programs

1. **Yukoner First Home Program (TAB #6)** – Launched on April 23, 2024, the Yukoner First Home Program is a new program that provides a deferrable, low-interest loan to first-time buyers who have a pre-approved mortgage and need down payment support.
2. **Developer Build Loan (DBL) Program** – Provides loans for short-term construction financing to Yukon developers who may be unable to secure funding from traditional lenders. The program is for land and infrastructure development for residential purposes or building homes and multi-unit residential buildings. The loan is fully repayable to Yukon Housing Corporation.

Developer Build Loan Program

Applications	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-Jan25	Total	%
Approved	1	1	1	0	2	5	46
Declined	0	0	2	1	0	3	27
Cancelled	0	2	0	1	0	3	27
TOTAL	1	3	3	2	2	11	100

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

3. **Home Ownership Loan Program** – A spring 2024 review found it was not adequately supporting the needs of Yukoners, prompting the transition to the new program. The program has been replaced by the Yukoner First Home Program.

4. **Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program (MMRCP)** – This is a one-time capital grant for projects that receive a municipal development incentive. It is meant to help increase the supply of rental housing in communities.

MMRCP

Applications	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-Jan 25	Total	%
Approved	13	12	17	12	10	64	64.6
Declined	2	1	3	4	0	10	10.1
Cancelled	1	0	12	10	2	25	25.3
TOTAL	16	13	32	26	12	99	100

5. **Home Repair Program** – Funding to repair or upgrade primary residence. This program includes emergencies, accessibility and wildfire grants and a home repair loan. *Note: Three intakes have been completed for the fiscal year 2023-2024.*

Grants stream:

Applications	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-Jan 25	Total
Approved/Pre-Approved	40	46	34	17	3	140
Declined	0	2	3	3	2	10
Cancelled	6	14	9	8	8	45
Total	46	62	46	28	13	195

Loans stream:

Applications	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-Jan 25	Total
Approved/Pre-Approved	0	6	8	10	2	26
Declined	0	5	10	12	5	32
Cancelled	0	25	32	24	20	101
Total	0	36	50	46	27	159

Accessibility stream:

Applications	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-Jan 25	Total
Approved/Pre-Approved	10	8	14	7	5	44
Declined	0	1	2	1	2	6
Cancelled	1	3	8	14	1	27
Total	11	12	24	22	8	77

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Emergency stream:

Applications	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-Jan 25	Total
Approved/Pre-Approved	10	6	6	5	3	30
Declined	0	2	6	11	6	25
Cancelled	1	1	4	36	11	53
Total	11	9	16	52	20	108

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Wildfire Grants stream:

Applications	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-Jan 25	Total
Approved/Pre-Approved	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	10	21
Declined	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	1
Cancelled	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	4	20
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	27	15	42

6. **Housing Initiatives Fund (HIF)** – Provides capital construction grants for planning and development of new affordable home ownership or rental housing. Affordable is defined as at or below the median market rent or house price. All projects funded under HIF must remain affordable for 20 years. (TAB #26)

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

April 25, 2025
Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Yukoners recognize that our territory, alongside jurisdictions around the world, is facing a climate emergency that is increasingly impacting our communities and way of life.
- In 2020, the Government of Yukon released Our Clean Future, the territory's first climate strategy that is guiding our response to climate change and climate adaptation.
- We continue to make significant progress on implementing Our Clean Future. In November 2024, we shared the 2023 Our Clean Future progress report that highlights our progress in adapting to climate change impacts and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- As of the end of 2024 we:
 - Registered 597 zero emission vehicles in the territory and all road-connected communities are equipped with fast chargers;
 - Provided over 1500 rebates for electric bikes;
 - Completed over 300 high performance residential retrofits including over 50 high performance commercial and industrial building energy retrofits;
 - Installed 219 smart heating devices in homes and buildings;
 - Installed 10 megawatts of renewable electricity through the Micro-Generation Program.
- In addition, we recently launched a new income tested heat pump rebate, which was fully subscribed within a month, providing 84 households with funding for heat pumps this year and next.

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- By the end of 2023, the Government of Yukon has completed 68 Our Clean Future actions, 105 are in progress or ongoing and 5 have not yet been started.

Additional response:

- As we continue to address climate change, it is important for us to look back on our progress and continue to assess how we can better respond to climate change and reduce our emissions.
- In 2023, we announced the addition of 42 new actions to help us reach our climate goals, which brings the total number of climate actions to 178.
- These new actions are a product of the important work of the Yukon Climate Leadership Council, the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change, Navius Research and the findings in the Climate Risk Assessment report.
- The new actions focus on reducing the Yukon's emissions, supporting accessible, reliable and affordable renewable energy, climate adaptation and transitioning to a green economy.
- By the end of 2024, we have made significant progress, including:
 - Completed flood maps for the Southern Lakes region, Teslin and Carmacks. Flood hazard maps are underway for Old Crow, the City of Dawson and the Klondike Valley, and Mayo.
 - Worked with municipalities and First Nations governments to finalize the Community Wildfire Protection Plans in Faro, Haines Junction, Teslin, the City of Dawson and Whitehorse. Plans for Beaver Creek, Mayo, Old Crow, Watson Lake, Destruction Bay and Burwash Landing are underway.

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- Advanced climate change preparedness by initiating development of a permafrost monitoring system for key public buildings, and guidelines to address climate hazards in major infrastructure projects.
 - Established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors.
 - Completed flood risk mapping for all transportation corridors in the Yukon.
- We are committed to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and we support Yukoners in the transition to cleaner transportation options and energy efficient homes and buildings.
- In 2024, we:
 - We passed legislation to set a target of a 45 per cent reduction in mining sector emissions per unit of production by 2035.
 - Began providing rebates for medium-duty electric vehicles.
 - Installed electric vehicle chargers in every road-accessible community in the Yukon, enabling zero-emissions travel throughout the territory. 20 fast charging stations are now operational throughout the territory, and one new Level 2 charger in Swift River. (See EMR BN #30)
- Since 2020, we have provided rebates for 543 energy efficient new homes, exceeding our 2030 target of 500.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Spring 2025
Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Third response:

- Existing actions put us on track to reduce the Yukon's emissions by 30 per cent by 2030. However, there is still significant work required to meet our target reduction of 45 per cent by 2030.
- One of the major drivers of emissions is population – more people means more cars on the road and more homes to heat.
- However, as the population of the Yukon continues to grow, we aren't seeing the rate of emissions increase that we would expect.
- We are seeing lower emissions per Yukoner than we saw in 2010; this is a promising sign that the emissions intensity of everyday life for Yukoners may be starting to decrease.
- We will continue to build on Our Clean Future as we learn more and implement new actions. This will be reflected in the annual reports.
- We will continue to find opportunities to reach our targets as we work with experts, stakeholders and partner governments across the territory and beyond.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Climate change and the government's progress in delivering on Our Clean Future commitments is of interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- Our Clean Future was released on September 14, 2020, and now has 178 actions, of which 136 are original actions and 42 are new actions. These actions seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030.

ENV #20 / EMR #54

Spring 2025

Session Briefing Note **Our Clean Future** **Implementation**

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- The Government of Yukon reports annually on progress for the implementation of Our Clean Future. Four Annual Reports have been published to date, with the latest report released on November 12, 2024 (capturing 2023 data).
- The Our Clean Future website was launched in December 2023, which shows the government's commitments and successes towards fighting climate change.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Paul Moore

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**2024-25 Supplementary Overview
(Corporate Note)****Embargoed until tabled**

Recommended response:

- The changes outlined in the Supplementary Estimates No. 2 highlight the government's commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of Yukoners and communities. The government is making important investments in health and social services, education, environmental protection, and in needed infrastructure across the territory.
- The Government of Yukon continues to maintain a budgetary surplus of \$57.6 million. Increased spending of \$130.1 million is partially offset by additional revenue and recoveries of \$19.5 million.
- Despite increases in O&M and capital expenditure, we continue to work to ensure that government spending is allocated in a way that meets key priorities and long-term goals.
- Many of the O&M pressures in Supplementary Estimates No. 2 related to health and education are ongoing pressures for services and will continue to be reflected in the Main Estimates.
- The ability to remain in a surplus position despite an increase in spending is largely owed to:
 - Infrastructure investments, which are mostly tangible capital assets. As they are anticipated to provide benefits over many years, their impact on the surplus/deficit position is recognized over their expected life.
 - Also, the additional \$55 million funding to the Receiver for the Victoria Gold Corp. is provided as a loan, which offsets the impact of these expenditures on the budgetary surplus.

Session Briefing Note**2024-25 Supplementary Overview
(Corporate Note)****Embargoed until tabled**

- Even with significant financial pressures in recent years, and in particular the response to the heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold mine, the Yukon remains on a strong financial footing. The government continues to make strategic investments that support economic growth, protect the environment, and enhance the quality of life for all Yukoners.

Additional response:

- The 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 forecasts an overall gross increase of \$114.3 million in O&M spending, with an offsetting increase of \$7.9 million in recoveries-mainly for the following pressures:
 - \$55 million in advances to the Receiver for environmental protection work at the Eagle Gold Mine.
 - \$20.7 million in additional health-related funding to support Insured Health pressures, Yukon Hospital Corporation operations, emergency medical services, and legislated grant programs.
 - \$13.8 million for education related pressures, including Collective Agreement increase for the Yukon Association of Education Professionals and funding the First Nation School Board.

Session Briefing Note

2024-25 Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

Embargoed until tabled

- Capital adjustments in the Supplementary Estimates No. 2 reflect an overall gross increase of \$15.8 million in spending and a \$3.8 million increase in capital recoveries. These adjustments are primarily driven by:
 - Increases of \$21.7 million for accelerated work on the Nisutlin Bay bridge replacement and to address capital pressures related to ongoing land development projects;
 - \$7.8 million in decreases due to updated cash flow forecasts and revised timelines for major school replacement projects and the Watson Lake solar project.
- Revenues are projected to increase by \$7.8 million, driven by higher personal income tax and fuel tax revenue forecasts, as well as accrued loan interest from the Victoria Gold Corp. receivership

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 is tabled in the spring session and will be the subject of debate.

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 24, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in the Yukon.
- Our government is deeply committed to advancing reconciliation through collaboration and partnership with Indigenous governments and groups.
- We continue to share our progress toward addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, most recently through a progress report and Pathways magazine both released in fall 2023.
- The magazine and report provided an update on the actions being taken across the Yukon government and in collaboration with Yukon First Nations governments in areas including child welfare, health, education and justice.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations governments are leaders in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- While there is still work to do, targeted investments are resulting in meaningful change and creating better programs and services for all Yukoners.
- We will continue our collaborative work to implement and report on the Calls to Action, including through work on the Yukon Forum joint priorities and by implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023 mandate letters include a commitment to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC's) Calls to Action. The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement includes a commitment to working with Yukon First Nations to continue to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through targeted investments.
-

Background:

Spring 2025**Truth and Reconciliation Commission
– Update on Calls to Action****Executive Council
Office**

- The TRC report *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future* was released in 2015 and contains 94 Calls to Action on redressing the harms resulting from residential schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. There are 32 Calls to Action that relate directly to YG.
- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations (YFNs) collaborated on addressing the Calls to Action under the 2017 Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan and through other reconciliation initiatives, such as supporting the important work of the YFN-led Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project.
- The Government of Yukon has taken additional steps to address the Calls to Action, including:
 - establishing the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations Initiatives at the Department of Education, signing an agreement to establish a YFN School Board and entering into education agreements with all YFNs (speaks to Calls 7 and 10 directed to the federal government);
 - supporting Indigenous athletes and the North American Indigenous Games (Call 88);
 - implementing the YFN Procurement Policy (relates to Call 92) and the Representative Public Service Plan: *Breaking Trail Together* (relates to Call 7);
 - working with YFNs and Yukon Indigenous women's groups to implement the Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy* (MMIWG2S+ Strategy) (relates to Call 41);
 - participating at the Trilateral Table on the Wellbeing of YFN Children and Families to address gaps for culturally appropriate parenting programs (Call 5); and
 - receiving input from YFNs on Health and Social Services programming through the Mental Health Advisory Committee (relates to Call 19).

Approved by:Justin Ferbey**Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office**2025 01 30**Date**

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon remains committed to supporting Yukoners with day-to-day affordability.
- While inflation has improved, high shelter and food costs remain the largest drivers of overall inflation. These elevated prices continue to stretch the budgets of Yukon households, with lower-income households often feeling the greatest impact.
- We are pleased to report that price pressures eased throughout 2024, with local inflation averaging 2 per cent for the year – well below 2023’s rate of 4.9 per cent.
- [Inflation stabilized in March after rising to 3.5 per cent in February. Further moderation is expected for April following the elimination of the consumer carbon price.](#)
- The Government of Yukon continues to monitor inflation and its impact on Yukoners to ensure we can take effective steps to ease financial burdens.

Additional response:

- Budget 2025-26 builds on existing supports for Yukoners by ensuring access to essential services at affordable prices.
- This year’s budget includes investments to advance housing projects across the territory. This includes affordable housing initiatives such as the replacement of the Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse and the recently completed supportive housing project in Watson Lake. It also supports ongoing residential land development projects, including Whistle Bend Phases 12 and 13 in Whitehorse, the Mountain Ridge

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Development in Haines Junction, and the Frances Avenue
Development in Watson Lake.

- The budget provides more than \$47.3 million for early learning and child care programs, including the Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund to expand and improve child care spaces. The universal child care program continues to lower costs, reducing fees to an average of less than \$10 per day.
- Budget 2025-26 allocates \$4.8 million to the National School Food Program, helping support families and ensuring every child has access to nutritious meals at school.
- We are also making life more affordable through the Yukon-wide dental program, which remains a national leader with \$5.4 million in continued funding for 2025-26.
- To support workers, the Temporary Paid Sick Leave Rebate has been extended again, ensuring more Yukoners can stay home when they are ill.
- The Interim Electrical Rebate is being replaced by the new Winter Electrical Affordability Program to help Yukoners manage higher electricity costs during peak winter months.
- The government continues to support the free transit program, launched last year by the Department of Community Services, which provides free bus passes to Yukoners.
- Also, the Government of Yukon is working with partners such as Connective and the Safe at Home Society to expand supportive housing options in Whitehorse.

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Third response

- The Government of Yukon has also remained responsive to higher inflation in recent years through its various grants and subsidies, which are indexed to inflation. These include:
 - o Subsidies for medical travel
 - o The Yukon Child Benefit
 - o Social Assistance Payments
 - o Student Financial Assistance
 - o Seniors' benefits
 - o The Pioneer Utility grant
 - o The Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation
 - o Residential rent caps
- The Yukon's minimum wage is also responsive to price changes, as its annual change is tied to inflation in the previous year.
- After growing 6.8 per cent in 2023, the minimum wage increased a further 4.9 per cent in 2024 and will again increase on April 1, 2025, to \$17.94 per hour.
- The Yukon's minimum wage is the second highest in Canada, behind only Nunavut's minimum wage of \$19.00 per hour.
- These increases also contribute towards the strong earnings growth we continue to see in the territory. Average weekly earnings grew 5.3 per cent over the first eleven months of 2024, the third strongest growth in the country.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Inflation has fallen from historic highs, but Yukoners are still dealing with higher prices for goods and services following a lengthy period of elevated inflation.
- The moderation of inflationary pressures that began to take hold late in 2023 continued throughout 2024. Growth in the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index (CPI) was much lower in every month in 2024, and annual inflation of 2 per cent was much improved from 2023.
- Both nationally and in Whitehorse, Inflation has picked up in the first three months of 2025. While inflation declined nationally in March compared to February, Inflation of 3.5 per cent for Whitehorse was unchanged from February, and remains the highest in the country for a second-straight month.

Background:

Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

- Following ten increases in the overnight rate since March 2022, the Bank of Canada made five rate cuts in 2024, with the overnight rate dropping from 5.0 per cent to 3.25 per cent. As of March 12, 2025, there have been two additional cuts of 0.25 percentage points and further rate cuts are expected this year, given economic uncertainty around tariffs. These cuts will further reduce pressure on shelter prices as mortgage rates decline.
- Both locally and nationally, price pressures lessened in 2024, with inflation near historic norms.
- After much improved inflation figures throughout 2024, inflation has moved higher over the first three months of 2025. March's inflation of 3.5 per cent for Whitehorse was unchanged from February and remains the highest in the country for a second-straight month.

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

- Nationally, inflation fell from 2.6 per cent in February to 2.3 per cent in March, with inflation down in most jurisdictions.
- Shelter costs continue to be a major driver along with restaurant prices and traveller accommodation.
- With the consumer carbon price ending at the end of March, lower gasoline and fuel oil prices in April should weigh on overall Whitehorse inflation. April data will be released on May 20, 2025.
- The current outlook for the Whitehorse CPI reflects expectations of a return to 'normal' levels of inflation, with the inflation forecast of 2 per cent in 2024, much improved from 4.9 per cent in 2023 and 6.8 per cent in 2022. Annual inflation is expected to average 2 per cent over the period 2025 to 2029.

*** Programs that support affordability listed below ***

HOUSING

Capital projects supporting housing affordability

- Programs such as the Housing Initiatives Fund and investments through the Permanent Affordable Housing program support Yukon Housing Corporation's five-year strategic plan, *Creating Home*, which prioritizes innovative projects and partnerships to expand affordable housing, close gaps in the housing continuum, and increase homeownership opportunities for Yukoners. These partnerships address housing needs and support economic development.
- Eighteen new units in Whistle Bend have been purchased to support a range of housing needs along the continuum.
- Work has begun on the old Korbo lot in Dawson City, which will provide an additional 34 Rent Geared to Income units, scheduled for completion in 2026.
- Groundwork began at the old Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse in September 2024 and we are aiming for completion in spring 2026. When completed, the new complex will deliver 45 new affordable housing units.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Supportive Housing (Health and Social Services & Yukon Housing Corporation)

- \$1.5 million for Safe at Home will go towards establishing temporary supportive housing at 408 Alexander Street.
- As well, we are contributing \$900,000 in 2025-26 of a total \$12.9 million dollar commitment towards Safe at Home Society's 67-unit project (*The Hearth*), which will provide safe, supportive and permanent housing in Whitehorse.
- Construction of a 10-unit housing complex in Watson Lake was completed in January 2025 which will open its doors in spring 2025.

Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit Rental Subsidy (Yukon Housing Corporation)

- The Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit offers a rental subsidy for low-to-moderate income renters.
- Funded through the National Housing Strategy, the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit rent subsidy has helped over 300 low- to moderate-income Yukoners with affordability challenges since 2020.
- In addition, the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit gender-based violence rent subsidy helps survivors access safe housing, so they are not forced to return to unsafe situations due to housing costs.

Winter Electrical Affordability Rebate (Yukon Development Corporation)

- As a replacement for the Interim Electrical Rebate, Yukon Development Corporation will launch the Winter Electrical Affordability Rebate to assist Yukoners with electricity costs in the winter months.

Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency (Energy, Mines and Resources)

- Funding that supports reducing energy costs is available for the transportation sector, renewable heating sector, home and building owners, and the construction industry.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program that offer up-front funding, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits more accessible and affordable for Yukoners.
- For existing homes, the Energy Branch offers the Good Energy Rebate Program for high performance heating systems and upgrades to thermal enclosures including insulation and windows, and high-performance new homes. Taking these measures will save homeowners money by reducing their energy costs.

Affordable Heat Pump Program (Energy, Mines and Resources)

- The Affordable Heat Pump Program aims to help low-to-middle-income households cover the cost of purchasing and installing a heat pump, a device that has the potential to significantly reduce a homeowner's energy costs.
- Since the launch of the Affordable Heat Pump Program late last year, the response has been overwhelming, with over 90 applications.
- The program quickly reached its funding capacity and we are working with our federal partners to seek consideration for additional funds.
- People can still apply to a waitlist and applications will be approved in the order they are received. The program website remains the best way to stay informed about the program.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Dental Care program (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon's Dental Program was launched in 2023 and provides \$1,300, per year, in dental benefits to Yukoners without dental coverage. The program will cover dental treatments necessary to relieve pain and infection, prevent disease, treat cavities, and restore chewing and social function. It will also offer full coverage for preventive care, such as routine dental cleaning.

Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement provides a monthly income supplement for eligible Yukoner senior's receiving Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Income Supplement (GIS) from the federal government. This amount is adjusted for inflation in October, each year.

Social Assistance Review (Health and Social Services)

- Health and Social Services is undertaking a review of the Yukon's Social Assistance rates to inform options to improve the delivery of the program and ensure it is meeting the needs of program clients.
- While the review is underway, the department is providing a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.

FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Universal Child Care Program (Education)

- Universal child care is available to all Yukon families using licensed child care spaces. The universal child care program has reduced fees to less than \$10 per day, on average, for families across the Yukon.

Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund (Education)

- The Department of Education has a three-year agreement covering the years 2023-24 to 2025-26 with the Government of Canada that will see \$7.7 million in new funding flowing to the Yukon that can be used to create spaces and increase accessibility for not-for-profits and First Nations governments.
- This partnership with the Government of Canada will support a mutual vision of high-quality early learning and child care that is affordable, accessible, and inclusive.

Food in Schools program (Education)

- Good nutrition is vital for students' mental and physical health and increases all students' learning potential.
- On April 1, 2024, Canada announced a \$1 billion investment over five years to create a National School Food Program.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

- The new National School Food Policy outlines principles and objectives to support the vision of every child having access to nutritious food in school
- Budget 2025-26 includes \$4.8 million for the National School Food Program.

Fertility Tax Credit (Finance)

- We are committed to improving access to fertility and surrogacy treatments for Yukoners.
- The value of the refundable credit will be 40% of eligible expenses to a maximum of \$10,000 per year per taxpayer with unlimited lifetime availability.
- This generous support is in addition to the new medical travel coverage for fertility treatment and enhances existing support in the tax system, such as the Medical Expense Tax Credit and Northern Residents Deduction.
- Alongside the recently announced medical travel coverage for fertility treatments, the tax credit in this bill will help relieve financial pressures for Yukon families who are accessing these treatments.

Yukon Child Benefit (Health and Social Services and Finance)

- The Yukon Child Benefit provides monthly payments to modest and low-income households who have children under 18. The maximum benefit, per child, is now tied to inflation, effective for the 2023–24 benefit year.

Out of Home Childcare Increases (Health and Social Services)

- To offset inflationary cost of living increases and provide sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of children placed in their care, Health and Social Services provided an ongoing 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers of children in out of home care in 2023-24, on top of the annual indexed increase. Combined, this amounted to a 16.46 per cent rate increase for community and extended family caregivers.
- Rates are indexed annually to the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index, most recently increased by 2.4 % in October 2024.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

BUSINESSES and COMMUNITIES

Paid sick leave program (Economic Development)

- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate program is now extended until March 31, 2026.
- On April 1, 2023, the Department of Economic Development launched the Paid Sick Leave Rebate as a temporary program offering up to 40 hours of paid sick leave to employees and self-employed Yukoners that earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94/hour.
- The program includes all illnesses (and injuries not covered by any other Act, benefit, or program). The program is available to employees regardless of whether their employer offers paid sick leave, though employees must use all paid sick leave available to them through their employer before they are eligible for the Paid Sick Leave Rebate.

Yukon Trade Resilience Program (Economic Development)

- In preparation for the potential of tariffs on Canadian goods being considered by the United States or other negative impacts on trade, the Department of Economic Development is creating a program to support Yukon businesses.
- The US remains the territory's most important international partner. We are working closely with our federal, provincial, and territorial partners to ensure that we have programming available to mitigate the impact on the Yukon by ensuring support is available if needed.
- The program is still in early stages and will evolve in response to outside factors.

Curbside Recycling (Community Services)

- The Yukon government is supporting the City of Whitehorse with up to \$2.4 million over two years, through 2024 and 2025, for a curbside collection program. The City's program is now in place and the Yukon government's support reduces the cost for Whitehorse households by roughly 50 per cent.

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

April 15, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Carbon Pricing
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports carbon pricing to help reduce emissions and reach our climate targets. We know that carbon pricing in the territory needs to be balanced. It must consider the need to reduce emissions while also ensuring that Yukoners are getting a fair return of carbon pricing revenues.
- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral, and on average, Yukoners receive more than they pay in carbon pricing levies.
- Returning proceeds to individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations, businesses, and mining operations is a critical part of our approach to carbon pricing in the Yukon.

Additional response (Federal Government Changes in Policy):

- The Government of Yukon will continue to work with our federal counterparts to ensure we remain compliant to any evolving regulations or changes to carbon pricing programs at the federal level.
- Carbon pricing is just one tool to address climate change. Our plans outlined in Our Clean Future extend beyond any federal programming. Our government will continue to aspire to meet our greenhouse gas emissions target by 2030.

Third response:

- The departments of Environment and Finance work with federal counterparts to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory and ensure the needs of the Yukon are recognized in national policy.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Carbon Pricing
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

- This includes retaining control over how revenues are distributed back to Yukon individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations, and businesses.
 - It also means excluding the carbon price from electricity generation and aviation, in recognition of the unique constraints of our northern jurisdiction.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Carbon pricing remains a sensitive topic across the country with many provinces and territories voicing their own perspective on how they would like to see this pricing mechanism handled moving forward.
- The federal carbon pricing system is expected to be a central talking point as part of any forthcoming federal election.

Background:

- Most provinces and territories, including British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, have publicly opposed the federal carbon pricing system.
- Recently, federal liberal leaders have committed to rolling back the federal carbon tax in Canada.
- On April 1, 2025, the carbon levy will increase from \$80 to \$95 per tonne.

Approved by:**Dennis Berry**

Deputy Minister of Environment

February 6, 2025

Date approved

Jessica Schultz

Deputy Minister of Finance

February 7, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

Recommended response:

- We recognize the seriousness of the heap leach failure and continue to treat our response to the situation with the appropriate urgency.
- Our priorities are to ensure the health and wellbeing of Yukoners and to protect the environment.
- We are committed to working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to develop remediation strategies for the failure. A joint team of technical experts hired by the Government of Yukon and the First Nation meet on a regular basis to inform our actions.
- We have full confidence in the court process governing all aspects of the Receivership proceedings, including the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as the Receiver.
- As the Eagle Gold situation continues to unfold, we will continue to assess and improve our understanding of the impacts on Yukoners and the local economy.
- For the most up-to-date information on the situation at Eagle Gold Mine and actions that we are taking, you can visit Yukon.ca.

Additional responses:

- An Independent Review Board has been established to investigate the heap leach failure that occurred at the Eagle Gold mine.
- The Board has developed its own work plan and timeline to

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

conduct its review, and we respect the Board's autonomy in this regard. (See EMR BN #1)

- Impacts on human health and on the environment are being monitored by technical experts from the Government of Yukon, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Government of Canada.
- Our government continues to monitor labour market data, such as the number of unemployed and the number of Employment Insurance claimants, for potential impacts of the mine closure.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The June 24, 2024, heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold Mine affects the environmental and socio-economic wellbeing of Yukoners – from an environmental and business perspective.

Background:

- The Yukon.ca website is updated with information bulletins to inform the public on the Victoria Gold heap leach failures current situation.
- See 'historic overview' section for an overview of key dates.

Economic and labour market

- The Eagle Gold Mine heap leach failure has changed the outlook for mineral production in the Yukon and resulted in a notable downward revision in the medium-term outlook for the Yukon's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- The effect of closure on the labour market has been minimal, as displaced workers were reabsorbed into the Yukon's tight labour market. At 4.3 per cent in 2024, Yukon's unemployment rate was the lowest in the country. The economy continued to add jobs with employment up by 5 per cent annually.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

- At the close of 2023, Victoria Gold had 471 direct hires and another 134 on contract.
- Of the more than 600 employed, the company reported that about 34 per cent were local, amounting to approximately 200 local workers. This represents about 0.8 per cent of territorial employment in 2024.
- As of January 16, 2025, there are 30 liens against Victoria Gold worth over \$60.2 million.

Finances

- PwC manages project finances and procurement for the site in its capacity as the court-appointed Receiver and as an officer of the court must ensure funds are being spent responsibly.
- As approved by the Court, the Government of Yukon has advanced \$105 million to the Receiver for urgent works on site in 2024-25.
- Financial security for the Eagle Gold Mine totaled \$104 million. In 2024–25 the Government of Yukon accessed \$55 million of these bonds. The remaining \$48.7 million balance of the Surety Bonds has been accessed and will offset the costs for the loans to the Receiver in 2025–26.
- Additionally, the Receiver had access to \$29.2 million in cash assets of Victoria Gold Corporation to fund receivership activities in 2024-25. The Receiver utilized all of these assets in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- \$118 million is included, as part of Energy, Mines and Resources' budget 2025-26, to continue to respond to the heap leach failure.
- Funding advanced to the receiver has a net zero impact on the government's surplus and net financial debt, as the Government of Yukon has priority to recover these advances from the assets of the company.
- Interest applies to all loans advanced to the Receiver at a rate of nine per cent. An estimated \$3 million of interest will be accrued in 2024-25 and \$9.5 million is forecast to be accrued in 2025-26.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

Local procurement

- As part of the agreements established under the receivership order, the Government of Yukon requires that the receiver take steps to maximize local benefits and report to the Government of Yukon on those metrics.
- To date, \$20.8 million has been provided to local contractors under the receivership.
- The Receiver has contracted nine local contractors and in the past month, 72 per cent of the contracted work force were local Yukon contractors.

Independent Review Board

- An Independent Review Board was launched under the Government of Yukon's Guidelines for Mine Waste Management Facilities.
- The Independent Review Board will provide a thorough and expert review of the heap leach failure. It will operate with full autonomy, with contracts managed by the court-appointed receiver, ensuring impartiality in the process.
- The Terms of Reference can be found in the Second Report of the Receiver on the Receiver's website at pwc.com.
- In accordance with the terms of reference, the IRB will provide its report to the Receiver, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources by June 15, 2025. The Receiver will make public the report on its website by July 15, 2025.
- Highly qualified experts are on the Independent Review Board. The Independent Review Board Members are:
 - Dr. Jean-Marie Konrad, M.Sc., Ph.D., FCAE, FEIC
 - Mark E. Smith, P.E., P.Eng.
- More information about the Board Members can be found on Yukon.ca.
- There has been no decision as to whether an inquiry will also be established under the *Public Inquiries Act*.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

- If the Office of the Auditor General decides to conduct an audit, we will support its requests for participation and information.

Historic overview

- On June 24, 2024, a failure occurred at the heap leach facility of the Eagle Gold Mine operated by Victoria Gold Corporation.
- On July 30, 2024, the Premier provided remarks to the Council of Yukon First Nations' General Assembly on a variety of topics including mining and the incident at Eagle Gold Mine
- On August 5, 2024, the Premier provided a statement on mining activity in the Traditional Territory of First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- On August 12, 2024, the Government of Yukon submitted an application for receivership of Eagle Gold Mine, which was supported by the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- On August 14, 2024, PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. was appointed by the court as Receiver of the assets and property of Victoria Gold Corp. The Receiver is responsible for overseeing remediation of the heap leach failure and its environmental impacts, including compliance with territorial and federal orders.
- On October 1, 2024, PricewaterhouseCoopers released a report that shared receiver's communications with former Victoria Gold Corp's employees, advising they may be eligible to make a claim for outstanding wages up to \$8,500.00, vacation and/or severance pay under the *Wage Earner Protection Program Act*.
- On December 20, 2024, the Yukon Water Board approved the Receiver's application for an emergency amendment to the site's water licence to allow for the discharge of partially treated water. The amended discharge criteria expired on March 31, 2025 and is no longer in effect.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Eagle Gold Mine –
Impacts**

EMR-ECO-FIN

- On December 28, 2024, PricewaterhouseCoopers issued a notification to the Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun regarding a potential leak in a newly constructed containment pond.
- As of February 18, 2025, the Government of Yukon has done 11 technical briefings to continue to keep Yukoners informed with up-to-date information.

Approved By:

Sierra van der Meer

April 29, 2025

 Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

 Date Approved

Justin Ferbey

2025 04 22

 Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office

 Date Approved

Jessica Schultz

April 25, 2025

 Deputy Minister
Department of Finance

 Date Approved

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

- Canada and the United States (U.S.) have one of the strongest and mutually beneficial relationships of any two countries in the world.
- The U.S. is Canada's largest trading partner, and I hope to see more Yukon companies benefiting from that relationship.
- I have been meeting regularly with Premiers and the Prime Minister to inform a united Team Canada approach to U.S. relations.
- Our government is doing its part to ensure the relationship between our countries remains secure and prosperous.
- The Yukon has had a lot of success over the last four years with the U.S. government, including a trade mission, solving border issues, and funding the Alaska Highway.
- Our interests in Arctic security, a healthy environment, critical minerals, robust transportation infrastructure and access to tidewater serve both our jurisdictions as investment and geopolitical focus remain on the North.
- We are working together to advance shared priorities that will improve the prosperity, stability and wellbeing of both jurisdictions.
- We continue to engage regularly with Governor Dunleavy, Alaskan congressional officials, and the U.S. Consul General in Vancouver.

Response to Tariffs

- On March 4, 2025, the Trump Administration decided to push forward with unjustified and short-sighted 25 per cent tariffs on all Canadian goods, and we are responding.

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- As the U.S. Administration continues to be impulsive in their decisions relating to tariffs on Canadian goods, we will hold steady on our response until all threat of tariffs have been removed.
- U.S. tariffs on Canadian imports are deeply concerning and will harm workers and businesses on both sides of the border.
- These tariffs are unjustified, harmful to economic stability, and run counter to the spirit of free and fair trade that has defined our relationship for decades.
- While we value our relationship with the United States, we will not accept unfair trade practices that threaten Canadian jobs and prosperity.
- The Government of Yukon has developed a path forward to support a strong Team Canada response to see these tariffs lifted and to limit the impact on Yukoners.
- As part of our initial response, our government will:
 - Reduce purchasing products of American origin, such as liquor;
 - Limit U.S. business access to government procurement;
 - Mitigate impacts on Yukon businesses through the development of an assistance program;
 - Support the development of buy local campaigns; and
 - Work to break down interprovincial and trade barriers.
- We are also working closely with the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to push back against U.S. tariffs.

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- Our government is preparing a second round of responses so we can act swiftly, decisively, and strategically to protect our economic future.

Economic and Trade Impact of Tariffs

- The imposition of U.S. tariffs on key Canadian exports creates uncertainty for Canadian businesses, discouraging investment, slowing growth, and straining cross-border economic relationships.
- We saw the damaging impact of past tariffs in 2018, and we will not hesitate to take strong action to protect Yukon jobs and industries.
- Retaliatory measures are never our first choice, but we will defend our economic interests, as necessary.
- CUSMA was signed to ensure fair and open trade between our countries. The United States should uphold its commitments under this agreement.

First Ministers' Meetings

- The Premiers, the Prime Minister and key federal ministers have held regular discussions, both virtually and in person, since U.S. tariffs were first threatened in November 2024.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Canada-US relations and threats from the Trump administration have seized all leaders in Canada.
 - First Ministers have met regularly to discuss Canada-U.S. relations, which has been well covered by local and national media.
-

Background:

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

Canada-US relations

- President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on all Canadian imports, excluding energy products subject to a 10% tariff, which came into effect on March 4, 2025.
- On March 5, 2025, President Trump announced a one-month exemption on imports from Mexico and Canada for U.S. automakers, if they comply with the terms of CUSMA.
- On March 6, President Donald Trump has lowered the threatened tariff rate to 10 per cent for Canadian potash – a fertilizer essential to all major American crops.
- On March 6, 2025, President Donald Trump “adjusted” an order imposing tariffs on Canada and Mexico, delaying or reducing levies on many goods until April 2. The full delay will be applied to any good in compliance with the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).
- As a result of the U.S. administration’s adjustment on March 6, Canada will delay its second round of retaliatory tariffs until April 2.
- An executive order effective March 12, 2025, will impose a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum imports into the United States, removing previous exemptions for key trading partners, including Canada.
- President Trump has indicated that, starting April 2, 2025, the U.S. will implement "reciprocal tariffs," imposing a 25% duty on imports from countries that maintain higher tariffs on U.S. goods. This policy aims to address perceived trade imbalances and could significantly impact U.S.-Canada trade relations.
- The evolving tariff situation has prompted diplomatic efforts and political discourse. Canadian officials are engaging in negotiations to seek clarity and potential exemptions, while U.S. policymakers deliberate on the broader implications of the proposed tariffs.
- The Yukon-U.S. two-way merchandise trade in 2023 stood at \$150.1 million, down from \$240.5 million in 2022. Roughly 85 to 95 per cent of this annual trade is with Alaska.

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

Yukon government's March 4, 2025 response

- Reduce purchasing of products of American origin: Direct the Yukon Liquor Corporation to stop placing orders of U.S.-made alcohol and to remove U.S.-made products from all Government of Yukon liquor stores. Because we do not want to hurt local businesses, licensees may continue to sell American-made products they already have in stock, but no new orders for U.S.-made alcohol will be placed.
- Limit U.S. business' access to government procurement: Direct the Department of Highways and Public Works to update territorial government procurement policies to encourage the purchase of more goods and services from local businesses and non-U.S. companies and minimize the purchase of U.S. goods and services.
- Mitigate impacts on Yukon businesses: Our government is allocating \$1 million to develop an assistance program, complementary to federal support programs, to help Yukon businesses adapt to the uncertain economic environment created by these tariffs. The goal of this funding is to keep support as flexible as possible, to be tailored to the specific needs of affected businesses. This program is funded through Budget 2025-26 and subject to legislative approval. Contingency funds in Budget 2025–26, also subject to legislative approval, will also be available to support Yukon businesses.
- Support "Buy Yukon" campaigns: Support the development of buy local campaigns organized by local chambers of commerce.

Session Briefing Note

ECO TAB 3a

Spring 2025

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- Break down interprovincial and international trade barriers: Through the Department of Economic Development, work with Yukon chambers of commerce and provincial and territorial partners to reduce barriers to internal and international trade and promote access to non-U.S. markets.

Approved by:	
Justin Ferbey	2025 03 10
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Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

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Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting Yukoners and communities while considering how to most effectively allocate financial resources.
- Budget 2025–26 plans for gross O&M spending of \$1.88 billion, addressing significant O&M pressures in health and education, as well as the response to the heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold mine.
- Overall, Budget 2025-26 forecasts a surplus of \$82 million, thanks in part to our continued capital investments in strategic infrastructure that will provide lasting benefits for Yukoners.
- Despite increases in expenditure, we continue to work to ensure that government spending is allocated in a way that meets key priorities and long-term goals.
- The Yukon remains on a strong financial footing. Budget 2025-26 prioritizes strategic investments that support economic growth, protect the environment, and enhance the quality of life for all Yukoners. It fulfills our commitment to making life affordable for Yukoners while investing in the programs and infrastructure the territory needs to thrive.

Additional response

- **Affordability for all:** Budget 2025-26 reflects our commitment to keeping life affordable for Yukoners with over \$47.3 million in funding for early learning and child care programs, including the universal child care program; \$3.8 million for the new Winter Electrical Affordability

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Rebate; \$4.8 million for the National School Food Program; and increases in Legislated Grants such as Social Assistance, post-secondary grants and the homeowners grant.

- Budget 2025-26 also includes a record-setting \$57.6 million capital investment in the Yukon Housing Corporation for the construction of new affordable housing units, continued tenancy support and programs responding to the housing needs of Yukoners.
- **Territory-wide growth:** The budget reflects investments in infrastructure across the territory, including major projects such as \$75.5 million for runway and infrastructure upgrades at Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport, over \$50 million for bridge infrastructure, and \$31 million for repairs and upgrades to the North Klondike Highway.
- **Building prosperity through reconciliation:** The Government of Yukon maintains its commitment to reconciliation with First Nations, as demonstrated through a number of partnerships in 2025-26, intended to build economic prosperity. This includes working with Kluane First Nation on the \$15.7 million investment in the Kêts'ádań Kù School construction in Burwash Landing and partnering with Kwanlin Dun First Nation on the Range Point subdivision with an investment of \$5 million.
- **Safe and healthy families and communities:** Health care continues to be a significant source of financial pressure across Canada. Budget 2025-26 provides an additional \$47 million to address ongoing pressures on Insured Health Services and an additional \$24.5 million in Operations and Maintenance and \$4.2 million in capital to support

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

the Yukon Hospital Corporation. These funds will support orthopedic surgeries, new acute care beds, breast cancer screening, medical travel, physician fees, pharmacare, and medical treatments both in and out of the territory.

- **Protecting our environment:** Budget 2025-26 will grow our green economy with \$59 million in investments for *Our Clean Future* initiatives such renewable energy infrastructure and building retrofits. We are making further efforts to protect the environment with an additional \$118 million in additional funding to support environmental protection efforts at the Eagle Gold Mine site, and \$21.5 million for reclamation at the Minto Mine.
- **Supporting Yukon businesses and industry:** The Government of Yukon will continue to provide support for Yukon businesses and industry with over \$11 million for diverse and responsive initiatives that provide sustainable economic benefits to Yukon communities. A few examples include the Innovation Strategy, the Economic Development Fund, the Community Destination Development Fund, the Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy, and the development of a Yukon Trade Resilience Program to support Yukon businesses impacted by possible U.S. tariff decisions.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The 2025-26 Main Estimates will be debated during the March 2025 legislative session.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Background:

- Gross O&M expenditures are forecast to increase by \$282.6 million, or 17.7 per cent, from the 2024-25 Main Estimates.
- The O&M recovery forecast has also significantly increased over the 2024-25 Main Estimates, by about \$10.5 million. Net O&M expenditures are forecast to increase by \$272.1 million, or 19.3 per cent, compared to the 2024-25 Main Estimates.
- Gross capital expenditures are forecast to be about \$477.3 million for 2025-26, which is a \$6.7 million decrease from the 2024-25 Main Estimates. Capital recoveries are forecast to decrease by \$10 million.
- The \$75 million contingency is not included in departmental budgets and would still need to be presented to the legislative assembly for approval, but is included in our fiscal plan so that, if required, it will not affect Yukon's forecast fiscal position.
- On a consolidated basis, when all government reporting agencies, such as Yukon University and public corporations are included, the 2025-26 Main Estimates forecast an annual surplus of \$132.7 million and net debt of \$402.2 million.
- There are 5,561.5 FTEs in the 2025-26 budget, which is an increase of 76.6 FTEs from 2024-25. Growth is primarily for long-term care and home care, Emergency Medical Services, and education personnel, including operational positions for Whistle Bend School and teachers and clerical based on enrollment.

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 25, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved