



Economic Development Briefing Notes

2025 Spring Sitting

Premier and Minister of Economic Development

Honorable Ranj Pillai



The DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2025 Spring Session Briefing Notes

	Branch	Tab #	Related Tabs
Hot Topics			
Port of Skagway	PPC	1	10
Yukon Nominee Program Intake 2025	IMM	2	45
Temporary Measure to Support Prospective Nominees	IMM	3	
Yukon Business Nominee Program	IMM	4	10
RCMP Search Warrants	IMM	5	
Crime Prevention Grant Program	ECD/JUS	6	
Miner Lien Act	PPC	7	
Labour Market Program Funding	LMD	8	
Trade Resilience Program	PPC	9	
General			
Economic Development Accomplishments	PPC	10	1,4,15,16,18,19,20,23,25 30,31,35,37,40,42,45,46, 56
Economic Overview	PPC	11	40,41,42
Mandate Commitments	PPC	12	
Innovation, Industry & Business Support			
Supports for Entrepreneurship & Innovation	IIBD	15	10
Economic Development Fund	RED	16	10,36
Business Incentive Program	IIBD	17	
Paid Sick Leave Rebate	IIBD	18	10
Investment Attraction	IIBD	19	10
Mining Sector Supports	IIBD	20	10
Panache Ventures	PPC	21	
Red Tape Reduction	PPC	22	
Temporary Landlord Assistance Program	RED	23	10
First Nation Collaborations			
First Nations Collaborative Initiatives	RED	25	10
Media and Music Industry Development			
Performing Musicians Fund	YMD	30	10,36
Screen Media Funding Programs	YMD	31	10,36
Community Development			
Community Development Fund	RED	35	10,36
Regional Accomplishments	RED	36	16,30,31,35
Disaster Financial Assistance Program- SME	RED	37	10
Labour Market Development			
Labour Market Overview	LMD	40	10,11
Labour Market Programs	LMD	41	11
Foreign Credential Recognition Project	LMD	42	10,11
Labour Market Strategy- Public Engagement	LMD	43	

The DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2025 Spring Session Briefing Notes

Immigration Programs

Government of Yukon Immigration Programs	IMM	45	2,10
Immigration Branch Operations	IMM	46	10
Settlement Services	IMM	47	
Francophone Immigration	IMM	48	
Immigration Strategy	IMM	49	
Immigration MOUs	IMM	50	
Humanitarian Initiatives	IMM	51	

Trade Files

Canada-United States Trade	PPC	55	
Canadian Free Trade Agreement	PPC	56	10
International Trade and Agreements	PPC	57	
Northern Food Working Group	PPC	58	
Mutual Recognition Pilot in the Trucking Sector	PPC	59	

Corporate Briefing Notes

Housing Landscape	YHC	60	
Our Clean Future Implementation	ENV/EMR	61	
Canada and United States Relations	ECO	62	
TRC- Update on Calls to Action	ECO	63	
Inflation and Affordability	FIN	64	
Carbon Pricing	ENV/FIN	65	
Eagle Gold Mine- Impacts	ECO/FIN/ EMR	66	
2024-25 Supplementary Overview	FIN	67	
Budget Highlights	FIN	68	

Other Departments Briefing Notes of Interest

Canada and United States Relations	ECO	70	
International Relations	ECO	71	
Creative Potential	TC	72	
Critical Minerals	EMR	73	
Dawson Regional Land Use Plan	ENV/EMR	74	
Mineral Sector Status and Supports	EMR	75	
Exploration Spending/Yukon Mineral Exploration Program	EMR	76	
Regional Economic Development Exceptions	HPW	77	
Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy	HPW	78	
Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Project)	HPW	79	
Yukon Nominee Program	PSC	80	
Liquor Price Structure	YLC	81	
Labour Market in the Yukon	FIN	82	
Conference Board of Canada Territorial Outlook for Yukon	FIN	83	

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government remains committed to securing tidewater access to support the territory's mining industry.
- We are working towards finalizing the Export Cooperation Agreement with Skagway, under which Yukon would fund the construction of a marine services platform in exchange for preferential access and fee discounts for Yukon mining companies using a future ore terminal.
- Reliable access to Skagway's port will help attract investment, support mine development and encourage mineral exploration in the Yukon.
- Our objective is to secure waterfront space to ensure that Skagway remains an export option for the Yukon industry in the future.
- Negotiations toward a binding agreement have not yet been concluded.

Additional response:

- We welcome recent engagement by industry representatives with Skagway, including Western Copper and Gold.
- The department is monitoring potential project-related implications of the US/Canada tariff situation.
- \$44.7 million (CAD) is included in the Capital Plan between 2026-27 and 2028-29 for the project.
- On March 26, 2025, I met Skagway Assembly member Orion Hanson. I thanked him for his testimony in the Alaska State Legislature on its joint resolution on Alaska-Canada relations and had a productive conversation on the relationship between our communities.

Session Briefing Note

Port of Skagway

TAB 1

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Skagway's port redevelopment eliminated its ore export capability in fall 2023.
- Skagway was a major issue of discussion during the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Sessions, in part due to the appropriation of \$21.36 million in anticipation of a bundling pathway that did not materialize.

Background:

- The Port of Skagway is the closest ice-free, deep-water port to most of the Yukon. Skagway demolished its existing ore loader as part of a port redevelopment project in fall 2023, eliminating its ore export capability.
- A non-binding terms sheet was signed by Yukon and Skagway on September 7, 2023, but the binding Export Cooperation Agreement has not yet been finalized. Consequently, funding for the project has moved to the capital plan over three years between 2026-27 and 2028-29.
- Government of Yukon officials met with their counterparts in Skagway on November 1, 2024, to share Yukon's draft for the Export Cooperation Agreement and then again at Roundup in January 2025.
- We have regularly engaged industry, including both specific companies and the Joint Transportation and Infrastructure Committee throughout the process. Industry stakeholders view access to the port as critical to the future of the Yukon's mining industry.
- Yukon is proposing that Yukon and Skagway collaborate to build a 227-foot, T-shaped concrete marine services platform able to support multiple methods of ore export.
- Yukon has funded the platform design, totaling \$739,266 (CDN).
- A non-binding terms sheet was signed on September 7, 2023.
- Skagway has expressed that it will need to better understand the project's potential impacts on the community, particularly of loading method and traffic.
 - In October 2023 Skagway passed an ordinance requiring ore travelling through the port to be containerized and is interested in limiting the impact of ore shipment traffic during the summer cruise season;
 - Skagway has been in touch with DP World to learn more about its rotainer system and other shipment methods; and

Session Briefing Note

Port of Skagway

TAB 1

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- Western Copper & Gold has procured a concentrate handling and shipping study for the Casino mine as part of its community engagement with Skagway. It shared initial pre-publication results with Skagway's Ports and Harbors Advisory Board in January 2025.
- Hecla Yukon Exports. Hecla's Keno Hill project exports containerized silver-lead and zinc concentrate through the Port of Skagway, with the former shipped to Washington state for re-export to smelters in Asia, and the latter to Hecla's Greens Creek to be combined with the zinc concentrate produced at that mine.
- According to Hecla Yukon's January 2023 Operations Plan, it ships 690 dry metric tonnes (DMT) of silver-lead concentrate and 220 DMT of zinc concentrate through Skagway each month.
- Yukon's exports of lead concentrate to the US totaled \$39.7 million, and its exports of zinc concentrate totaled \$7.4 million in 2023.
- Hecla's exports through Skagway are containerized and use existing container export infrastructure. To the department's knowledge, Hecla's future operations would be unlikely to require the marine services platform.
- On March 26, 2025, Skagway Assembly member Orion Hanson visited Whitehorse. He met with Premier Pillai and Deputy Minister Justin Ferbey to discuss Yukon-Skogway and Yukon-Alaska relations, the Port of Skagway and the Export Cooperation Agreement, and Canada-U.S. relations.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 31, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Nominee Program

Intake 2025

Tab 2

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Recommended response:

- On January 15, 2025, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) informed us that the Yukon will receive a nominee allocation of 215 for 2025, a 50 per cent reduction from 2024 levels.
- As part of our agreement with Canada to deliver the temporary measure for prospective nominees, IRCC implemented a new requirement that at least 85 per cent of all nominations must be from temporary residents already within Canada.
- On March 27, 2025, we announced the priorities and new intake approach for the YNP for 2025.
- An Expression of Interest intake opened on Monday, March 31, 2025, for employers to indicate their interest in applying to the YNP this year, and how they and their candidate align with the priorities. The intake will be open for 3 weeks, until April 22, 2025.
- The department will then invite employers to submit YNP applications for foreign nationals in locations or positions that align with the 2025 priorities.
- Our priorities focus on retaining foreign nationals that have become a part of our communities, and we want to ensure they can continue to make the Yukon their home. This includes those who have lived and worked in the Yukon for at least a year, and those who are Yukon University graduates.
- As the third-most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, our vibrant Yukon Francophone community is a valued and important part of our thriving and diverse multicultural population. The ongoing attraction of bilingual nominees is important to provide services to support our Francophone community.
- We are committed to a transparent and fair process so that all employers who are interested in applying to the YNP in 2025 have a chance to be selected. Across the country, other provinces and

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Nominee Program

Intake 2025

Tab 2

Spring 2025

Economic Development

territories have made similar changes to address this sudden and significant change.

- Many employers and individuals have waited many months to submit their applications, and the department recognizes the uncertainty and stress caused by this rapidly changing immigration landscape.

Additional response:

- On May 16, 2024, the Government of Yukon temporarily paused application intake for the Yukon Nominee Program from Whitehorse-based employers due to exceeding the federal allocation limit.
- However, we recognized the unique labour market challenges in rural communities and the department continued to accept applications from rural employers throughout 2024.
- The temporary intake pause in 2024 helped mitigate a continuously growing backlog, while ensuring that communities continued to have access to the program to address critical labour shortages.
- As of December 31, 2024, 430 applications were approved. We used our entire allocation for 2024.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) informed the Yukon that the territory will receive a nomination allocation of 215 for 2025, a 50 per cent reduction from 2024 levels.
- Due to unprecedented application volumes, a temporary pause on application intake for the Yukon Nominee Program for Whitehorse-based employers was implemented on May 16, 2024.

Background:

- On December 18, 2024, the Government of Yukon announced a move to an intake-based approach to manage application volumes in 2025.
- The first intake was scheduled for January 29, 2025 and was planned to accept up to 125 new, completed applications.
 - This intake was postponed after learning of the 2025 allocation from IRCC.

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Nominee Program

Intake 2025

Tab 2

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- The department sought industry input to inform the approach for YNP intake in 2025, given the significant reduction in allocation.
- Other jurisdictions, including NWT and Saskatchewan, instituted intake pauses following the federal government's reduction in nominee allocations. Some jurisdictions are changing intake models as a result; for example, Newfoundland and Labrador is moving away from a first-come, first-serve model to an Expression of Interest, priority-based model, as has NWT.
- The 2025 intake approach will process applications carried over from 2024 and community applications received before January 23, 2025, that align with the identified priorities:
 - From the Expression of Interest intake, those that align with the priorities will first be invited to apply to the YNP.
 - If any nominations remain, the remaining slots will be filled randomly with a proportion (15 per cent) being allocated to rural Yukon communities.
 - Ten nominations have been set aside for positions in regulated healthcare professions. If these are not used by fall 2025, they will be reallocated to the general pool.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 2, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Temporary Measure to Support Prospective Nominees

Economic Development

Recommended response:

- On May 16, 2024, the Government of Yukon temporarily paused application intake for the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP) from Whitehorse-based employers due to the number of submitted applications significantly exceeding the 2024 federal allocation limit.
- This left some foreign nationals with **expiring** work permits who were not able to apply to the YNP before their authorization ended.
- Through advocacy and collaboration with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), we launched an interim measure to support these individuals and their employers with longer term solutions on October 1, 2024.
- We are pleased that we have been able to work with IRCC to extend this agreement for 2025.
- Foreign nationals whose work permits have expired since January 1, 2025, or will expire before December 31, 2025, and who are already established in the Yukon, will be eligible for this measure.
- Beginning on March 19, 2025 until April 2, 2025, these eligible workers can request a Temporary Measure Letter of Support.

Additional response:

- Potential YNP candidates **are** able to seek a **Temporary Measure** Letter of Support from the Government of Yukon to facilitate the issuance of a new Yukon-specific work permit which will be valid for up to two years. The foreign national will need to be nominated by their employer **in 2025 or 2026** for permanent residency through the YNP.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Temporary Measure to Support Prospective Nominees

Economic Development

- This initiative **is** available to those foreign nationals who were living and working in the Yukon as of May 16, 2024, the day the application intake pause was implemented.
- Chambers of commerce provided valuable feedback and information to support the development of this initiative. We will continue to work with these organizations to support Yukon's labour market.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Due to unprecedented application volumes, a temporary pause on application intake for the Yukon Nominee Program for Whitehorse-based employers was implemented on May 16, 2024.
- Following the notification of 2025 allocations for the Yukon, this intake pause continued in January 2025.
- Some foreign nationals working in the Yukon were anticipating that their employers would apply to the program in the second half of 2024 to maintain their legal status in Canada.

Background:

- A Letter of Intent between the Yukon and IRCC was signed on September 16, 2024, **with the extension signed on March 13, 2025**, to enable the use of Canada's **temporary public policies**.
- The Department of Economic Development accepted requests for a Letter of Support from foreign nationals between October 1 and October 31, 2024.
- All **2024** Letters of Support were issued no later than December 6, to allow foreign nationals **time** to submit an application for the new work permit to IRCC by December 31, 2024.
- To be eligible, candidates need to have:
 - been residing and working full-time equivalent hours in the Yukon as of May 16, 2024;
 - secured accommodations within 150 km of their work location;

Session Briefing Note

Tab 3 Spring 2025

Temporary Measure to Support Prospective Nominees

Economic Development

- o had a valid work authorization as of May 16, 2024, that has expired since January 1, 2025 or will expire before December 31, 2025; and
 - o a letter of employment from a current Yukon employer.
- This temporary measure was available to potential candidates for all YNP streams, including Skilled Worker, Critical Impact Worker, Express Entry and Yukon Community Program (pilot).
- The Yukon was authorized to issue up to 215 letters of support. The department received 43 requests and issued 29 letters in 2024. 14 requests were not eligible. For 2025, the up to 186 letters of support may be issued.
- Nominations for these individuals must occur from within existing Yukon Nominee Program allocations during 2025 or 2026.
- On December 20, 2024, Canada renewed its Temporary Public Policy to Facilitate Work Permits for Prospective Provincial Nominee Program Candidates to expire at the end of 2025.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 17, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development administers two immigration programs in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC): the Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP) and the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- The YBNP is designed to attract and retain skilled international entrepreneurs, to add diversity and innovation to the Yukon's economy while ensuring that opportunities are safeguarded for Yukoners and other Canadians.
- The YBNP has successfully attracted and retained skilled international entrepreneurs to Dawson City, Mayo, Faro, Haines Junction and Whitehorse, creating jobs and enhancing economic diversification.

Additional response:

- Between January 1 and March 20, 2025, one business concept was assessed but not accepted.
- Between January 1 and December 31, 2024, two business concepts were assessed under the YBNP. In 2023, there were nine.
- The Yukon welcomes foreign nationals who have business ideas that will add diversity, innovation, job creation or economic benefits to our communities.
- Criteria are stringent to ensure that new businesses are sustainable, meaningfully contribute to development of the Yukon's economy, and target specific strategic sectors.
- Applicants must submit a thorough business plan before being recommended to receive a work permit through the program. They must also provide specific documentation over the first two years of business establishment, showing investments that have been made, that the business is operational, and that the applicant and their family have made the Yukon their year-round residence.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Yukon Business Nominee Program

Economic Development

- Once these requirements have been met, the applicant can be nominated for permanent residency in the Yukon.
- An applicant whose application is denied can request an administrative review of the decision and receive a response within 14 business days.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There has been a noted interest in the process for foreign nationals to obtain permanent residency through the YBNP and the responsibility and requirements for participation in this program.

Background:

- Since 2001, 52 candidates have been nominated for permanent residency through the YBNP, investing \$25.3 million in 32 businesses.
- Applicants must make a minimum capital investment of \$300,000 in the business in the first two years and have a personal net worth of at least \$500,000.
- Businesses must belong to one of the identified strategic sectors; exceptions may be considered if the proposed business is deemed to offer diversity, innovation, job creation or economic benefits to the community.
- Applications may be denied if the applicant or proposed business does not meet the stated criteria, or if the applicant has misrepresented themselves during the application process.
- Support may be withdrawn if the candidate no longer meets program requirements or has misrepresented themselves during the application process.
- Of the 13 business concepts assessed under the YBNP since 2023, none were approved.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 28, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

RCMP Search Warrants

Tab 5
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Recommended response:

- The RCMP executed search warrants on June 3, 2024, and December 20, 2024, for information held at the Department of Economic Development.
- The RCMP has requested that all inquiries be directed to them.
- As we understand their investigation is ongoing, no further details will be provided at this time.

Additional response:

- All applicable records were turned over as required by the search warrant. The department was fully compliant with the search warrants and provided everything requested during both police visits.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Search warrants have received public attention, and an update may be requested. The RCMP have not disclosed any information related to their ongoing investigation.

Background:

- RCMP members attended the Department of Economic Development on June 3, 2024, and December 20, 2024, and staff assisted by providing all information requested in the search warrants.
- RCMP confirmed an ongoing investigation, but did not provide any further details.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note
Crime Prevention Grant
Program

Tab 6 (EcDev)
Tab 47 (JUS)
Spring 2025

Economic Development
and Justice

Recommended response:

- The Crime Prevention Grant program, as committed to in the Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan, is now underway.
- In partnership with Economic Development, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce is delivering programming focused on:
 - subsidies to businesses and organizations in Whitehorse for security assessments of locations, including assessment of layout and design to aid in crime prevention;
 - training for businesses and organizations, including but not limited to de-escalation and conflict resolution training; and
 - an updated *Who's Minding Your Business* security checklist to support businesses as they work to address security elements.
- Businesses and organizations can find out how to access this funding and training by going to whitehorsechamber.ca.
- This new pilot program is being offered as year one of the three-year Crime Prevention Grant program.

Additional response:

- Security assessments conducted this year are expected to inform program design and guidelines for the next two years to better address the specific needs of participants.

**Session Briefing Note
Crime Prevention Grant
Program**Economic Development
and Justice**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Businesses, and especially downtown businesses, have been struggling with operating safely.
- There are frequent media reports of break-ins, vandalism, and shoplifting incidents.

Background:

- The Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan was created in December 2023 as a roadmap aimed at enhancing the safety, health and overall wellbeing of downtown Whitehorse.
- The launching of a Crime Prevention Grant program was identified as a medium-term (1-12 months) action in the September 2024 update of the plan.
- Funding for the program has been identified for three years, through to FY 2026-27.
- Information collected from the pilot project administered by the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce will be used to inform the subsequent two program years.

Approved by:Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

February 10, 2025

Date approved

Samantha Paterson

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 7, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The *Miners Lien Act* protects contractors and subcontractors by enabling them to claim liens against mines for up to 60 days' worth of unpaid goods and services provided for mineral recovery.
- Valid lienholders are secured creditors, and are prioritized for repayment over other debts, including mortgages or other encumbrances, for a 60-day period.
- The priority order of all creditors, including lien claimants, is ultimately determined by the federal *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (BIA) and the federal *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (CCAA).
- It is not possible to alter the priority of lien claims to give preference to Yukon-based creditors as this would be contrary to the principles established in federal legislation.

Additional Response:

- The *Miners Lien Act* is subject to federal insolvency laws, meaning if any amendments were to be contemplated, they must align with federal legislation.
- Any potential changes to the legislation would have to be forward-looking and could not apply to existing insolvency proceedings.
- We must also be mindful of unintended consequences when considering changes to the Act.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- On November 19, 2024, in the Fall sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, the Third Party called for the Government of Yukon to rewrite the *Miners Lien Act* to prioritize local creditors in Yukon mine closures.
- This followed a call by the Third Party during the Spring Session, for process changes to reduce "hardship" for local businesses and to "make the *Miners Lien*

Session Briefing Note

Miners Lien Act

Tab 7

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Act work for Yukoners and not global corporations”, citing the closures of Wolverine Mine (2015) and Minto Mine (2023).

Background:

- The *Miners Lien Act*, which came into force in 2002, underwent the first substantive changes in 2008, including:
 - Introduction of a new provision giving lien claimants priority over mortgages or encumbrances for work, services, or materials provided to the mine for a period of up to a 60-day period (section 3);
 - Extension of the right to lien to subcontractors; and
 - Removal of miners, labourers or other persons from those entitled to a lien.
- In 2016, the *Miners Liens Form Regulation* made procedural changes to prescribed forms to be used for submitting a lien, release and affidavit. No changes were made to the *Miners Lien Act* itself.
- Since the June 2024 failure event at the Eagle Gold Mine (Victoria Gold Corp), 30 claims of lien against Victoria Gold have been registered, totaling \$60,237,639.
- As of January 16, 2025, the Victoria Gold liens registry indicates that 14 contractors or subcontractors have filed their Supreme Court (Court)-issued certificate of pending litigation (CPL) with the Mining Recorder’s Office.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- Labour Market Development's (LMD) budget tied to federal transfers (Labour Market Transfer Agreement, Workforce Development Agreement) has decreased approximately \$1.8 million from 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- Given these reductions as well as the rapidly evolving labour market and our ongoing work towards a new labour market strategy, we are exploring new delivery methods and options for labour market services for 2025-26.
- Levels of support provided in previous years are not feasible under the budget allocations for 2025-26, despite continued strong demand for labour market services.
- The service provider network is aware of this approach, having been informed of the potential budget reductions in summer 2022, with consistent communication about the current and upcoming funding environment since that time.

Additional response:

- The following long-standing agreements and services have ceased or are set to cease operations:
 - Klondike Outreach: Ceased operations in November of 2024;
 - Employment Central: Will cease operations March 31, 2025, due to the retirement of the operator; and
 - The department is working with providers to minimize gaps in service for employers and jobseekers, and to ensure that program delivery in 2025-26 maximizes the available resources.

Session Briefing Note

Labour Market Program Funding

Tab 8

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There has been media coverage related to the closure of Klondike Outreach.
- The effects of cuts in federal labour market funding are occurring at the same time as sweeping changes to federal immigration policy including a 50 per cent cut in Yukon Nominee Program 2025 allocations.

Background:

- Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTAs) across Canada were reduced due to the removal of top-up funding. This top-up funding dated back to 2017.
- Miscalculation of historic amounts from Canada and expiration of non-renewable Skills for Success funding further reduced LMD budget for fiscal years 2024-25.
- The LMD budget for Transfer Payments for 2025-26 is \$4.397 million, with \$782,000 already committed, leaving \$3.615 million available for the fiscal year.
- The department has set the following priorities for new applications:
 - Decrease job vacancy rate;
 - Enhance the labour market success of individuals, particularly those in equity-seeking groups: Yukon First Nations, youth, older workers, newcomers to Canada, persons with disabilities and women in trades and technology;
 - Engagement and evaluation activity that supports setting annual labour market program priorities; and
 - Develop and distribute labour market information for the use of job seekers and employers as they make decisions affecting their careers and businesses.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Trade Resilience Program

Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- Subject to approval of the Mains, the Trade Resilience Program (TRP) will have a budget of \$1.0 million to help the Yukon's economy respond and adapt to the trade war launched by the U.S. federal government.
- The program will focus assistance through three mechanisms:
 - Collective business-led actions through business organizations. These will be expression-of-interest driven;
 - An expression-of-interest driven component for individual businesses that can demonstrate direct negative impacts on their operations; and
 - Directly commissioned projects where appropriate.

Additional response:

- Key features of the TRP:
 - The TRP is intended to be an adaptation program, not a revenue replacement program;
 - The program is not designed to provide direct financial support to businesses impacted by a general economic downturn, but it may do so indirectly;
 - Given the ongoing uncertainty, and the highly unpredictable leadership in the U.S., the TRP is based on the principle of remaining flexible and nimble in response; and
 - The program will seek to be complementary to other programs, (including new federal programs), not duplicative.

Trade Resilience Program

Economic
Development

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The tariffs imposed on Canada, coupled with the threats of annexation and the wider trade war the U.S. has launched against most of the rest of the world, have been constant, front-page news for several months.
- The Premier has spoken publicly about the Yukon government providing support to Yukon businesses in response.

Background:

- Yukon businesses, like those in the rest of Canada, are facing a highly uncertain period as the U.S. has begun a trade war, first with Canada and Mexico, and now with most of the world.
- The wider trade war, coupled with the direct impacts of U.S. tariffs and Canadian countermeasures, means Yukon businesses may be at risk of scaling back operations, closing or moving operations outside of the territory. This would cause harm to both the Yukon's economy and labour market.

Approved by:	
<u>Justin Ferbey</u>	<u>April 14, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Economic Development Accomplishments

TAB 10
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Recommended response:

- We aim to be a dynamic partner to First Nations, municipalities and the private sector, with measurable impacts on economic growth and diversification.
- **Mining Supports.** We provide funding to promote the Yukon as an attractive jurisdiction for responsible mining, working with industry and First Nations partners.
- **Investment Attraction.** In 2024 and 2025, we have continued to attend major industry conferences to promote responsible investment in the territory.
- The Premier's 2023 Asia Trade Mission focused on attracting foreign direct investment, and we sent a Deputy Minister-led delegation on the 2023 Team Canada Trade Mission to Japan.
- **Port of Skagway.** We are working to finalize an Export Cooperation Agreement with Skagway to construct a marine services platform capable of supporting ore loading equipment in the Port of Skagway.
- We continue to meet with Skagway representatives regularly to advance these important negotiations.
- **Labour Market Development.** By March 2025 we will have distributed over \$4.9 million to help individuals meet their labour goals and help employers recruit, train and retain the staff they need to thrive.
- We secured \$3.6 million in federal funding for a Foreign Credential Recognition Project to support international health care recruitment. As part of this project, we launched the Foreign Credential Navigation Service in January 2025, to support internationally educated health professionals.
- **Immigration.** We nominated 430 applicants under the Yukon Nominee Program in 2024. We continue to advocate for allocations that meet the Yukon's needs.

Session Briefing Note

Economic Development Accomplishments

Economic Development

- Despite a challenging setback in the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP) allocation received from Canada in 2025, we worked with industry organizations on how best to strategically use the limited nominations to support our labour market.
- We launched a new, strategic approach to the YNP intake for 2025 that is transparent and fair, giving all employers that are interested in applying a chance to be selected.
- Since 2001, 52 Yukon Business Nominee Program applicants were nominated, resulting in investment of \$25.3 million in 32 businesses.
- Since 2020, the Yukon Community Program pilot stream has supported rural employers and nominees.
- **Technology and Innovation.** We released our new innovation strategy in November 2023, to support Yukoners' business ideas to thrive.
- We partner with governments and industry to support the innovation ecosystem with programs like the Canada Digital Adoption Program, First Nations coding training, and innovation programs and funding with Yukon University, Yukonstruct, and TechYukon. We are also supporting Yukon Venture Angels to help foster a thriving investment environment in the territory.
- **Media Development.** Between April 1, 2024 and January 10, 2025, we approved \$1.183 million for 18 film projects, with \$3.9 million in anticipated in-Yukon spending.
- The Performing Musicians Fund approved 28 applications between April 1, 2024 and January 10, 2025, totaling \$226,726 for three established and 25 emerging musicians.
- **Trade.** We are working closely with federal, provincial and territorial partners to advance the Yukon's trade priorities, including by supporting a Team Canada retaliation to the U.S. administration's application of unjustified tariffs.

Session Briefing Note

Economic Development Accomplishments

Economic Development

- Yukon's response includes limiting U.S. access to the territory's liquor and procurement markets and mitigating the impacts on affected businesses.
- Department officials are working closely with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts to ensure that Yukon's interests are reflected in the national tariff response and ongoing work to reduce barriers to internal trade.
- We are also monitoring potential impacts for Yukon's mining and construction sectors of the U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs that entered effect on March 12, 2025, as well as the potential impacts for the various other **implemented and** proposed tariffs.
- We are working closely with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts at the Committee on Internal Trade and are participating fully in the Team Canada approach to advance a more integrated domestic Canadian market, foster economic growth, promote resilience and expand opportunities for all Canadians including Yukoners.
- The department is working to enhance the Yukon's commitments under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). We continue to lead interdepartmental work to review our party-specific exceptions under the CFTA, and are pursuing an ambitious, phased approach to substantively reducing or narrowing our exceptions. We are participating in the federal-provincial-territorial Mutual Recognition Pilot Project in the Trucking Sector to reduce regulatory barriers, facilitate the safe movement of goods across Canada, and lower costs for all Canadians including Yukoners.
- We fully support Team Canada efforts to expand mutual recognition to all consumer goods, aside from food, to boost productivity and strengthen supply chains. Department officials continue to work closely with our internal regulators and counterparts across the

Session Briefing Note

Economic Development

Accomplishments

TAB 10
Spring 2025
Economic Development

federation to determine what approach we can take towards Mutual Recognition expansion.

- We are working collaboratively with other jurisdictions to further facilitate labour mobility within Canada, including by working towards a national service standard.
- We are actively participating in efforts to streamline application requirements, identify gaps, standardize decision timelines and standards, and explore tools to support faster recognition of credentials—while ensuring public safety remains a top priority.
- **First Nations Collaboration.** We support First Nations governments and development corporations through collaborative partnerships, funding and other initiatives.
- Economic Development is currently undertaking engagement, including with First Nations governments, on a new labour market development strategy to help identify current barriers and align programming with the needs of all Yukoners.

Funding Supports:

- **Paid Sick Leave Rebate.** We introduced the PSLR in 2023, covering 40 hours leave every 12 months for eligible workers.
- In 2024-2025, as of March 31, 2025, 923 people from 127 businesses have been approved for \$538,925 in rebates.
- **Economic Development Fund.** From April 1, 2024 to January 14, 2025, 56 projects were approved under the EDF, for a total of \$1,487,864 in funding. Several projects are multi-year initiatives.
- **Community Development Fund.** Over \$3 million in CDF funding was approved from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 for 58 projects, including 18 multi-year projects.
- **Disaster Financial Assistance Program.** In May 2024 we launched support for disaster recovery, succeeding the 2023 Flood Program. It

Session Briefing Note

Economic Development

Accomplishments

TAB 10
Spring 2025
Economic Development

has three streams: housing, agriculture and small business. Economic Development administers the small business stream.

- **Temporary Landlord Assistance Program.** We introduced a one-time \$338 per-unit subsidy in October 2023 to bridge the gap for landlords adjusting to the new rent increase cap of 5 per cent that year.
- The department received 520 applications. As of August 29, 2024, 2,497 units were processed, representing \$843,986.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the tangible outcomes resulting from the work of the department across its various branches.

Background:

Economic Development's current Strategic Plan (2025-26 to 2027-28) identifies the department's vision statement as "*Empowering partnerships for impactful economic outcomes*" with a mission of:

- Modernizing programs and services to strengthen our ability to co-invest in impactful economic opportunities.
- Helping entrepreneurs overcome barriers to impact investments by providing support at all stages of development.
- Building new connections, increasing exports, supporting trade agreements, and attracting investments and talent to the Yukon.
- Balancing rural with urban opportunities and for-profit with place-making investments to build the most robust northern economic ecosystem.
- Supporting adult learners and job seekers to develop the necessary skills to re-enter the labour market.
- Supporting employers to find, hire, develop and retain suitable workers to grow their businesses.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 14, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Yukon's economy has positive indicators in many areas, but the heap leach failure at Victoria Gold in June 2024 will continue to have negative economic impacts and the potential imposition of tariffs by the US government will create economic headwinds and general uncertainty.
- The Yukon's revised real GDP growth rate was a very solid 7.4% in 2022, and 2023 numbers showed continued growth of 1.8%.
However, we are expecting weaker numbers for 2024.
- Through 2024, the Yukon's labour market (labour force participation, job vacancies and average pay) continued to outpace Canadian averages, and we continue to have among the lowest (and often the lowest) unemployment rates in Canada.
 - In March 2025, the Yukon's unemployment rate was 4.3%, still significantly below the Canadian average of 6.7%;
 - In Q4 of 2024, there were 840 job vacancies with an average wage offered of \$34.30 per hour; and
 - Average weekly earnings by employees rose by 5.1% year-over-year for 2024 over 2023, well above the rate of inflation.
- The Yukon's population continues to grow, hitting 46,934 in Q3 of 2024.
- Residential construction also performed well in 2024, with permits for new or converted dwelling units (zoned residential) up by 155 units (+36.1%) over 2023.
- Retail sales are slowing but continue to rise:
 - 2023 sales were up by 7.1% over 2022 numbers; and
 - 2024 sales were up 1.2% over 2023 numbers.
- For all of 2024, inflation averaged 2.0% in Whitehorse, down from 4.9% in 2023 and 6.8% in 2022. The Whitehorse rate is significantly lower than the 2.4% Canadian CPI for the year:
 - Increases in shelter costs (+5.7%) and food (+4.1%) are the biggest drivers of the Yukon's inflation; while,

Session Briefing Note

Economic Overview

TAB 11
Spring 2025
Economic Development

- Clothing and footwear (-3.7%) and household operations (-1.9%) have seen price decreases.
- Tourism, in the Yukon as in the rest of Canada, has been rebounding strongly and Yukon border-crossing data shows visitor numbers now just under pre-pandemic levels.
- 2024 numbers show crossings continuing to rise, reaching 481,505 for the year. Particularly encouraging is the growth in the numbers of U.S. residents (+10.3%) and other foreign residents (+5.6%) arriving in the Yukon.
- Air arrivals in 2024 have also been strong, with 225,109 for the year, a record number of air arrivals at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is always a high degree of interest in the state of the economy.

Approved by:	
<u>Justin Ferbey</u>	<u>April 9, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development is advancing its mandate commitments to support local jobs and diversify our economy.
- Priorities include supporting community and economic development initiatives and addressing the Yukon's workforce needs through immigration and labour market development programs.
- We will continue to align the department's work with the needs of the business community and help address labour challenges facing the territory.
- On November 9, 2023, we released our Innovation Strategy, *Innovation Yukon: Bringing Northern Ingenuity to the World*, to support and drive innovation forward.
- These commitments focus on supporting local entrepreneurs and innovators and providing Yukon businesses with the assistance they need now and into the future.

Additional response:

- The department is working to ensure the **Port of Skagway** remains accessible as an export option for the Yukon mining industry and they continue to work on finalizing a binding Export Cooperation Agreement with the most recent meeting with Skagway taking place during the AME Roundup in 2025.
- The department continues to explore the feasibility of commercial and passenger rail in the Yukon and is currently modelling the feasibility of transporting concentrate to Skagway using rail.
- The study will compare costs versus bulk- and containerized trucking, using information provided by Casino Mining Corp.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may arise about the timing for completion of commitments already underway and funding and resources for new commitments.

Background:

Key mandate commitments:

- Complete an **Innovation Strategy** that will guide our work in creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs:
 - The five-year strategy that was announced on November 9, 2023.
- Introduce a new Immigration strategy to address labour challenges facing the private sector and our healthcare and education systems:
 - With the rapidly changing immigration landscape and several new decisions made by the Government of Canada that impact the Yukon's immigration programming, we have decided to hold off on releasing the strategy.

Work with the French Language Services Directorate to support **Francophone Immigration**:

- We will work to support francophone immigration to meet the needs of Yukon.

Begin consultation on a **Labour Market Strategy**:

- The department began targeted engagement in May 2024.
- Ongoing engagement will help align a strategy with the priorities of Yukon First Nations governments, employers, service providers and individuals.
- A new strategy will help inform labour market programming and direct funding to support more employment opportunities, better living standards and social stability for all Yukoners.

Work in partnership with other levels of government and Yukon University to identify opportunities to streamline and support **recognition of foreign credentials**:

- Government of Yukon signed a \$3.6 million funding agreement with Canada in February 2024 to deliver a four-year pilot initiative.
- On January 9, 2025, we launched the Foreign Credential Recognition Navigation Service, offering targeted support to Internationally Educated Health Professionals to facilitate credential recognition and licensure within the territory.

Session Briefing Note

Mandate Commitments

TAB 12

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- Economic Development continues to work with our partners and other departments to identify ways to streamline licensing processes, create opportunities and provide employment services.

Investigate the feasibility of **commercial and passenger rail** in the Yukon:

- The department continues to evaluate the feasibility of bringing back commercial and passenger rail to the Yukon.
- The department met with the White Pass and Yukon Route (WP&YR) team on December 4, 2024.
- We are currently modelling the feasibility of transporting concentrate to Skagway using rail. The study will compare costs versus bulk- and containerized trucking, using information provided by Casino Mining Corp.

Ensure the **Port of Skagway** remains accessible as an export option for the Yukon mining industry:

- A non-binding terms sheet was signed by Yukon and Skagway on September 7, 2023, but the binding Export Cooperation Agreement has not yet been finalized.
- The department is continuing negotiations toward a final agreement and is working with Skagway to determine the best path forward. We shared our most recent draft with the Municipality in November 2024.
- Representatives of the department met recently for further discussions with representatives from the Borough of Skagway, and with DP World, during the AME Roundup in January 2025.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Supports for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

TAB 15
Spring 2025
Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- We are collaborating with business, industry, and First Nations partners to make strategic investments and promote an entrepreneurial culture that attracts and supports startups.
- We released our five-year Innovation Strategy in November 2023 to support businesses and entrepreneurs, strengthen connections, grow the domestic technology sector and attract local talent.
- We have valued partnerships with TechYukon, Yukonstruct, Yukon Venture Angels and Yukon University to deliver physical spaces, educational programming and networking opportunities that foster an innovative environment.
- We partnered with Canada between 2022 and 2024 to support the implementation of the Canada Digital Adoption Program for Yukon businesses to go online.
- In collaboration with Tech Yukon, we supported five early-stage tech companies from the Yukon to participate in the Collision Tech conference in Toronto in 2024. We look forward to exhibiting this year at the Web Summit in Vancouver.
- We participated at the Juneau Innovation Summit in February 2024 to share experiences and develop connections with Alaskan organizations in the startup and innovation sectors.
- We worked with Panache Ventures to host activities in May 2024 in coordination with the Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference.
- We hosted the CEO of Mitacs at Yukon University to promote our partnership and to explore partnership opportunities in other sectors.
- A core funding agreement for Yukon Venture Angels has been established as they aim to support business growth by attracting private capital to the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

Supports for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

TAB 15
Spring 2025
Economic
Development

- We continue to partner with the innovation ecosystem to deliver on programs such as:
 - Yukonstruct's Startup Bootcamp, Pathfinding services, Yukon Innovation Week, and the Hall of Innovators;
 - Investment workshops for entrepreneurs and angel investors;
 - YukonU Innovation & Entrepreneurship's innovation grant;
 - Sponsoring the Mitacs Accelerate Research and Business Strategy Internship Program;
 - ElevateIP [intellectual property] program;
 - Continued support for Yukon University's IncubateNorth; and
 - In partnership with Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship, access to the National Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs Ecosystem (NIWEE).

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The technology and innovation sector is a key area for diversification in the Yukon's economy.

Background:

- The department provides financial support to the following organizations:
 - Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship – \$850,000 in 2024-25 with a three-year agreement;
 - Yukonstruct – \$250,000 in 2024-25 with a three-year agreement;
 - TechYukon – \$300,000 in 2024-25; and
 - Yukon Venture Angels - \$82,000 in 2024-25 with a three-year agreement.
- Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship is focused on areas of innovation that will contribute to the social and economic prosperity of the Yukon, including technology development, social justice, climate action, community development and sustainable resource development.

Session Briefing Note

Supports for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

TAB 15
Spring 2025
Economic
Development

- Yukonstruct is a non-profit society for innovators, freelancers, startups, developers, students, inventors and creatives. Workshops and shared workspace are available at its Northlight Innovation hub.
- TechYukon is the technology industry association for the Yukon, representing 28 Yukon technology companies.
- Yukon Venture Angels (YVA) cultivates and encourages the private sector investment community in the Yukon. YVA engages with Yukoners keen to learn, engage and invest in and support local enterprise. The focus is to grow the Yukon's private sector economy.
- The Canada Digital Adoption Program (administered by Tech Yukon) will not be accepting new applications after September 2024. However, businesses currently enrolled in the program will be able to complete their projects. A replacement program has not yet been identified by ISED. Yukon businesses seeking resources or support to develop e-commerce strategies and applications can continue to work with Tech Yukon and partner organizations at Northlight to achieve their objectives. Funding may also be available via Yukon University Innovation & Entrepreneurship or the Economic Development Fund.
- Economic Development has renewed its funding agreement with Mitacs for 2024-25 with \$80,000 being provided this year. At interim reporting, 15 internship units have been delivered; organizations such as Wildlife Conservation Society, Tourism Industry Association of Yukon, and Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition have accessed the program. In 2023-24, Mitacs delivered 31 internship units in the Yukon with the same amount of funding. Organizations like the Mastercard Foundation, Balance Biogas, and Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon have recently accessed the program.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Economic Development Fund** Economic Development

Recommended response:

- The Economic Development Fund (EDF) is intended to support economic growth and diversification by providing funding for the broadest possible range of initiatives.
- From April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, 61 projects were approved under the EDF, for a total of \$2,101,480 in funding. Several projects are multi-year initiatives.
- These projects are located throughout the Yukon and include:
 - \$112,489 to Ross River Dena Council for improved aviation training and service in remote Indigenous communities across the North, in partnership with Alkan Air.
 - \$94,000 to Arctic Terrain Transport Inc to purchase a Tracked Crawler Crane to be used in the development and maintenance of the Old Crow Winter Road and reclamation of old contaminated sites along the route and in the region.
 - \$68,837 to Winterlong Brewing Company to purchase innovative equipment that reclaims carbon dioxide from the brewing process to increase shelf life and reduce production costs to retain and build market share outside the territory.
- Annual Reports for 2022-23 and 2023-24 are available on Yukon.ca.

Additional response:

- The EDF can be accessed for trade-related projects, especially those aimed at diversifying export markets and supply sources. For example, PROSKIDA INC. was recently supported through EDF to attend a trade marketing trip to Switzerland aimed at diversifying their market for Protern.io, into the European market.
- During the 2023-24 fiscal year, 65 projects were approved through EDF with a total contribution commitment of \$2,672,420.
- Eligible projects under the EDF include those that:
 - support business innovation, sustainability and planning;
 - encourage diversification through market support; and

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Economic Development Fund Economic Development

- increase business competitiveness through capacity and capital development.
- All EDF applications are reviewed and assessed to ensure they meet fund eligibility and evaluation criteria.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The EDF is a competitive program that is often oversubscribed.

Background:

- The fund provides support to Yukon businesses, First Nations governments, First Nations development entities, municipalities, community societies or industry associations and non-profits. It invests in projects focused on local or regional economic and business development, job creation, or economic planning.
- The total allocation for the fund is \$1.96 million in 2024-25. Funding intakes occur for the following tiers:
 - Tier 1 – A rolling intake for applications up to \$30,000;
 - Tier 2 – Applications between \$30,001 and \$100,000 with intakes on April 15 and September 15; and
 - Tier 3 – Applications over \$100,000 with a \$500,000 per project cap, with an intake on January 15.
- Contributions from all Government of Yukon sources for a project may be up to 75 per cent of the total costs, and EDF contributions may not exceed 50 per cent of eligible capital expenditures.

Examples of Supported Projects in 2024-25:

- **Business innovation, sustainability and planning.** In Haines Junction, Sha Shaw Corporation was funded to conduct a pre-feasibility study incorporating tourism market research for the development of Lot 52, a community development site that focuses on tourism development and cultural interpretation.
- **Market support and diversification.** The City of Whitehorse was supported for the development of a comprehensive wayfinding plan for Downtown Whitehorse.
- **Capacity and Capital Development.** Solstice Clinic Inc was supported in the development of a new family medicine and maternity care clinic in Downtown Whitehorse focusing on innovative, patient-centered, team-based care.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 14, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Business Incentive Program

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Recommended response:

- The Business Incentive Program (BIP) supports local economic activity by providing rebates to businesses working on eligible Government of Yukon contracts.
- Rebates are available for hiring Yukon youth, apprentices and adults and for using Yukon-made goods and services.
- Since April 1, 2024, BIP has processed four applications totaling \$437,004 in rebates.
- The department is currently reviewing additional applications representing up to \$113,000 in rebates.

Additional response:

- BIP must comply with the procurement thresholds specified in the Canada's international trade agreements.
- BIP paid \$90,433 in rebates in the 2023-24 fiscal year. This does not include applications under assessment for multi-year projects.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Not all contractors are aware of the free trade threshold limitations for BIP which were introduced in 2017 with the signing of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Background:

- BIP provides two types of rebates for Yukon government procurements:
 - Construction rebates for labour and apprentice costs, youth employment, and Yukon materials; and
 - Goods and Services rebates for items produced locally and purchased by the Government of Yukon.

BIP and Trade Agreements:

- BIP's preference for local content discriminates against other Canadian and international jurisdictions.

Session Briefing Note

Business Incentive Program

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- The Yukon has an exception for BIP in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement as it relates to procurement obligations.
- There are no specific exceptions for BIP in Canada's international trade agreements, but the Yukon has access to 10 regional economic development exclusions per year for contracts up to \$1 million.
- The Yukon cannot apply BIP to contracts exceeding \$353,300 for goods and services and \$8.8 million for construction.
 - This value changes annually, as they are based on procurement thresholds in Canada's international trade agreements, which are measured in special drawing rights (SDR).
 - SDR is an international reserve asset created by the International Monetary Fund. The value of the Canadian dollar to SDR fluctuates over time. The Treasury Board updates the dollar value of thresholds per calendar year through its contracting policy.

Indigenous Peoples Exceptions in Trade Agreements:

- Canada maintains exceptions and reservations with respect to Indigenous peoples and businesses in all its major trade agreements to meet its constitutional and statutory obligations. BIP can be applied to favour Yukon First Nations over other Yukon, Canadian or foreign businesses without contravening trade obligations.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 28, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate (PSLR) program supports eligible Yukon workers (employees and self-employed) who earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94¹ per hour.
- The program provides 40 hours of leave per 12-month period and includes all illnesses (and injuries not covered by any other Act, benefit, or program).
- PSLR started on April 1, 2023, and is planned to run, with a one-year extension, until March 31, 2026.
- As of Mar 31, 2025, for the 2024-25 fiscal year:
 - 923 people from 127 businesses have been approved for \$538,925 in rebates;
 - Employees earned an average of \$22.84/hr and received an average paid sick leave of \$545.14 through the program. The average length of paid sick leave per employee was just over 23 hours; and
 - Remaining claims for 2024-25 will be processed throughout April 2025.
- Since the start of the program in April 2023, it has provided rebates to over 170 employers, who in turn provided paid sick leave to more than 1,100 unique employees.
- Approximately 6 per cent of applications were deemed ineligible.

Additional response:

- Employees must use all paid sick leave available to them annually through their employer before they are eligible for PSLR.
- The program focuses on Yukoners making less than the average private sector wage because that demographic may otherwise choose to work while sick to avoid financial hardship:
 - That demographic also tends to interact directly with the public, which increases the risk of spreading illness.

¹ 2022 figure calculated at start of program

Session Briefing Note

Paid Sick Leave Rebate

Tab 18
Spring 2025
Economic Development

- The program is seeing increased demand in 2024-25, and the department continues to evaluate its performance.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be public interest in the program's performance and whether it will be extended further or made permanent after 2025-26.

Background:

- The program's budget is \$750,000 in 2024-25, totaling \$1.5 million over the first two program years.
- The planned budget for the 2025-26 program extension is \$825,000, reflecting increased demand.
- In the first year of the program (2023-24):
 - A total of \$542,928 was rebated to 146 businesses, enabling them to provide paid sick leave to 929 employees for a total of 23,880 hours of paid sick leave;
 - Employees earned an average hourly wage of \$22.02 and, on average, claimed 25.7 hours of paid sick leave, resulting in an average rebate of \$584.54 per employee;
 - Approximately 50 per cent of employees worked in Retail Trade, 19 per cent in Accommodation and Food Services, and 13 per cent in the Healthcare and Social Assistance sector;
 - Around 49 per cent of employees earned an hourly wage between the minimum wage and the living wage of \$21.04² in 2023; and
 - On average, from April 2023 to March 2024, the PSLR program provided \$45,244 in total rebates each month, supporting approximately 41 businesses in providing paid sick leave to 155 employees.
- For the 2025–26 extension, we will update the wage cut off to match the average private sector hourly wage reported in the most recent Yukon Employment and Skills Survey. The department is currently awaiting this number.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 14, 2025
Date approved

² Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development's investment attraction efforts support the growth of Yukon businesses and can lead to opportunities for employment, diversification and market expansion.
- Department officials regularly attend trade shows and investment conferences to support the Yukon's potential for investors, particularly as a world-class mining jurisdiction.
- In 2024-25, the department continues to promote investment in the territory to national and international audiences. Since January 2024, we have attended:
 - AME Round Up in January 2024 and 2025;
 - Vancouver Resource Investment Conference in January 2024 and 2025;
 - Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) annual conference in March 2024;
 - Dawson City International Gold Show in May 2024;
 - Collision Tech Conference in June 2024;
 - Property Tours and the Yukon Mining Investment Conference in June 2024;
 - Precious Metals Summit in Beaver Creek, Colorado in September 2024.
- Department officials presented an overview of the Yukon at Invest in Canada's Northern Territories Spotlight series to members of Canada's trade commissioners service to promote investment attraction in Yukon.
- CanNor awarded funding to the governments of Yukon, NWT, and Nunavut to develop and launch a pan-territorial investment marketing campaign for the minerals sector beginning in 2025.

- The department supports initiatives aimed at broadening the Yukon's economic base and increasing competitiveness through two investment attraction funding programs: the Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Program and the Yukon Business Investment Tax Credit.
- In addition, the department works to attract domestic and foreign direct investment through its mining investment attraction strategy and the Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP).

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The department's investment attraction efforts face scrutiny regarding the rate of return for the Yukon.

Background:

- The department operates two principal investment attraction programs, in addition to its regular work on investment attraction.
 - **Yukon Venture Loan Guarantee Program (YVLGP):** A partnership between the Government of Yukon and participating financial institutions that guarantees 65 per cent of the principal, up to \$100,000 for eligible businesses.
 - Eligibility is limited to new business start-ups and small businesses (less than \$5 million in revenue, under 100 employees) in the Yukon.
 - From January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, one application was received for YVLGP support.
 - **Yukon Business Investment Tax Credit (YBITC):** A 25 per cent individual tax credit for Yukon investors that allows Yukon-based businesses to issue shares in exchange for an agreed upon return and the tax credit.
 - Air North Charter and Training Limited was approved for \$4 million in the 2024 Tax Year by utilizing the YBITC program, which gives Yukon investors access to \$1 million in Yukon tax credits.
 - Eligible entities must be a private, incorporated corporation with a permanent establishment in the Yukon and pay at least 25 per cent of its salaries to Yukon residents. Entities with more than \$100 million of assets are ineligible.

- We expect demand in 2025 to meet or exceed the available funding.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to attracting responsible mining investment that incorporates the views of local communities.
- The department's mining investment attraction work includes:
 - relationship-oriented approaches that emphasize face-to-face attendance at mining trade shows and investment conferences;
 - supporting the Yukon Mining Alliance to promote the Yukon;
 - supporting the Yukon Chamber of Mines at events and conferences;
 - expanding joint initiatives with federal partners such as Invest in Canada to attract foreign direct investment;
 - The development and promotion of a pan-territorial marketing initiative with NWT and Nunavut to promote mineral development in the North.
- In addition, YBNP helps attract further investment into the Yukon.
- Since 2001, 52 candidates have been nominated for Permanent Residence under YBNP, with 32 businesses established worth \$25.3 million in investment. No new businesses were nominated under the YBNP in 2024-25.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- Mining remains an important part of the Yukon's economy. The Government of Yukon continues our work to support its status as an attractive jurisdiction for mining with strong environmental, social and governance standards.
- We are committed to attracting responsible investment in our minerals industry that supports the socially and environmentally sustainable development of our mineral resources.
- It has always been the Yukon government's position that a healthy environment and a healthy economy can go hand-in-hand.
- By promoting the Yukon as a stable investment jurisdiction for mineral development, First Nations governments, communities and families will continue to benefit from investments in the industry.

Additional response:

- The department continues to showcase Yukon's investment potential at international conferences and events.
- We are developing new minerals legislation and advancing land use planning that will further reduce uncertainties and assist in the Yukon's goal in becoming a global leader in sustainable mining. Funding support under the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program is also helping to bring early-stage mineral projects to maturation.
- We are actively investing in responsible infrastructure development to support the sector, including through:
 - Negotiations with the Municipality of Skagway for secure tidewater access for Yukon's mining industry;
 - The Yukon Resource Gateway Program; and
 - We have secured federal funding to support pre-feasibility work for a Yukon-BC grid connection under the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund.

-
- We look forward to exploring the Yukon-BC grid connection with our partners. This project could help the territory meet increasing energy demand through a secure source of clean electricity.
 - Addressing potential future demand by proposed mining projects will support the sustainable development of critical mineral resources essential to the global clean energy transition.
-

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The mineral sector is a key contributor to the Yukon's economy and there is ongoing interest in the level of government support to the sector.
 - The heap leach failure at Eagle Mine will likely raise questions regarding how the Yukon government supports the mining industry.
-

Background:

Industry Group Transfer Payment Agreements (TPA):

- The department holds TPAs with industry groups to support their efforts to market the Yukon as an attractive jurisdiction for responsible mining.
- For 2024-25 fiscal year, the department currently holds a TPA with Yukon Mining Alliance (YMA) for \$120,150 exclusive for Mining Investment Conferences and Events.
- YMA also received \$276,072 in a separate TPA for Property Tours (July 2024).
- The department also has a three-year TPA with the Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM) for \$269,000.

Pan-Territorial Marketing Initiative:

- In March 2024, CanNor approved the three territories for a three-year pan-territorial marketing initiative.
- CanNor approved the project with a contribution of \$420,000 which would be supplemented by territorial contributions totaling \$210,000. A Request for Proposals led by Northwest Territories closed on December 9, 2024, seeking services for a resource investment marketing campaign. Gray Matters (Kathy Gray, Tom Hoefer, Gary Vivian) was selected to support those efforts.

Session Briefing Note

Mining Sector Supports

TAB 20
Spring 2025
Economic Development

- Next steps involve launching the campaign at the Prospectors and Developers Association (PDAC) in March 2025.

Fraser Institute Rankings 2023:

- In 2023, Yukon ranked sixth in Canada and 16th of 86 jurisdictions globally for mining investment attractiveness with a score of 76.57, up three points from 2022.
- The Fraser Institute's methodology can result in significant variation in rankings, as different years can include or exclude certain jurisdictions and jurisdiction-specific rankings can reflect broader market conditions. The 2024 Rankings are expected to be released in May 2025.

Yukon-BC Grid Connection:

- In February 2024, the Government of Yukon made an application to the Critical Mineral Infrastructure Fund. On September 20, 2024, the federal government announced up to \$40 million over the next four years to support pre-feasibility and engagement for this project. Yukon will also commit \$13 million in funding over and above the Federal contribution.
- Work on the feasibility of the grid connection project will require the completion of a new conceptual design with updated costing.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- In 2019, the Government of Yukon provided \$2 million to the Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation to support its overall investment of \$5 million in Panache Ventures, a Canadian venture capital fund.
- Panache has met and/or coached multiple Yukon firms, invested in two Yukon enterprises and participated in the Innovation Commission. Its second investment in a Yukon company happened late in 2024.
- This investment and support for the Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation help grow our innovation ecosystem and it aligns with the intent of Chapter 22 of the Umbrella Final Agreement to provide Yukon First Nations with opportunities to fully participate in the Yukon's economy.

Additional response:

- The value of the Government of Yukon's partnership with the First Nation Investment Corporation is in the capital and mentorship opportunities that it will bring to Yukon businesses. Government does not receive a financial return from its contribution.
- Panache Ventures participated in multiple events during Innovation Week in November 2023 including a workshop on "The Basics of Pitching" and hosting a meeting with members of Yukon First Nation Investment Corporation (YFNIC).
- Panache Ventures hosted activities in May 2024 in coordination with the Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference.
- In late 2024, Panache invested \$200,000 into a local Yukon-based Startup, PeerSupport.io.

If asked about other deliverables:

- Three additional Yukon First Nations Development Corporation partnerships have subsequently been created following the model that was established to enable the Panache Ventures agreement:
 - The Yukon First Nation Investment LP builds investment capacity and enables partners to explore larger deals;

- The Yukon First Nation Telco LP covers telecommunications, and was able to negotiate a \$10 million deal that has provided \$400,000 in cash flow reinvested into the Yukon's economy; and
- The Yukon First Nation Energy LP is exploring investments in energy initiatives, including green energy.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- At \$2 million, the scale of the Yukon government's contribution is significant.

Background:

- The Yukon First Nation Investment Limited Partnership is comprised of seven Yukon First Nations development corporations.
- Panache Ventures Investment Fund Limited, 2018, was launched in March 2018 with \$25 million in capital and a commitment to focus on seed-stage companies. This is a 10-year fund. The agreement ends in 2028.

Panache's commitment towards investment in Yukon:

- Panache noted that it is targeting to invest a minimum of 3 per cent of \$58 million in the Yukon over the life of the fund, or approximately \$2 million. They also committed to use commercially reasonable efforts to identify and make investments in a minimum of three more Yukon companies over the life of the fund. Panache has invested in two Yukon-based companies to date (Proof Data Technology and PeerSupport.io).
- The exact investment amount in Proof Data Technology and PeerSupport.io is confidential and cannot be disclosed. In the case of Proof Data Technology, the investment was leveraged to support raising more significant capital from additional investment pools.
- The Department of Economic Development contracted an independent consultant on venture capital to assess the fund. The assessment included the fund, investment strategy, team, investors, financial and economic development benefits for the Yukon, and risks of the investment. The assessment recommended that the department pursue this opportunity for the benefit of Yukoners.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 2, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- We continue to focus on improvements that make departmental services easier to access. We know this is key to ensuring that the Yukon remains a competitive place to work and do business.
- The department has continued efforts to improve accessibility through:
 - A new annual Funders Meet and Greet event, connecting individuals, businesses and other organizations with programs;
 - In February 2024, the event involved 37 organizations, enabling the public to connect with numerous Government of Yukon departments and branches, federal government departments, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the City of Whitehorse and Yukon U, along with many NGOs that provide funding for Yukoners.
 - Ongoing delivery and review across department programs to improve clarity and accessibility;
 - Holding two smaller versions of the Funders Meet and Greet in Carmacks and Pelly Crossing to provide information about funding programs tailored to each community; and
 - Delivering four information sessions for community organizations to better understand how to access and apply to the Community Development Fund and the Economic Development Fund.

Additional response:

- We are working on several new initiatives to further reduce red tape and streamline access to our programs:
 - We are conducting a review of the Economic Development Fund to support clarity and accessibility;
 - We are currently undertaking public engagement on a new labour market development strategy, to identify current barriers and align programming with client needs;

Session Briefing Note

Red Tape Reduction

Tab 22

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- We have signed an agreement with the Government of Canada to launch a foreign credentials recognition pilot project, which will explore ways to reduce barriers to labour mobility for internationally educated health professionals; and
- As part of this project, on January 9, 2025, we launched the Foreign Credential Recognition Navigation Service. This new service offers targeted support to Internationally Educated Health Professionals to facilitate credential recognition and licensure within the territory. It will especially help those already in the Yukon to have their credentials recognized.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Accessibility to economic development programs is an ongoing concern for small businesses, Yukon First Nations, community associations and the public at large.

Background:

- Economic Development continually reviews its funding programs to ensure they continue to meet the needs of Yukon businesses and communities. For example, the Media Development Branch continues to refine the policies and guidelines for its revamped programs introduced in 2022.
- The Labour Market Development Branch continues to provide extensive hands-on assistance to its clients particularly to ensure that they can and do meet the program reporting requirements.
- The Immigration Branch is developing an online system to help improve access and reduce administrative burdens to employers who use the Yukon Nominee Program.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Temporary Landlord Assistance Program

TAB 23
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development introduced the Temporary Landlord Assistance Program (TLAP) in November 2023, which provided a one-time, per-unit payment of \$338 to eligible Yukon residential landlords.
- This payment covered the average difference between the expected rental rate rise of 6.8 per cent (2022 inflation rate) and the cap of 5 per cent introduced by regulation change in early 2023 through CASA.
- TLAP was an effort to encourage landlords to remain in the residential market and continue to provide much-needed rentals to Yukoners.

Additional response:

- Inflation in the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index has fallen below the 5 per cent annual limit on the rent cap. As of May 15, 2024, a landlord may increase rent up to the 2024 CPI, for an increase of 2 per cent.
- As of the close of the program, 520 applications were received, which included 2,497 units totaling \$843,986:
 - Whitehorse: 2,426 units.
 - Dawson: 56 units.
 - Other Communities: 15 units.
- Of the 520 total applications:
 - 290 were for one unit;
 - 201 were for 2 to 10 units;
 - 18 were for 11 to 50 units;
 - 8 were for 51 to 100 units; and
 - 3 were for more than 100 units.

Session Briefing Note

Temporary Landlord Assistance Program

Spring 2025

Economic Development

If asked why the program was not extended in 2024:

- TLAP was not intended to become a recurring or permanent program.
- It was a temporary measure intended to help landlords adapt to the 2023 change in rent cap regulations.
- Inflation in 2023 fell to 4.9 per cent, below the regulated cap of 5 per cent. This continued in 2024, as the CPI for Whitehorse fell to 2 per cent.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Housing and homelessness are high-profile topics. Media coverage has focused on the lack of affordable housing in Whitehorse and communities, and the high average prices for rental units both in the Yukon and across Canada.
- There was a \$1.014 million budget allocation for the program in the 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #1.

Background:

- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA) included a limit to rent increases that were linked to inflation (based on CPI for Whitehorse) with a minimum of 2 per cent and a maximum of 5 per cent annually for the duration of the CASA.
- In 2023, regulation changes set the rent cap at a maximum of 5 per cent. However, the 2022 CPI was 6.8 per cent.
- Due to this change in regulation being announced after 2023 had already begun, landlords were not able to include it in their planning and it affected their expected income for the year.

Approved by:

_____ Emma Sutton _____	_____ March 2, 2025 _____
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Session Briefing Note

First Nations Collaboration Initiatives

TAB 25
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Recommended response:

- Yukon First Nations governments and their respective development corporations play a critical role in growing and diversifying the Yukon's economy.
- Through the Economic Development Fund (EDF), Community Development Fund (CDF), Labour Market Development (LMD) programs and other departmental initiatives, we are supporting Yukon First Nations as they grow their capacity, invest in new ventures, strengthen their communities, and plan for the future.
- More than \$2.8 million in economic development funding – approximately 19 per cent of the department's entire transfer payment budget- has been directed to Yukon First Nations governments, development corporations and limited partnerships across all programs in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This includes:
 - Over \$1.6 million in labour market funding;
 - \$725,000 in Community Development Fund (CDF) support;
 - \$310,000 in Economic Development Fund (EDF) support; and
 - \$195,000 in funding to Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce (YFNCC).

Additional response:

- Some of the ways we are supporting Yukon First Nations to build capacity and identify economic priorities in their Traditional Territories include:
 - Supporting Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to increase its service provision capacity and strengthen labour market support for their citizens (Project: Capacity and Citizen Development, 2024-2025).
 - Supporting the Selkirk First Nation's community landscaping and beautification initiative in Pelly Crossing to enhance public spaces, the community garden, and greenhouse site while

Session Briefing Note

First Nations Collaboration Initiatives

Spring 2025

Economic Development

providing skill-building and career advancement opportunities for their citizens (CDF, 2024).

- Supporting Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation's innovation hub project (CDF, 2022-24). This project provides citizens and members with access to a communal commercial kitchen to enhance community food production, entrepreneurship opportunities and access to essential resources.
- Supporting the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association (YFNCT), to facilitate five Yukon First Nations artisans to showcase their work in New Mexico, expand their networks, and gain international market exposure (*Project: Pan-Territorial Artist Cohort – Santa Fe Indian Market 2024*).
- We also supported a Trade and Cultural Mission to the UK in 2024. Funding was provided to YFNCC to organize the visit, which included travel subsidies for seven YFN Chiefs.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to advancing economic development opportunities for Yukon First Nations and meeting its obligations under Chapter 22 of the Final Agreements.

Session Briefing Note

First Nations Collaboration Initiatives

TAB 25
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Background:

- The department provides advisory services and funding support to Yukon First Nations governments and development corporations to enable:
 - Building capacity and governance institutions;
 - Supporting strategic and economic planning efforts;
 - Identifying and supporting projects that will provide lasting benefits to Yukoners;
 - Supporting and developing feasibility studies, and establishing business ventures; and
 - Supporting labour market and workforce development initiatives.
- This support is provided with the intent of pursuing economic reconciliation through projects that bolster Indigenous programs, communities and organizations.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- Economic Development launched the Performing Musicians Fund (PMF) in 2022. It is a comprehensive funding program for Yukon musicians to foster continued growth in this vibrant creative industry.
- The annual funding for performing musicians is \$300,000.
- Between April 1, 2024, and January 10, 2025, the department approved 28 applications, including three established musicians and 25 emerging musicians, for a total contribution of \$226,726.

Additional response:

- Activities eligible under the fund include:
 - Music video content and sound recordings;
 - Marketing activities such as touring and showcasing; and
 - Training and development of Yukon musicians.
- The program increases the funding available to Yukon musicians:
 - Up to \$10,000 for emerging musicians; and
 - Up to \$30,000 for established musicians.
- The music industry creates local jobs and builds capacity, supports Yukon businesses and entrepreneurs and contributes to economic diversification.
- Creators can find information on programs online at Yukon.ca or by contacting our Media Development team at Economic Development.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Minister's 2016-20 mandate included a commitment to review economic funding programs to make programming more responsive with less red tape.
- Yukoners may want to know about the supports available to musicians.

Background:

- The PMF replaced the Yukon Sound Recording Program. Annual funding increased by \$250,000, up from \$50,000 previously available.

Session Briefing Note

Performing Musicians Fund

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- The changes took place following engagement with Yukon stakeholders and consultation with program managers of provincial and territorial funding programs for music.
- The changes to the program are intended to broaden the spectrum of supports offered through the department to better meet the needs of Yukon musicians.
- The application process mirrors that of federal and provincial funding programs for the music industry. Applications are not accepted verbally.
- Eligible activities under the PMF include:
 - Activities that help musicians improve their skills, such as preproduction activities or workshop registration;
 - Professional sound recordings intended for commercial release, applying to showcases and for auditions to secure bookings; and
 - Costs associated with marketing newly-released music and developing opportunities that contribute substantially to their income.

Eligible transportation expenses include:

- Assistance with travel costs for touring and showcase opportunities outside the Yukon, including:
 - Applicants may choose to fly or drive to a touring area, but the total cost may not exceed the cost of a return economy airfare from Whitehorse to the nearest international airport in the touring area, per musician;
 - Within the touring area, rental vehicle expenses (including fuel) may not exceed the cost of rental of one passenger van (plus fuel); and
 - Where accommodation is not provided in the performance contract, accommodation will be based on double occupancy of standard rooms required at each performance location.
- Specific expense coverage for each approved application is outlined within a transfer payment agreement. All applicants are encouraged to discuss their specific project needs with a Media Advisor.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Screen Media Funding Programs

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Recommended response:

- Economic Development's media funding programs help to provide economic benefits and employment opportunities for Yukoners. The funds were launched in 2022 to support the production of professional film, television and digital media projects.
- The programs provide funding for production, development, and training.
- Between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, the department approved 20 applications totaling \$1,227,004 in support, including:
 - six applications for a total of \$1,048,848 under the Media Production Fund;
 - four applications for a total of \$61,507 under the Development Fund;
 - four applications for a total of \$55,785 under the Pre-Development Fund; and
 - six applications for a total of \$60,864 under the Training Fund.
- The 20 projects anticipate spending approximately \$3.95 million in the Yukon, creating local jobs and building capacity while supporting Yukon businesses and contributing to economic diversification.
- Creators can find information on programs online at Yukon.ca or by contacting our Media Development team at Economic Development.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners may want to know about Government of Yukon support for the screen media industry.

Session Briefing Note

Screen Media Funding Programs

TAB 31
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Background:

- The Media funding programs' annual intake dates are announced online. Each program may be closed once funding has been fully subscribed.
 - This is consistent with federal funding programs; and
 - Closing these programs allows the department to allocate resources to the year the activity occurs and manage its budget appropriately.
- The application process mirrors that of federal funding programs for the media industries. Applications are not accepted verbally. The development of the new programs included:
 - Identification of best practices, development of terms of reference and project charter;
 - Public engagement with local stakeholders and industry experts, including Screen Production Yukon Association;
 - Development of recommendations and release to industry stakeholders;
 - Development and release of a What We Heard document; and
 - Public information sessions to review each program and application process with stakeholders.
- The budget to support these programs is \$1,160,000.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 14, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Community Development Fund

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Recommended response:

- Projects funded by the Community Development Fund (CDF) support events and initiatives that provide long-term, sustainable economic, cultural and social benefits to communities across the Yukon.
- Over \$3 million in CDF funding was approved from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, for 58 projects, including 18 multi-year projects.
- Notable projects include:
 - \$15,000 to Yukon University - Ross River Campus to organize a series of art workshops fostering creative thinking, cultural awareness, and emotional well-being;
 - \$17,910 to Junction Arts and Music Society to create a year-round mobile plug-and-play audio-visual booth;
 - \$60,000 to Teslin Historical & Museum Society to organize a weekend-long event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the George Johnston Museum in July 2025; and
 - \$68,616 to Braeburn Lake Christian Camp Association to replace decrepit outhouses, upgrade infrastructure, meet wastewater requirements, and improve accessibility.

Additional response:

- By offering funds, we are supporting communities throughout the Yukon to pursue their goals and meet the unique needs of their region.
- During the 2024-25 fiscal year, 24 projects outside of Whitehorse were approved for a total of \$1,636,200 representing 53 per cent of the total approved budget.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The CDF has a high profile, and community interest in program funding remains strong.

Session Briefing Note

Community Development Fund

TAB 35
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Background:

- The Community Development Fund is for projects that:
 - Create economic benefits such as generating local spending, creating employment opportunities, building needed infrastructure and bringing new money into the Yukon from outside sources;
 - Develop skills, knowledge and experience;
 - Create social benefits such as strengthening social and community networks, building partnerships and facilitating community involvement;
 - Support a community's long-term well-being; and
 - Have measurable social, cultural and economic benefits for Yukon residents and communities.
- Funding is dispersed across three tiers:
 - Tier 1 for requests of \$20,000 and less (four intakes per year);
 - Tier 2 for requests between \$20,001 and \$75,000 (two intakes per year); and
 - Tier 3 for requests over \$75,001 (one intake per year).

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 14, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has made significant investments across all communities in the Yukon.
- Communities have benefitted from a variety of funds administered by the department, including the Community Development Fund (CDF) and the Economic Development Fund (EDF).
- From April 1, 2024, to January 15, 2025, the department approved CDF and EDF funding for communities outside of Whitehorse totaling \$2,069,531, as follows:
 - North region (Dawson City, Eagle Plains, Keno, Mayo, Old Crow): 13 organizations were approved for a combined total contribution of \$730,694;
 - In Mayo specifically, 3 organizations were approved for a combined total of \$339,296.
 - West region (Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction): seven organizations were approved for a combined total contribution of \$449,689;
 - Central region (Carmacks, Faro, Pelly Crossing, Ross River): 10 organizations were approved for a combined total contribution of \$654,154; and
 - Southeast region (Carcross, Southern Lakes, Teslin, Watson Lake): five organizations were approved for a combined total contribution of \$234,994.

Additional response:

- This support is provided with an eye to pursuing economic reconciliation through projects that bolster Indigenous programs, communities and organizations.
- Communities also benefit from Media Development funding programs. Many screen-based media projects film in locations throughout the Yukon and spend their budgets in multiple communities.

Session Briefing Note

Regional Accomplishments

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- The Government of Yukon provides economic immigration programs to help businesses across the territory meet their labour needs.
- In 2020, the department launched a new stream, the Yukon Community Program (YCP), specifically designed to support employers and nominees in rural communities.
 - Between its inception on June 1, 2020 and January 24, 2025, 36 candidates have been approved through the program; and
 - This pilot project has been extended until June 2025.
- From April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, Labour Market Development supported the following projects under the Skills for Success program:
 - Western Arctic Youth Collective, with a contribution of \$129,860, to provide mentorship programming for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Youth in various communities;
 - First Kaska (owned by Liard First Nation) with a contribution of \$250,000 to provide on-site training and mentoring for Liard First Nation community members in the manufacturing and construction; and
 - Shāwthān Nāhzi, with a contribution up to \$147,725 to support land-based healing programs in communities.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be a perception that funding and program activities are Whitehorse-centric. The data shows that funding activities are occurring in all regions and communities throughout the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

Regional Accomplishments

TAB 36
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Background:

- From April 2024 to January 15, 2025 (2024-25 fiscal year), the department approved CDF and EDF funding for communities outside of Whitehorse totaling \$2,069,531, as follows:
 - North region: \$730,694;
 - West region: \$449,689;
 - Central region: \$654,154; and
 - Southeast region: \$234,994.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Disaster Financial Assistance
Program – SME Stream**Economic Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon launched the Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program in May 2024, to provide assistance to Yukoners for uninsured damage to their properties and possessions caused by eligible natural disasters.
- The program has three streams: housing, agriculture and small business. The small business stream is administered by the Department of Economic Development.
- Under the small business stream, eligible businesses can reclaim damage costs up to a maximum of \$500,000.
- The Government of Yukon determines whether to activate the Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program after a disaster event. For Fiscal Year 2024–25, this program has not been activated, so there have not yet been any applications under it.

Additional response:

- Self-employed fishers, trappers, loggers and other harvesters of natural resources are eligible under the small business stream.
- Other expenses eligible under the program include hiring contractors to repair structural damage, cleanup costs, and replacing eligible business materials and business structures.
- Portions of the Flood Recovery program's costs are recoverable from the federal Disaster Financial Assistance program.

If asked about the 2023–24 Flood Recovery Funding Program:

- The new Disaster Financial Assistance Program succeeds the Flood Recovery Funding Program that was created in response to the 2023 flooding in the Klondike Valley.
- The deadline for applications under the Flood Recovery Program was October 3, 2023. The department received five applications; one application has been deemed eligible and is still under review.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Disaster Financial Assistance Program – SME Stream

Economic Development

- The department is working with the client to gather the necessary information to finalize the assessment and complete the final report on eligible amounts.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be posed related to the government's disaster response program.

Background:

Small Business Stream Eligibility:

Eligibility under the Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program aligns with the Federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. Under Yukon's program, a small business is eligible if it meets the following requirements:

- The owner or operator owns at least 50 per cent of the business;
- The owner or operator works as the day-to-day manager of the business;
- The business was in operation at the time the natural disaster occurred;
- The business has a yearly gross revenue that is at least \$10,000, but less than \$2 million in the year immediately preceding the disaster;
- The business employs no more than 20 full-time employees at any one time; and
- The business is in good standing with Yukon Corporate Registry and Workers' Health and Safety Board Yukon.

Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program:

- The Disaster Financial Assistance Program was developed to align funding conditions with the Federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program, allowing some funding to remain recoverable;
- Generally, eligible events have widespread damages, affect a large area or number of residents and are mostly uninsurable; and
- Yukon did not have a standing disaster financial assistance program during the May 2023 Klondike Valley flood, which caused significant and widespread property damage. The Flood Recovery Funding Program was created in response. It has now been replaced by this broader assistance program.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Yukon continues to showcase a strong and dynamic labour market, with high participation and employment rates alongside one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.
- At the same time, there are opportunities to engage those currently not in the labour force, and to strengthen the territory's workforce by developing innovative strategies to meet labour market needs.
- We are working with our federal, provincial and territorial counterparts to monitor the potential impact of tariffs, if they are implemented, on Yukoners and Canadians, including implications for the labour market.
- By the end of March 2025, Economic Development will have invested over \$4.9 million this past fiscal year to support Yukoners and businesses in meeting their labour market needs.

Additional response:

- Despite reduced federal funding, the Staffing Up and Building Up programs continue to support employers and job seekers through coordinated training and a range of targeted initiatives.
- To address healthcare vacancies, Economic Development launched the Foreign Credential Recognition Navigation Service, supporting internationally educated health professionals as they seek to have their credentials recognized to meet Yukon's healthcare requirements.
- In addition, Economic Development is advancing consultations for a new Yukon labour market strategy to meet the evolving needs of employers, workers, Yukon First Nations and other stakeholders.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There are unfilled jobs in all sectors which is a concern for businesses in the Yukon.
- Recently-announced reductions in the Yukon Nominee Program allocation, set by the federal government, present an additional challenge for employers by further reducing the supply of workers.

Background:

- In 2024, the Yukon's unemployment rate (4.3 per cent) was the lowest in Canada, 2.0 percentage points below Canada's unemployment rate (6.3 per cent).
- For the same period, the Yukon had the highest employment rate (73.0 per cent), and participation rate (76.3 per cent) in Canada.
- The Yukon's job vacancy rate has consistently been among the highest in Canada. In the first three quarters of 2024, Yukon recorded the second-highest job vacancy rate in Canada on average, following only the Northwest Territories.
- Based on quarterly averages:
 - 2019 Q1 through Q3: The job vacancy rate was 5.2 per cent, with 958 job vacancies.
 - 2023 Q1 through Q3: The job vacancy rate was 5.9 per cent, with 1,202 job vacancies.
 - 2024 Q1 through Q3: The job vacancy rate was 4.6 per cent, with 945 job vacancies.
- In the third quarter of 2024, Yukon's job vacancy rate was 3.6 per cent, with an estimated 750 jobs.
- The Yukon Employment and Skills Survey (ages 18 – 65) shows that:
 - In the fall of 2023, 42.1 per cent of those working in the Yukon were employed by one of four levels of government in the territory. The proportion of those who were employed by private sector or corporation was 48.5 per cent.
 - Of the total private sector workers in the Yukon, the Retail trade sector accounted for 20.5 per cent of total workers, followed by Accommodation and Food Services at 12.6 per cent, Construction at 12.1 per cent, Transportation and Warehousing at 8.9 per cent, and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction at 6.5 per cent.
 - Among 5,702 individuals not in the labour force, 3,790 are able to work but not seeking employment, 1,765 are unable to work and 147 are self-employed but not working due to business closure.

Approved by:

<u>Emma Sutton</u>	<u>March 4, 2025</u>
A/Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Recommended response:

- Economic Development supports labour market development initiatives of employers and organizations through Staffing UP and Building UP programs.
- Building UP focuses on services for adult learners, job seekers, and under-represented groups in the Yukon, while Staffing UP assists employers with capacity issues, including recruitment, training and retention.

Additional response:

- Based on current estimates, Labour Market Development (LMD) will have distributed over \$4.9 million in 2024-25 for programs to support individuals and employers, often through service organizations and institutions, to meet labour market goals. Within that budget, LMD has supported the following:
 - 12 organizations that reported 15,123 points of tracked service contact with Yukon job seekers and employers;
 - This number includes repeat use by unique individuals for many services, such as access to labour market information and computers for job searches, job applications assistance, and resume support;
 - Seven organizations and institutions provided support to 892 Yukon First Nation citizens through multi-year projects, including 350 case-managed individuals carried over from 2023-24;
 - 230 individuals received training support through Community Training Funds;
 - 111 individuals received ongoing case-management support to return to or gain employment; and
 - 34 individuals were supported through 16 employers via wage and training subsidies.

- In addition to this budget, 224 Working Up funding agreements, administered through the Department of Education, have supported apprentices through the Labour Market Development Agreement.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Employers in the Yukon continue to have challenges recruiting and retaining staff.
- Service providers may raise concerns about the impacts of federal reductions on Labour Market Development funding.

Background:

- Economic Development is the strategic lead for the Yukon with Canada on the Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTAs), the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM), and for F/P/T strategic engagement.
- Economic Development has responsibility for the Canada – Yukon LMTAs, which include:
 - Canada – Yukon Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA); and
 - Canada – Yukon Workforce Development Agreement (WDA).
- Labour Market Development's budget tied to federal transfers (Labour Market Transfer Agreement, Workforce Development Agreement) has decreased approximately \$1.8 million from 2023-24 to 2025-26. (see SN LMD Program Funding, TAB 8).
- The department has established and posted the following priorities for the 2025-26 fiscal year:
 - improve individuals' labour market success and help them achieve self-sufficiency;
 - reduce job vacancy rates and shorten the time from posting to hiring;
 - increase labour market participation and success for these equity-seeking groups:
 - Yukon First Nations citizens;
 - youth ages 16 to 35;
 - workers over the age of 50;
 - persons with disabilities;
 - newcomers to Canada; and
 - women in trades and technology;

Session Briefing Note

Labour Market Programs

Tab 41

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- create and share labour market information for job seekers and employers; and
 - engage in strategic activities and evaluations that guide annual labour market priorities.
- The department is working with organizations to ensure new projects align with these priorities and fit within the available budget.
- On February 5, 2024, Economic Development signed a funding agreement with the Government of Canada under the Foreign Credential Recognition Program for \$3.6 million to be expended over 48 months.
- On January 9, 2025, Economic Development launched the Foreign Credential Recognition Navigation Service (FCR Navigator) to support International Educated Health Care Professionals seeking to practice in the Yukon (see SN FCR Project, TAB 42).

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Foreign Credential Recognition Project

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Recommended response:

- The Foreign Credential Recognition Project is an initiative to remove barriers and facilitate the integration of internationally educated health professionals (IEHPs) into the Yukon's healthcare workforce.
- This four-year pilot project, valued at \$3,650,286, is funded by the Government of Canada.
- On January 9, 2025, the Government of Yukon, as part of this initiative, launched the Foreign Credential Recognition Navigation Service.
- The navigation service provides support to IEHPs in their efforts to have their credentials recognized for licensure in the Yukon not only by mentoring and coaching, but also by facilitating relevant Canadian work experience in their intended fields, with the possibility of providing wraparound supports such as childcare and transportation costs.
- There are currently 89 individuals that have been engaged by the department through the navigation service.
- Of these, 26 individuals have developed action plans and received funding, primarily internationally educated nurses, as well as dentists and physiotherapists. A total of \$111,202 has been invested as of April 10, 2025.

Additional response:

- The Foreign Credential Recognition Project, of which the navigation service is a part, is a pilot project that aims to simplify credential recognition, improve awareness, explore ways to streamline regulatory processes, enhance access to practice, evaluate the sustainability of support services for IEHPs, and identify long term solutions.
- Economic Development, Community Services, and Health and Social Services continue to work together to advance the project's goals.

Session Briefing Note

Foreign Credential Recognition Project

Tab 42
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions are likely to be raised around labour market challenges in health care and plans to mitigate impacts on services and the territorial economy.
- Foreign Credential Recognition is a high-profile issue, especially as it relates to Health Human Resources.

Background:

- The Department of Economic Development signed a contribution agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada on February 5, 2024.
- The Yukon continues to experience unfilled positions in the healthcare sector, mirroring a nationwide challenge as the sector struggles to find certified professionals to meet growing demand.
- Addressing this shortage is crucial to maintaining a resilient health care system that can provide high-quality care to all Yukoners.
- Streamlining the foreign credential recognition process is one way to increase the labour supply in the Yukon's healthcare sector.
- Activities to date:
 - In April 2024, a project working group was established. It includes representatives from Economic Development, Community Services, and Health and Social Services;
 - In May 2024, the project team initiated a series of consultations with stakeholders from the health sector. They gathered inputs regarding existing FCR recognition pathways, challenges and opportunities in hiring workers with foreign credentials, current workplace integration supports and the scope of navigation services; and
 - A research plan has been developed which includes a review of similar programs, Acts and Regulations across other jurisdictions. This work will support the implementation of the Yukon's Health Human Resources Strategy and will aid in the development of an FCR Bridging program for the Yukon.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 14, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- In May 2024, we began public engagement to identify changing priorities and trends in the labour market.
- Ongoing engagement includes conversations with Yukon First Nations governments, service providers and employers, stakeholders and individuals in Whitehorse and the communities.

Additional response:

- Engagement is underway with Yukon First Nations governments to ensure inclusion of their unique labour market priorities in the broader Yukon strategy.
- Engagement will help align future labour market programming with the objectives of ‘Our Clean Future’. Yukon’s strategy for climate change envisions transitioning towards a low-carbon, sustainable economy, which will create new green jobs while also requiring a skilled workforce.
- We anticipate publishing an initial “What We Heard” summary, later in the year, followed by a new Yukon labour market strategy. This strategy will provide policy responses to labour market challenges as well as helping set government priorities.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukon has experienced low unemployment rates and high job vacancy rates, reflecting ongoing challenges in meeting labour market demand.
- Persistent job vacancies may impair economic development by limiting business expansion, straining existing workforces, and impeding crucial infrastructure projects, while increasing costs for employers and potentially compromising service quality.

Session Briefing Note

Labour Market Strategy- Public Engagement

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Background:

- The Premier’s 2023 Mandate letter committed to “advance opportunities for innovation, diversification, and growth of a strong, resilient economy by beginning consultation on a new labour market strategy”.
- As part of this initiative, we are engaging with representatives from all Yukon First Nations governments who have expressed an interest in participating.
- Key stakeholders being engaged include:
 - Employers including large entities; small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); First Nations development corporations; not-for-profits and NGOs; health care providers; industry organizations and associations (e.g., Chamber of Mines, Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon); chambers of commerce (Whitehorse, Yukon, and Yukon First Nations);
 - Working-age individuals, including those employed, those unemployed and those not currently in the labour market; and
 - Service providers, specifically key informants from organizations involved in the delivery of information, services, or support to Yukoners (employees and job seekers) seeking to strengthen their labour market outcomes.
- The department continues to work with the Yukon Bureau of Statistics on ways to most effectively engage Yukoners.
- In addition to stakeholder engagement, the department is conducting research to further inform labour market strategy development.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Government of Yukon

Immigration Programs

Tab 45
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development administers two immigration programs in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC): the Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP) and the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- The YNP allocation for 2025 is 215, consisting of 176 Base and 39 Enhanced allocations. This represents half of the Yukon's total allocations for 2024 and for 2023.

For Yukon Nominee Program 2025 Intake/Allocation, refer to Tab 2.

If asked about the Yukon Nominee Program:

- The YNP helps employers fill crucial positions with foreign nationals who intend to settle in the Yukon and gain Permanent Residency.
- We have a very limited allocation of 215 from IRCC this year, and we have been working with industry organizations and employers on the best way to meet the Yukon's labour market needs within this constraint.
- On March 27, 2025, we announced the priorities and new intake approach for the YNP for 2025.
- An Expression of Interest intake opened on Monday, March 31 for employers to indicate their interest in applying to the YNP this year, and how they and their candidate align with the priorities. The intake will be open for 3 weeks, until April 22, 2025.
- The department will then invite employers to submit YNP applications for foreign nationals in locations or positions that align with the 2025 priorities.
- Our priorities focus on retaining foreign nationals that have become a part of our communities, and we want to ensure they can continue to make the Yukon their home. This includes those who have lived and worked in the Yukon for at least a year, and those who are Yukon University graduates.

Session Briefing Note

Government of Yukon

Immigration Programs

Tab 45
Spring 2025
Economic Development

- As the third-most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, our vibrant Yukon Francophone community is a valued and important part of our thriving and diverse multicultural population. The ongoing attraction of bilingual nominees is important to provide services to support our Francophone community.
- We are committed to a transparent and fair process so that all employers who are interested in applying to the YNP in 2025 have a chance to be selected.

For Yukon Business Nominee Program, refer to Tab 4.

If asked about the Yukon Community Program (YCP):

- The YCP is a pilot stream of the YNP and is scheduled to expire in June 2025.
- The YCP provides flexibility to employers in the pilot communities where seasonal and part-time work is critical to the local economy and essential for local economic development.
- Candidates can work in up to three part-time positions that, when combined, create one full-time equivalency. These positions can be with the same employer or different employers.
- The YCP creates opportunities for employers to work together to meet their labour needs.
- Candidates can be nominated to work in one of the participating communities of Dawson City, Carmacks, Carcross, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.
- Between January 1 and December 31, 2024, seven candidates were nominated through the program – one in Whitehorse, one in Dawson City, one in Haines Junction, two in Carmacks, and two in Watson Lake.
- Since the launch of the pilot in 2020, 39 candidates have been nominated through the program.

Session Briefing Note

Government of Yukon

Immigration Programs

Tab 45
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukon businesses continue to express concerns over labour shortages. The Yukon's unemployment rate remains among the lowest in Canada.

Background:

- In 2024 the top five countries of origin were India (285), Philippines (54), China (24), Taiwan (7), Germany (7).
- In 2024 the top five occupations filled by nominees were Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers & Related Occupations (81), Cashiers (56), Early Childhood Educator and Assistants (46), Retail Salespersons and Visual Merchandisers (36), Light Duty Cleaners (32)
- Between January 1 and December 31, 2024, 430 applicants – the Yukon's full allocation - were nominated: 320 Critical Impact Workers, 53 Skilled Workers, 50 Yukon Express Entry and seven within the Yukon Community Program.
- Of the 430 applications approved in 2024, 384 were in Whitehorse, and the remaining 46 were from Dawson City (17), Haines Junction (6), Carcross (5), Watson Lake (5), Carmacks (4), Teslin (3), Pelly Crossing (3), Faro (1), Mayo (1), and Marsh Lake (1).
- Interest in the Yukon Nominee Program has steadily grown over the past few years, with applications more than doubling. Between 2019 and 2023, the approved principal applicants for the Yukon Nominee Program increased by over 2.8 times, on an annual basis, from 202 to 580, with 2023 being the top record year.
- Due to our advocacy with IRCC, the Yukon saw an 82 per cent increase in base allocations from 2021 to 2023 (220 in 2021, 270 in 2022, to 400 in 2023 and 380 in 2024).
- Temporary or seasonal positions are not supported through the YNP.
- The YNP has received applications from over 694 employers, approving 3,372 principal nominees and approximately 2,471 dependents.
- Between 2018 and 2023, the number of employers utilizing the YNP more than doubled from 94 to 200.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 28, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

Government of Canada Immigration Levels Plan:

- On October 24, 2024, the Government of Canada announced its 2025-27 Immigration Levels Plan with significant reductions in both temporary residents entering Canada and in new permanent residents in 2025 and beyond.
- On January 15, 2025, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) informed provinces and territories that there will be a 50 per cent reduction in Provincial Nominee Program allocations for 2025.
- While the Government of Yukon had requested an increase in allocation for the Yukon Nominee Program for 2025, we received a reduction in allocations to 215.
- This significant reduction will impact Yukon businesses, foreign nationals who have brought their skills to the Yukon and hope to make it their home, and the overall labour market in the territory.
- We will continue to advocate to Canada for an allocation that meets the needs of the Yukon's labour market while also considering broader territorial objectives.
- The Government of Yukon is actively working on how best to utilize the allocation we received, including how to provide stability and support for Yukon employers moving forward.

Application processing times:

- Following YNP approval, a nominee may need to apply to IRCC for a work permit. As of January 22, 2025:
 - Overseas nominees are subject to the processing times of the local visa office which varies greatly by location, capacity, and priorities, taking from as little as four weeks to 81 weeks; and
 - The processing of work permit applications from inside Canada is 135 days.

Session Briefing Note

Immigration Branch Operations

Tab 46
Spring 2025
Economic Development

- The time it takes IRCC to review a Permanent Residence application for provincial/territorial nominees varies, and IRCC updates their website with average processing times.

Temporary foreign workers:

- In March 2024, IRCC announced its intent to reduce Canada's temporary resident population from 6.2 per cent in 2023 to 5 per cent over the next three years by: stabilizing international student numbers; planning and assessment of demand for temporary foreign workers; and including temporary residents in the Immigration Levels Plan.
- The Government of Canada has made numerous changes to its Temporary Foreign Worker Program, including refusing applications in areas with an unemployment rate of 6 per cent or higher, limits on the total percentage of an employer's workforce made up of temporary foreign workers, duration of employment and increasing the high-wage stream cut-off by 20 per cent.

Program review:

- In 2020, we engaged with key users and stakeholders. Their feedback was used to help determine the future program direction.
- The department is currently engaged in an evaluation resulting from an August 2022 Ombudsman recommendation to evaluate the YNP policy, operations manual and tri-partite agreement to ensure it complies with fair standards.
- The department recognizes that the Yukon's immigration programs are at a crossroads, with a rapidly changing immigration landscape in Canada resulting in a need for the department to review the program and the way it operates.
- The Auditor General of Canada had been planning to undertake a performance audit of the YNP and the YBNP. On November 15, 2024,

Session Briefing Note

Immigration Branch Operations

Spring 2025

Economic Development

it was announced that this audit would be postponed out of respect for the ongoing investigations by the RCMP.

- On January 14, 2025, the Auditor General of Canada issued a Management Letter providing four suggestions for the Department of Economic Development regarding the two nomination programs:
 - Evaluate resources for the Immigration Branch;
 - Consider establishing mechanisms to restore confidence in the immigration programs;
 - Establish ways to improve the balance of power between employers and employees; and
 - Determine if the Yukon Nominee Program is addressing the Yukon's labour market needs.
- While the management letter's recommendations do not represent audit findings, we are treating them as valuable feedback from an independent source that can guide our efforts to improve the Yukon Nominee Program.
- As part of a comprehensive program and policy review, our goals over the coming year will be to:
 - Ensure the program's design provides sufficient flexibility to adapt to changing priorities, allocations and labour market needs;
 - Develop operational guidance that provides clarity both within the department and for our clients;
 - Make sure our processes are fair and transparent and that our clients have access to the information they need;
 - Evaluate and ensure the resources that our government currently commits to the immigration program are meeting both our needs, and the needs of businesses and foreign nationals seeking to make the Yukon their home; and

Session Briefing Note

Immigration Branch Operations

Tab 46
Spring 2025
Economic Development

- Review our compliance monitoring system to ensure that we are appropriately actioning complaints and proactively checking in with employers and foreign workers.
- In the meantime, the department is:
 - strengthening our relationships with industry to help ensure the YNP is focusing on key areas of the Yukon's labour market;
 - exploring procedural options to streamline processing and improve service standards; and
 - working with IRCC to ensure that Yukon employers have access to information about the range of immigration streams administered by the federal government.
- This work cannot be done in isolation, and we look forward to advancing these initiatives through collaboration with our partners.
- The audit has been postponed, but not cancelled, and we look forward to learning more from this work when it resumes.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Immigration has made national headlines in the last year, particularly related to the national housing crisis, international students and immigration services.

Background:

- In winter 2025, Yukon University has 187 international students from the following regions: Latin America (16), Asia (164), Africa (4), Europe (2), and the Middle East (1).
- There are currently five streams under the YNP: Yukon Business Nominee Program, Critical Impact Worker, Skilled Worker, Express Entry and the Yukon Community Program pilot (extended to June 2025).

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

March 10, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- Settlement services ensure that eligible newcomers receive the support and services necessary to successfully integrate into and contribute to both the Yukon economy and their new community.
- Canada supports local service providers, such as l'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) and the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon (MCY), to provide integration services and programs.
- These services include delivering language and cultural awareness training to assist with finding housing and obtaining referrals to government services such as childcare, education and health care.
- They also link newcomers with community cultural groups and foster connections to support their settlement into the Yukon.
- In 2025-2026, Canada plans to invest \$2.2 million for settlement services for permanent residents (PR) in the Yukon, an increase of 7.5 per cent from 2024-2025.
- The Department of Economic Development provides settlement support to Yukon Nominees through collaboration with employers, information sessions, worksite monitoring and community outreach.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Settlement services and the ability of newcomers to integrate into local communities remain areas of interest.
- Retention is a key interest of many Yukon communities. The Yukon Community Program draws additional focus on settlement and retention in rural Yukon.

Background:

- Settlement services are generally funded by the federal government to support permanent residents to integrate and establish themselves in the economic, social, political and cultural aspects of their chosen community, whereas Temporary Residents (international students, foreign workers, refugee claimants) are usually supported by the province or territory.
- The Immigration Branch provides the following settlement services directly to its Yukon Nominee Program clients (foreign workers and employers):

Session Briefing Note

Settlement Services

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- Employee and employer worksite monitoring;
- Mandatory workplace standards information sessions; and
- Community Outreach visits in Whitehorse, including a weekly drop-in session which is open to foreign workers and international students.
- The Canada-Yukon Local Coordination Working Group is made up of federal and territorial representatives who meet bimonthly to foster and enhance bilateral collaboration and partnership, establish joint priorities and operationalize activities related to the settlement and integration of newcomers.
- The Yukon Partnerships in Immigration Committee (YPIC) is a partnership among representatives of government, non-profit organizations and business and industry sectors who meet regularly to review and provide perspective on immigration related issues in the Yukon and make recommendations to Economic Development on immigration initiatives.
- Rencontre du Réseau en immigration francophone du Yukon (RRIFY) is a collective of community and Government of Yukon representatives who meet quarterly to focus and collaborate on shaping and managing multilateral immigration priorities for the francophone newcomer population.

Settlement Agencies:

- In 2024-2025 MCY received \$2 million in funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) in support of Canada's Settlement Program (ending in 2025) for people who have permanent resident status and refugees.
- MCY offers needs and assets assessment, referral and outreach services, community connections, employment related services, language assessment and training, literacy programs, and Settlement Worker in School program.
- Over the past five years, up until March of 2024, MCY has provided services to 1,161 clients.
- AFY has the following agreements with IRCC:
 - Francophone Welcoming Community pilot project (\$102,079/year);
 - Francophone Settlement (\$65,000/year); and
 - Réseau en immigration francophone du Yukon (\$25,000/year).
- AFY offers needs and assets assessment, referral services, community connections, and employment related services.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- Francophone immigration is a valued and important contributor to supporting the needs of Yukon employers and communities.
- The Yukon is the third most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, with 14.4 per cent of residents being able to have a conversation in French. This makes us an attractive settlement destination for French-speaking immigrants.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work in partnership with the Government of Canada and L'Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) to recruit bilingual immigrants and help them integrate into Yukon communities.

Additional response:

- In 2024, three francophone nominees and their households, (a total of seven individuals) were approved under the Yukon Nominee Program, with two of the three nominees being skilled workers.
- Between 2016 and 2021, the Yukon was the only Canadian jurisdiction to increase the number and proportion of those who speak predominantly French at home (up from 2.4 to 2.6 per cent).
 - The number of Yukon residents who identified French as their exclusive first official language grew by more than 200.
 - The 2021 census reported that French was the first official language spoken by 4.5 per cent of the Yukon's population.
- Since 2007 when the YNP was established, 134 principal-nominees from French-speaking countries have been approved through the program.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- In January 2024, Canada announced several new initiatives to support Francophone immigration outside of Quebec.
- Canada has released the *Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-28*.

Session Briefing Note

Francophone Immigration

TAB 48
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Background:

- On January 16, 2024, Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced several initiatives to support Francophone immigration outside of Quebec, including:
 - Release of the new "Policy on Francophone Immigration", to replace the 2019 Francophone Immigration Strategy;
 - Renewal and expansion of the Welcoming Communities Initiative; and
 - Development of a Francophone Immigration Support Program.
- Whitehorse was selected as one of 14 communities across Canada under the three-year Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative. Under the initiative, AFY receives \$102,079 per year (2020-24) to create programs and activities to help French-speaking newcomers integrate into the community.
- Increasing francophone immigration is a high priority of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Vision Action Plan (VAP). The VAP outlines shared goals for immigration based on FPT collaboration, consultation, and cooperation.
- The Immigration Unit offers bilingual services for clients and is represented on the "Réseau d'immigration francophone au Yukon".
- AFY receives federal funding to provide settlement services including language instruction, orientation to healthcare, education and information on the employment sector or entrepreneurship.
- AFY is conducting a community engagement to develop their strategy to increase the French speaking population in the territory.
- The Yukon's top source francophone countries are France, Belgium, Switzerland and Morocco.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- In fall 2020, the Government of Yukon undertook a public engagement to ask Yukoners for their ideas and experiences with the Yukon Nominee Program and Yukon Business Nominee Program. We published the What We Heard report in July 2021.
- With the rapidly changing immigration landscape and a number of new decisions made by the Government of Canada that impact the Yukon's immigration programming, we have decided to hold off on releasing the strategy.
- We had planned to finalize and release a new 10-year immigration strategy in 2024.
- By waiting until the landscape has stabilized to finalize the strategy, we will be ensuring it is reflective of both the current immigration environment while continuing to ensure our immigration programs are responsive to the evolving needs of the Yukon's economy, employers and communities.
- Economic immigration is an essential tool for attracting workers and developing a labour force that supports investment and economic growth while meeting the needs of Yukon businesses.
- Immigrants contribute to the modernization and diversification of the Yukon's economy, invest in businesses that create jobs and enrich the culture of the territory.

Additional response:

- The department has worked with stakeholders and government partners to ensure the new strategy will meet the territory's needs now and into the future.
- As with many other Canadian locales, housing supply and affordability is an ongoing challenge faced by current residents and by immigrants

Session Briefing Note

Immigration Strategy

TAB 49
Spring 2025
Economic Development

seeking to settle in the Yukon. The strategy will include actions to work together to meet the housing needs for our community.

If asked about timeline:

- The department regularly collaborates with Yukon stakeholders, including employers, employees and settlement agencies for the delivery of the Yukon Nominee Program, providing officials with insight into their current priorities and concerns.
- The department also engages with its federal counterparts at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada on changes to federal immigration policy, including Francophone immigration measures.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Minister's mandate letter includes introducing a new immigration strategy to support workforce requirements of business and industry.
- Labour shortage has been a concern for many employers as the Yukon's unemployment rate remains well below the national average.

Background:

- The previous 10-year immigration strategy was developed in 2010 by the Immigration Strategy Working Group.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Department of Economic Development is working to ensure the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP) effectively meets the territory's labour market needs by exploring potential partnerships with certain jurisdictions.
- On March 18, 2022, the Yukon and the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Employment and Protection of Filipinos under the YNP.
- The department is working to finalize the Implementation Guidelines for the MOU with the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers.
- During our September 2023 trade mission to India, the delegation met with departments and agencies involved in both educating and recruiting healthcare professionals. The Government of Yukon is continuing these conversations to explore opportunities to meet the territory's health human resource needs where local or Canadian workers are not available.

Additional response (Philippines MOU):

- Work on the draft guidelines has taken significantly longer than expected. The department is following up with our contacts in the Philippines government to finalize the agreement.
- The implementation guidelines will include an Activities Plan for the Government of Yukon and the Philippines, as well as Terms of Reference for a Joint Committee that will monitor and advise on the implementation of the MOU.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Implementation Guidelines have taken longer than expected to be completed, primarily due to logistical challenges.

Session Briefing Note

Immigration MOUs

TAB 50
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Background:

Philippines MOU:

- On March 18, 2022, the Yukon and the Philippines signed the MOU.
- The MOU improves coordination between the Yukon and the Philippines on labour mobility and specifically:
 - improves identification and recruitment of Filipinos under the YNP;
 - supports the safety of Filipino nominees under the YNP;
 - waives fees applied by the Philippines to Filipino YNP applicants; and
 - clarifies the role of the Philippines' vetted pool of qualified Filipino workers.
- Implementation Guidelines for the MOU have taken significantly longer than expected to complete.
- The department is continuing to reach out to our contacts with the Philippines government to meet and finalize implementation guidelines for the MOU.

Other Initiatives:

- The Premier led a business delegation in September 2023 on a mission to Asia, visiting Japan and India.
- During the visit, the Premier signed a Letter of Intent with the Kerala Department of Non-Resident Keralite Affairs (NORKA Roots). The Yukon government is currently focusing efforts on discussions with other organizations.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Yukon is committed to supporting global citizens who have been impacted by catastrophic natural disasters and those who are victims of violence in contravention of international law.
- Anyone who needs assistance finding information on support for refugees can contact the Department of Economic Development.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon launched the Ukrainian Family Support Desk in March 2022, to help Ukrainians seek residency and employment in the Yukon. As of December 31, 2024, the Support Desk received 468 inquiries.
 - In April 2023, the Support Desk was expanded to support Turkish and Syrian refugees and received 25 inquiries; and
 - Ukrainians outside of Canada had until December 31, 2024, to apply for Canada's temporary immigration measures.
- The Yukon will continue to use its Support Desk service to offer information and support to people affected by natural disasters and international crises seeking to arrive in the territory.
- The Government of Yukon provided one-night of accommodation and food vouchers to Ukrainians transiting through Whitehorse via seasonal Condor flights, assisting a total of 58 Ukrainians.
- As of August 28, 2024, the Ukrainian Canadian Association of Yukon (UCAY) estimated that at least 150 Ukrainians have chosen to settle in the Yukon.
 - Nine Ukrainians along with their families, for a total of 22 individuals, have been nominated for permanent residence through the Yukon Nominee Program.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Natural disasters and international crises have resulted in significant international migration in recent years. Yukoners are interested in knowing how the territory is supporting those impacted.

Background:

Russian Invasion of Ukraine:

- Russia's unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, created a humanitarian crisis. The following are current United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates, with real figures inside Ukraine, likely much higher.
 - 6.86 million have fled abroad (January 2025);
 - At least 3.7 million are internally displaced (August 2024); and
 - At least 35,160 civilian casualties (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, July 2024).
- Economic Development's Labour Market Development branch supports the "Jobs for Ukraine" program launched in March 2022 by the Government of Canada Job Bank, to support Ukrainians seeking jobs in Canada.

Türkiye and Syria Earthquake:

- On February 6, 2023, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake and several powerful aftershocks hit the border of Türkiye and Syria affecting at least 8.8 million people. Before the earthquake hit, an estimated 15.3 million people in Syria were already in need of humanitarian assistance.

Crisis in Gaza:

- In October 2023, the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, resulting in Israel declaring war and the internal displacement of more than 1.4 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.
- On January 15, 2025, a ceasefire was announced and began four days later, after months of negotiations led by the US, Qatar and Egypt.
 - The ceasefire will progress through three stages and require additional negotiation to be implemented on a permanent basis.

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- **U.S. Tariffs.** The U.S. and Canada share one of the closest and most interdependent trading relationships in the world.
- On March 4, 2025, the U.S. administration applied unjustified 25 per cent tariffs on all Canadian goods, with a 10 per cent tariff on Canadian energy resources, despite the work accomplished by Canadian and U.S. border officials.
- Notwithstanding the partial suspension of these tariffs for goods eligible for preferential treatment under CUSMA, this action is an unprecedented breach of the U.S.'s trade obligations under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement and as a member of the World Trade Organization.
- Tariffs by the U.S. on steel and aluminum that entered effect on March 12 will raise industrial and construction costs.
- These and further tariffs, including tariffs on automobiles and parts that began to enter effect on April 3, 2025, will do lasting damage to the trust and closely integrated supply chains that have made our continent competitive, prosperous and secure for decades.
- While it is welcome that so-called U.S. "reciprocal tariffs" do not yet apply to Canada, they pose a serious threat to the international trading order and basic WTO principles. Even after the partial pause on April 9, the U.S. is proceeding with its destructive 10% baseline tariffs.
- A tariff wall between the U.S. and Canada will be enormously harmful to both of our economies. Canadian exports of energy and intermediate goods fuel U.S. industry and 7.8 million American jobs depend on trade with Canada.
- Canada is the largest purchaser of U.S. exports. It is the top export destination for 36 States and among the top three for 46 States.
- We urge the U.S. to reverse these mutually destructive policies.

- **Tariff Response.** Yukon's response to tariffs is multifaceted. It supports a united national response to U.S. tariffs, aims to mitigate the impact on our businesses, and strengthen our economic resilience.
- In response to U.S. tariffs on March 4, we announced measures aimed at restricting U.S. access to Yukon's liquor and procurement markets, as well as supports for affected businesses and the work we are undertaking to reduce barriers to international trade.
- In response to U.S. auto tariffs, we announced measures intended to reduce Yukon's reliance on certain U.S. companies that have played an outsized role in supporting mutually destructive U.S. trade policy.
- We are working closely with federal, provincial and territorial partners to support a strong Team Canada response to see these tariffs permanently lifted.
- Economic coercion and trade wars have no place in relations between the closest friends and neighbours. Allies and friends work together to solve shared problems.

Additional response:

- **Yukon-U.S. Commercial Relations.** The United States, and particularly the State of Alaska, is our most important international trading partner.
- Yukon's two-way merchandise trade with the U.S. in 2024 was \$206.3 million, up from \$150.1 million in 2023. Two-way trade with Alaska in that period was \$147.5 million, up from \$121.4 million.
- Almost all the Yukon's international exports travel to or through the U.S. The Yukon also buys many goods from the U.S., either directly from Alaska, or indirectly from distributors in the provinces.
- Many of Yukon's ore exports are re-exports that have a positive effect on the U.S. trade balance, including critical minerals.
- Unjustified U.S. tariffs will undermine cooperation between Canada and the U.S. on critical minerals, including those found in the Yukon

such as tungsten, zinc, and copper that are key to American strategic defense and industrial interests.

- **CUSMA Review.** Yukon is collaborating closely with our federal, provincial and territorial partners in preparation for the 2026 CUSMA review.
- CUSMA is a trilateral agreement and Mexico is an important trading partner for Canada. We support the federal government's efforts to work closely with Mexico to strengthen CUSMA and ensure that market access and other benefits of CUSMA are preserved.
- We believe that the CUSMA Review process will provide an opportunity for all parties to work together and ensure the agreement remains responsive to a changing economic environment and that it continues to be fit for purpose.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The application of unjustified tariffs by the U.S. on Canadian goods is an unprecedented breach of its trade obligations towards Canada and have caused deep concern among the business community and the general public.

Background:

- **U.S. Tariffs.** On March 4, 2025, the U.S. applied International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) tariffs tied to fentanyl on Canadian imports:
 - U.S. tariffs include an additional 25 per cent tariffs on imports from Canada, with 10 per cent tariffs for Canadian energy resources;
- On March 7, 2025, the U.S. administration implemented a pause for so-called "CUSMA-complying" goods. This means goods originating within CUSMA countries that are eligible for CUSMA's preferential tariff rate.
 - **Fentanyl/migration** tariffs on Canada and Mexico remain on the books. This uses the CUSMA preferential rate to exempt fentanyl tariffs.
 - Most Canada-U.S. trade uses the U.S. standard tariff rate, because the standard U.S. rate for most goods is zero. To benefit from the pause, importers need to claim the preferential rate to avoid the application of tariffs. That entails red tape to establish that an import is originating.

- The United States reimposed steel and aluminum tariffs against several countries, including Canada on March 12, 2025. Tariffs on both steel and aluminum products, including derivatives, will be 25 per cent.
- On April 3, 2025, the U.S. implemented tariffs imports of automobiles, with tariffs on automobile parts to enter effect by May 3. For vehicles eligible for CUSMA's preferential rate, this tariff would only apply for the value of the non-U.S. content, and a similar formula would be applied to.
- On April 2, 2025, the US announced so-called "reciprocal tariffs". These tariffs are not based on reciprocity, but instead consist of an additional 10% baseline tariff on all imports, and higher 11-49% "adjusted tariffs" on certain countries based on the U.S. bilateral trade deficit with each.
 - The 10% baseline tariff entered effect on April 5, 2025.
 - The higher, "adjusted tariffs" were intended to enter effect on April 9, 2025, but were delayed for 90 days.
 - These tariffs will not apply to Canada or Mexico until the fentanyl/migration tariffs are removed, at which point a 12% tariff rate would apply. An exception for "CUSMA compliant" goods would remain.
- **Tariff Response.** Yukon's response to tariffs is a multifaceted approach that aim to support a strong Team Canada response to the application of unjustified tariffs, provide supports that mitigate the impact on Yukon businesses, and to strengthen Yukon's economic resilience in the face of tariffs.
- In response to fentanyl-related tariffs on March 4, 2025, the Government of Yukon announced non-tariff measures to restrict access to the territory's liquor and procurement market, and it will advance work to reduce barriers to internal trade. Specifically, it has:
 - Directed the Yukon Liquor Corporation to stop purchasing U.S.-made alcohol and remove U.S.-made alcohol products for Yukon liquor store shelves;
 - Directed the Department of Highways and Public Works to update procurement policies to exclude U.S. companies and minimize the purchase of U.S. goods and services wherever possible; and
- Directed the Department of Economic Development to advance work to reduce barriers to internal trade.
- In response to US auto tariffs that entered effect on April 3, 2025, the Yukon: immediately suspended EV rebates for Tesla vehicles, suspended all government

X accounts, and began a review to cancel YG Starlink contracts except those essential for emergency services and business continuity.

- Yukon has also allocated \$1 million into a Yukon Trade Resilience program that will remain sufficiently flexible to help Yukon businesses adapt to tariffs.
- The Government of Yukon will continue to provide support through existing programming, including support for businesses under the Economic Development Fund and for workers through our labour market development programs.
- Yukon's efforts aim to complement other provincial and territorial measures and support Canada's retaliatory measures, including tariffs.
- **Federal Response.** Canada has announced retaliatory tariffs in response to the **fentanyl tariffs** covering \$155 billion, with its initial response having two phases:
 - Tariffs on \$30 billion in goods, effective when U.S. tariffs are applied. These cover mostly consumer goods, orange juice, peanut butter, wine, spirits, beer, coffee, appliances, apparel, footwear, motorcycles, cosmetics, and pulp and paper;
 - Tariffs on \$125 billion following a 21-day public comment period. These would cover various vehicles (including EVs), steel and aluminum products, various food items, aerospace products, boats; and
 - Canada noted that all other measures remain on the table.
- The second wave of tariffs have been paused **after the US announced its exemption for "CUSMA-compliant" goods on March 7, 2025.**
- Canada has responded to the U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs on March 12, 2025, with additional retaliatory tariffs on \$29.8 billion of U.S. imports.
- **Canada responded to U.S. auto tariffs with a 25% tariff on U.S. automobile imports. For CUSMA-compliant imports, this would only apply to the non-Canadian and non-Mexican value of the vehicle. Canada did not announce tariffs on auto parts.**
- Canada has stated it will roll out supports for affected businesses. However, most announced supports operate through existing pathways. Canada's options are limited while Parliament is **not in session**. Cited supports include:
 - Trade Commissioners Service supports exporters;
 - Financing tools through entities such as the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), Export Development Canada (EDC), Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and others; and

- ESDC's Work-Sharing program that allows pre-layoff access to certain EI funds.
- Yukon-U.S. Commercial relations. Yukon-U.S. two-way merchandise trade in 2024 stood at \$206.3 million, up from \$150.1 million in 2023.
- In 2023, the two-way merchandise trade had fallen significantly from 2022, largely attributable to declining Yukon copper exports following the May 2023 closure of Minto Mine.
- The growth 2024 is almost entirely attributable to increased exports of silver-lead concentrate and zinc from Hecla's Keno Hill mine.
- The vast majority of the Yukon's trade with the U.S. is with the State of Alaska, constituting roughly 85 per cent to 95 per cent of the Yukon's annual trade with the U.S. Trade with Alaska fell substantially in 2018-20, to a low of \$56.5 million in 2019 but has recovered. Yukon-Alaska trade stood at \$147.5 million in 2024.
- CUSMA. Trade between Canada and the United States is governed by the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement. CUSMA replaced NAFTA and entered into force on July 1, 2020.
- CUSMA applies to the Yukon, except in areas where there is exclusive federal jurisdiction. The Yukon is not a signatory, but as a member of the WTO, Canada takes reasonable measures to ensure observance by provinces and territories.
- The first six-year review of CUSMA will begin by July 1, 2026. At the review, there will be an opportunity either to decide to renew the agreement or the parties may deliberate for up to 10 additional years.
- Under its review and ongoing modernization provision, CUSMA mandates that a review occurs every six years from its entry into force. CUSMA lasts 16 years, with each six-year review providing an opportunity to renew the 16-year term.
- Yukon actively participates in the CUSMA FPT Consultations Committee.
- Mexico remains an important trading partner for Canada.
- Public communications through the Council of the Federation that publicly contemplated seeking a bilateral trade agreement with the United States while cutting out Mexico was very poorly received in Mexico.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 14, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Spring 2025
Economic Development

Recommended response:

- As a party to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), we are helping to ensure that Yukon businesses have access to markets, investors, and procurement opportunities across Canada.
- We also continue to work with our federal-provincial-territorial colleagues at the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT) to ease the flow of goods, services, investments and labour across our borders.
- In light of unjustified U.S. tariff threats, Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) Ministers met in January to invigorate collaborative discussions related to liberalization of internal trade.
- CIT Ministers were unified in their approach, reaching consensus on concrete measures to enhance commitments under the CFTA, prioritize mutual recognition, further facilitate labour mobility, and advance other sectoral priorities.
- In February, CIT Ministers met again to discuss progress towards advancing a more integrated domestic Canadian market, fostering economic growth, promoting resilience and expanding opportunities for all Canadians including Yukoners.
- We have completed an interdepartmental review of our party-specific exceptions under the CFTA. We expect to significantly reduce the number of procurement exceptions that we hold and are carefully considering sectoral exceptions in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- We are participating in the federal-provincial-territorial Mutual Recognition Pilot Project in the Trucking Sector to reduce regulatory barriers, facilitate the safe movement of goods across Canada, and lower costs for all Canadians including Yukoners.
- We fully support Team Canada efforts to expand mutual recognition to all consumer goods, aside from food, to boost productivity and strengthen supply chains. Department officials continue to work closely with our internal regulators and counterparts across the

Session Briefing Note

Canadian Free Trade Agreement

TAB 56
Spring 2025
Economic Development

federation to determine what approach we can take towards Mutual Recognition expansion.

- We look forward to continuing to negotiate with our federal, provincial and territorial partners on the implementation of the CFTA over the course of this year.

2025 CFIB Red Tape Awareness Week:

- On January 31, 2025, the Yukon was awarded the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) Golden Scissors “One-to-Watch” Certificate, for our participation in the Mutual Recognition Pilot Project in the Trucking Sector.
- CFIB awards these certificates to provinces and territories for progress toward reducing the regulatory burden on Canadians and small businesses, as part of their 16th annual Red Tape Awareness Week (RTAW).

If asked about the 2024 CFIB Internal Trade Report:

- The CFIB gave Yukon an overall grade of “D” in its 2024 report card on internal trade, ranking the territory 12th, above New Brunswick and Quebec.
- CFIB’s methodology for grading and ranking jurisdictions largely relies on assigning an economic impact score that is directly tied to the number of exceptions that a particular jurisdiction holds.
- CFIB acknowledges the limitations of this approach in comparing exceptions, or in understanding their full economic impact.
- Exceptions for a small jurisdiction like the Yukon are not implicitly bad. They can protect Yukon businesses from unequitable competition from Southern enterprises.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Reducing barriers to internal trade has become a matter of heightened interest due to U.S. tariffs.

Session Briefing Note

Canadian Free Trade Agreement

TAB 56
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Background:

- Since 2017, the CFTA has applied to all government measures affecting internal trade unless explicitly excluded. Parties can retain exclusions through general and party-specific exceptions.
- In 2022, the Yukon removed five of its party-specific exceptions from the CFTA to further support the flow of goods and services to and from the territory. The following exceptions were removed, including:
 - One government procurement exception that has since expired;
 - Three regarding agriculture, grazing and forestry authorizations; and
 - One related to recycling services in the territory.
- The Yukon holds a total of 29 exceptions in the CFTA, including a new exception that reflects the requirements in the Yukon's cannabis legislation.
- At the January 31, 2025, CIT Meeting in Toronto, CIT Ministers prepared recommendations for First Ministers, focused on concrete measures to liberalize internal trade and strengthen the Canadian economy including:
 - Enhancing commitments under the CFTA by:
 - Conducting a rapid review of all party-specific exceptions (PSEs) to with a view to substantively reducing or narrowing the total number of exceptions; and
 - Concluding the financial services negotiation.
 - Prioritizing mutual recognition to reduce regulatory and administrative burden by:
 - Recommitting to advance the trucking pilot in earnest; and
 - Prioritizing mutual recognition on goods (RCT).
 - Further facilitating labour mobility by:
 - Reducing barriers to labour mobility and adopting a potential national service standard.
 - Other priorities include:
 - Implementing a direct-to-consumers sales system for alcohol; and
 - Enhancing Team Canada trade promotion approach by:
 - Expediting the action item in the Internal Trade Action Plan to explore potential approaches to internal trade missions in Canada for interested Parties; and

Session Briefing Note

Canadian Free Trade Agreement

Spring 2025
Economic Development

- **Adding** supports to help Canadian businesses export domestically.
- The RCT is a key element of the CFTA governance structure, tasked with reconciling regulatory measures that act as barriers to trade, investment, or labour mobility within Canada. It also works to cooperate in the development of future regulatory measures.
- CFTA does not impact territorial legislation or protections related to Indigenous peoples, language, their environment, culture or health care. These areas are exempt from the rules of the agreement.

CIT Timeline:

- CIT Ministers have agreed to meet monthly to continue advancing work towards internal trade liberalization in Canada.
- Key dates and deadlines for progress on CIT recommendations are as follows:
 - All Parties have committed to completing full reviews of their party-specific exceptions by June 1, 2025;
 - Parties will conclude financial services negotiations by the end of May 2025;
 - By the Fall of 2025, an agreement on the Mutual Recognition Pilot in the Trucking Sector will be presented to CIT Ministers for approval;
 - RCT will provide CIT Ministers with a draft action plan for mutual recognition on all consumer goods, aside from food by March 31, 2025;
 - By June 1, Forum of Labour Market Ministers will develop a 30-day service standard and provide a plan for Canada-wide credential recognition;
 - In May 2025 a high-level MOU on direct-to-consumer alcohol sales for all willing parties will be submitted to CIT; and
 - All Parties will submit detailed internal trade mission proposals to other parties as soon as feasible.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 2, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

International Trade & Agreements

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Recommended response:

- Increasing market access for Yukon businesses and investments helps grow the economy and provides good jobs for Yukoners.
- This is especially important given the application of unjustified tariffs by the United States on Canadian imports.
- The Yukon participates in federal-provincial-territorial consultations on international trade, including implementation and new initiatives. We advocate for Canada's efforts to reflect the Yukon's trade interests.
- We promote the Yukon's interests in a rules-based international trading system while preserving the territory's unique priorities.
- Canada is a trading nation, and in 2023 trade constituted 67 per cent of Canada's GDP. Reliable international trade is key for the national economy and has significant implications for Yukon.
- Barriers to trade disproportionately raise the cost of living in the North, which already sees higher costs of living and of doing business.

Additional response:

- We work with Global Affairs Canada and the Trade Commissioner Service to identify opportunities for Yukoners and Yukon companies.
- In September 2023, Yukon conducted a Premier-led delegation to Japan and India, which included a trade component.
- In fall 2023, the department joined a federal Team Canada Trade Mission to Japan, with a delegation of Yukon chambers of commerce.

If asked about Yukon's positions on the WTO and U.S. reciprocal tariffs:

- Yukon is strongly opposed to U.S. reciprocal tariff measures. These measures run contrary to core principles the U.S. is committed to as a member of the World Trade Organization that prohibit the application of partner-based tariffs.

Session Briefing Note

International Trade & Agreements

Spring 2025
Economic Development

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Canada is undertaking a number of international trade initiatives that may attract more attention given the US/Canada trade situation. These include exploring new agreements with Indonesia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the January 2025 agreement with Ecuador.
- In 2023 and 2024, negotiations with India and the UK were suspended.

Background:

- The Government of Canada is the only order of government that can negotiate international trade agreements. Canada consults provinces and territories, as modern agreements include commitments within provincial/territorial jurisdiction.

World Trade Organization and U.S. Reciprocal Tariffs:

- On February 13, President Trump directed the development of a plan for reciprocal tariffs — taxes on foreign products entering the U.S. that match levies on American goods applied by the exporting country. Trump has said these tariffs would take effect on April 2, 2025.
- The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) launched a public comment process for U.S. reciprocal tariff measures in February. The public comment period closes on March 11, and the USTR's report **was** due to the White House on April 1.
- On April 2, the US announced a so-called “reciprocal tariff” policy. These tariffs are not based on reciprocity, but instead consist of an additional 10% baseline tariff on all imports, and higher 11-49% “adjusted tariffs” on certain countries based on the U.S. bilateral trade deficit with each.
- The 10% baseline tariff entered effect on April 5, 2025.
- The higher, “adjusted tariffs” were intended to enter effect on April 9, 2025, but were delayed for 90 days.
- These tariffs will not apply to Canada or Mexico until the fentanyl/migration tariffs are removed, at which point a 12% tariff rate would apply. An exception for “CUSMA compliant” goods would remain.
- Despite the partial pause, these tariffs will have significant negative implications on the modern rules-based international trading order. The “adjusted rates” run

Session Briefing Note

International Trade & Agreements

Spring 2025

Economic Development

contrary to core principles the U.S. is committed to as a member of the World Trade Organization that prohibit the application of partner-based tariffs.

Team Canada Trade Missions (TCTMs):

- As part of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy, Canada hosts large, minister-led trade missions to the Indo-Pacific region. These missions are open but include specific agendas to support SME participation and focus on priority sectors.
- To date, TCTMs have targeted: Malaysia and Vietnam (March 2024), Japan (Sep-Nov 2024), Indonesia and the Philippines (December 2024) and Australia (February 2025).

Trade Initiatives:

- **Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).** Provinces and territories participate in CETA implementation, including the work of the CETA Committee of Wines and Spirits, and a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. As of 2025, 17 of 27 EU member states have ratified CETA.
- **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).** Canada is one of 11 members. The UK signed an accession protocol in July 2023, and the protocol entered into force in December 2024 after more than six members ratified it. Only Canada and Mexico have not yet ratified the protocol.
- **Canada-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Negotiations.** Canada and ASEAN launched negotiations toward an FTA in November 2021, with rounds beginning in 2022. The Trade Negotiating Committee held nine rounds, with the latest in December 2024. Canada and ASEAN continue to work towards substantially concluding negotiations in 2025.
- **Canada-Ecuador FTA Negotiations (Substantially Concluded).** On November 24, 2022, Canada and Ecuador launched exploratory discussions toward an FTA. In January 2025 Canada announced the substantial conclusion of the FTA.
- **Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Negotiations (Concluded).** Negotiations toward a Canada-Indonesia CEPA were launched on June 20, 2021. After 10 rounds of negotiation, the agreement was substantially concluded in November 2024 and fully concluded in December. Canada and Indonesia are committed to signing the CEPA in 2025.
- **Canada-UK Free Trade Agreement (Suspended).** Canada-UK trade is governed by the Trade Continuity Agreement, which bridges CETA provisions. Upon the

Session Briefing Note

International Trade & Agreements

TAB 57
Spring 2025
Economic Development

UK's accession to CPTPP, trade will also be governed by that agreement. The UK suspended negotiations towards a new FTA in January 2024.

- **Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Negotiations (Suspended).** Canada has been in negotiations with India on a CEPA since 2010. However, negotiations have been largely stalled. Negotiations restarted in March 2022, but Canada announced a pause of negotiations in September 2023 amidst rising bilateral tensions.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 14, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

- As Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) in 2022, Yukon tabled a recommendation to renew the activities of the Northern Food Working Group (NFWG). The group was established in 2017 under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) to increase economic opportunities and develop the food sector in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
- Throughout 2023 and 2024, the renewed NFWG completed an environmental scan of territorial programs in support of food and agri-food projects. The results were compared against the recommended actions from a 2018 report to identify remaining areas of work.
- The NFWG is currently developing a new work plan that is focused on leveraging the CFTA to further advance the development of food industries across the territories.

Additional response:

- The membership of the NFWG consists of trade and agriculture officials from each territory and the federal government. A future iteration of the NFWG will include interested provinces.
- The NFWG's 2018 report identified recommendations for addressing challenges related to four key areas:
 1. access to capital;
 2. innovation and research;
 3. regulatory development; and
 4. local food production.
- Several federal funding programs support the development of the food sector in Canada, including:
 - AgriDiversity Program;
 - Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership;
 - Nutrition North Canada programs; and
 - Northern Isolated Community Initiatives Fund.

Session Briefing Note

Northern Food Working Group

TAB 58
Spring 2025
Economic Development

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Food production and distribution are growing as an economic sector of interest for Yukoners and small businesses.

Background:

- Under Article 1103 of the CFTA, the Parties agreed to establish two working groups focused on developing the food sector in the Territories.
- The NFWG is the first of the two working groups to be established. Consisting of only the Government of Canada and the three territories, its mandate is to identify economic development opportunities for the respective territorial food sectors.
- The establishment of the second working group is pending a recommendation to do so from the NFWG. This forthcoming working group will include the provinces and prioritize the following:
 - identify ways in which the provinces and the Government of Canada could work with the territories to better direct the innovation strengths of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector to provide for economic benefits and improved access to healthy foods in the territories; and
 - assess and consider the role of supply management, including the quota allocation process, in economic development in the territories.
- The 2021 Census of Agriculture reported a total of 88 farms in the Yukon, representing over 6,000 hectares in farm area. This number only includes farms that reported expenses or revenues to the CRA.
- The top three categories for farm types in the territory are horse and equine, hay, and greenhouse operations.
- Yukon producers of beets, carrots and eggs hold the top three positions for relative market share in the territory, followed by kale, radish, cabbage, spinach and greenhouse vegetables. Local pork and red meat capture less than 10 per cent of the market.

Approved by:	
<u>Samantha Paterson</u>	<u>February 4, 2025</u>
Deputy Minister, Economic Development	Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Mutual Recognition Pilot in the Trucking Sector

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Recommended response:

- To boost productivity and strengthen supply chains, the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) Ministers have endorsed pursuing a federal-provincial-territorial mutual recognition (MR) pilot project in the trucking sector.
- All federal, provincial and territorial governments are working together on the pilot, taking a Team Canada approach to reduce regulatory barriers and facilitate the safe movement of goods across Canada. This work will help to lower costs for all Canadians including Yukoners and reduce red tape.
- As the Yukon participates in the MR pilot, we are committed to advocating for the prioritization of the Yukon's unique climate and infrastructure considerations as we work to reduce regulatory burdens.

Additional response:

- The goals of the pilot are to:
 - Advance regulatory alignment and clarify regulatory requirements in the trucking sector;
 - Test mutual recognition in a focused manner to inform efforts to use the approach much more broadly across the market for goods and services in Canada; and
 - Improve current and future productivity efforts in Canada.
- Identified areas for potential regulatory alignment include:
 - Trip inspection information;
 - Weight and dimension limits;
 - Long combination vehicle training requirements;
 - Driver medical requirements;
 - Sunset time requirements;

Session Briefing Note

Mutual Recognition Pilot in the Trucking Sector

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- Signage and lighting requirements for oversize trucks; and
- Carrier Safety Fitness Framework.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The initiative may raise concerns related to road safety in the Yukon.
- The reduction of barriers to internal trade now has greater prominence as a result of U.S. tariffs.

Background:

- Mutual recognition requires a host province/territory to accept the standards set out by the province/territory from which the good or service originates. It is often viewed as an alternative to harmonization.
- Following initial consultations with provinces and territories, the federal government identified the trucking sector as a potential area of focus.
- The MR pilot is co-chaired by Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador. It brings together federal-provincial-territorial officials from CIT and from the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety.
- All Parties are participating in the pilot.
- The Working Group held its inaugural meeting on November 15, 2024. The group is tasked with collaborating with the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA).
- Preliminary scoping was completed in February 2025. Work is ongoing to understand how interjurisdictional transportation regulations can be streamlined with a view to develop an MR Agreement for approval by CIT Ministers by the Fall of 2025.
- Economic Development engaged Highways and Public Works (HPW) for an initial assessment of how mutual recognition in the trucking sector may impact operations in the Yukon.
- The Yukon's potential concerns include areas regulated under the Highways Act, such as weights, dimensions, reporting requirements, escorts, fines, and permits. Related Regulations under the Act reflect the operating context of the territory.

Session Briefing Note
Mutual Recognition Pilot in
the Trucking Sector

Spring 2025

Economic Development

- The department continues to work closely with HPW to help ensure that the Yukon's unique priorities are considered.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey
 Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 14, 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

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.
- The Premier has 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 April 2, 2025, the U.S. Administration decided to push forward with unjustified and short-sighted global tariffs.

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- While we are relieved that the “Reciprocal Tariffs” Executive Order does not result in new tariffs for Canada, we remain concerned about the considerable tariffs which remain.
- The tariffs imposed by the U.S. administration challenge the U.S.’s reliability as a trading partner.
- 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;

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- Support the development of buy local campaigns; and
- Work to break down interprovincial and trade barriers.
- Additionally, in response to U.S. tariffs on automobiles and auto parts, we are reducing our reliance on U.S. companies by:
 - Suspending our EV rebate program for Tesla vehicles.
 - Suspending all Yukon government X accounts; and
 - Cancelling YG Starlink contracts except for those essential for emergency services and business continuity
- We are also working closely with the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to push back against U.S. tariffs.
- The only acceptable solution is the removal of all tariffs for Canada and Canadian products and businesses.

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- 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-US relations

- Summary of U.S. tariffs imposed on Canada to date:

Type	Rate	Date of entry into effect
Fentanyl/Migration tariffs – non-CUSMA compliant goods	10% for potash & energy 25% for all other goods	March 4
Fentanyl/Migration tariffs – CUSMA compliant goods	0%	March 7
Steel and aluminum	25%	March 12
Autos	25% on all autos that do not meet the CUSMA rules of origin 25% on the value of non-U.S. content, for autos that qualify for CUSMA preferential treatment, but only once the Commerce Secretary certifies the determination of U.S. content on a model-by-model basis	April 3

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

Auto Parts	0% for auto parts that qualify for CUSMA preferential treatment	To be announced in Federal Register, but May 3 at the latest
Reciprocal Tariffs	10% baseline does not apply to Canada (and Mexico) due to the current Fentanyl/Migration Tariffs	April 5

- On April 3, the U.S. Administration announced they will impose expansive country-specific tariffs ranging from 10 to 49 per cent on global trading partners, but did not levy any additional tariffs against Canada and Mexico. The U.S. stipulated that exemptions will continue for goods from Canada and Mexico that are compliant under the Canada-United States-Mexico (CUSMA) free trade agreement.
- The Prime Minister of Canada announced new countermeasures on April 3 to protect Canadian workers and businesses and defend Canada's economy. These countermeasures include:
 - Twenty-five per cent tariffs on non-[CUSMA](#) compliant fully assembled vehicles imported into Canada from the United States.
 - Twenty-five per cent tariffs on non-Canadian and non-Mexican content of CUSMA compliant fully assembled vehicles imported into Canada from the United States.
 - Canada's intention to develop a framework for auto producers that incentivizes production and investment in Canada.
 - Every dollar raised from these tariffs will go directly to support our auto workers.
- 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.

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- 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.

Yukon government's April 3, 2025 response

- In response to U.S. auto tariffs, YG will: Immediately suspend our EV rebate program for Tesla vehicles, suspend all Yukon government X accounts (formerly known as Twitter) and cancel YG Starlink contracts except for those essential for emergency services and business continuity.

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.

Session Briefing Note

ECO TAB 3a

Spring 2025

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- Support "Buy Yukon" campaigns: Support the development of buy local campaigns organized by local chambers of commerce.
- 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 trade and promote access to non-U.S. markets.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2024 04 07

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

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 has supported carbon pricing to help reduce emissions and reach our climate targets. We remain committed to taking action on reducing emissions across the territory and to meeting our commitments outlined in *Our Clean Future*.
- However, we anticipate that the consumer carbon price in Canada will likely end in the near future.
- As Minister of Finance, I have asked Canada to provide certainty with respect to how and when carbon pricing will end and also what actions will be taken to contribute to emission reductions in lieu of carbon pricing.
- [We will continue to monitor federal actions on carbon pricing diligently and are committed to keeping Yukoners informed about any changes that may affect them. This includes recent comments by Prime Minister-designate Carney to end the consumer carbon tax “immediately”.](#)

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.
- All federal Liberal party candidates, along with the federal leaders of the other parties, have signaled that they will end or significantly change the consumer carbon pricing program. The end of the federal carbon price means that the Yukon would no longer receive revenues to sustain the carbon rebate program.

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

- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral, and on average, Yukoners receive more than they pay in carbon pricing levies.
- We have written to the federal government, requesting collaboration on a systematic wind down of the Yukon carbon rebate program. We have also urged the cancellation of the carbon levy increase planned for April 1, 2025.
- 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 continue to work with federal counterparts to assess the implications of carbon pricing on large industrial emitters that are subject to the Output Based Pricing System in the territory and ensure the needs of the Yukon are recognized in national policy.
- The Output Based Pricing System is separate from the consumer carbon price. Canada is currently conducting a review of that system.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On February 25, Yukon's Minister of Finance issued a statement confirming that he had written to the federal government, requesting collaboration on a systematic wind-down of the Yukon carbon rebate program and urging the cancellation of the planned carbon levy increase set for April 1, 2025.
- 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.

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

- 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 ending the federal carbon tax in Canada.
- On April 1, 2025, the carbon levy will increase from \$80 to \$95 per tonne.
- [The new Liberal leader and other federal party leaders have expressed their commitment to end or change the consumer carbon levy.](#)
- [The new federal Liberal leader has indicated the consumer carbon levy would be eliminated “immediately”. No specific dates or timelines have been provided yet.](#)
- Given that the end of the federal carbon price means that the Yukon will no longer receive revenues to sustain the carbon rebate program, on February 24, 2024, Minister of Finance Sandy Silver wrote to federal Ministers Guilbeault and LeBlanc asking for collaboration in winding down the Yukon’s carbon rebate program, including a request to cancel the scheduled April 1, 2025, increase to the carbon levy.
- On February 25, 2024, Minister Silver issued a statement outlining the Yukon’s request to federal Ministers.

Approved by:**Dennis Berry**

Deputy Minister of Environment

March 10, 2025

Date approved

Jessica Schultz

Deputy Minister of Finance

March 10, 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

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

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

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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

Canada and United States Relations

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.

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.

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

- As First Ministers, we are working in close collaboration to respond to the U.S., and to protect Canadians from feeling the full brunt of these tariffs.
- I will continue to stand up for the Yukon, and for Canada – for our people and for our businesses.

Donald Trump Jr. Meeting

- In December 2024, I met with Donald Trump Jr., where we discussed the partnership between Canada and the U.S., as well as my concerns over the tariff threat.
- In the face of this U.S. tariff threat, it is important to use every available opportunity to highlight that the U.S. is more prosperous and secure when it works together with its closest strategic ally and economic partner, Canada.

COF Washington Summit

- I joined my fellow Premiers from across Canada on a mission to Washington, D.C. in February, where we met with American business leaders, members of Congress and the U.S. Administration.
- Our message was simple – we have an unwavering commitment to being a strong and reliable ally and value the important collaboration that occurs between our countries to keep our shared border safe and secure.
- We discussed how we can seize this opportunity to continue to work together to grow our economies, enhance North American security, and advance our close partnership and enduring friendship.

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

Alaska

- Alaska recognizes the Yukon's significance as part of their connectivity, regional security and economic partnerships.
- Since Governor Dunleavy's visit to Whitehorse in February 2024, we have had sustained contact with him and his administration on a number of issues that meet our regional mutual interest.
- We have active and productive conversations on highways and connectivity, fish and wildlife, community safety, wildfire response, regional security, MMIWG2S+ issues, and supporting the private sector's exposure to Alaskan officials.
- The Yukon and Alaska share a deep commitment to preserving our northern environment.
- The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is vital to Indigenous communities, biodiversity, and eco-tourism.
- We welcome the opportunity to work with Alaska to balance economic opportunity with environmental stewardship, ensuring a sustainable future for the North.
- I travelled to Anchorage in April 2024 to strengthen the relationship and develop more areas for collaboration, including partnerships of non-central governments in the North American Arctic.
- The Governor and I have spoken multiple times over the last few months on the unjust tariff actions of the Trump administration, and to continue the close work our governments have been doing.
- The Yukon and Alaska are stronger together as neighbours because of what we've accomplished in the last year, and we will continue to foster this important regional relationship.

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

- We are maintaining contact with Commissioners in Alaska to keep them advised of any potential downstream impacts from the Eagle Gold mine heap leach failure.

Shakwak/Alaska Highway

- Last year, we concluded a memorandum of understanding on new funding opportunities for the Shakwak highway.
- This is an important development that will improve road connectivity and safety for both Alaska and the Yukon.
- With that agreement, Alaska was able to help fund reconstruction efforts on parts of the Shakwak that are heavily impacted by degrading permafrost through their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.
- The Alaska /Yukon application for funding from the U.S. government's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program was successful, however this funding is currently frozen as part of the U.S. administration's ongoing review of all discretionary funding agreements.
- We are working closely with both the Alaska and U.S. governments to ensure we are tracking the status of that funding, and can maximize the use of the funds, while remaining a good partner and friend to Alaska.
- The project is worth \$37.635 million USD and is scheduled to take place in six areas of the Shakwak highway.
- This is important investment for the Yukon and for Alaska. It demonstrated our reliance on each other, and new creative ways to keep Alaska connected to the continent.

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

- The Alaska Highway is a critical component of highway infrastructure for life in the North and the tourism sector.
- The Shakwak project encompasses the Haines Road and the Alaska Highway north of Haines Junction.
- Supporting the repair and safety of this road advances Canadian and U.S. priorities, including resilience to climate change, economic development, supporting communities and people in the Arctic and maintaining Indigenous connections that span borders.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Canada-US relations and the threat of tariffs 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.
- There may be confusion on the funding structures for the Shakwak highway, and how the two streams of funding will be used to improve the highway.
- In March 2025, British Columbia introduced the Economic Stabilization (Tariff Response) Act, enabling the province to impose tolls on vehicles, particularly commercial trucks, travelling to and from Alaska, as a countermeasure to President Trump's threats of imposing tariffs on Canadian goods.
- AK officials have strongly opposed this action, and have indicated that if such actions are taken, it could jeopardize funding agreements, including those for the repair and maintenance of the Shakwak road.

Background:

Canada-US relations

- Summary of U.S. tariff actions imposed on Canadian imports to date:

Session Briefing Note

ECO TAB 3 Spring 2025

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

Type	Rate	Date of entry into effect
Fentanyl/Migration tariffs – non-CUSMA compliant goods	10% for potash & energy 25% for all other goods	March 4
Fentanyl/Migration tariffs – CUSMA compliant goods	0%	March 7
Steel and aluminum	25%	March 12
Autos	25% on all autos that do not meet the CUSMA rules of origin 25% on the value of non-U.S. content, for autos that qualify for CUSMA preferential treatment, but only once the Commerce Secretary certifies the determination of U.S. content on a model-by-model basis	April 3
Auto Parts	0% for auto parts that qualify for CUSMA preferential treatment 25% on the value of non-U.S. content, once Commerce Secretary establishes process to determine that value	To be announced in Federal Register, but May 3 at the latest
Reciprocal Tariffs	10% baseline does not apply to Canada (and Mexico) due to the current Fentanyl/Migration Tariffs	April 5

- 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.

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

- 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.

Alaska relations

- Governor Dunleavy and three Commissioners visited Whitehorse on February 8 to 9, 2024. Two agreements were signed at the conclusion of the visit.
- In addition to the intergovernmental relations accord and MOU on highways, governments of Yukon and Alaska are working on a MOU to support closer collaboration and information sharing on public safety - particularly MMIWG2S+ and human trafficking concerns.
- The topics discussed during the visit included highways, the Port of Skagway, bison and elk, salmon, MMIWG2S+, regional security, energy, forestry, agriculture, wildland fire and airline connections.
- The Eagle Gold mine heap leach failure has attracted media attention in Alaska, and Alaskan officials have been offered briefings on this file to ensure they continue to be informed and up to date.
- The Department of Women Gender and Equity Directorate continues to work with the Alaska Department of Public Safety on an MOU related to information sharing on MMIWG2S+.

Shakwak:

- Through partnership with the State of Alaska and U.S. Federal Highways, the Government of Yukon announced \$37 million USD in project funding over the next several years.
- The finalization of the funding agreements is underway to enable money to start flowing in 2025.
- The new MOU puts our highway in Alaska's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which will give the State more latitude to disperse funds.

Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

- The project in the STIP mirrors the contents of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) application.
- The RAISE award will be brought into the STIP and Alaska is shifting STIP funds to provide us with a budget that will surpass the \$25 million USD RAISE award.
- Conversations between the Government of Yukon's Highways and Public Works (HPW) branch and the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (OTPF) and the U.S. Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) are ongoing.
- Aligning federal information requirements with existing environmental and engineering work done in the Yukon is a challenge.
- Each year's program needs to be approved but getting through this first-year process will speed the approvals in subsequent years.
- FHWA has supplemental information requirements that they need to satisfy before delivering the funds to Alaska and HPW is working to get them all the information they need.
- The project funding is expected to be available for the 2025 construction season. Alaska works on a fiscal year of November to October.

Skagway Port Redevelopment: See Hot Topics 08

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 04 03

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- The Yukon's international engagement helps meet labour force needs, attract investment across our economy and ensures our voice and values are heard in global discussions about the Arctic.
- Taking the Yukon abroad shows we are serious about being a productive partner in the global economy, including in critical minerals supply chains and other business.
- We regularly host diplomats from other countries here in the Yukon, giving us opportunities to create personal connections and showcase what is exceptional about our territory.

Additional response (Diplomatic Visits)

- The Yukon is open to all kinds of visitors, and we continue to see engagement from many countries who want to visit.
- These visits not only build a familiarity with the Yukon for our guests, but they also influence how those embassies look at the Yukon and what opportunities can be further explored.
- In recent months, there were two significant delegations that came to the Yukon.
- In October 2024, we hosted five Consuls General from Europe – Germany, Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Switzerland.
- In November 2024, we had the deputy heads of mission representing the European Arctic: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Additional response (International Visits)

- Our travel over the past two years has brought the Yukon to Japan, India, Germany and the UK.
- With these missions, our territory builds its profile to the broader world and creates new people to people connections.

- Japan has ongoing interest in the Yukon and how we can create strong ties with the Indo-Pacific.
- Despite the diplomatic challenges with India and the federal government, our interest there has led to increased business connections within India and the Indian community in Canada.
- The UK is home to some of the leading investment firms in the world and is an important place to do business.
- I'm particularly proud of our June 2024 mission to London where First Nations leaders engaged with UK institutions and shared their culture.

Additional response (costs):

- Government travel is essential to developing our relationships, enhancing the Yukon's profile and promoting new opportunities abroad.
- Travel is managed under a longstanding government policy, the travel directive. The directive sets out the authorities required for travel by government officials, is based on principles of economy and efficiency, and establishes rates for certain costs.
- Ministerial travel expenses will be posted online as soon as they are finalized. This normally takes around 90 days.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There have been several diplomats who have visited the Yukon in the last number of months.

Background:

Diplomatic Visits

- In September 2024, we hosted five Consuls General from Europe:
 - Marc Eichhorn (Germany), Dimitros Skoutas (Greece), Cathy Geagan (Ireland), João Paulo Costa (Portugal) and Thomas Schneider (Switzerland).

International Relations

Executive Council Office

- In November 2024, we had the deputy heads of mission representing the European Arctic:
 - Jacob Bay Lindkvist (Denmark), Sari Uusi-Rauva (Finland), Per Unheim (Iceland), Jón-Åge Øyslebø (Norway), and Karin Öhman (Sweden).

UK Mission 2024

- A Yukon Delegation visited London, England on June 13 and 14, 2024. Engagements included:
 - Profiling Yukon First Nation culture at Canada House and supporting the launch of the regalia exhibit.
 - A business event hosted by the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce, including senior representatives of Yukon businesses.
 - Sharing cultural experiences at Parliament through the House of Lords.
 - Accessing Yukon cultural artifacts at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford.
 - A dinner with members of the High Commission and notable guests from other civil society organizations, academia, and business; and
 - Supporting the Yukon's tourism sector through the collection of photo and video collateral by Yukon North of Ordinary that can be used for future opportunities.
- The total cost for the London trip was approximately **\$131,162**. This includes:
 - ECO and Cabinet (travel, High Commission chargebacks): \$37,452
 - Tourism and Culture (travel, gifts and hospitality, Yukon North of Ordinary participation): \$31,532.
 - Economic Development (supporting Yukon First Nations and Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce participation, Chamber breakfast event): \$62,178

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 04

Deputy Minister

Executive Council Office\

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Creative Potential (CCIS)

Spring 2025

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Creative and cultural industries are an essential part of the Yukon's economy, well-being, and northern way of life.
- Our strategy, *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries*, is aimed at growing and developing Yukon's creative and cultural industries.
- The strategy identifies 4 strategic objectives and 22 key actions which reflect input gathered through extensive public and sector engagement. We have identified 10 actions to be completed as Phase 1 implementation.
- These priority actions include modernizing existing funding; offering new funding streams; industry branding and promotion; marketing and export strategies; workshops; and labour market supports.

Additional response:

- In January 2025, the department issued a contract to identify datasets to regularly report on the progress of Yukon's creative and cultural industries.
- In 2024/25, in addition to continuing to fund the sector through the available funding programs, the department offered 9 professional development workshops for the arts sector: taxes for artists, art critique, photographing artwork, arts meet-up, installation of 3-D, diversifying income streams.
- A new policy on Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums was completed and approved in April 2024.
- We launched three new programs which provide an additional \$375,000 to the creative and cultural sectors. These are the:
 - Express Micro-grant,

Session Briefing Note
Creative Potential (CCIS)**Spring 2025**Tourism and Culture

- the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant,
 - and the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund.
- The partnership with Canada Council for the Arts to fund the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant has been extended based on its success to date. (see **Tab 10 Funding Programs**).
- In 2022/23, \$500,000 was allocated for initiatives such as the doubling of the Yukon Permanent Art Collection acquisition budget, hosting the Arts Sector, and the analysis of funding programs. A progress report was released in May 2023.
- Over 30 professional development workshops for the creative and cultural sector have been offered by the department since 2022, with over 250 participants.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Some members of the public may be interested in the implementation status of the strategy.

Background:

- The Yukon's 2022 Culture GDP was \$72.3 million, representing 1.8% of the total territorial economy. Canada's 2022 Culture GDP was \$58.5 billion, representing 2.1% of Canada's total economy.
- The creative and cultural industries sector encompasses the creation, production, promotion, distribution and commercialization of cultural goods, as well as the labour force and institutions required to support it.

Session Briefing Note

Creative Potential (CCIS)

TAB # 23
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

- The share of culture jobs accounted for 3.3% of all jobs in Canada. Yukon culture jobs have increased 2.5% from 2021 to 2022 for a total of 802 culture jobs (2022).

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Critical Minerals

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- In June 2024, the Government of Canada updated its list of Canada's critical minerals to include 34 minerals.
- The Yukon hosts deposits of 12 of these critical minerals, and occurrences of an additional 13.
- In 2024, the Yukon saw exploration activity for the following critical minerals: copper, zinc, tungsten, nickel, cobalt and platinum group metals.
- We are supporting the development of the Yukon's critical minerals by advancing an electrical grid intertie with British Columbia, looking to secure continued tide water access in Skagway and making improvements to our road infrastructure through the Yukon Resource Gateway Program. (See BN#128)

Additional response:

- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, we updated the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals.
- We are working with Natural Resources Canada to implement Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and looking at other made-in-Yukon solutions for critical minerals opportunities.
- Canada's critical mineral list now includes high purity iron (used for steel), phosphorus (used for fertilizers/food security) and silicon metal (used for semi-conductors).

Session Briefing Note

Critical Minerals

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Geopolitical tensions have increased the focus on securing domestic supply chains for critical minerals. Questions may be raised on whether the development of critical minerals is prioritized in the Yukon.

Background:

- As defined by Canada, critical minerals must meet the following two criteria:
 - the supply chain is threatened; and
 - there is a reasonable chance that Canada can produce the mineral.
- Critical minerals must also meet one of the following criteria:
 - it must be essential to Canada's economic or national security;
 - it is required to transition to a sustainable low-carbon and digital economy; or
 - it will position Canada as a strategic partner in the global supply chain.
- Canada's Budget in 2022 identified major investments (\$3.8 billion over eight years) to implement Canada's first Critical Minerals Strategy. This includes:
 - Up to \$1.5 billion over seven years, starting in 2023-24, for infrastructure investments that would support the development of the critical minerals supply chains, with a focus on priority deposits;
 - \$79.2 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, for Natural Resources Canada to provide public access to integrated data sets to inform critical mineral exploration and development; and
 - The introduction of a new 30 per cent Critical Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for specified mineral exploration expenses incurred in Canada and renounced to flow-through share investors. This targets nickel, lithium, cobalt, graphite, copper, rare earths elements, vanadium, tellurium, gallium, scandium, titanium, magnesium, zinc, platinum group metals, or uranium.
- In February 2024, an application was made to the Critical Mineral Infrastructure Fund requesting up to \$40 million over the next four years to support pre-

Session Briefing Note

Critical Minerals

Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources

feasibility and engagement for the Yukon-BC grid connect project. Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) announced that the funding had been approved in principle on September 19, 2024

- In June of 2024, Canada added three new commodities to their critical mineral list: high purity iron (green steel), phosphorus (fertilizers/food security) and silicon metal (chips, semi-conductors), as well as the 31 commodities on the original list.
- At that time the Yukon identified a further 2 deposits that exhibited high purity iron and phosphorous increasing the Yukon's total to 14 deposits. Subsequent clarification from NRCan on the definition of high purity iron and phosphorous resulted in the decision to remove those deposits as they no longer met the criteria, decreasing the Yukon's deposits to 12.
- In the lead-up to the updated list, the Government of Yukon advocated for the inclusion of silver on the critical minerals list. Silver was not added to the list.
- The Yukon has deposits of 12 critical minerals, including significant deposits of copper (electrical transmission), zinc (anode in material batteries), tungsten (strengthening metals), nickel (metal coatings), cobalt (batteries), platinum group metals (catalytic agents), molybdenum (alloy steel), and iron.
- The Yukon's endowment of critical minerals represents both economic opportunities and an opportunity to contribute to the renewable energy/green economy in Canada.
- Yukon Geological Survey has received \$250,000 over three years (2024-2027) from NRCan's Critical Minerals Geoscience and Data Program to support the digitization of critical mineral exploration data from assessment files. This will facilitate access to the data and support the assessment of mineral potential for land use planning.
- Although Yukon's output of critical minerals is presently low, the territory hosts several significant deposits and many underexplored occurrences of critical minerals.

Session Briefing Note

Critical Minerals

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Most of the undeveloped copper and zinc deposits have had one or more Preliminary Economic Assessments completed, some have completed pre-feasibility studies, and a few have feasibility studies completed.
 - There are 19 copper deposits that collectively contain over 15 billion pounds of copper. The largest copper deposit is Casino.
 - There are over 25 deposits of zinc containing approximately 60 billion pounds. The largest are Selwyn, Macmillan Pass and Kudz Ze Kayah.
- Other significant deposits of critical minerals in Yukon include the Logtung tungsten deposit which is ranked among the world's ten largest and the Nickel Shāw nickel-copper-cobalt-PGE deposit.
- Fireweed Metal's Mactung Project straddles the Yukon-Northwest Territories border and is one of the largest and highest-grade tungsten deposits in the world. In December 2024, the Government of Canada and the U.S. Department of Defence announced a \$22 million investment in pre-development activities at this mine. The project is within the traditional territories of the Kaska and Na-cho Nyäk Dun First Nations.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

January 28, 2025

Deputy Minister_____
Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR # 4 / ENV #81
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon submitted proposed modifications to the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan to the Dawson Regional Planning Commission on November 25, 2024, marking an important milestone in the regional planning process.
- In our response, the Government of Yukon is requesting modifications to the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan and is providing rationales for all proposed changes.
- Key proposals in the response address implementation feasibility, sustainable development, staking withdrawals, cumulative effects thresholds, reclamation and restoration, and boundaries and designations.
- We support a regional plan that balances development, such as forestry, agriculture, mining, tourism, outfitting and other activities, while protecting ecologically sensitive and culturally important areas.

Additional response:

- The independent Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Commission is now reviewing the proposed modifications submitted by the Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government and will develop a Final Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan.
- Once the parties receive the Final Recommended Plan from the Commission, we will conduct another round of public engagement

Session Briefing Note

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR # 4 / ENV #81
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

and consultation prior to determining whether to accept, reject or modify the final recommended plan.

- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government both endorse the vision that the Dawson Region encompasses a unique landscape that enables our community to build a diverse and sustainable economy and maintain a rich cultural legacy and a healthy environment.
- The Government of Yukon submitted proposed modifications in Fall 2024, as we stated would occur in the many months prior. This timeline is based on consultation with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government ending April 30, 2024, consultation with White River First Nation occurring June through August 2024, and the required time for governmental review and approval of the final submission package.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Dawson Regional Land Use Plan and the Government of Yukon's response to the Recommended Plan are of high interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- Key proposed modifications in the Government of Yukon response are:
 - **Implementation Feasibility:** Proposed modifications to the Recommended Plan text to improve the clarity of the document for all users, so it is implementable.
 - **Sustainable development and socio-economic wellbeing:** Proposed modifications to integrate sustainable development and socio-economic wellbeing more fulsomely throughout the Plan. Sustainable development is a socio-economic benefit that does not undermine the ecological and social systems on which communities and societies are dependent.

Session Briefing Note

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR # 4 / ENV #81
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

- o **Staking withdrawals:** Support for staking withdrawals in Special Management Areas. Proposed that the Final Recommended Plan should provide sufficient direction to allow for sustainable development in Integrated Stewardship Areas; this would enable removing interim withdrawals in these areas.
- o **Cumulative Effects Thresholds:** Support for the surface disturbance thresholds for Integrated Stewardship Areas 1 and 2 and the linear disturbance thresholds for all Integrated Stewardship Areas. Proposed minor changes to surface disturbance thresholds for Integrated Stewardship Area 3s increasing from 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent and for Integrated Stewardship Area 4s increasing from 4 per cent to 5 per cent.
- o **Reclamation and Restoration:** Proposed that the Final Recommended Plan should provide clear definitions of reclamation and restoration. Also seeking that the Final Recommended Plan defines the process for determining when previously disturbed land is recovered.
- o **Designations and Conservation:** Support for designating about 40 per cent of public lands in the region as Special Management Areas, contributing to about 45 per cent of the region having a conservation objective. The 12 Integrated Stewardship Areas allow some level of development or disturbance. Recommended the four Land Management Units with the most mineral interests allow the most development, with the remaining areas allowing lesser amounts of development.
- The Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government have sought as much consensus as possible on the Recommended Plan.
 - o There is consensus on adding an access and access management chapter, and agreement that more collaborative work is needed on caribou stewardship areas and the cumulative effects framework.
 - o There is consensus on the designations for 15 of 21 Landscape Management Units (LMUs 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, and 21).

Session Briefing Note

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR # 4 / ENV #81
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

- o There is partial consensus on the designations for LMU 3 and 7 (agreement for Special Management Area designation but not on boundaries).
- o There is consensus to establish Wetlands of Special Importance (a new tool under the Wetlands Policy) for the Scottie Creek, Flat River and Ladue Wetlands.
- o There is consensus to keep the linear feature density thresholds as recommended.
- The Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government formed the Dawson Regional Planning Commission in December 2018, following a pause from 2012-2018 due to the Peel Watershed court case.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement Chapter 11 process provides the Commission with the autonomy to develop and recommend a plan to the Parties for their consideration.
- The Commission delivered the Recommended Plan to the Parties (the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government and the Government of Yukon) on June 10, 2022.
- The Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government conducted a public consultation on the Commission's Recommended Plan from September 20 to December 20, 2022.
- Interim withdrawal of land proposed by the Commission was approved by Order-In-Council on June 15, 2021. This Order was amended on September 7, 2022, to reflect the Recommended Plan. The interim withdrawal is in effect until April 1, 2026 and is anticipated to be extended to allow time to complete a final plan for the region.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government concluded party-to-party discussions to achieve consensus on response to the Recommended Plan and submitted their proposed modifications to the Recommended Plan pursuant to 11.6.4 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement on April 30, 2024, to the Commission.
- The Government of Yukon commenced consultation with the White River First Nation, pursuant to a bilateral Consultation Agreement and legal duty to consult,

Session Briefing Note
Dawson Regional Land
Use Planning

EMR # 4 / ENV #81
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

in May 2024. On August 21, 2024, White River First Nation submitted a written consultation response to the Government of Yukon.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Dennis Berry

February 4, 2025

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Mineral Sector Status and Supports

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon continues to attract interest from investors, explorers and miners due to the territory's mineral potential, resources and stability as a mining jurisdiction.
- Last fall, Natural Resources Canada announced the 2024 revised spending intentions for mineral exploration in the Yukon [was](#) \$169.1 million; their preliminary estimate of 2025 exploration spending in the Yukon will be released later this spring.
- From April 1, 2024, to January 15, 2025, the Yukon's total reported placer gold production is 98,286 crude ounces, worth \$270.7 million. That is up from the Yukon's 2023 placer gold production, which was 73,823 crude ounces worth \$158 million.
- In 2024, there were 2,251 new placer claims and 5,282 new quartz claims staked.

Additional response:

- The territory ranked 16th in the world as a desirable mining jurisdiction according to the Fraser Institute's 2023 survey. This is an improvement from 2022 when the Yukon ranked 20th.
- We are developing new minerals legislation with First Nations partners. One goal is increased certainty for the industry on rules and processes that better align with best practices and Final Agreements.

Session Briefing Note

Mineral Sector Status and Supports

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In 2024, there were 84 hard rock exploration projects active in the territory. Twenty-eight were Class 3 projects and seven were Class 4 projects; the remainder were Class 1.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the health of the mineral and exploration sectors in the Yukon and what the Government of Yukon is doing to support them.

Background:

- Indicators of the general health of the quartz and placer mining sectors include exploration expenditures, increases in mineral and metal production, new mineral claims staked, the total number of existing claims, and strong commodity prices.
- Because most mineral discoveries do not progress to advanced stages, and only a small proportion of advanced-stage projects go into production, another indicator of a healthy sector is a high ratio of early-stage projects relative to advanced projects.
- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program provides part of the risk capital to support early-stage exploration for both hard rock and placer exploration projects. (See BN #74)
- Our work to create a modern minerals legislation realizes a 30-year promise made to First Nations and will create an effective and sustainable framework for the mining industry and the territory.

Quartz and Placer Production

- The Eagle Gold Mine produced nearly 167,000 ounces of gold in 2023. Prior to the failure of the heap leach pad, the operator, Victoria Gold Corp., had estimated that gold production in 2024 would be between 165,000 – 185,000 ounces. The mine produced 29,580 ounces in the first quarter of 2024.

Session Briefing Note

Mineral Sector Status and Supports

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In the first six months of 2024, the Keno Hill Silver Project mine produced 1.546 million ounces of silver, already exceeding last year's total production of just over 1.5 million ounces.
- In 2024, the total value of metals reported for quartz produced by the Yukon's hard rock mine operators was \$190 million, down from \$513 million in 2023. Production included gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper. This figure only includes Q1 production from Eagle Gold Mine and assumes an average of the forecasted 2.7-3.0 million ounces of silver from Hecla at the Keno Hill mine.
- In recent years, annual placer production has been approximately 75,000 ounces of gold.
- From April 1, 2024, to January 15, 2025, the total reported gold production from placer operations was 98,286.41 crude ounces, worth \$270.7 million.

Staking Activity —2023 and 2024 Comparison (January 1 – December 31, 2024)

- From January to December 2024, 5,282 new quartz claims have been staked, and 164,000 total quartz claims are in good standing.
- From January to December in 2024, 2,251 new placer claims have been staked. In 2023, 2,016 placer claims were staked.
- 70 Class 1 notifications have been issued since April 1, 2024

Fraser Institute 2023 Survey of Mining Companies

- The Yukon ranked 16th (out of 86 jurisdictions) in the 2023 overall Investment Attractiveness Index, an improvement from 20th spot in 2022.
- The Yukon ranked 10th as a jurisdiction whose geology encourages mineral investment, once again leading the three northern territories and ranking above our neighbors to the south, British Columbia.
- The Yukon ranked 28th (out of 86 jurisdictions) in the Policy Perception Index, which examines the attractiveness of mining policies for exploration companies to invest.

Session Briefing Note

Mineral Sector Status and Supports

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- [The 2024 Survey of Mining Companies](#) is not yet available from the Fraser Institute.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

March 19, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note
Exploration Spending / Yukon
Minerals Exploration Program

#74
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- In 2024, we provided \$1.4 million to the mineral exploration sector through the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program.
- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program provides part of the risk capital to support early-stage exploration for both hard rock and placer exploration projects.
- The program leverages private sector funding at an average ratio of more than 2:1.

Additional response:

- In 2024, the program supported 43 exploration projects, of which the proponents collectively anticipate spending over \$4.1 million.
- 63 applications were received in 2024: 40 for hard rock projects, and 23 for placer projects. Of these, 29 hard rock projects and 14 placer projects have been approved for funding.
- Similar to 2023, the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program's 2024 evaluation criteria are designed to encourage exploration for critical minerals.
- Receiving funding under the program does not equal permission to explore; all applicants must ensure the appropriate permits, licenses, or Class 1 notifications and approvals are in place prior to beginning proposed work.

Session Briefing Note

Exploration Spending / Yukon Minerals Exploration Program

#74
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in how the Government of Yukon supports mineral exploration and a general interest in exploration statistics and trends.
- The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun requested a halt to this program on their Traditional Territory.

Background:

Yukon Mineral Exploration Program

- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program was updated to include additional weighting for projects that target critical minerals as the primary exploration target.
- For the 2024 exploration season, the program received 63 applications for funding (40 hard rock and 23 placer applications). Forty-three projects have been approved for funding (29 hard rock and 14 placer projects).
- In 2024, YMEP recipients spent \$3.9M on their exploration projects. Total projected expenditures on hard rock projects are estimated at \$2.6M, and on placer is \$1.3M.

Mineral Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditure Statistics

- Junior exploration companies conduct most of the mineral exploration in the Yukon. Exploration activities contribute significantly to the Yukon's annual economic activity.
- Of the 84 active hard rock exploration projects in 2024, 29 spent over \$500,000 on exploration.
- Just under half of the money spent in 2024 by explorers was invested in exploration for gold. Zinc-lead projects saw 28 per cent of spending, followed by copper (12 per cent) and silver (10 per cent). Just over two per cent of exploration spending was focused on tungsten, nickel and platinum group metals.

Session Briefing Note

Exploration Spending / Yukon Minerals Exploration Program

#74
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Actual exploration spending reported by Natural Resources Canada in the Yukon increased from \$166.2 million in 2019 to \$231.4 million in 2023, despite drops in 2020 and 2021, \$83.6 million and \$153.9 million, respectively.
- The 2024 exploration expenditures are estimated at \$145 million. It is important to note that these numbers are not yet final.
- The largest number of exploration projects occurred on the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (29), followed by Kaska Nation's asserted territory (17), Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (11) and Selkirk First Nation (10). All other Yukon First Nations saw fewer than 10 projects.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

January 28, 2025

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Regional Economic Development
Exceptions (10x\$1M)**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government is helping boost economic development across the territory through trade agreement exceptions for qualified Yukon businesses.
- One way our government is doing this is through the Regional Economic Development exceptions in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- The exceptions allow us to restrict competition in procurement for up to ten projects per year to help support and show Yukon businesses.
- Since 2018, Yukon businesses have competed for and secured 64 Yukon-exclusive government contracts worth \$30 million in manufacturing, construction, and consulting.

Additional response: This year's projects

- In 2024-25 fiscal year, we awarded six projects to Yukon businesses:
 - Hidden Valley School – public address, phone and clock system upgrades;
 - Boat launch upgrades in Teslin;
 - Culvert replacement at kilometre 23.2 of the Silver Trail, Highway 11;
 - Seismic and structural upgrade at Nelnah Bessie John School in Beaver Creek; and
 - Local food procurement project in Whitehorse.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Regional Economic Development
Exceptions (10x\$1M)**Highways and
Public Works

- Access road construction for the Murray Agriculture Subdivision, phase 2, in Ibex Valley.
- The Yukon government strives to maximize the use of the exceptions each fiscal year.
- We post details of awarded contracts on Yukon.ca.

Additional response: Evaluating local benefits

- When selecting Regional Economic Development exceptions, we consider many factors including the dollar value of economic opportunities created in the Yukon and whether the project supports the territory's industries and suppliers.
- At the end of a project, suppliers are required to report on the total dollar value spent on Yukon labour and materials to help us quantify the positive impact these projects have.
- Since the new reporting requirement came into effect in the 2019-20 fiscal year, suppliers have reported on 16 completed contracts. Eight of these projects used 100 per cent Yukon labour and Yukon materials.
- These reports also confirm that over \$1.7 million was spent on employing Yukoners through those 16 projects.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Regional Economic Development Exceptions are important tools to support the Yukon's economy.

Background:

- The following contracts were awarded in the 2024-25 fiscal year:

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Regional Economic Development
Exceptions (10x\$1M)**Highways and
Public Works

- Hidden Valley School – public address, phone and clock system upgrades for \$256,915.00;
 - Boat launch upgrades in Teslin for \$360,600.00;
 - Culvert replacement at kilometre 23.2 of the Silver Trail, Highway 11 for \$625,256.00;
 - Seismic and structural upgrade at Nelna Bessie John School in Beaver Creek for \$667,800.00;
 - Local food procurement project in Whitehorse. This was tendered as a Request for Qualifications; and
 - Access road construction for the Murray Agriculture Subdivision, phase 2, in Ibex Valley for \$114,979.00.
- The total value of these contracts is \$2,025,550.00.
 - It can be challenging to find tenders to maximize the use of these exceptions. Issues such as inflation, supply chain shortages and a tight labour market can impact the use of exceptions.
 - In recent years, there have been significant changes to the procurement landscape and fewer projects fall under the \$1 million threshold.
 - Highways and Public Works continue to work alongside departments to find projects that are suitable for the exception.

Approved by:

T. Allen

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

April 2, 2025

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- The Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy promotes a more inclusive economy by levelling the playing field for Yukon First Nations people and businesses.
- As a leading example of Indigenous procurement, this policy has been widely praised as a model for other jurisdictions to follow.
- This policy represents a positive step toward advancing reconciliation, as it was developed in close collaboration with Yukon First Nations governments as partners.

Additional response: Current state

- It has been more than three years since this policy was implemented, and the Yukon continues to lead the way in Indigenous procurement, setting a standard that others strive to meet.
- We are advised that many Yukon First Nation and industry partners remain strong supporters of the policy and to collaboratively achieve its goals.
- Yukon's leadership in this area is being noticed across Canada. Other provinces, territories, and the federal government are looking to the Yukon to understand how they can leverage our experiences.
- For example, the Yukon government participated in a government panel at the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business Conference in October to share how the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy has been developed and is being implemented in the Yukon.
- We will be initiating an independent evaluation of the Government of Yukon Procurement Policy, which includes the Yukon First Nations

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and
Public Works

Procurement Policy this year and anticipate for the review to conclude in 2026.

Additional response: Bid Value Reductions

- Bid value reductions, also known as BVRs, play an important role in achieving the objectives of the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy. They are accessible to all businesses and help increase the competitiveness of bids that include Yukon First Nation participation and/or ownership.
- The department is addressing the recommendations from the 2023 two-year review of BVRs, such as improving public communication about how the policy is meeting its outcomes, improving data collection, and increasing accountability for contract delivery.
- The report and its recommendations have helped us to understand that our approach is reasonable and fair while creating positive changes for our Yukon First Nation partners.
- The report is available online at Yukon.ca/growing-together.

Additional response: Term Sheets

- Highways and Public Works Procurement Support Centre is introducing a Yukon First Nation Business subcontractor confirmation form, also known as a 'Term Sheet' to improve transparency and encourage better collaboration between contractors and Yukon First Nations subcontractors before bids are submitted.
- The approach to the term sheet is simple. Both the general contractor and the Yukon First Nation Business subcontractor will agree to the scope and price of work being submitted in the bid on a term sheet, which includes both of their signatures.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and
Public Works

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- The term sheet will be requested at the time of tender closing and required before the Bid Value Reduction is applied.
 - To ensure a smooth transition, we will roll out this process over the next few months on selected projects.
 - Contractors who want to use bid value reductions must work with their Yukon First Nations subcontractor to complete a term sheet.

Additional response: Yukon First Nation Business Registry

- Implementation of the bid value reduction program is a key early step in creating opportunities for Yukon First Nation businesses.
- On December 1, 2021, the Yukon First Nation Business registry was launched with 23 businesses registered. It now has over 140 verified Yukon First Nation businesses and is growing.
- We are committed to refining the verification process and the business registry in collaboration with our Yukon First Nation partners, and the Monitor and Review Committee.
- To make the verification process for businesses more robust, the Yukon government updated the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy in May 2023, and then released an updated guide for applicants in June 2024.
- Both improvements have provided more scrutiny in the verification process to prevent shell companies from being listed on the registry and preventing these companies from accessing the benefits of the Yukon First Nation Procurement Policy.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and
Public Works**Additional response: Workforce Development**

- The Yukon government is committed to increasing employment and training opportunities for Yukon First Nations through procurement activities.
- The expectation is that Workforce Liaison funding will:
 - contribute to the job readiness of Citizens through the development of individualized employment assessments and training plans in collaboration with contractors and Yukon government procurement authorities;
 - connect Citizens to workforce development programming to equip Citizens with the experience, skills, and certifications needed at the jobsite; and
 - identify training needs, opportunities, and programs for community needs with government, industry and relevant organizations.
- Highways and Public Works is engaging with Yukon First Nations partners, industry stakeholders, and other government departments to refine and enhance the policy component on Workforce Development.

Additional response: Enforcement of commitments around YFN involvement

- The Yukon government is committed to ensuring the benefits from the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy flow to the intended recipients.
- Contractors must understand that when they place bids, they are then responsible for upholding commitments, such as labour levels and

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and
Public Works

Yukon First Nation business participation, outlined within their proposals. These requirements form part of the contract.

- To reinforce this, we also require contractors to provide sufficient proof that they met their Yukon First Nation Participation Plan commitments, which includes the submission of a statutory declaration.
- Highways and Public Works has heard concerns raised by industry and Yukon First Nations of misrepresentation in the bidding process, and potential over commitments to gain additional advantages.
- The department continues to engage with Yukon First Nations and industry representatives in a specific working group to develop additional tools and resources to support contractors being held to those commitments made.

Additional response: Monitor and Review Committee

- The Monitor and Review Committee reviews and assesses the progress of the Yukon First Nation Procurement Policy.
- In 2023, the Monitor and Review Committee started receiving more detailed reports through the Performance Measurement Framework.
- Though there is still work for the Monitor and Review Committee and the Yukon government on the data, the framework gives us more insights into the performance of this policy.
- The committee will continue to conduct regular data analysis and to monitor for any market disruption.
- To date the committee has not indicated any recommendations involving market distribution.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and
Public Works

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- The third report, that details the period between April 2023 to March 2024 is available on Yukon.ca.
 - Highways and Public Works is reviewing the report and its recommendations to determine if there are changes that can be implemented to achieve greater progress toward policy targets.

Additional response: Review of the Yukon First Nation Procurement Policy

- A review of the Yukon First Nation Procurement Policy will be initiated by an independent contractor by 2026.
- This review will be aligned with the larger review of the Yukon government's Procurement Policy.
- It is anticipated that the review will take a broad, holistic assessment of the overall effectiveness of the policy, its implementation and overarching outcomes.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- This is an important policy shift in the Yukon government's procurement system. It demonstrates a tangible commitment to reconciliation.

Background:**History of Policy**

- The policy was developed through partnership with Yukon First Nation Governments. All 14 Yukon First Nations were invited to contribute, and most collaborated on its development. This level of collaboration on a policy was a first for our government and has been a key feature of implementing the policy as well.
- The Yukon government listened to the public and took a phased approach to the implementation of this important policy to ensure that Yukon businesses, Yukon First Nations and Yukon government employees had adequate time to prepare for and understand the policy.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and
Public Works

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- The Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy was approved on December 9, 2020, and endorsed through a joint announcement with Yukon First Nation leaders at the Yukon Forum on December 11, 2020. The policy came into effect on February 22, 2021, with added measures being implemented on April 26, 2021, and October 4, 2021, with the latest revisions made May 1, 2023.
 - Yukon government won a national prize “Ten to Watch” in 2021 because of YFNPP from the Indigenomics Institute.

Bid Value Reductions

- As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, an independent contractor conducted a two-year review of the bid value reduction measure that was completed in October 2023. The consultant produced a report that is available on Yukon.ca/growing-together. The report found that:
 - bid value reductions have led to an increase in the number of contracts awarded to Yukon First Nation businesses and an increase in bids from Yukon First Nation businesses;
 - there is no evidence of unintended negative consequences for bid value reductions such as large market disruptions; and
 - socio-economic and cultural changes are long-term endeavors that require ongoing relationship building, education and communication. The Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce administers the registry.
- Feedback from Yukon First Nation partners and industry has focused on ensuring that Yukon First Nation businesses are properly designated, and that the definition of a Yukon First Nation business aligns with the policy's intent.

Monitor and Review Committee

- The Monitor and Review Committee is made up of representatives from Yukon First Nations governments, industry and Yukon government. It provides data and recommendations through reports, with the first report released in March 2023 and the third issued in October 2024.
- The Monitor and Review Committee 2023-24 annual report's recommendations include:

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and
Public Works

- the Government of Yukon consider how to increase the number of Direct Awards going to Yukon First Nations Businesses;
 - that to achieve greater progress toward the policy targets, the Monitor and Review Committee recommends that appropriate incremental targets are created and reported on, as highlighted in GAM 2.6 section 11(11)(e); and
 - the Government of Yukon make additional efforts to collect additional data, to report on the remaining metrics, to automate certain reporting functions, and to enhance standardization of data entry practices.
- We share the view that improving data collection and reporting will better inform future policy insights.
 - Some of the recommendations from the first annual report included advancing workforce development, improving data collection, raising awareness about the policy, strengthening relationships, confidence and buy-in among First Nations and industry. Progress has been made on each of these items since the recommendations were brought forward.
 - Vendors will also be evaluated on how well they fulfilled their Yukon First Nation commitments through the Vendor Performance Review program.
 - With funding from Highways and Public Works, the Council of Yukon First Nations has hired a consultant to design the workforce development program with direct engagement with Yukon First Nation governments.
 - With funding from Highways and Public Works, the Yukon Contractors Association has hired a consultant to work with Yukon First Nations and Yukon government on policy issues and implementation.

Approved by:

T. Allen

April 23, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program originally supported infrastructure upgrades of existing roads in areas with high mineral potential and active mining in the Yukon. The revised Agreement emphasizes roads benefiting both mining and inter-regional connectivity projects and arctic security.
- Largely funded by the Government of Canada, the program aims to improve safety, reliability and accessibility of the Yukon's road network.
- These upgrades will create short and long-term employment, training opportunities and benefits for Yukon First Nations, Yukoners, local communities, and industry.
- Our government has been actively engaged on this critical program to deliver the best results for Yukoners. This has included necessary amendments over the life of the program to adjust anticipated costs for inflation.
- We have also expanded the scope of the program with approval by the Government of Canada to include work that can be completed by the program expiration in 2031.
- In January 2025 we awarded two contracts to a Ross River Dena Council business for highway right-of-way clearing and salvage. One contract was for kilometre 336 to 368.1, and the other for kilometre 363.5 to kilometre 368.1, at the Robert Campbell Highway.
- In August 2024 we awarded a contract to replace a culvert at kilometre 23.2 on the Silver Trail to a First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun business.
- The existing culvert at this location was putting the road at an increased risk of washout.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

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- The 2024-25 fiscal year's budget has also funded Silver Trail heritage studies, fish studies, and an engineering assessment of the Mayo River Bridge.

Additional response: Dempster Amendment

- The Government of Canada and the Yukon government recently amended the objectives of the Gateway contribution agreement.
- The original Gateway Agreement supported infrastructure upgrades of existing roads in areas with high mineral potential and active mining in the Yukon.
- The revised Agreement emphasizes roads benefiting both mining and inter-regional connectivity projects and arctic security.
- This is good news for the Dempster Highway. \$45 million is now allocated toward this important Yukon highway to make much-needed improvements and improve regional connectivity.
- As Canada's only all-season public road crossing the Arctic Circle, the Dempster Highway is a vital transportation route for residents, businesses, and travelers.
- This investment will improve year-round reliability, upgrade northern infrastructure, and ensure safer, more efficient travel.
- The Government of Yukon will begin working with affected Yukon First Nations to develop Project Agreements. These agreements outline how we will work collaboratively in terms of structuring procurements to align with the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy and to ensure the project benefits their Traditional Territory.
- Beyond improving road conditions, these upgrades will strengthen Arctic Security by enhancing critical infrastructure in Canada's North.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

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- We recognize the importance of the Yukon's mining sector and we remain committed to supporting resource development through strategic infrastructure investments as part of Gateway.
 - This reallocation was a time-sensitive opportunity for our government to make a bold and significant investment in arctic security, and we took that opportunity.
 - By building a more resilient Dempster Highway, we are enhancing a critical corridor for Yukoners that serves multiple sectors, including tourism, the transport of vital supplies and local communities.
 - The Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada informed the public through a joint news release on March 22.
 - The Government of Yukon also informed the Chamber of Mines, the Klondike Placer Miners Association, and the mining companies with a Class 4 licence for projects along the Gateway road components in mid-April.

Additional response: Goldfields

- We recognize the importance of access throughout the goldfields to support mining activity in the Dawson region.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources have reached out and will continue to work with stakeholders including the Klondike Placer Miners Association and Yukon Chambers of Mines.
- As we move forward with implementing this program we will continue to evaluate new opportunities within Gateway.
- Our government has always and will always support the placer mining industry and the Dawson Goldfields.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

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- As we speak, our highway crews are once again performing early opening of these roads to allow miners to get to their camps to begin their season.
 - Over the course of the summer, we will be maintaining these roads and ensuring that they are safe for the travelling public, and for the placer mining industry.
 - Our crews actively monitor the goldfield roads – ready to prioritize emerging maintenance needs.
 - In short, our investment in the Dawson Goldfields has never ceased and we will continue to support this important sector.

Additional response: Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Employment

- The change in Gateway funding allocation will not affect employment and infrastructure maintenance for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in community.
- The safety of all highway and road users is a priority for our government and funds are dedicated toward road improvements for years to come in the Tr'ondëk region.
- For example, in 2024, through the Resource Access Road Program, approximately \$200 thousand in funds was committed to road improvements on the Goldfield roads in the Dawson Area as well as replacing the deck on the Indian River Bridge, also in the Goldfields area.
- Through the federal government's National Trade Corridors Fund, a total of \$267.6 million will be invested to upgrade critical sections of the North Klondike Highway, including three bridge improvements and Intelligent Transportation Systems components, over a 10-year period.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

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- The project includes a total of 209 kilometres planned highway reconstruction between Carmacks and the City of Dawson.
 - The project will also provide economic opportunities for Yukon First Nations through the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy.
 - An upgrade to the Hunker Creek culverts between the Dempster Highway and Dawson City is also planned for an approximate value of \$6 million.
 - In the 2025 construction season, a structural culvert will be replaced just south of Dawson City at kilometre 711.
 - A revegetation project covering the newly constructed road slopes with native seed mixtures between kilometre 613 and kilometre 651 has been awarded with work to begin this summer.
 - As the newly added Dempster component within Gateway is advanced, there will be opportunities for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in businesses and employment to participate in the project.

Additional response: Details of Funding Re-profiling

- The Government of Yukon has been seeking opportunities to reallocate federal funding in order to prioritize the repair and upgrade of the Dempster Highway to the Arctic. The Government of Yukon began active discussions with Canada to explore the possibility of adding the Dempster Highway as a new Gateway component.
- As repairs to the Dempster Highway fit within the scope of the federal program which funds Gateway, reallocating those funds toward this important project has far reaching benefits.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

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- The Dempster component includes construction of structural culverts, highway improvements such as road reconstruction, and roadside safety measures, including avalanche and rockfall mitigation.
 - The reallocation of funding to upgrade the Dempster Highway was designed to be cost-neutral in terms of the Gateway funding agreement and to maximize Canada's contribution. This decision was made strategically, considering government priorities.
 - We recognize the importance of resource access roads for industry. The funding allocated to Gateway supports resource roads and maintains a strong focus on industry needs.
 - The Yukon government remains committed to supporting the mining industry and ensuring Yukon's roads support economic growth to the benefit of all Yukoners.
 - As industry projects progress we are committed to reviewing the Gateway components to ensure that we are able to facilitate areas of high potential and maximize the funding opportunity through the Government of Canada.
 - Although this shift is in the interest of Arctic Security and inter-territorial connectivity, the Dempster Highway is an access route for more than 3000 mineral claims, including 551 placer and 2512 quartz and four oil and gas leases.

Additional response: Consultation

- In summer and fall 2024, discussions with Canada regarding potential amendments to the Gateway program were in an exploratory phase.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

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- Recently, these discussions were accelerated, creating a time-sensitive opportunity for our government to make a bold and significant investment in Arctic Security. We seized that opportunity.
 - This Yukon government is proud of this new investment in the Dempster Highway, and what that it means for the territory.
 - Prior to beginning site preparation or construction work under this program, a formal agreement must be established with the First Nation whose Traditional Territory the project will impact.
 - Additionally, the project must have completed a review through the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board process.
 - We remain committed to engaging respectfully and collaboratively with First Nations to establish these necessary agreements.
 - We place the highest value on meaningful consultation and I look forward to these discussions as we advance the Gateway program.

Additional response: Gateway expiration

- Funding for the Gateway program is set to conclude in March 2031, and Canada has confirmed there will be no extensions beyond this date.
- The Government of Yukon has worked to establish a broad base of project components in the scope of this critical agreement that benefit communities throughout the Yukon and improve the safety and resilience of the highway network for all users.
- Now more than ever, it is essential the Government of Yukon ensure these funds are invested in the Yukon.
- As we advance delivery of this important program, we are also required to continually adjust the estimated costs for each component.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

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- The Gateway program itself was not pegged to inflation.
 - Inflationary pressures must be accounted for in updated estimates, which require us to review and adjust component funding.

Additional response: 2025-26

- This year, efforts will be focused on preparing for construction on Silver Trail and advancing construction of a section of the Robert Campbell Highway between Ross River and Faro.
- In addition, preparation is underway to support the environmental assessment of the Robert Campbell Highway component, which runs just past the Tuchitua River Bridge to the Frances Lake campground, from kilometre 114 to kilometre 171.
- This preparation work is focused on collecting environmental information in the project area to ensure responsible and informed decision making.
- This work will be done in collaboration with Liard First Nation to develop capacity and bring project-related opportunities to the community.

Additional response: Broadened Goals under Gateway

- Improving transportation infrastructure along our remote northern highways is important to our government.
- Our transportation infrastructure across the Yukon will be improved as the Yukon Resource Gateway Program is implemented.
- Roads will be constructed to enhance safety by improving the line of sight, reducing travel time and increasing vehicle load limits. Bridges will also be constructed or rehabilitated.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

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- Through the delivery of these projects, we aim for significant employment and training opportunities for Yukoners and Yukon First Nations.
 - These opportunities are not limited to only construction services, they include many indirect services required to support construction.
 - With this work happening in and around Yukon First Nation communities, the project agreements are in place to help ensure that their citizens and businesses see the benefits of these construction projects.
 - In our discussions with Yukon First Nations with project agreements, we are discussing how to prepare citizens for these employment opportunities through training and skills development.
 - During the tendering phase of the projects, contractors submitting bids will be asked to outline their First Nation participation plans that align with community interests and capacity.

Additional response:

- For each component identified, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources negotiates a project agreement with the affected Yukon First Nation in whose Traditional Territory the project resides.
- These agreements provide a process by which the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments will work collaboratively.
- They also outline how we will structure procurements to align with the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy and to ensure there are benefits for each community.
- Once an agreement is signed, the Department of Highways and Public Works starts implementing the agreement.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

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- This process involves continued planning and collaboration with the affected Yukon First Nation. It encompasses key steps like project planning and design, Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board assessment, regulatory review and permitting.
 - Implementation work is crucial. Once the foundational work is complete, project procurement and construction can begin.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders and First Nations involvement.
 - The Victoria Gold Eagle Gold Mine failure might negatively impact the perception of road improvements undertaken through this Program.
-

Background:**Yukon First Nations involvement**

- The Government of Yukon is working in collaboration with Yukon First Nation governments to seek input and finalize Project Agreements for components of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program within their respective Traditional Territories.
- The program will provide opportunities to Yukon First Nations through short and long-term employment opportunities, training, and benefit agreements.

Funding

- A Contribution Agreement between the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada resulted in the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's completion date being extended from 2025 to March 2031.
- The program budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is approximately \$4.2 million and as project agreements are implemented, spending is expected to increase in 2025-26 to \$10.0 million and continue to grow in following years as construction advances.

Carmacks Bypass

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and
Public Works

- The Carmacks Bypass officially opened on Friday October 27, 2023. This project is the first to be completed under the Yukon Resource Gateway Program and is jointly funded by the Government of Canada. The road connects the existing Freegold Road with the Klondike Highway.
- The project was a collaborative effort between Pelly Construction, the Yukon government and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- The project was successfully finished a year in advance of the designated timeframe and within budget.

Freegold Road Phase II – Termination of the Project Agreement with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

- On October 2024, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation made the decision to terminate the Freegold Road Phase II Project Agreement.
- Nothing precludes our governments from working together on a new agreement for the Freegold Road, and we will be reaching out to the First Nation to discuss a path forward.
- The recent completion of the Carmacks Bypass route is an example of how the Yukon Resource Gateway Program can ensure Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation participation in infrastructure projects.

Approved by:

T. Allen

April 23, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Nominee Program

TAB #22

Spring 2025

Public Service
Commission

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Nominee Program is an employer-driven initiative that could be used by the Government of Yukon to recruit hard-to-fill positions that would benefit the territory when no qualified Canadian or permanent resident is available for the position.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon does not currently use the Yukon Nominee Program to recruit for government positions, as the program had been fully subscribed.
 - The Public Service Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, is working to create a pathway for the government to expand its recruitment options through the Yukon Nominee Program.
 - The Public Service Commission remains committed to recruiting highly skilled individuals for government roles to ensure effective service delivery for all Yukoners.
 - To address recruitment challenges in Yukon, particularly in Yukon communities, the People Plan includes a project aimed at improving the Government of Yukon's recruitment process.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The government has announced changes to Yukon Nominee Program. The opposition has shown interest in how the program is being utilized and has raised concerns about the territory's health care system. Additionally, the Yukon Employees' Union has made inquiries about the program.
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Background:

- The Yukon Nominee Program is available to municipal, First Nations and the territorial government but has historically been used primarily by the private sector.
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Session Briefing Note

Yukon Nominee Program

TAB #22

Spring 2025

Public Service
Commission

- Administered by the Department of Economic Development in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the program receives a set number of annual nominations to address labour market needs.
- In 2021, the Yukon Nominee Program utilized its full allocation for the first time since its inception.
- Demand continued to rise, with 581 nominations issued in 2023, including an additional 150 spots from a fall redistribution.
- On May 16, 2024, the Government of Yukon paused applications from Whitehorse-based employers after reaching the program's annual cap.
- Intake was scheduled to resume on January 29, 2025, but was postponed following a 50 per cent federal allocation cut, reducing available nominee spots to 215.
- The department also wanted to review the Office of the Auditor General's recommendations and take immediate action to improve transparency while better addressing the needs of employers and foreign nationals.
- In response, the government has introduced an Expression of Interest intake using a priority-based system instead of a first-come, first-served approach. Additionally, ten nomination spots have been set aside for regulated healthcare professionals, independent of specific employers.
- Regulated healthcare professions include nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists, dentists and others.
- If these nominations remain unused by October 1, 2025, additional invitations to apply will be issued from the Expression of Interest pool.
- Additionally, the Government of Yukon has updated the *Registered Nurses Profession Regulation*, streamlining licensure for registered nurses and nurse practitioners, including internationally trained professionals and new graduates, by removing the requirement for prior registration in another Canadian jurisdiction.

Approved by:

Public Service Commissioner

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- As Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation, my goal is to find an appropriate balance between:
 - the needs of licensees.
 - the need to return dollars to the government to fund crucial services for all Yukoners; and
 - social responsibility.
- No single solution will work well for all licensees, who each have different business models and practices.
- Pricing structures are not the same among provinces and territories. The Yukon is unique as it is geographically distant from most suppliers with a small population. Therefore, any comparison is challenging.

Additional responses:

- Licensees are already receiving \$1.1 million in savings a year from the last price structure change in 2021.
- This is a complex and enduring problem. Other government programs and services are available to support businesses, when they're facing economic hardship.

Additional responses – if asked about the petition:

- The petition request that was tabled in the fall 2024 would mean an estimated \$2 million dollar reduction in profit and liquor tax remittances to the Government of Yukon, if all other variables remained unchanged.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On November 4, 2024, the Official Opposition put forward a motion regarding the hospitality sector.
 - The Official Opposition also tabled a petition on October 31, 2024 and raised questions on October 21, 2024, regarding a letter sent to the Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation in 2023 from the Food and Beverage Committee of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce. The Official Opposition may raise similar questions.
 - Liquor store customers and licensees are sensitive to liquor price changes.
-

Background:

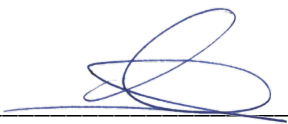
Price structure and discounts

- YLC sets the pricing structure for YLC stores and all liquor licensees.
 - Licensees pay wholesale prices and apply an additional markup. The mark-ups are as follows:
 - Products that YLC imports from large and medium producers have a retail mark-up of 20.48% (equivalent to a 17% discount for licensees);
 - Small producer products have a retail mark-up of 9.89% (equivalent to a 9% discount for licensees);
 - In addition, a rebate of 9% is automatically applied to licensees' orders for small producer products at the time of purchase at the YLC distribution centre or liquor store.
 - There are many other components to the pricing structure, e.g., YLC cost of service, liquor tax, GST. YLC is transparent with its pricing and information is available on Yukon.ca, including product price lists updated monthly and the full pricing structure.
 - In 2015, YLC implemented a wholesale discount of 10% from YLC retail prices for licensees. The discount was increased to 12% in 2019 and 17% October 1, 2021.
-

YLC's work and correspondence with industry

- The Government of Yukon provided a suite of supports for businesses during the pandemic and the Yukon Liquor Corporation adjusted the liquor pricing structure in 2021 to further assist the recovery. Licensees worked with the Yukon Liquor Corporation on the pricing structure in 2021 in a series of detailed working group meetings.
- Following a letter sent by the Food and Beverage Committee of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce in May 2023, the Minister and Premier met with committee members on several occasions between August 2023 and February 2024 to understand the nature of their concerns.
- YLC staff also held meetings with a member of the Food and Beverage Committee to discuss the committee's requests and determine potential options.
- Staff from the Yukon Liquor Corporation looked into the requests relating directly to liquor; however, the specific requests changed from spring to fall in 2023.
- On April 4, 2024, the Yukon Liquor Corporation hosted members of the Yukon Chamber Commerce by providing a tour of the liquor warehouse and gave a presentation to clarify liquor operations, such as the sourcing and supply of liquor, pricing, and social responsibility.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation holds ongoing discussions with liquor licensees. This has previously included industry working groups.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation has actioned industry requests as possible, for example, more variety and increase in availability of special-order products in addition to 1,500 core products.

Approved by: Philippe Mollet



President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

February 5, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Labour Markets in the Yukon

TAB #C
Spring 2025
Finance

Recommended response

- On March 11, the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North published a report on labour markets in the north: "Learning From One Another: A Comparative Analysis of Labour Market Needs and Corresponding Skills in Northern Ontario, Yukon, and Nunavut"
- The Conference Board of Canada (CBoC) expects the Yukon economy to grow by over 40 per cent in the next 20 years.
- They also expect that employment in the territory will increase by 10 per cent over that time and that over 13,500 job openings will need to be filled.
- According to the report, Yukon University's transition to a university is expected to build capacity in the North leading to increased supply of resident labour and reducing economic disparities.

Additional response:

- The Yukon had the fastest-growing population in Canada, growing by 18.7 per cent from 2011 to 2021.
- Immigration and interprovincial migration have been driving population growth in the territory. In most years in the last decade, the Yukon attracted more residents from other places than was lost to out-migration.
- The Yukon First Nations population in the Yukon has grown, increasing by 7.5 per cent over the last 5 years.
- The CBoC notes that Yukon University is working to close disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations by increasing labour force participation.

Session Briefing Note**Labour Markets in the Yukon**Finance

- The tourism sector can help to reduce disparities as it is a large employer in the territory and provides economic opportunities for people living in Yukon rural areas.
 - The CBoC also notes that, in 2020, there were around 400 businesses in the Yukon that were directly related to tourism and tourism accounted for about 14 per cent of all jobs in the Yukon.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Conference Board of Canada is a nationally renowned think tank whose reports often garner broad attention.
-

Background:

- "Learning From One Another: A Comparative Analysis of Labour Market Needs and Corresponding Skills in Northern Ontario, Yukon, and Nunavut" is an extensive collaborative research project undertaken by The Conference Board of Canada over multiple years.
- The Yukon participated in the research with representation from Economic Research (Department of Finance), Labour Market Development Branch (Economic Development), Yukon University, Yukon First Nation Education Directorate, Council of Yukon First Nations and the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce.
- Although the report highlights the Yukon's recent strong performance, it also notes continued challenges facing the territory including a tight labour market, a dominant public sector, an aging population and skills disparities between Yukon Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.
- Women are identified in the report as an overlooked source of labour in the trades and face similar income disparities, earning 13 per cent less than men according to the 2021 Census.

Session Briefing Note

Labour Markets in the Yukon

TAB #C
Spring 2025
Finance

- The report notes that the Yukon is reliant on non-resident workers with the mining industry having to rely on fly-in fly-out labour supplies for one-half of its total labour needs. Construction, manufacturing, and accommodations and food services also rely to some degree on non-local labour.
- Housing costs are noted as a barrier to attracting skilled workers to the territory due to constrained housing supply.
- The report notes that the Yukon and Northwest Territories having some of the lowest rates of immigrant retention in the country.
- CBoC recommends continued support for entrepreneurship especially in rural communities. This is needed to support economic growth and diversification and to provide employment opportunities outside of the territorial capital.

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

March 12, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Conference Board of Canada Territorial
Outlook for Yukon – Spring 2025**

Finance

Recommended response:

- The Conference Board of Canada has released their spring 2025 *Territorial Outlook*. We are pleased to see that it is generally in line with the 2025-26 Fiscal and Economic Outlook released by the Government of Yukon which forecasts a return to positive GDP growth by 2026.
- The Conference Board notes that despite near-term setbacks in the mining sector, the Yukon's economy is expected show continued resilience, supported by a strong labour market and robust spending from both residents and visitors.
- The Conference Board outlines how wage growth has played a key role in restoring household purchasing power, particularly with Whitehorse's inflation rate averaging 2 per cent in 2024, which is in line with the Bank of Canada's target.

Additional response:

- The Conference Board recognizes that a strong tourism year for the Yukon in 2024 supported the local economy, as higher visitor numbers provided a boost to the retail and hospitality sectors.
- While retail sales were still relatively subdued in 2024, even as interest rates loosened their grip, stable inflation and favourable wage trends should now support steady retail sales growth, averaging 3.2 per cent, annually, through 2030.
- In addition, the Board notes that despite the near-term challenges, including the suspension of operations at the Eagle Gold Mine, the Yukon's job market is expected to remain resilient.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Conference Board of Canada Territorial Outlook for Yukon – Spring 2025

Finance

- The Conference Board projects that job creation and labour force growth should average 1.3 per cent, annually, supported by continued demand for workers, which will keep the unemployment rate relatively low over the forecast period.
- The report forecasts that the Yukon's population should continue to grow over the forecast period with positive net-interprovincial migration, adding around 165 people per year.
- It also notes that real business investment in residential structures rose by an estimated 5.5 per cent in 2024, with an even stronger 8.6 per cent increase projected for 2025.
- We are pleased to see the Conference Board shares our assessment that the Yukon's economy remains resilient, with strong job growth and a thriving tourism sector.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Conference Board of Canada is a global think-tank whose reports often gain public attention. Previous releases of the territorial outlook have received some media attention.

Background:

- The Conference Board of Canada produces forecasts for each territory, normally on a biannual schedule with spring and fall releases.
- The Government of Yukon has been a member of the Conference Board of Canada's northern policy focused arm, the Centre for the North, since 2009, with membership annual funding of \$25,000 provided through the Department of Economic Development.
- The Department of Finance's Economic Research Branch participates in the development of the Yukon forecast by providing feedback to the Conference

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Conference Board of Canada Territorial Outlook for Yukon – Spring 2025

Finance

Board on assumptions for their economic model and reviewing initial forecasts produced however, the Conference Board forecasts are independent from the Government of Yukon's forecast and involvement of the Branch is of an advisory nature only.

- The latest territorial forecast was released on March 25, 2025.
- Long-term economic projects from the Conference Board are used as a weighted input in development of Yukon's long-term population projects by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.
- In addition to the Conference Board's long-term forecast, the Department of Finance produces a medium-term forecast published with the Government of Yukon's budget release in the spring, as well as an update which coincides with the Legislative Assembly's fall sitting.
- The forecasts between the two groups use different economic models, some differences in assumptions and are produced at different times, leading to differences. A medium-term comparison is provided below:

		2024	2025f	2026f	2027f	2028f	2029f
Real GDP (% Change)	Department	-0.6	-0.3	1.0	2.4	2.0	1.6
Real GDP (% Change)	CBoC	-1.6	-2.3	2.1	2.4	2.7	4.0
Population	Department	46,640	47,600	48,600	49,500	50,400	51,300
Population	CBoC	46,704	46,974	47,094	47,329	47,792	48,280
Employment	Department	26,500	27,200	27,300	27,600	27,700	28,000
Employment *	CBoC	25,243	25,421	25,404	25,505	25,870	26,245
Unemployment Rate (%)	Department	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.2	5.0	5.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	CBoC	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0

* The Conference Board of Canada employment figures are based on Statistics Canada estimates prior to their annual rebase which was released after their forecast was completed.

- Neither the Yukon government's Fiscal and Economic Outlook or the Conference Board of Canada's spring forecast include estimates of the impact of shifting tariff threats with the U.S., although both groups continue to monitor and evaluate potential impacts as they evolve.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

**Conference Board of Canada Territorial
Outlook for Yukon – Spring 2025**

Finance

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

March 24, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved